

Brandeis Beat

February, 2010

Friday, February 26th

20th Annual BNC Book and Author Event

Come spend your day with. . .



J. W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa, 5350 E. Marriott Drive, Phoenix
Want to know more about these bestselling authors? See pages 5 and 6

Any other questions, contact the Book and Author Team at:

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President's Message



Dear Members,

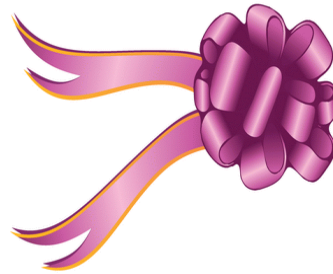
This is the time of the year when I like to take the time to think about "time"! Apparently, I'm not the only one thinking about this because in a recent column of Harvey Mackay (Arizona Republic, 12/28/09) he's thinking about it too. Specifically, he wrote: "When you kill a little time, you may be murdering opportunity" and "Don't just mark time; use time to make your mark." You may ask how does this apply to us? First, this is time of year when the Nominating Committee is looking for officers and chairs for the next two years. It's a great time to show some interest in the future of this organization and make your mark in its development. There are lots of positions that will open up (including mine!) at all levels of responsibility. Take a small step, take a big step - it doesn't matter. Just step forward to make your mark and let me know that you want to maximize this opportunity now!

This is also the time of year when my favorite event - Book and Author - is on everyone's mind. We have a great line-up of authors this year, our pre-event activities, including the Bookmark Cocktail Party and the event day boutiques, are fabulous! I'm not going to say too much more because the invitations were mailed in January and I hope you have RSVP'ed by now. See you there!

Best wishes, always, Iris

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 fund raising and through activities that reflect the values on which the University was founded: academic excellence, social justice, nonsectarianism and service to the community.



Thank You

We thank all who attended and helped to make University on Wheels our first success of 2010. Special thanks to our Master and Ph.D. Level donors, to Nancy Moffit for the beautiful centerpieces, to Ellen Tuckman and Lois Roth for registration, and to Selma Ost for publicity. We learned how important the "Conservation of Nature" is to all of us, and best of all, we experienced the quality of teaching done at Brandeis University.

Marianne Silberman & Joanie Bream Co-chairs



Save the Dates

Wednesday, March 17, Open Board Meeting, Temple Solel, 10:30 am
 Speaker: Bill Straus, Regional Director of Phoenix ADL
 Wednesday, March 24, Brandeis/JCC Woman's Seder, At the JCC
 Thursday, April 29, Installation Luncheon

Book and Author

Some Things Old and Some Things New
at the Book and Author Event. . .

When some things are right, they are worth repeating!

The Brandeis Unique Boutique of Collectibles
and Vintage Jewelry will appear again with interesting
items to be worn, collected and admired. . .

Boutiques, Boutiques, Boutiques. . .
for your shopping pleasure will include
these wonderful vendors:



- **Platella Silver Jewelry** – designer silver jewelry at great prices!
- **Calle Rose** -- women's clothing and accessories with a flair.
- **The Hat Lady** -- fabulous fun hats at very modest prices. High Tea anyone?
- **Rose of Sharon Antiques** -- featuring home accessories, baby items, beaded evening bags.
- **Fun and Fancy** -- Liz Todish created custom napkins, imprinting and gifts for a savvy hostess.
- **Karlee Fuchs Designs** -- interesting handmade bags, totes and book covers.
- **Pampered Chef** -- useful items for the kitchen...for both gourmet and amateur cooks. How about buying the ***Writers Can Cook Too!*** Cookbook, as a gift, to go with these kitchen accessories for yourself or a gift?
- **Jewelry by Sharon Friendly** - former Mrs. Senior Arizona creates one of a kind crocheted beaded jewelry.
- **Sharon Pry** -- custom handmade evening bags, belts and hooked silk lingerie bags, at special prices, too good to be true.
- **Don Swanson, Fine Art Ceramics** - unique vases, dishes, bowls, olive trays at prices too good to be true.
- **Vaughn Glass** -- usable and interesting glass items that are very well priced.

The newest of the new -- several of following items will be offered at the
Bookmark cocktail party early-bird silent auction and some at the event:

From our friends at Moda Fina Fine Jewelry -- 14K white gold and diamond necklace ... and a ½ carat round brilliant diamond with a gift certificate for the setting.

As if this is not enough there will be a dinner at a new restaurant with an author, catered dinners at private homes, restaurants, golf, hotels, dance lessons, champagne lunch, fashion consultations and much, much more.

If this does not whet your appetite, certainly the ***Writers Can Cook Too!*** Cookbook will. Offered for sale for the first time at the event, it contains recipes and witticisms from notable authors. Here are just a few names you surely know: *Jodi Picoult, Scott Turow, Jeffrey Archer, Susan Isaacs, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Anita Diamant, Faye Kellerman, Elizabeth Berg, David Baldacci, Elinor Lipman*...and about 125 more. This is a must-have collectible for your enjoyment and -- a perfect gift.

See you at the Book and Author Event – Friday, February 26th, 9:00 a.m. at the JW Marriott
Bookmark Cocktail Reception – Thursday, February, 25th, 5:00 p.m. at a private residence.



Shazaam!

Just announced, the 20th anniversary Book and Author Event Honorary chairman will be The Voice of the Phoenix Suns, Al McCoy! This year, Al McCoy, will celebrate his 38th year as the play-by-play broadcaster for the Phoenix Suns (and he has only missed 1 game in all that time). Al is the longest tenured broadcaster in the NBA. Al tells his story in his memoir, *The Real McCoy*.

What a fabulous array of bestselling authors we have for you to meet and enjoy listening to at this year's event. Want to know a little more about each of them now? Read on....

Diana Gabaldon

Ms. Gabaldon is our first recipient of the Annual Clive Cussler Award for Literature and is being presented by Clive Cussler himself (who else?) to our Valley's own, international bestselling author Diana Gabaldon. Diana is a native Arizonan, raised in Flagstaff and now residing in Scottsdale. She has an M.S. in Marine Biology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and a Ph.D. in quantitative behavioral ecology. Before writing her bestselling *Outlander* series, Diana was a professor for 12 years at Arizona State University in the Center for Environmental Studies. Beautiful, smart, funny and a great writer, who deserves this award more than Diana? Her newest book is *An Echo in the Bone*, the seventh in the *Outlander* series.

Allegra Huston

Ms. Huston comes to us from Taos, New Mexico. Her book, *Love Child*, is her memoir of a complicated family history as John Huston's "daughter". She was born in London, moved to Ireland when she was five, then to Long Island and on to Los Angeles before moving back to London in 1980. Allegra received a First Class Honours degree in English at Hertford College, Oxford. She's spent her career working with publishers, first as an assistant and eventually as an editor. She's written screenplays, edited freelance, teaches screenwriting and has published numerous articles on travel and various other topics. Allegra is a dual national, both of the US and the UK. *Love Child* has been chosen as the number one memoir for the Books of the Year in both the London Sunday Times and the Irish Sunday Times.

Joseph Kanon

Mr. Kanon was born in Pennsylvania and was educated at Harvard and Trinity College, Cambridge. While still an undergraduate at Harvard, he began a career in publishing as a reader for *The Atlantic* and subsequently held editorial positions at *The Saturday Review*, Little, Brown, and Coward, McCann. Executive positions followed: President and CEO of E.P. Dutton and Senior Vice-President and Head of Trade and Reference Publishing at Houghton Mifflin. In 1995, on a visit to the Southwest, he visited Los Alamos and conceived the idea for a novel about the Manhattan Project. *Los Alamos*, published in 1997 was a best-seller, translated into 20 languages, and won the Edgar Award for best first novel. Now a full-time writer, he followed it with *The Prodigal Spy*, *The Good German* (which was made into a film with George Clooney and Cate Blanchett), *Alibi* and his newest bestseller *Stardust*.

Christopher Kennedy Lawford

Mr. Lawford was born in Malibu, California, the son of President John F. Kennedy's sister, Patricia, and famous Rat Pack actor, Peter Lawford. He grew up on both coasts and experienced the high life of Hollywood and the powerful world of politics....from a front row seat. Chris spent his early teen years experimenting with drugs and getting into all kinds of trouble, culminating in an addiction to heroin. Sober for more than 22 years, Lawford shared his personal story in his memoir *Symptoms of Withdrawal*, in hopes of making a difference. His second book, *Moments of Clarity* is a book of celebrity interviews illuminating the spiritual epiphanies that occur in people's lives enabling them to move from addiction to recovery. This book quickly became a *New York Times* Bestseller. Christopher Lawford holds a B.A. from Tufts University, a J.D. from Boston College Law School, and a Masters Certification in Clinical Psychology from Harvard Medical School, where he gained an academic appointment as a lecturer on Psychiatry. He has worked extensively in politics, government, and business as well as in Hollywood. His political career includes executive staff positions with The Democratic National Committee, The Community Action for Legal Services Agency, and in the Washington office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. In addition, Christopher has also focused much of his life on public service in the non-profit sector, working for The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, The Special Olympics, and The Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University and Caron Treatment Centers. Currently, he holds positions as a Public Policy Consultant for Caron Treatment Centers and a national spokesperson for a Hepatitis C public awareness campaign and was recently appointed to the California Public Health Advisory Committee.

Christopher Reich

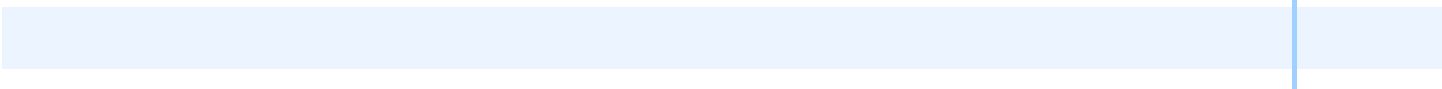
Mr. Reich was born in Tokyo, Japan where his father ran a travel agency that sent Japanese tourists to America. He moved to the States in 1965 and settled in Los Angeles. Christopher graduated from Georgetown University, where he attended the School of Foreign Service. After college, Christopher worked as a stock broker, albeit not a very good one and this led him to leave NY and relocate to Geneva Switzerland. It was there, while working as the CEO of a small Swiss watch company, that he got the inspiration for and began writing his first international suspense thriller, *Numbered Account*. Four other thrillers involving politics, banking, spies and excitement followed. His latest two books, *Rules of Deception* and the sequel, *Rules of Vengeance* tell the adventures of a surgeon for Doctors Without Borders and his American spy wife. Christopher has been called the master of the espionage thriller for the twenty-first century.

Lisa See

Ms. See was born in Paris but grew up in Los Angeles. She lived with her mother, but spent a lot of time with her father's family in Chinatown. Her first book, *On Gold Mountain: The One Hundred Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family*, was a national bestseller. The book traces the journey of Lisa's great-grandfather, Fong See, who overcame obstacles at every step to become the 100-year-old godfather of Los Angeles's Chinatown and the patriarch of a sprawling family. Lisa is probably best known for *Snow Flower* and the *Secret Fan*, for which she traveled to a remote area of China - where she was told she was only the second foreigner ever to visit - to research the secret writing invented, used, and kept a secret by women for over a thousand years.

In addition to writing books, Lisa wrote the libretto for Los Angeles Opera based on *On Gold Mountain*, which premiered at the Japan American Theatre followed by the Irvine Barclay Theatre. She also served as guest curator for an exhibit on the Chinese-American experience for the Autry Museum of Western Heritage, which then traveled to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Lisa then helped develop and curate the Family Discovery Gallery at the Autry Museum, an interactive space for children and their families that focuses on Lisa's bi-racial, bi-cultural family as seen through the eyes of her father as a seven-year-old boy living in 1930s Los Angeles. She designed a walking tour of Los Angeles Chinatown and wrote the companion guidebook for Angels Walk L.A. to celebrate the opening of the MTA's Chinatown metro station. Lisa has also curated the inaugural exhibition - a retrospective of artist Tyrus Wong - for the grand opening of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles. Lisa See's newest bestseller is *Shanghai Girls*.

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