

# Brandeis

BRANDEIS NATIONAL  
COMMITTEE  
Phoenix Chapter

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## DECEMBER 2020



## Celebrating December Holidays!

**BNC Phoenix wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe  
Holiday season with families and friends!  
Whether on FaceTime, Zoom or in person - make it special!**



## Presidents' Message



Dear Fellow Brandeis Members,

We hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!! We all celebrated differently than previous years, out of love and concern for safety, but we hope that next year brings us back together with our family and friends.

As we close out this year, it has been a challenging year for everyone – due to the Pandemic, the elections, the economy (good for some and not for others). It has also been a year to be thankful – for our health and our families, to technology like Zoom, which enabled us to reach out to our family and friends and many with whom we reconnected. We have experienced a variety of things – from being sheltered to celebrating weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, graduations, holidays and funerals in very different ways. Thankful, again, to Zoom for allowing us to celebrate or mourn together, if not in person.

We have experienced many feelings which challenge all of our emotions. We have watched the world affected by the Coronavirus in so many horrible ways. Our election is finally over and, as with any new administration, there is new hope for the future. It is our hope that we can come together for the good of the American people and the world.

We look forward to the New Year – full of hope and promise – a number of new beginnings hopefully including a vaccine for the virus, so we can resume life in a “new norm” in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, we remind ourselves that we have much for which we are thankful. We are thankful for our family and friends.

Let's do a little recap of the 2020-2021 Board thus far:

We are thankful for the amazing Phoenix Chapter – for all the wonderful friends we've made, the amazing people we've met. We created many new opportunities as we moved to a completely virtual platform. The ability to use Zoom allowed us to be involved in movie, theater, book groups, cooking classes, current events, canasta, mahj and so much more. Our Summer Camp programming was second to none as we provided daily activities for three months. We partnered with the Women's Leadership Institute for a fabulous event, featuring four amazing women. We enjoyed a wonderful installation and evening of entertainment and again, want to thank everyone involved in making that evening so heartfelt and special. We had an amazing and successful Gift Showcase 2020 and both came together as terrific fundraising events (our first on Zoom). We look forward to many fun events in the New Year – hopefully University on Wheels, plus a fun-filled Scavenger Hunt on February 20 and more to come.

Our Study Groups continue to fill our days. Thank you again to the Study Group VP's and their committee, to our Facilitators and all who participate. One day, in the not too distant future, we will be able to meet in person again, in addition to online (which will continue forever, we're sure) to allow us to fill our days with fun, stimulating and educational groups. Thank you to a wonderful Board and their committees for thinking “outside the box” and making 2020 a memorable, fun and engaging year, even in this unprecedented time.

## Presidents' Message continued. . .

As the New Year approaches, we commit, as we do every year, to things like diet, exercise, quitting smoking and any other goals we want to accomplish. We believe in the power of change and positive attitudes. We will see several changes this year – hopefully all positive!

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite the darkness” – Desmond Tutu

Wishing everyone a very Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Hope-filled New Year!!

With warm regards,  
Linda & Jan  
Presidents, BNC Phoenix Chapter  
[BNCPhxPresidents@gmail.com](mailto:BNCPhxPresidents@gmail.com) 480-359-7262

### Mission Statement

**Brandeis National Committee is dedicated to providing philanthropic support to Brandeis University, a distinguished liberal arts and research university founded by the American Jewish community. Its membership is connected to the University through fundraising and through activities that reflect the values on which the University was founded: academic excellence, social justice, nonsectarianism and service to the community.**



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**Click** on any page title to go to that page.

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# Be a Detective in your OWN HOME!



Join us for  
**SHERLOCK IN OUR HOMES:  
A VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNT\***

**Save the date for our Winter Event Fundraiser  
Saturday, February 20  
5:00 – 7:30 pm**

Use your creativity and start thinking about your teams and themes!  
Everyone can join the fun – Maximum of six people on a team.  
Cost to join the hunt will be \$39 per person.

Due to the logistics for this event, registration will begin on  
January 5 and **end on February 5.**

Watch your inbox for more details – coming soon!

Questions?  
[WinterEvent2021@gmail.com](mailto:WinterEvent2021@gmail.com)

\*One person in each home will need a Zoom account.  
Free registration for accounts is on the Zoom website at <https://zoom.us>





# Out & About @ Home!

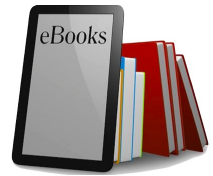


## New Feature Read, See, Talk About!

We can't get *Out & About*, but we can visit places around the country and world through these books, films and shows, recently discussed in some of our study groups.

As we go forward, selections can be submitted to us at [BNCPhxBulletin@gmail.com](mailto:BNCPhxBulletin@gmail.com) by either facilitators or group participants.

Many thanks and happy reading and viewing!



### THE DISCUSSIONS IN NOVEMBER INCLUDED:

#### Books

*The Bone People* by Keri Hulme  
*The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett  
*Everywhere You Don't Belong* by Gabriel Bump  
*The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Daré  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot  
*In Another Time* by Jillian Cantor  
*Long Bright River* by Liz Moore  
*The Missing American* by Kwei Quartey  
*The Paladin* by David Ignatius  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

#### Film

*I Am Woman* (2019) (Netflix)  
*The Murder of Mary Phagan* (Amazon Prime) and *The People vs. Leo Frank* (YouTube)  
*Sand Storm* (2016) (Netflix)  
*The Trial of the Chicago 7* (Netflix)

#### Theater

*Hamilton* (Disney+)

Please note: Viewing platforms for Films and Theater performances are subject to change.



# Study Group News

The season of Brandeis Phoenix study groups is in full swing as more and more groups have their first meetings! There are still many study groups that have space available for more participants. For details and to sign up for available study groups, see the Guide on our website at: <http://www.brandeisphoenix.org/study-groups.html>. If you have an idea for a virtual Study Group you wish to facilitate, please contact the Study Group VPs.

For the Study Group calendar, see our website: <https://www.brandeisphoenix.org/calendar.html>

Study Group Vice-Presidents: Stephanie Klopfer, Joyce Steinberg and Barbara Stern  
[2021phxstudygroups@gmail.com](mailto:2021phxstudygroups@gmail.com)

## **MEN FOR BRANDEIS ACTIVITIES (MBA)** **Wednesday, December 9 at 12:45 pm**



**Special for this month: MBA is open to all Chapter members at no charge!!**

On December 9, Janis Lipman will be speaking to Men for Brandeis Activities (MBA). Her topic will be *A Short History of the US Electric Utility Industry and Tales from Developing a \$1 Billion Power Plant*. The power plant is the Towantic Energy Center in Oxford, Connecticut. Its completion was the culmination of twenty years of effort by Ms. Lipman, through her company, Arena Capital Ltd.

Janis is a former member of our chapter's Board, and has facilitated numerous study groups. Currently she is a co-facilitator of the Nonfiction Book Group and the Contemporary Issues study group. Ms. Lipman recently was a panelist on the panel, *Visionary Leadership: What Does It Look Like*, co-sponsored by our chapter and The Women's Leadership Institute.

**All meetings in 2020 will be conducted on Zoom.** Those who RSVP to the facilitator by December 7 will receive a Zoom link to attend. Please make sure in advance that the name on your computer or other device reads out accurately as your name, so that you can be recognized and admitted from Zoom's waiting room.

For additional information and to register for December 9, RSVP to the facilitator,  
 Leith Baletin, by December 7: [lbaletin@gmail.com](mailto:lbaletin@gmail.com) 480-874-9434

## **MBA Looking Forward...**

**JANUARY 13 - DR WILLIAM HERY** - Dr. Hery, although not a historian, is an expert on activities that took place at Bletchley Park, UK during WW II. He will speak on that topic. Dr. Hery is a retired scientist/engineer at Bell Labs and is on the faculty of NYU's Tandon School of Engineering (formerly Brooklyn Polytechnic).

**FEBRUARY 10 DAMIAN PRECIADO** - Damian is a graduate of Brandeis University, class of '07. The first of his family to attend college, he is originally from Southern CA and now runs a "think tank" in the Valley. He will speak to us about his experiences at Brandeis and what he currently does.

**MARCH 10 RUTH LERNER** - Ruth is a member of our Chapter and chairs the Outreach Committee. She was born in Shanghai and immigrated to the US as a very young child. She will talk about her experiences in the Jewish quarter in Shanghai and other historical references to that Jewish community.

**APRIL 17 BILL WEISS** - Bill is retired from AT&T's corporate offices. He also spent time at Bell Labs. His topic will be *The Jewish Mafia in the US*.

Leith Baletin, MBA's facilitator, will be in touch with group members via email with more detailed instructions.  
 For additional information, contact Leith at [lbaletin@gmail.com](mailto:lbaletin@gmail.com) 480-874-9434



# Join Us For Our “Celebrate the Holidays” Happy Hour!



**WHO:**

All BNC Phoenix Chapter members and their significant others

**DATE:**

Monday, December 14, 2020  
5:00 – 6:00 pm (AZ time) on Zoom

**COST:**

Free – Please register as a household, not an individual

[RSVP](#) through Eventbrite

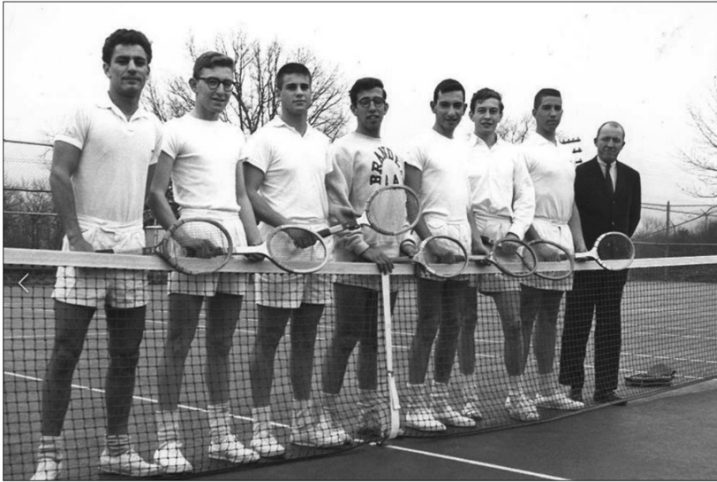
Attendees will receive a link to the Zoom Meeting



Wear your favorite holiday sweater, bring your favorite holiday story  
and of course, your favorite holiday drink!  
Looking forward to hearing funny and touching stories of years past –  
when we could celebrate the holidays together!



# Brandeis Happenings



Abbie Hoffman '59 (far left) with the 1959 Brandeis tennis team. Coach Bud Collins, later a famed tennis commentator, is far right.

Photo Credit Brandeis Archives and Special Collections.



Hoffman speaks with Brandeis students at an on-campus screening of the BBC docudrama, "The Chicago Conspiracy Trial," on April 29, 1972.

Photo Credit Brandeis Archives and Special Collections.

## Sacha Baron Cohen Portrays Abbie Hoffman '59 in New Netflix Drama

**November 4, 2020**

Champion of Flower Power.  
Founder of the Yippies. Defendant in the  
Chicago 7 conspiracy trial.

And the guy who sold the subs on the  
Brandeis campus.

Abbot "Abbie" Hoffman '59 (1936-1989) was a man of parts. Portrayed by Sacha Baron Cohen in Aaron Sorkin's new Netflix film [The Trial of the Chicago 7](#), Sixties counterculture icon Hoffman occupies a distinctive place in Brandeis lore.

He was both a radical and a jokester," writes historian Stephen Whitfield, PhD '72, the Max Richter Professor of American Civilization, Emeritus, at Brandeis, spotlighting Hoffman in his newly-released book, *Learning on the Left: Political Profiles of Brandeis University*.

"He was the merriest activist that the left ever bestowed on America," Whitfield writes.

"Bouncing through the late 1960s and the 1970s with kinetic energy, Hoffman held a 'flower in a clenched fist,' he later insisted. Inside it, he should have mentioned, was a joy buzzer, to be pressed against the body politic."

Hoffman's antic behavior in court made headlines during the Chicago 7 trial in 1969; his skill on the (tennis) court was noted at Brandeis 10 years earlier.

Read the full article [here](#).





## MEMBERSHIP CONTACTS

To report life-cycle events, please contact

Susan Sacks at 480-860-5256 or [susan.sacks@gmail.com](mailto:susan.sacks@gmail.com)

To learn about becoming a member, please contact

Carol Kadet at [brandeismembershipphx@gmail.com](mailto:brandeismembershipphx@gmail.com)

## Membership News

- Congratulations to Joellyn Pollock on the birth of her granddaughter, Fay.
- Congratulations to Susan & Mark Sendrow on the marriage of their son Michael to Sarah Bernstein.
- Our sincere condolences to the family of Billie Keitelman.
- Our sincere condolences to the family of Shirley Reis.

## New & Prospective Member Social Friday, January 15 at 10:00 am!

If you are a new member or know someone who wants to attend,  
please let us know at [brandeismembershipphx@gmail.com](mailto:brandeismembershipphx@gmail.com).

To become a member, click [here](#).



Membership Vice-Presidents Carol Kadet and Gale Gradus  
[brandeismembershipphx@gmail.com](mailto:brandeismembershipphx@gmail.com)



## Volunteer Opportunities

A wonderful way to get involved with our local BNC Chapter is to share your expertise with us. It's a Win-Win! You get to meet some of the other members, maintain your skills and learn new ones, and the Chapter benefits from your experience.

The current skill sets needed are:

**Website, Marketing, Publicity, Technology,  
Study Group Facilitator**

If you would like to volunteer in these or any other areas, please contact: Ruth Lerner  
[ruth.bncphx@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.bncphx@gmail.com)



## We Value Your Privacy

All members' contact information shared for the use of Brandeis business shall remain confidential and not be shared with other organizations.

### Friendly Reminder - Chapter Policy:

Please remember that any information discussed at a Brandeis National Committee event, planning meeting and/or board meeting is to be used for Brandeis purposes alone and is not to be shared with friends, relatives or members of other local organizations. Funds raised at or by Brandeis National Committee Phoenix Chapter events are for the sole purpose of supporting BNC. Therefore, monetary collections and solicitations for the benefit of other organizations at Brandeis events, including study groups, is inappropriate. All directories, phone numbers, addresses and emails shared for the use of Brandeis business shall remain for Brandeis business use only and not shared with other organizations.

# Community Outreach

## Charitable Organizations Need Our Help!

JFCS is once again accepting donations! Here's an abbreviated list of needed items: canned goods, pasta, mac and cheese, rice, microwaveable foods, juice, powdered milk, PB and J, individual food cups, deodorant soap and toiletries, feminine hygiene products, disposable razors and laundry detergent.

Ellen has graciously offered to help with your donations to *Sojourner Center* for abused women and children. However, *Sojourner's* only accepts NEW items such as socks, clothing (women and children), bedding, full-size unscented lotion and full-size hair products.

Please call Ellen or Wendy when you have items to drop off or if you have any questions.

Ellen: 602-214-5212 or Wendy: 602-316-2993.

### VOLUNTEER FROM HOME

Do you have time on your hands? One of the pillars of the BNC Mission Statement is Community Outreach. Members who are interested in doing volunteer work for various charities from home, can contact Ellen Kirschenbaum at [ellenk102@gmail.com](mailto:ellenk102@gmail.com).

**Stay safe and stay well!**  
**Ellen Kirschenbaum and Wendy Cohen**



## Knit A Mitzvah

**Do you Knit?  
Do you Crochet?  
Help us make Scarves,  
Newborn Baby Caps and Lap  
Blankets**

We donate newborn baby caps and lap blankets to Honor Health Medical Center, scarves and adult lap blankets to JFCS and chemo caps to Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center.

For more information, please contact:

Ronee Siegel

[ronees@aol.com](mailto:ronees@aol.com) 917-273-0393

Joan Davis

[davis6j@gmail.com](mailto:davis6j@gmail.com) 602-499-8357



For more information, contact the Community Outreach chairs:  
Wendy Cohen [wencohen@cox.net](mailto:wencohen@cox.net) Ellen Kirschenbaum [ellenk102@gmail.com](mailto:ellenk102@gmail.com)



## Chapter Board Meetings

Board meetings will be conducted virtually, using Zoom. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm. Board members will receive a Zoom invitation.

All Chapter Board meetings are open to our members. You are welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of every month (except July) at 10:00 am.

If you are not a current Board member and would like to attend, please email Corresponding Secretary Joyce Grant at [jhgrant35@gmail.com](mailto:jhgrant35@gmail.com) in order to receive the Zoom meeting details.

### Chapter Presidents

Jan Lebovitz and Linda Ullman [bncphxpresidents@gmail.com](mailto:bncphxpresidents@gmail.com)

A full list of the [Phoenix Chapter Board members](#) is available.

Save These  
**DATES**

**MEN FOR BRANDEIS ACTIVITIES**

**WITH JANIS LIPMAN**

Wednesday, December 9  
12:45 pm

**HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR**

Monday, December 14  
5:00 - 6:00 pm

**WINTER EVENT**

*Sherlock in our Homes: a Virtual Scavenger Hunt*  
Saturday, February 20, 2021  
5:00 – 7:00 pm

**VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY ON WHEELS - TBA**



## Chapter Roster


If you have recently moved,  
or changed your  
phone number or email address,  
please let Bruce Galin,  
our Chapter's Data Manager,  
know of those changes.

[bruce.phxbnc@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.phxbnc@gmail.com).

She will ensure you don't miss out on any  
Chapter mailings and information.

**HONORING OUR HISTORY**  
Transforming Unique Collections Highlighting Social Justice

Please support Brandeis National Committee's Honoring our History campaign to highlight unique collections of Jewish, immigrant, and feminist narratives housed in the Brandeis Library. This campaign will provide global electronic access to these materials, ensuring that researchers and students will continue learning from these significant historical perspectives.



**Brandeis** BRANDEIS NATIONAL COMMITTEE [giving.brandeis.edu/bnc](http://giving.brandeis.edu/bnc) | 781-736-7588



Eleanor Roosevelt talks to Brandeis students in 1958.

## *Honoring Our History*

### The University Photography Collection

In many homes there are boxes and albums inherited by family members that are fading and deteriorating with the passage of time. So many faces and past celebrations that can no longer be identified. What are the forgotten stories that surround these photos? A family history lost forever.

It is said that "a picture is worth a thousand words." This month we would like to highlight the [University Photography Collection](#).

The Brandeis University Photography Collection comprises over 100,000 photo negatives, taken over the course of the history of the institution from the beginning to the recent past. The collection provides rich visual documentation of Brandeis University's unique history and development, showcasing the influential people, places and events associated with the school in its founding years, including the Brandeis University National Women's Committee (now the Brandeis National Committee).

The University Photography Collection is among the most actively used collections in the University Archives. Brandeis students, faculty, staff, alumni and administrators, as well as community researchers, request the use of images for scholarly publications, research papers, presentations, classroom lectures, documentary films, exhibits, publicity materials, museum publications and university celebrations.

Digital access to these images of historical importance will provide a valuable service to the research community and will preserve vulnerable early photographic images. Degradation of original acetate negatives is progressive and irreversible; digitization will serve to capture and preserve their informational value before it is permanently lost.

Digital photographs from the University Archives are featured in various online exhibits, which may be found here: [Archives & Special Collections](#) online exhibits. Two of them are also included on page 8, in the Brandeis Happenings article. Please join us in helping to ensure that these remarkable photographs will not fade and deteriorate.

Please support [Honoring Our History!](#)

For more information please contact Campaign Chairs Carol Kern, [cak8219@gmail.com](mailto:cak8219@gmail.com) and/or Judy Levine, [judithlevine43@yahoo.com](mailto:judithlevine43@yahoo.com).





## Donations

To make a donation, you can go to the Brandeis website Making a Gift page at [giving.brandeis.edu/bnc](http://giving.brandeis.edu/bnc) or, contact Sue Lawler: 602-525-0231 [suelawler9@gmail.com](mailto:suelawler9@gmail.com)  
Tributes start at \$10. We accept credit card donations and a note will be sent to your honoree.

Donor

Recipient

Occasion

### GENERAL BOOK FUND

Nancy Sacks Goldberg	Stephanie Klopfer	In honor of her big birthday
Iris Wigal	Joellyn Pollock	In honor of birth of granddaughter Fay
Iris Wigal	Harriet Schwartz	In honor of granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah
Nancy Sacks Goldberg	Vicky Leavitt	Best wishes for a speedy recovery
Nancy Sacks Goldberg	Andie Morrison	Best wishes for a speedy recovery
Iris Wigal	Vicky Leavitt	Best wishes for a speedy recovery
Ruth & Jeff Lerner	Hana & Frank Lange	In memory of Zvi Gryziak
Nancy Sacks Goldberg	Barbara Gold	In memory of her brother

### HONORING OUR HISTORY CAMPAIGN

Jeri & Guy Benoit	Susan & Mark Sendrow	In honor of son Michael's marriage to Sarah Bernstein
BNC Phx Board	Joellyn Pollock	In honor of birth of granddaughter Fay
Joyce & Neil Goldstein	Carol Kern	In honor of Visionary Leadership
Joyce & Neil Goldstein	Janis Lipman	In honor of Visionary Leadership
Carol Kern	Joellyn Pollock	In honor of birth of granddaughter Fay
Nan & Larry Waldman	Installation and Showcase Committees	In honor of the Fall Showcase Event and Installation

### SUSTAINING THE MIND FUND

Abby Tucker & John Poremba	Anne Mondlick	In honor of her birthday
Abby Tucker & John Poremba	Anne & Marvin Mondlick	In honor of birth of granddaughter Halle Ruth
Helen & Michael Greenberg	Pam Kay	In memory of Loretta Forrest
Helen & Michael Greenberg		In memory of Joan Gill

These lists include Donations through November 23. We regret any errors or omissions.  
For future corrections or inclusions, please notify the editors at [bncphxbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bncphxbulletin@gmail.com).

## Make A Donation

Celebrating a birthday, milestone or looking for the best way to honor the memory of a loved one?  
Gifts to the Brandeis National Committee support:

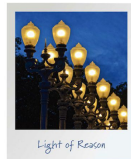
**HONORING OUR HISTORY** - Transforming Unique Collections Highlighting Social Justice. Join us in supporting BNC's Honoring Our History campaign to highlight unique collections of Jewish, immigrant, and feminist narratives housed in the Brandeis Library. This campaign will provide global electronic access to these materials, ensuring that researchers and students will continue learning from these significant historical perspectives.

**LIBRARY FUND\*** - Libraries are the heart of a great university, the lifeline of teaching, learning and research. Make an impact on one of America's leading research universities.

**SCHOLARSHIP** - Financial assistance plays a pivotal role in upholding Brandeis' founding principle of equal access to higher education, regardless of a student's financial circumstance.

**SUSTAINING THE MIND** - Brandeis National Committee's Sustaining the Mind: Scientific Research and Scholarships Fund fosters research in neuroscience and neurodegenerative diseases.

**PLANNED GIVING** - Planned gifts provide donors the opportunity to meet both their philanthropic and financial goals. Examples of planned gifts include charitable-gift annuities, bequests, deferred annuities, charitable-remainder trusts and donor-advised funds.



\*Did you know that you can establish a Library Fund Savings Account?  
This account includes the Book Fund and the Louis Brandeis Fund, enabling you to send Library Fund Tributes with ease. For more information, contact [Sue Lawler](mailto:Sue Lawler).

## BNC PHOENIX BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020 - 2021

President	Jan Lebovitz	<a href="mailto:janice.lebovitz@gmail.com">janice.lebovitz@gmail.com</a>	847-772-2922
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VP Study Groups/ Parliamentarian	Barbara Stern	<a href="mailto:sternbts@gmail.com">sternbts@gmail.com</a>	540-664-3106
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Immed Past Pres./ Nominating Committee	Judy Levine	<a href="mailto:judithlevine43@yahoo.com">judithlevine43@yahoo.com</a>	480-323-6707
Recording Secretary	Bonnie Furst	<a href="mailto:jisgrandma32@gmail.com">jisgrandma32@gmail.com</a>	561-704-3276
Recording Secretary	Vicky Leavitt	<a href="mailto:vickstar11@gmail.com">vickstar11@gmail.com</a>	317-418-8882
Treasurer	Michelle Fischler	<a href="mailto:michelleyles@gmail.com">michelleyles@gmail.com</a>	602-667-0313
Treasurer	Beth Messer	<a href="mailto:bethmae721@gmail.com">bethmae721@gmail.com</a>	480-284-5555
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