



# Brandeis University

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Elly Katz, Executive Director and Founder  
Sages & Seekers

Dear Elly,

I wanted to send a note thanking you and letting you know how much the Sages & Seekers program contributed to my Brandeis anthropology class this past Fall 2013 semester.

As you know, I gave students in my ANTH 111a Aging in Cross-Cultural Perspective the opportunity to participate in Sages and Seekers as a supplemental “Experiential Learning” experience. Fourteen out of the twenty-eight enrolled students chose to participate (and in fact, I had to turn several eager students away!), and each reported tremendously enjoying and learning from the experience. Two students told me, in fact, that Sages & Seekers made the class their very favorite and most meaningful course to date at Brandeis.

From my perspective as an instructor, I found the involvement with Sages and Seekers invaluable. Suddenly the course materials—including theories of “successful aging” and texts examining cultural beliefs surrounding aging in diverse contexts—came to vivid life, as the students engaged intimately each week with a range of “real” elders living and experiencing aging in their own everyday lives. The Sages and Seekers program offered a hands-on fieldwork-like component to the class, allowing students to test and refine theories against actual experiences, practice interviewing and fieldwork skills, and work on incorporating rich interview data into analytical papers. **The students participating in Sages and Seekers pushed class discussions forward in productive ways by offering their insights and knowledge gained from interacting with the Sages. These students’ final Interview and Analysis papers were also, on the whole, the most successful, detailed, nuanced and insightful in the class.**

For me, having my Aging in Cross-Cultural Perspective class participate in the Sages and Seekers program made the class extraordinarily rewarding and lively to teach. The program was extremely well run and easy for me and the students to participate in. It was in fact not necessary for me as course instructor to attend each Sages and Seekers session, although I generally found myself choosing to attend and observe simply out of interest.

I thank you and the Sages & Seekers program for bringing this extraordinary opportunity to Brandeis, and I look forward very much to participating with my students again next fall.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Lamb*

Sarah Lamb  
Professor of Anthropology and of Women’s and Gender Studies  
Head of the Division of Social Sciences