

Brandeis University  
Class of 1978 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Name: Cindy L. Bell-Deane

Maiden name? Bell

Mac or PC? PC

LP, CD, or IPOD? All of these

What was your major? Art History Did you continue in that field? Nope not a chance

Career? Do tell

I too got my start as a cheesecake Lady but a different variant for it. I supplied cheese pies to several local restaurants while I was still in college as a summer hobby/ money maker. The summer before I entered Brandeis I was the cook for a small summer camp and that is where I got my start. I catered on and off for a bit and at one point when Michael Dukakis ran for President I was hoping to be able to say caterer to the President. I catered an event at Tanglewood when he was Governor and he loved my chocolate fondue. Anyway time really flies and I still remember my first efforts at cooking : square meatballs!!! I rolled them too loose and stirred too soon!! Now rolling 250 meatballs in under an hour may not be fun but it can be done.

I am now and have been since 1999 the Director of Food Services for The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires (A fancy title for a kosher senior lunch program coordinator and cook and on site caterer). I also work part time at Kneset Israel Synagogue as their kitchen coordinator. At one point in the mid to late 90's I was working as the Young Adult Library Assistant and substitute teaching in the Lenox Schools. Then I transitioned into the best of both worlds the cook (great for my heart in terms of impact on Senior citizens) and great for my head (keeping up with Young Adults and their literature). I know I chose the right thing for me and that means making a difference in people's lives one meal at a time.

We still own 3 buildings and 18 apartments and are in the process of gutting and renovating one of them for our oldest daughter, Kendra,23. The younger one is Maressa and she turned 21 on Christmas Day.

Favorite memory from Brandeis days?

Maybe hanging out and Usdan doing those things that we college kids did, while people watching. I promise I did inhale!

Favorite Brandeis professor?

Professor Borgo and his favorite word Splendiferous

What have you done since graduation that you are most proud of?

Hmm not sure? But ... About 20 years ago, I was one of handful of younger people actively participating in Synagogue life, Hadassah and the like. The Rabbi stopped me and asked me why others my age were not engaged and active. I had no

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answer for him then but I do now: Brandeis! As I have grown in age and perhaps wisdom, I have come to appreciate my years at Brandeis.

Are you single or married? Tell us about your family:

My hubby was my high school sweetie. I consciously chose a life path that included the sweetest man on earth.

Kendra our oldest daughter is a super senior at UMass-Amherst and at 23 she is living at home and commuting a bit more than an hour each way this semester. She will finish her degree work in December as an Ornamental Horticulture major. (She is the dark haired one)

Our auburn haired child is named Maressa and she is a junior at Mount Holyoke. At 21 she is bright and confident and ready to take the world by the horns. She is a bio major chem minor with a pre-health emphasis. She is hoping to spend the summer in Bloomington, Indiana at an REU (research experience for undergraduates) in Animal Behavior. But if not that research she has many other applications in play and will surely be accepted somewhere.

What goals have you set for yourself for the next ten years?

Age gracefully, perhaps some grandkids, have some fun and just be chill.

What items are on your bucket list?

See more of the US of A: it is underexplored. Be kind to someone who would not expect it. Read all the books I currently own. Reduce my carbon footprint.

Please provide a joke, a current photo, and a photo from your time at Brandeis. Hmm no jokes here to pass on and you have current photos much to my chagrin and I did send in a Brandeis age one too.



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