

BJC NEWSLETTER



(WEB) DECEMBER 2007

“THE MISSIONARY POSITION”

Now that we have your attention: come see the play “The Missionary Position,” at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell. The performance we will be on **Saturday, March 1** at 8:30 PM. There will be an optional dinner beforehand. See below for a description of this political satire.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW. You will be receiving an Evite. We will order with group sales for a discount about 2 weeks prior to the show.

The Missionary Position (by Keith Reddin, Regional Premiere)

It’s a satire of everything you aren’t supposed to talk about on a first date: religion and politics. Sparks fly on the presidential campaign trail in a clash between the chief fundraiser and a religious advisor. Integrity, ethics and beliefs are called into question, leaving a mystery of who will take the high road—even more shocking, what that “high road” is defined to be. A timely selection for the primary season, this comedy takes audiences behind the scenes of a great political debate.

The Adult Committee, Stephanie Kriesberg

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The fall membership sign up is drawing to a close. However, it is never too late to join BJC! We are happy to prorate memberships for those residents who join for the second half of our September – June year. Non members and new arrivals to Bedford can find membership forms and contact info on our website, so please spread the word.

The updated version of the BJC Babysitter List was recently emailed out to all those with full membership status. As always, if you didn’t receive the email (glitches do occur) and would like the list, please contact me immediately by phone or email. Our ’07-’08 list includes 12 teenagers who want to baby-sit for your kids. There are 6 boys and 6 girls over age 12 who are ready, willing and able to work so that busy parents may have an evening out – or even for a few hours to do all those Hanukah gift returns!

Patty Kopperl

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As I write this message we are right in the middle of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. For the kids this is the best holiday ever, what could be better than latkes, donuts and presents! For us adults December is a signal that another year is passing. We wonder, did we accomplish all we set out to do this year? It can be a stressful time of year with everyone trying to finish up work by year end. For me winter brings another ski season, just one of my family's many passions.

There has been much activity recently in Bedford regarding the ADL's No Place for Hate Program. I am sorry to say last week the Town Selectmen decided to suspend this program. It is unfortunate that a small but vocal group of people have focused in on a program that has been very beneficial to our community, so that they might send a message to the ADL. I do not agree with the ADL's stance and I certainly believe that no group should ever remain silent when it comes to any sort of ethnic cleansing around the world.

I am just disappointed that the focus is on a program that has already proven valuable to the community, instead of the ADL's actual stance on the issue. The BJC Board has considered what would be our best course of action. We feel at this time it would be best for individuals to respond and express their opinions as some have already done. I encourage all of you to speak up. If you feel strongly that the BJC should have a different course of action please let me know.

Back to Chanukah, we had a small party this year but the entertainment by Knucklebones was great. I believe all who came had a wonderful time. We try hard to plan all of our activities far enough in advance, however I believe there was a conflict with one of the Temple's this year. We will continue to monitor this situation; but we need your input and participation.

Several of us did attend the Jewish Film Festival's opening night of My Mexican Shiva (http://www.bjff.org/festival_indiv_film.php?film_id=6197). It was a very humorous movie and afterwards we all stopped by a local restaurant to eat and discuss the film. And speaking of films, I believe our DVDs for the Bedford Library should be in.

We have a vacancy on the Board for a Family Committee chair. It is a great opportunity to get involved with the BJC. We cater to all the generations at the BJC but the family committee has always been a cornerstone of our organization. Please let me know if you have an interest.

Our Annual Kristalnacht observance in November was lead by the Rev. Maude Robinson and she did a wonderful job, thanks to all those that were able to attend.

Website, Evites, movie donation, new brochure and baby sitter list, are just a few of the things we were able to achieve in the last year. Look for an upcoming online survey we will be asking members to fill out so we can better serve all of you. It will be fun and easy to fill out!

I look forward to seeing each of you at future events and please do not hesitate to drop me a note with any ideas for events or any comments about the BJC at all.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Q: WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT?

A: Protecting health and the diversity of life is a value emphasized in Torah, Talmud and rabbinic literature throughout the ages.

This is the answer provided by the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) for how Jews can respond to environmental degradation, global warming and provide positive ways to create greener communities.

Some of COEJL's (www.coejl.org) goals include:

- Mobilizing our community towards energy efficiency, the reduction and recycling of wastes, and other practices which promote environmental sustainability
- Initiating environment education programs in settings where Jews gather
- Education, particularly among young people

To form an environmental stewardship committee at your synagogue, see the helpful tips at the National Religious Partnership for the Environment www.nrpe.org

And here in Bedford, we are mobilizing our community with the recent formation of the **Bedford Global Warming Action Coalition** – visit the website www.bedfordgwac.org to learn more.

CALLING ALL CHEFS: THURSDAY JANUARY 31ST

The BJC will again be sponsoring the Bedford Community Food Pantry Dinner on **Thursday, January 31**. Last year it was a great success thanks to so many people shopping, cooking, and serving food. You will be receiving an Evite to sign up for these tasks. We will need people to:

- help set up around 3:30 for about 1 hour
- ADULTS to serve the dinner from 4:45 to 6pm
- cook chicken, a side dish, or prepare salad
- shop for prepared foods

We look forward to working with you.

Stephanie Kriesberg

Patty Kopperl

YOGA, YES YOGA!

DOWNWARD DOG, THEN HAVE A HAVE A GLASS OF WINE Saturday, January 26, 7pm

Please come to the BJC's first Gentle Yoga and Meditation Workshop, followed by wine and coffee hour at the First Parish Church. The workshop will be lead by Peter Dolan, Bedford's own yoga teacher/comedian extraordinaire. The workshop will be geared to be people of all fitness levels. Peter will supply yoga mats; we'll bring the drinks and food.

You will receive an Evite soon, with all of the details including cost.

The Adult Committee, Stephanie Kriesberg

MAZAL TOV

To Stephen and Mali Reimer on the birth of their daughter Talia.

To Carolyn and Stewart Leshin on becoming grandparents for the first time. Baby Ryan Matthew Guiel was born to Amy and Ken Guiel.

To Kathryn Rifkin on the engagement of her son Ben to Alcinda Mabaso.

To Sam and Elly Edelstein on their new granddaughter, Jana Eve Miller, born to Alissa and Jordan Miller.

To Lynn and Michael Garber on the birth of their son Jacoby Dean.

CONDOLENCES

To Dick Mazow on the passing of his father Ben Mazow.

To the Spector's on the passing of Cindy's father Jordan Bergel.

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 or call Howard

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Please join us for the next board meeting

Date: Sunday, December 16th at 7:30 at the Landman's

BJC BOARD - 2007-8

President	Mark Rubin
Cultural VP	Phyllis Landman
Adult	Susan Inz
	Stephanie Kriesberg
	Linda Stimson
Family	Kim Lovy
Membership	Patty Kopperl
Treasurer	Jennifer Hurwitz
Newsletter	Howard Reubenstein
Recording Secretary	Ellen Macklin



SUPPOSEDLY REAL TEMPLE BULLETIN BLOOPERS:

- **DON'T LET WORRY KILL YOU. LET YOUR SYNAGOGUE HELP. JOIN US FOR OUR ONEG AFTER SERVICES. PRAYER AND MEDICATION TO FOLLOW. REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE MANY WHO ARE SICK OF OUR CONGREGATION**
- **WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF DAVID WEISS, THE SIN OF RABBI AND MRS ABE WEISS**
- **RABBI IS ON VACATION. MESSAGES CAN BE GIVEN TO HIS SECRETARY.**
- **CAN YOU FIND THE BLOOPER IN THIS BULLETIN?**

SAVE THE DATE

CALENDAR FOR 2008

January 20 th	All	Snowtubing
January 26 th	Adult	Yoga/Dessert and Coffee
January 31 st	Adult	Bedford Food Pantry Dinner
March 1 st	Adult	Theatre at the Merrimack Repertory

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