

# BJC NEWSLETTER



January 2012

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## *A Message from the President:*

It has been a while since our last newsletter, and I apologize for the lapse. It was a very busy year for us personally, with our son Joshua celebrating his Bar Mitzvah in March. So two Mitzvahs in 18 months, lots of planning, lots of work, and although each over in a day, the memories will last for a lifetime.

Chanukah has just ended and this year being late in the month it coincided with Christmas. Earlier in December we had a wonderful BJC Chanukah party that was organized by Rebecca Grossman. Rebecca has done a great job of jump-starting our family committee again with events. If you have young children please plan on attending our Family events and also letting Rebecca know you are interested in helping out. These events are great ways to connect with other families in Bedford.

In September we had our Progressive Dinner – many thanks to Donna Steiglitz, Bobbi Galani and others who helped coordinate this wonderful event again. I personally had a great time, met new folks, had lots of laughs and enjoyed fabulous company. I thought more about how important this event really is. What was your 1<sup>st</sup> Progressive Dinner like? Who did you meet? How long have you been friends now? This event helps us build friendships and bond as a community. Some have just started their friendships in the BJC, others have had friends for 10, 20 or even 30 years who they met at our annual Progressive Dinner.

Some events such as the Progressive Dinner are just about getting together, and others such as BJC goes to the Boston Jewish Film Festival are focused on things to do. We strive to provide the right programming for all, whether families, adults, or charitable causes. We try to do our best to offer a variety of events; each one is unique and offers a great experience, and who knows you could meet some new friends there also. The BJC movie night was at Coolidge Corner, we saw 'Life is too Long' a comedy. Afterwards we all went over to Zaftigs for snacks and good conversation. This too is one of my favorite events I look forward to all year.

The BJC along with my family again donated films to the Bedford Library as we have done annually. We try to come up with a great list each year, and always welcome your suggestions. Each year we donate 10-20 films so the collections is certainly growing. Look for the BJC donation sticker when you go to borrow films.

Come help plan an event, get involved, meet folks and help build our Jewish Community. We live in a great community, and our goal is to continue to build on a 30+ year old BJC organization. I look forward to seeing each of you at future events and please do not hesitate to drop me a note and with any ideas for events or any comments about the BJC. My email is ...  
--- Mark

## BJC Goes Ice Skating

Please join us at The Edge in Bedford on Sunday, January 29th for open ice time.

We will meet at 2:45 downstairs in the party room for a snack, then head upstairs to skate. Bring skates if you have them. Please note that the cost for public skating is \$5.00 per person, seniors and active military and their families are \$3 and children under 4 are free. Helmets are required for children 12 years old and under, but strongly recommended for adults. Skate rentals are available for \$3.

## *Kristallnacht Observance*

On Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, people from Bedford and surrounding communities gathered together at the First Parish Church for an interfaith remembrance of Kristallnacht. Also known as The Night of Broken Glass, Kristallnacht was a pogrom against Jews that took place in Germany and Austria on November 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 1938. This marked an intensification of Nazi anti-Jewish policy that would culminate in the Holocaust—the systematic, state-sponsored murder of Jews.

The memorial service was led by Rabbi Susan Abramson of Bedford, the Reverend Megan Lynes of First Parish, and the Reverend John Gibbons of First Parish. The story of Kristallnacht was told, followed by readings, prayers, and beautiful songs. The evening concluded with an outdoor candle-lighting, an opportunity to share, and the Mourner's Kaddish. It was a very moving service, and it was especially gratifying to see so many Jews and non-Jews gathered as one to remember the loss and horror of Kristallnacht.

## *Hanukkah Party*

On December 3rd, over 15 families celebrated Hanukkah together at Old Town Hall. The children enjoyed arts and crafts projects, playing dreidel and dancing to Hanukkah music. Anya and Eugene Dashevsky lead a beautiful Havdalah service. Then everyone enjoyed potato latkes, pizza and many other treats that people brought. (Thanks to Rebecca Grossman for organizing.)

## BJC Goes to the JCC for Comedy Night

**When:** Saturday, March 17 at 8:15 pm  
Dinner before the show, time and restaurant TBA  
**Where:** Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton  
**Who:** Adults Only  
**Cost:** \$26 per ticket (possible group rate TBA)  
**Contact:** Stephanie Kriesberg: ...

Join us for:

### **"Circumcise Me: A New Comedy on the Cutting Edge"**

Written and Performed by Yisrael Campbell

He's just your average Irish, Italian, Catholic kid from Philly, comic actor, sober alcoholic, recovering drug addict, husband, father, Reform, Conservative, unorthodox, Orthodox Jew. His name is Yisrael Campbell (the artist formerly known as Christopher), and this is his story. Poignant, provocative, and powerfully witty, "Circumcise Me" is the true-- and truly unforgettable-- story of a man who was born to be funny. The Jewish part came later. Talk-back after the show with the performer.

## BJC Family Table

Please join us as BJC volunteers at Family Table in Waltham on **January 8th**.

For those not familiar with Jewish Family and Children Services and Family Table, visit their website to learn more. Family Table events tend to be a bit crowded and sometimes a little chaotic, so we recommend not bringing children under age 4.

Contact Rebecca Grossman ...

## Membership 2012

The Bedford Jewish Community provides a social, cultural and religious gathering point for Bedford's Jewish and Interfaith individuals and families. If you have not sent in dues for this year, please mail with your check for \$36 (Full Member) payable to **BJC**, to the Treasurer:

Jennifer Hurwitz

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## Latkes versus Hamantaschen: The Great Debate (or is that Grate?)

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8 pm, MIT Room 10-250

<http://web.mit.edu/hillel/www/events/latke.shtml>

An annual MIT tradition since 2003 and an occasional tradition before that! Each team of prominent scholars presents an argument in favor of their respective food. Following the debate, votes are cast, ballots are counted, and the champion is crowned. Don't miss this exciting debate between the fruit-filled cookie known as the hamantasch and the fried potato pancake otherwise known as the latke! Free latkes and hamentashen are served following the debate

### Got News?

We will announce your simcha or acknowledge a death in the newsletter but you must contact us to request that we print your news. We cannot rely on word of mouth from others. If you want something printed, please notify me by e-mail at [hbr@alum.mit.edu](mailto:hbr@alum.mit.edu) or call Howard at 781-275-0213

### BJC Board – 2012

<b>President</b>	Mark Rubin		
<b>Cultural VP</b>	Phyllis Landman		
<b>Adult</b>	Susan Inz		
	Stephanie Kriesberg		
<b>Family</b>	Rebecca Grossman		
<b>Membership</b>	Open		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jennifer Hurwitz		
<b>Newsletter</b>	Howard Reubenstein		
<b>Web Mistress</b>	Alysa Gilman		

Find us on the web at: <http://www.bedfordjewishcommunity.org/>

Look for us on Facebook !!!



**BEDFORD JEWISH COMMUNITY**

## CALENDAR FOR 2012

January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Family	Family Table
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Family	Ice Skating @ the Edge
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Adult/Family	Latke vs. Hamentaschen @ MIT
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Adult	Comedy Night at the JCC

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