



Mai Al Shaaban &lt;maialshaaban@brandeis.edu&gt;

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## Student Engagement November 2025 Newsletter

1 message

**Student Engagement** <student\_engagement-brandeis@vpsa.ccsend.com>

Reply-To: studentengagement@brandeis.edu

To: maialshaaban@brandeis.edu

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 11:03 AM



## November Student Engagement Newsletter

Check out [Campus Groups \[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net\]](#) for student organization events and community engagement and service experiences.

Go to the [Brandeis Events Calendar \[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net\]](#) for all events on campus.

Follow us on [Instagram \[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net\]](#).

## Student Engagement Spotlight

### Event Recap

### **INCENDIO - Brandeis LatinX Student Organization**

BLSO hosted its annual cultural show, Incendio, celebrating one of the most cherished traditions across Latinx and Latin American communities: a Quinceañera. A Quinceañera is a coming-of-age celebration that honors a young woman's 15th birthday, symbolizing her transition into adulthood.

This year's Incendio featured BLSO executive board members portraying family members, with one member taking on the special role of the Quinceañera herself. The court was represented by Brandeis Sazón, the university's first Latinx dance group. The event opened with a lively performance by the Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, followed by student performer Isidora Bustos and a guest performance by San Simón Caporales.

We ended the night, as every Quinceañera should, with vibrant music from DJ Naeda. This event served as a joyful way to share a beloved cultural tradition with the Brandeis community and offer an immersive experience for those who had never attended a Quinceañera before.



## Student Leader Of The Month

**Name:** Mai Al Shaaban

**Major:** Applied Mathematics and Computer Science

**Class Year/Year of Graduation:** Senior, Class of 2026

**On Campus/Off Campus Job Title:** Student Union Head Treasurer

**What is your favorite part of your job/role on campus?**

I've been in the US Treasury since my second week at Brandeis, and it's been a big part of my college life ever since! My favorite part is that this position gave me the background to take financial responsibility and, in turn, help the student body with their clubs financial transactions.

**What have you learned in that role?**

Because of the treasury, I've picked up so many hard skills, processing payments, managing budgets, and understanding how student clubs' finances work on campus. With over 150 clubs, it has been very interesting to explore Brandeis student life outside the classroom as well!!

**What are some things you enjoy doing in your free time?**

If the weather's nice, I love going on mountain hikes or long walks. If not, I'm indoors crocheting,

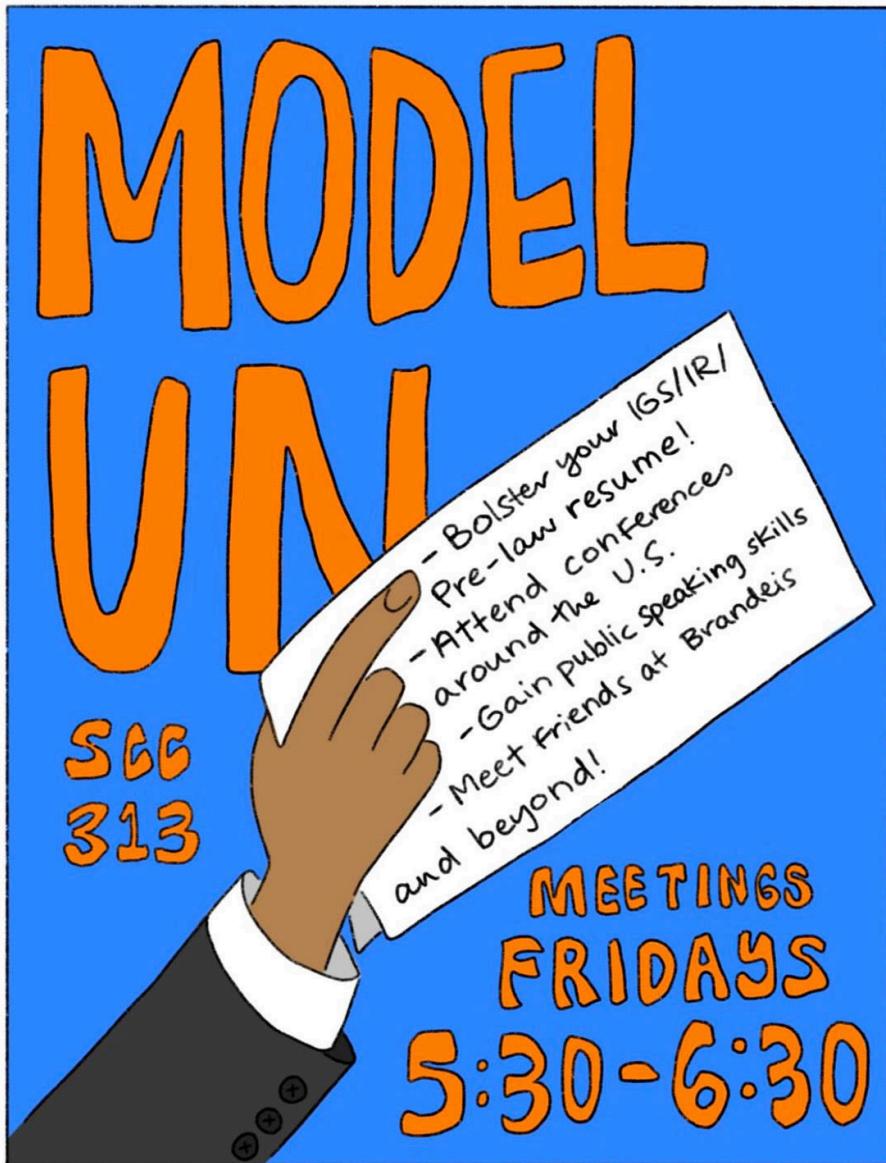


catching up with friends from my hometown or  
watching old TV shows.

## **Club Spotlight**

### **Brandeis Model United Nations**

Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic club based on simulating the United Nations General Assembly. During collegiate conference competitions, delegates assume the role of a character or country, write and deliver speeches, and collaborate with students from across the world to write mock legislation. MUN helps future lawyers, politicians, foreign affairs ministers (and more) gain valuable experiences in public speaking, speech writing, and debate, as well as building a range of knowledge on historical and current events. The fast-paced environment also helps participants develop critical thinking and leadership skills necessary for tackling real world issues. We are sending delegates to two conferences this semester, The National Collegiate Security Conference (NCSC) in Washington D.C., and The Boston Area Regional MUN Conference (BarMUN). While delegate selection for these upcoming conferences has been finalized, we encourage anyone interested in getting involved to join us Fridays 5:30-6:30pm in SCC 313 to learn more. Meetings are beginner friendly, and will help prospective delegates to build a foundation of knowledge necessary to join us at a conference next semester. Additionally, join us on CampusGroups and follow us on Instagram @munbrandeis for updates on upcoming events!



## Student Volunteer of the Month

**Name:** Elizabeth Ford

**Majors:** Health: Science, Society, and Policy and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

**Minors:** Community Engaged Scholars Program and Sexuality and Queer Studies

**Why do they volunteer?**

I volunteer because, after growing up in a rural, close-knit community, I know how important it is for community members to contribute to fostering a community that cares for all of its members. I volunteer so I can give back to the community that has molded me and nurtured my personal growth. I am the daughter of two teachers, so I know how impactful it is to have someone at home who can help you with homework, and how much teachers wish they could provide one-on-one help for everyone. With this perspective in mind, I was

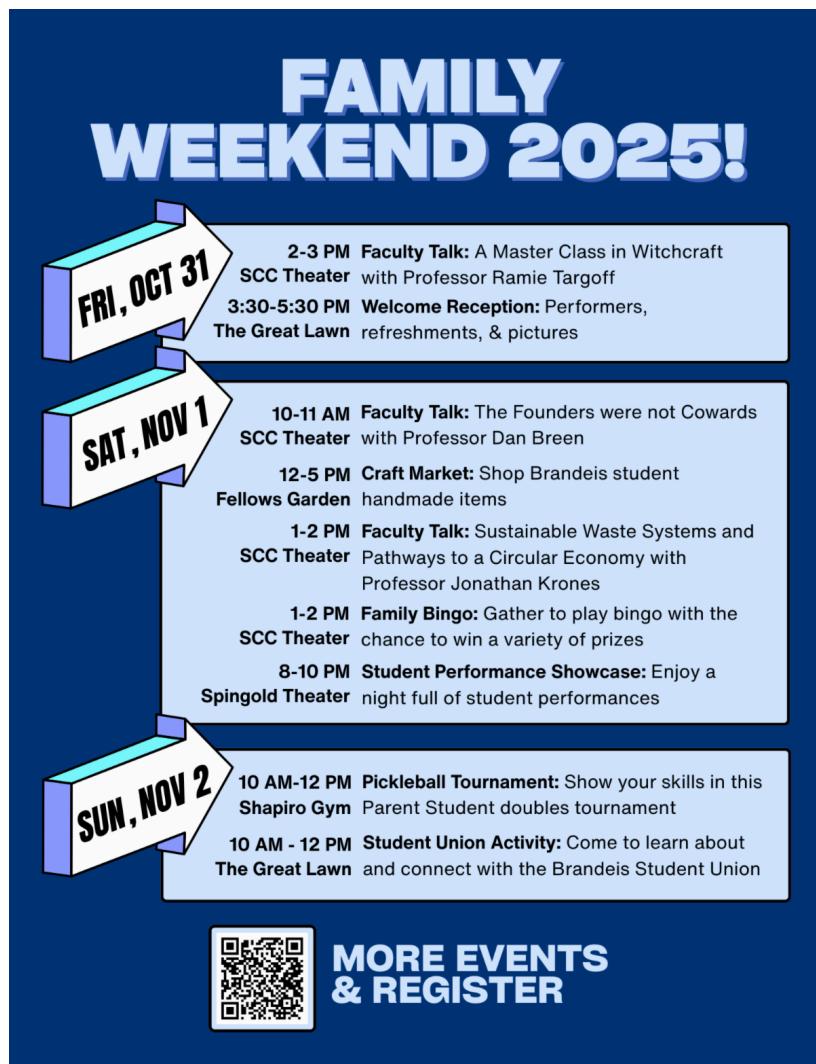
inspired to volunteer after hearing about General Tutoring's mission to provide one-on-one educational support for kids who don't have a parent at home to help or can't afford tutoring, thereby removing the financial barrier to education. The most meaningful experiences I have had are receiving emails from parents who express how much our program has impacted them and how well their students are doing! After receiving many emails from parents on our waiting list, it is always reinvigorating to hear how our program is making a difference.



## Opportunities from the Department of Student Engagement

### Family Weekend 2025: October 31 - November 2

Family Weekend is October 31 - November 2. Programming will kick off on Friday mid-morning and continue through Sunday mid-day. Family Weekend is the perfect opportunity for families to visit, see their student's space, meet their friends, and catch up on the start of the semester!. Check out the [event schedule \[fukmqlab.cc.rs6.net\]](https://fukmqlab.cc.rs6.net) including Family BINGO, the Student Performance Showcase, Pickleball Tournament, craft market and more.



## Springfest 2026 Survey

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) is the official programming board providing campus-wide entertainment for Brandeis student body. We are run by students, for students. We want your input on who you want us to bring to campus for the Springfest 2026 Concert!

Complete this survey [[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net](https://fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net)] and help us create the experiences you want. Feel free to suggest any additional names/ideas!

Reminder: Please note that the artist we can book depends on their availability and costs. While an artist's name may appear on this survey, it does not guarantee their appearance at Springfest. These questions are designed to give us a general idea of the types of shows and artists you're interested in.

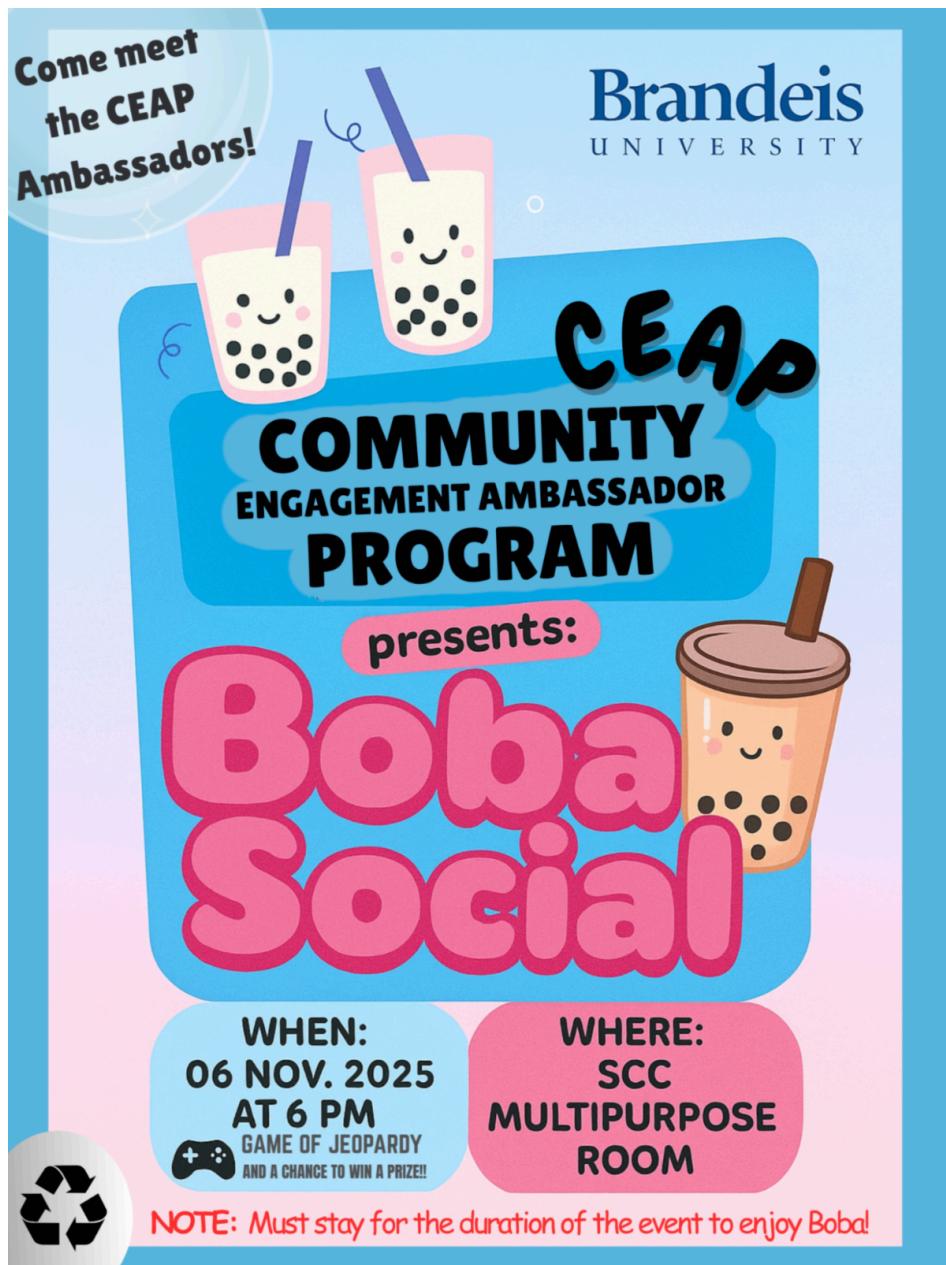
## First Thursdays: Pottery painting - November 6

Join The Painting Place staff to paint your own ceramic bowl or mug. Space is limited so be sure to sign-up on Campus Groups!



## Community Engagement Ambassador Program (CEAP) Boba Social! - Thursday, November 6

Come meet your Community Engagement Ambassadors, drink boba tea, and play a game of Jeopardy! Winner gets a prize! Boba is first come first serve.



## Kindness Days 2025 - November 10-14

Welcome to Kindness Day 2025! This year's theme, Better Together, celebrates the vibrant impact kindness has on our community and beyond. Through acts of compassion, creativity, and connection, we'll come together to brighten each other's lives and spread positivity. We are offering a [virtual kindness card](#) [[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net](http://fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net)], so that all students, faculty, staff, alumni, family and friends of Brandeis University can participate! Join us for a variety of events designed to inspire, uplift, and foster the spirit of togetherness - let's make the world a little kinder, one vibrant act at a time!

Full schedule of events will be posted on the Kindness Days [webpage](#) [[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net](http://fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net)] soon.



## On-Campus Experiences

### Shared Plates & Shared Paths - We're taking you to lunch with the Faculty! - November 3

Description: We are hosting our second Shared Plates, Shared Paths event aimed to strengthen our community's relationship with their faculty which directly aligns with our mission to continue building community. Happening on November 3 from 12:00-1:30pm at the Faculty club on campus, come and ask your questions, share your thoughts, and hear from your own faculty. [Fill out this interest form \[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net\]](https://fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net) if you are interested.



## Brandeis Social Impact Startup Challenge - Deadline for registration is November 7

We are excited to announce that the Brandeis Social Impact Startup Challenge 2025 is now open for registration.

This is a weekend-long, in-person startup incubator where students form teams to build and pitch social impact ventures with guidance from experienced mentors.

Key Details:

- Dates: November 7–9
- Prize: Up to \$1,500 in cash
- Team Size: 3–5 members. Bring your team or join one on the spot
- Meals: Provided for all participants
- Eligibility: All students are welcome. No prior experience/expertise needed.

Register here: <https://www.brandeisstartup.com/events/brandeis-social-impact-startup-challenge>  
[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net]

For any queries, feel free to reach out to [Hardik Shukla](#).



Brandeis  
**Social Impact  
Startup Challenge**  
INNOVATE AND PITCH YOUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

# In-person weekend event open to all Brandeis Students

Join a team or bring your own idea.  
**Create a business venture and WIN \$1,500.**

Mark your Calendar:  
**Friday 7th to Sunday 9th, November 2025**

All meals provided throughout the weekend.

Brandeis | SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

The Perlmutter Institute for Global Business Leadership  
The Asper Center for Global Entrepreneurship

For more info, visit [www.bit.ly/socialimpactstartupchallenge](http://www.bit.ly/socialimpactstartupchallenge) or Email: [hardikshukla@brandeis.edu](mailto:hardikshukla@brandeis.edu)

Apply Now!  
Scan the QR code



A large yellow lightbulb icon is positioned in the top right corner, with a beam of light pointing towards the center of the poster. Below the lightbulb are two circular photos showing groups of people, with a blue arrow pointing from the text "Join a team or bring your own idea." to the photos.

## First Generation National Celebration - November 11

Description: Join us for our annual first generation celebration where we recognize the experiences and life stories of first generation students here on campus. Dinner will be provided. The event is on November 11 from 5:30-7:00pm and is held in the Levin Ballroom. We hope to see you there and make sure to [RSVP \[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net\]](mailto:fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net).



# FIRST-GEN CELEBRATION

Join us for a night of celebration as we recognize the experiences and life stories of first-generation college students at Brandeis!

*Dinner will be served.*

*Co-hosted by SSSP, MKAP, GenOne, MLK, and Posse.*

**Event Details**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 11  
**Time:** 5:30-7:00PM  
**Location:** Levin Ballroom

*All are welcome!*

**Scan QR CODE to RSVP!**



**RSVP BY WED. 11/5**

Please inform us through the RSVP form if you have any needs to support your participation in the event



## Community Engagement Pathway Panel - November 13

Ready to expand your community engagement horizons and learn more about your next steps at Brandeis? Join us at the SCC Multipurpose Room on November 13 for our fourth annual COMPACT Community Engagement Pathways Panel featuring an all-star team of Faculty and Staff from across campus. Free candy for all attendees!

# Community Engagement Pathways Panel Featured Staff and Faculty

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH 12:20 PM**  
**LOCATION - SCC MPR**



**SARA SHOSTAK**  
Academic Dean, School of Social Sciences & Social Policy  
Professor, Department of Sociology and Health: Science, Society and Policy Program



**MIKA ROMO-ORTEGA**  
Associate Director, Community Engagement and Leadership



**IAN ROY**  
Executive Director, Design and Innovation (BDI)  
The Robert I. Mallet Senior Lecturer in Engineering and Business



**MELISSA STIMPELL**  
Director, ENACT  
Professor of the Practice of Legal Studies



**JAMIE WIRE**  
Director of the Gender and Sexuality Center, Division of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



**KARL LACLAIR**  
Chaplain & Coordinator of Christian Life



**CALVIN CHU**  
Assistant Director of Career Development



**CHARLOTTE POWLEY**  
Assistant Director of Research for ENACT



**PETER ROJAS**  
Director of the Intercultural Center



**RACHEL KRAMER THEODOREOU**  
Senior Lecturer in Education



**DAVID WEINSTEIN**  
Assistant Director for ENACT



**LISA ZEIDENBERG**  
Creative Arts Librarian

**Brandeis** | SAMUELS CENTER FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND CIVIC TRANSFORMATION



SAMUELS SCHOLARS  
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

**Brandeis** | DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTATION AND FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

## URCC Research 101 Workshop - November 18

Join us for our last session this fall! Tuesday, November 18 from 2:15 - 3:30 pm in Usdan West Conference Room, Suite 169. [Sign up here \[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net\]](#).

The URCC Research 101 workshop [[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net](#)] can help you learn more about how to get involved in research and creative projects at Brandeis. Led by [Margaret Lynch](#), Director of Undergraduate-Faculty Research Partnerships.

You'll learn how to:

- get involved and when to start
- identify your interests
- search for research opportunities
- reach out to potential faculty mentors

- apply for funding
- present and share your research or creative project
- get support and advice at all steps in the process

Snacks and drinks will be provided, too!



## Center for Spiritual Life Upcoming event:

### Peace Circle - November 12

Join us for a monthly, short, nonreligious gathering at 12:15 - 12:30 pm at the Peace Circle (between library and Usdan). We welcome all to be part of these circles for peace in our world, our hearts, and our community. The gathering consists of a reflective moment led by a chaplain, and a period of silence. If you are unable to attend, we will be tabling next to the Peace Circle at 12 pm and invite you to write down an intention for peace, small or large.



## Mindful Moments with Danielle McKinney: Tell Me More - November 12

Join Graduate Buddhist Chaplain Intern Kien Le at the Rose Art Museum at 3-3:30pm for a last meditation around the topic of “rest” as inspired by the works of Danielle McKinney in the Rose Art Museum. The artist has said: “Each canvas is a portal - a place where I explore the soul, the self, and what it means to be free within one’s own space.” The topic of this meditation will be based on the quote: “Art was my safe place.”

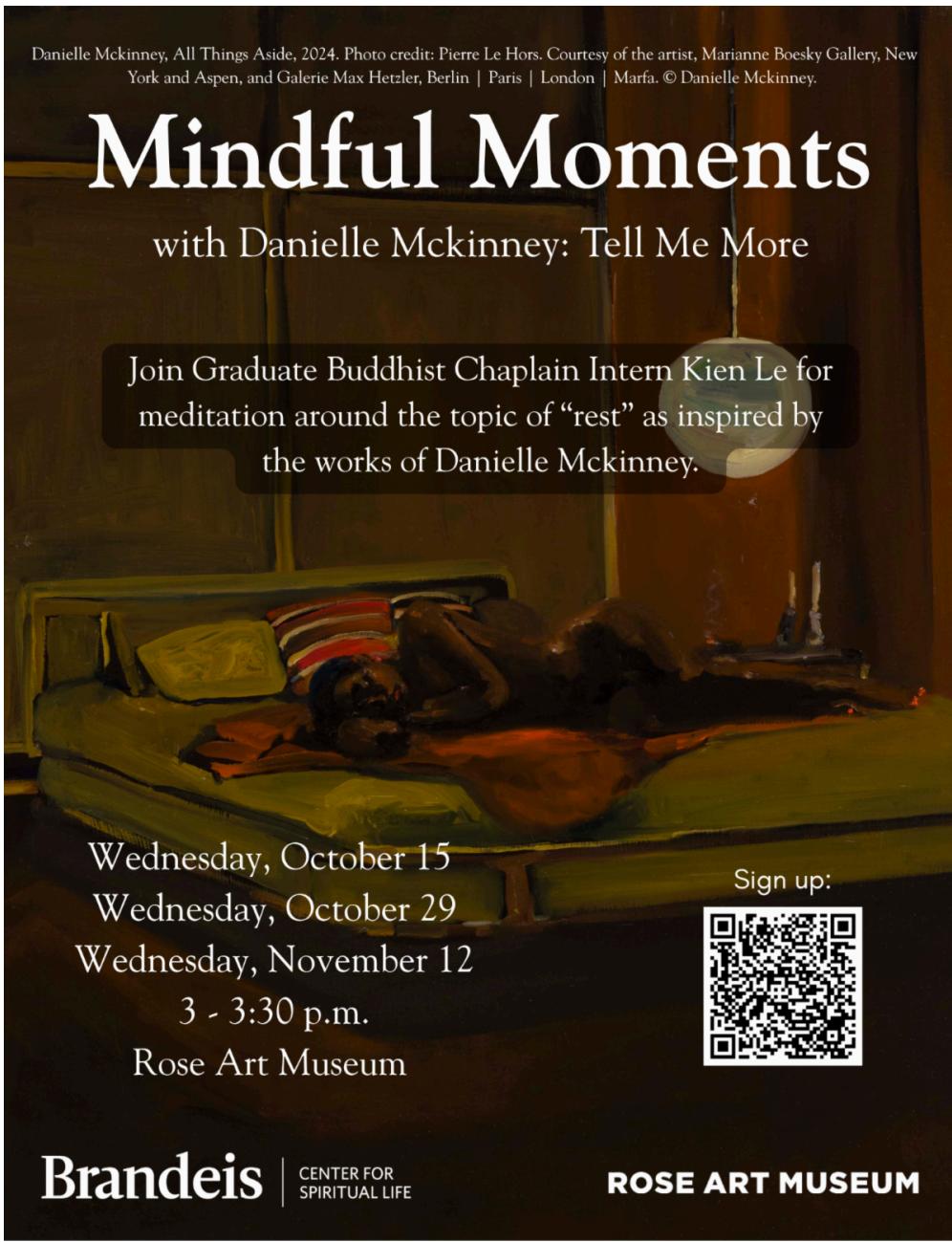
Plan to stay after the meditation to further explore the exhibits.

Danielle McKinney, All Things Aside, 2024. Photo credit: Pierre Le Hors. Courtesy of the artist, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen, and Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin | Paris | London | Marfa. © Danielle McKinney.

# Mindful Moments

with Danielle McKinney: Tell Me More

Join Graduate Buddhist Chaplain Intern Kien Le for meditation around the topic of “rest” as inspired by the works of Danielle McKinney.



Wednesday, October 15  
Wednesday, October 29  
Wednesday, November 12  
3 - 3:30 p.m.  
Rose Art Museum

Sign up:



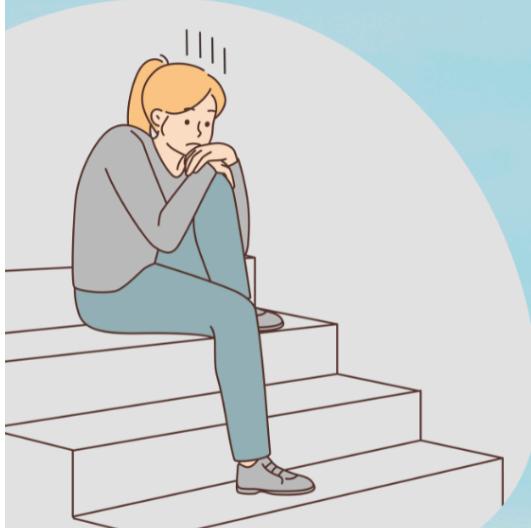
**Brandeis** | CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE      ROSE ART MUSEUM

## Does God Care About... Suffering? - November 19

Join the Center for Spiritual Life in Feldberg Lounge, Upper Sherman at 8-9pm for our next interfaith discussion. Students of all faith traditions and no faith background are invited to share their beliefs, experiences and questions about the nature, origins, and responses to suffering.

# DOES GOD CARE ABOUT... SUFFERING?

AN INTERFAITH CONVERSATION



**Students of any or no faith tradition are invited to share from their beliefs and experiences, exploring the theme of suffering.**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 19  
8 PM  
FELDBERG LOUNGE,  
UPPER SHERMAN**

**Brandeis** | CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE

## Religious Observances

Brandeis is rich with religious diversity. Holidays celebrated by the Brandeis community this November include:

- All Saints Day and All Souls Day (Nov 1 and 2) Since the early centuries of Christianity, these two days have been observed as days to remember the dead. Eventually November 1 was marked as a day to remember those in the past who have lived holy lives and November 2 became a day more focused on all the deceased, hence called All Souls Day. All Saints Day is a special feast day in the Catholic Church. Both feasts recognize the connection that exists between the living and those who have passed on.
- Advent (November 30 - December 24) Advent, from the Latin “coming,” is a season of four weeks of preparation for the coming of Christ, which Christians commemorate on December 25. These four weeks are a time of joyful preparation. The season is often marked by Scripture readings about preparing for the coming of the Messiah. The use of candles on an Advent wreath signifies the themes of Love, Joy, Peace, and Hope.

For more information on these and other holidays, visit the Center for Spiritual Life's [Guide to Religious Observances](#) [fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net]. Did we miss a spiritual observance that is important to you? Please reach out to [slife@brandeis.edu](mailto:slife@brandeis.edu).

## Community Engaged Scholars Program (CESP)

**COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARS PROGRAM (CESP)**



*Open to students in any major, CESP is an academic program that connects our students' longstanding commitment to community service directly to their studies.*

**CONTACT:** MEGAN MORAN (MEGANMORAN@BRANDEIS.EDU),  
PROGRAM ADVISOR TO THE COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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**COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARS PROGRAM (CESP)**

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- CESP 10a Foundations of Community Engagement (4 credits)
- Community Engagement Capstone: Connecting Theory and Practice (4 credits)
- Approved elective (4 credits), linked in subject matter to the student's specific area of engagement
- CESP 20a Special Topics in Community Engagement (2 credits), or an additional approved elective that: a) centers on theories of social change; or b) provides training in skills that will support students' community engagement (including research, advocacy, arts, engineering, etc.); or c) includes community engagement as part of its pedagogy.
- 150 hours of Community and Civic Engagement, Advocacy and/or Service, tracked through CampusGroups.

**CONTACT:** MEGAN MORAN (MEGANMORAN@BRANDEIS.EDU),  
PROGRAM ADVISOR TO THE COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

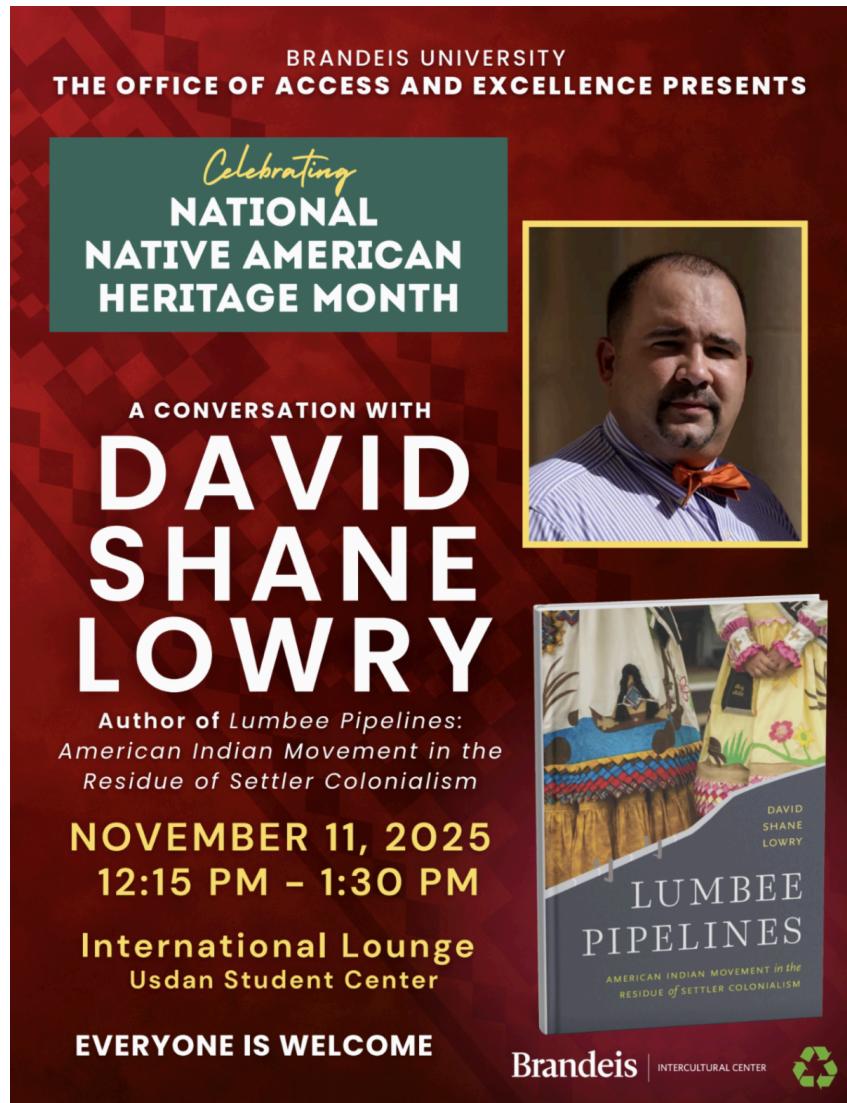
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## Intercultural Center (ICC) Upcoming Events:

### Native American Heritage Month Speaker Dr. David Shane Lowry - November 11

The Intercultural Center invites you to a special conversation featuring Dr. David Shane Lowry, author of Lumbee Pipelines: American Indian Movement in the Residue of Settler Colonialism.

Dr. Lowry will discuss the themes of his book, exploring the intersections of Indigenous identity, activism, and the lasting impact of settler colonialism in contemporary America. This event offers an opportunity to deepen your understanding of Native history, culture, and advocacy through meaningful dialogue and community engagement. Light refreshments will be provided. Everyone is welcome.



## The Blue Couch Series - November 12

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the ICC! Join us to watch films that connect us through culture, history, and heritage. Everyone is welcome.



[fukmqleab.cc.rs6.net]

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