

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

Name: Mazelle Bohacz Maiden name? Ablon

Mac or PC? PCs – notebooks of all sizes from itty bitty to 17-inchers.

LP, CD, or IPOD?

I gave 700+ LPs to Half-Priced Books to make room for the merging of households with my hubby. I miss them – but the trade was worth it! Now, I'm CD and he's ipod.

What was your major? Did you continue in that field?

AmStd. Yes, I excel at cocktail party discussion and am a political activist.

Career? Do tell!

I am an early-retired [cheesecake lady](#) ~ At age 24, I began a cheesecake biz out of a 1 bedroom apartment while waiting tables 80 hours a week to fund my biz; and I grew it to the point that I serviced American Airlines, Virgin Atlantic Airlines, America West Airlines and probably 50,000 restaurants over 21 years. I sold **Mazel & Sechel Inc dba Mazelle's Cheesecakes \* Concoctions \* Creative Kitchen** on my last day of being 44, woke up 45 and early-retired ~ and zoftig.

I was a restaurant manager and consultant after graduating Brandeis. I traveled for Steak and Ale, writing training manuals, staffing and training their stores; then I did the same for other restaurants ~ in English and Hebr-ish or Span-brew. I became fluent in Hebrew at Brandeis and when I came back to Bubbaland, seems that mostly Hebrew came out of my mouth as I tried to converse with my Hispanic teammates.

While consulting a new restaurant, I began making my cheesecakes and selling them to co-workers and local businesses. After the restaurant opened, I became a waitron and started the biz on my waitressing tips, funding each step as I went. I created my own little "Emma Lazarus" universe where, working with the Catholic Charities and the Jewish Family Services, I gave immigrants with a green card a chance to make a really good living and grow. I employed people from Haiti, Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Russia, Vietnam, Australia +, provided them fully paid insurance, vacation benefits, and a real chance in America. They became homeowners, managers for my company and for others ~ and some are still managing Mazelle's today! I spoke Spanish fluently again by this time, with just a little Hebrew creeping in occasionally.

The biz grew and the world changed ~ the graft, the schmear and the slanderous business-ruining tactics I encountered showed me that I didn't want to play this game anymore. I found my employees some new step-parents so they could stay employed ~ and I entered a new day!

Next, I studied the stock market for 3 years ~ and when I say studied, I mean I was up at 3 -5 a.m. doing the pre-market and really studying like a Brandeis kid would and should ~ and I learned enough to know that I HATE THE STOCK MARKET.

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Meanwhile, I took off 43 pounds and wrote a diet / fitness/ health [cookbook and memoir](#). When I wanted to make it into a website, my [hubby Kevin](#) said he'd teach me how ~ and by that, he meant he would give me 800-page manuals to read. So he did and so I did make a website.

Then, [Kevin](#) picked me up as a “free agent” and I now work with him as a biz consultant in his [e-commerce biz](#) and I help edit [his novels](#). I basically do everything he doesn't like to do because we have very different and complementary skills and things we enjoy doing. So our biz is mobile and we take it on the road to escape Bubbaland.

Favorite memory from Brandeis days?

David Spector, Corey Krueger and other members of their freshman suite singing Sha-na-na songs... My suite-mates Margo Rosenbach, Diane Ascoli, Robin Rosenberg, and I dressing in the same garb on certain daze... Trashcan Punch Parties... Independent study classes with Steve Whitfield... Cheesecake in Usdan...Cheesecake anywhere... Steve's Ice Cream...

Favorite Brandeis professor?

Ibid. Steve Whitfield. I made my Reunion gift this year in honor of my now-33-year friendship with him, which began with him as prof and mentor and has grown into a wonderful friendship and daily e-pen pal-ship. (Thank you, Al Gore, for what Bush calls “the internets.”)

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

The person I became...starting a biz from scratch... leading by example...giving immigrants a first chance to have a respectable life in America...running an extremely ethical business and being admired / abhorred because of it...my unique and wonderful marriage...the life I lead...mentoring lotsa college kids...my political activity...giving back to Brandeis...helping to reconnect all these fabulous Brandesians with one another and back to Brandeis.

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

I married the last long-haired, NY Jewish boy without kids from a previous marriage. We married at age 38, had a “well-publicized elopement” to Laguna Beach, CA where we were married by Rabbi Nina Bieber Feinstein '77 and her hubby Rabbi Ed Feinstein. We took just enough friends to hold up our hand-held hoopah made of 4 Home Depot poles strung with ribbon from our gifts and a tallis. At 10:08 a.m., we were husband and wife ~ with no caterers, band, family issues, florists or other associated drama and trauma. We all just went to brunch! Kevin and I spend every moment, excepting pishing, together. That was our decision after 9-11. Life is just too short ~ and we feel we are so fortunate.

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

We bought property in NM 2 ½ years ago and have been trying to sell our dream home in Bubbaland to move there. We'd still like to do this but the forces of the

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universe seem to have something else in mind... We just want a peaceful life in a more spiritual, soulful place. We want a fresh start at a new life, a bit less encumbered by "things." Simplify, simplify. Less is more. We want to go back to college together and AUDIT things 😊 We want to maintain our healthy lifestyle, remove stress, do more biking and breathing of fresh air. Long life, good health, love, laughter...

What items are on your bucket list?

See above. Long life, good health, love, laughter...



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