

BJC NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2009

BJC PROGRESSIVE DINNER: THANK YOU (BETTER LATE THAN NEVER DEPARTMENT)

Progressive Dinner (in September) was a most successful evening with 10 dinner houses to accommodate everyone. Thank you to the host families:

Landman, Jaffer, Albrecht, Inz, Miller, Miller/Hendry, Usen, Reubenstein, Kriegsberg and Udell (who provided the fabulous Kosher dinner!)

Thank you to the Babcocks who are always so generous about hosting dessert. And a special thank you to Bobby Galani, my “partner in crime” without whom I could not carry this off.

And thank you all for the thoughtful flowers and gift certificate. I appreciate your kind thoughts and wish this well-attended, fun evening continues for years to come!

Sincerely,
Donna

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Winter is here and in full swing. What an amazing amount of snow it has brought us this year. For those skiers -- like my family -- we are all excited to see the snow. For those who are not, it also brings out emotions, just not the same kind. Whichever group you fall into, whenever there is a fresh coat of snow in Bedford it looks like a Winter wonderland. The BJC Board has been very busy over the past few months with many successful events, several town issues and many upcoming events. With all this activity, we still need more participation.

Again this year we had a very successful showing for volunteers and Senior citizens at our annual make and serve a meal for the Bedford Food Pantry. Stephanie Kriesberg was one of the main organizers of this event again which over 50 Senior citizens attended. It is just one of many ways the BJC has been able to give back to the community. Thank you to all who participated.

We had a very successful Winter Cocktail Party hosted by Susan and Jonathan Inz. The Fall also saw a great outing to the Capital Theater in Arlington to the Jewish Film Festival where we saw 'Max Minsky and Me.' Afterwards the group went to dinner at a nice restaurant across the street.

As always we participated in the Kristallnacht Memorial Observance, which the Reverend John Gibbons hosts each year. Patty Kopperl and I participated in an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service to Benefit the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell.

The BJC and its members have been very involved in several issues affecting the Jewish Community in Bedford. This included response to an act of anti-semitism at JGMS and an anti-Israel book included on a list of 7th grade literature. Both of these issues had the effect of drawing the Bedford Jewish Community in to help foster understanding and to take direct action.

Another example where we were able to foster awareness concerns Bedford Day. The Town contacted me as they normally have Bedford Day on the 3rd Saturday of September. This year it would fall on Rosh Hashanah – result? They are going to move Bedford Day (but yes it is still on Shabbat).

Jewish issues in Bedford, fun, entertainment and exciting programs do not just happen. They need someone to run them. We need some folks to help step up and contribute. We are not asking for much, but things as simple as hosting an event would help the Bedford Jewish Community.

Over the past two years we have had many adult events and not as many events for families of younger children. We are still searching for a person(s) to fill the Family Committee position on the Board -- or even just have someone host an event. Many members on the Board have put on these children's programs and would be happy to mentor someone ready to lead an event. We will continue with our adult events, but wanted to make sure everyone knew that we are ready and able to assist in the next family event.

Upcoming? Stoneham Theater – Strangers on a Train, Laser Tag, BBQ... please show your support. Volunteer! It feels good. Give Back to the Community.

Do not forget about our babysitter list – take advantage of it to take a night out. We have many experienced babysitters waiting to help you out.

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 at all.

LASER TAG: ZOT, ZOT, ZOT

We are organizing an incredibly fun family event at Laser Quest in Danvers (<http://www.laserquest.com/Locations/USALocations.aspx?cntr=Danvers>) on: Sunday March 29th 3-5 PM.

Laser Quest is a fast paced game for ages 5 to 85 – a high tech combination of tag and hide and seek. With the world's most advanced laser tag equipment available, Laser Quest is played in a large, multi-level arena with specialty lighting, fog and music. Players use their lasers to tag their opponents' sensors, and score as many points as possible

We'll play 3 games over the course of about 2 hours for domination of the Chai-Oy-Nosh sector of the known galaxy. The whole family can play. The 3 games will cost \$23.50 per player. Look for an Evite soon or simply RSVP to Howard

RSVP by Thursday March 5th.

Come prepared to **DOMINATE**.

BJC GOES TO THE THEATER/THEATRE

The Play: Strangers on a Train

When: Saturday May 9th, 2009 at 6:30 pm (dinner) 8:00 pm (show)

Where: Stoneham Theater, 395 Main St., Stoneham, MA 02180

Cost: Theater \$30 per person; Dinner TBD

"Maybe we should swap murders." An innocent joke between two strangers proves deadly in this chilling Hitchcockian thriller

We plan to go to dinner at Melissa's Main Street Bistro before the show (<http://www.mainstreetbistro.net/>). We can meet at the restaurant at 6:30 PM or car pool from Bedford at 6:00 PM. The Stoneham Theater is a small intimate theater that offers great productions, is close by and there is no cost to park! This should be a great evening out at a very reasonable price. More information to follow in the Evite. To reserve your spot before then please email Mark Rubin. Questions?

NEW BLOOD SECTION

Over the years the BJC has engaged in a variety of activities to help make the Jewish community in Bedford more vital. These include:

- The annual Progressive dinner
- Family oriented Jewish holiday parties (Hanukah, Purim)
- Keeping the Town and Schools informed about Jewish calendar events
- Movie and Theater nights
- Donating Jewish films to the Bedford Library
- Sukkah building and holiday party
- Kristallnacht community participation
- Food pantry dinner sponsorship and staffing
- Winter snow tubing
- And many others (and many I am simply not aware of based on participation over just the last 10 years)

Each of these activities is important in its own right. Each appeals to different groups of people and each serves a different need in our community. What makes each of these activities come alive is dedicated planning by one (and usually more) members of our community. In order to continue to offer the variety of activities we have in the past – the BJC quite simply needs new blood to step up to organizing some of these events. Without broader participation – some of your favorite events will likely fall by the wayside until someone steps in to reinvigorate that activity.

The BJC Board will support you in organizing any of these events or others that appeal to you. You do not have to be on the Board to help out. You can adopt a single activity that is meaningful to you. The most important thing is for you to step-up and help us fulfill our mission to keep the Jewish community in Bedford welcoming, connected, relevant and fun. Contact anyone on the board if you are interested. (Howard)

MEMBERSHIP

Although the official sign up period for 08-09 membership has drawn to a close, it is never too late to join the BJC. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to download a form from our website and/or contact me directly. Our goal is not dues collection; it is membership. Members stay connected and are more likely to attend events.

- Baby sitter list – this invaluable resource was emailed in November to full and sustaining members with young children. If you did not receive a list and would like one, please contact me. The list will be sent out again in the spring with any additional sitters who came on board after the first mailing.
- Mark Rubin and I had the pleasure of reading the 133rd Psalm at the Annual Bedford Community–Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 23. Participants included the First Parish UU Church, St. Michael's, St. Paul's, First Baptist, UCC, and the VA Hospital Chaplain. The Jewish community was represented by the BJC. Everyone was delighted to have us participate. Continuity of our group plays a vital role in the vibrant community life of Bedford.

Thank you for your support of BJC! Patty Kopperl

AN IMPORTANT MOVIE: THE CASE FOR ISRAEL

The Arlington-Lexington Chapter of Hadassah in association with Temples Emunah, Isaiah and Chabad of Lexington and Temple Beth El of Belmont, is proud to present the film:

"The Case for Israel" featuring Alan Dershowitz: key political, judicial and academic leaders examine the critical issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict

Thursday March 12, 2009

8:00 PM

The Embassy Cinema

16 Pine Street

Waltham, MA

Alex Safian, Associate Director of CAMERA and a featured commentator in the movie, will lead a discussion following the screening.

Tickets will be sold at local synagogues for \$10.00 per ticket and at Michelson Shoes, or contact Hannah Delfiner

Additional information: email Naomi at: caseforisrael@verizon.net.

NEWS FROM THE BEDFORD FOOD PANTRY

Once again, the BJC sponsored Bedford's weekly Food Pantry Dinner on Thursday, January 29 at the Town Center. In order to make this happen, members of the BJC contribute in a variety of ways: cooking or providing food, setting up for the dinner, and serving the dinner. This year 40 people came for the dinner in spite of icy roads and sidewalks.

MANY thanks to the following people who helped in the above ways (We couldn't do it without you!):

Roberta Jaffe, Mark Rubin, Careen Kaplan, Susan Inz, Breena Gordon, Jodi Berenson, Amy Mason, Donna Stieglitz, Jennifer and Dan Hurwitz, Kathryn Rifkin, Samantha and Jason Baron, Anita Feld, Audra Hamilton, Ruth Greenberg, Sara Miller, Diane Finkel, Paula Dangel, Irene Walborsky, Esther Bass, Jane Franklin, Judi Babcock, Sheila Kojm, Judi Liss, Elizabeth Ellen, Sharon Weisner

Stephanie Kriesberg and Patty Kopperl

MAZAL TOV

To Barack Obama on being elected
President of the United States

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 XXX or call Howard at XXX

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Please join us for the next board meeting:

Date: TBD – contact Howard

BJC BOARD – 2009

President	Mark Rubin			
Cultural VP	Phyllis Landman			
Adult	Susan Inz			
	Stephanie Kriesberg			
Family	Open			
Membership	Patty Kopperl			
Treasurer	Jennifer Hurwitz			
Newsletter	Howard Reubenstein			
Recording Secretary	Open			

Find us on the web at:

<http://www.bedfordjewishcommunity.org/>



MESSAGES FROM A MESHUIGGANAH:

From “real” Temple bulletins (rated no more than PG):

- Thursday at 11AM, there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All women wishing to become Little Mothers please see the Rabbi in his private study.
- The ladies of Hadassah have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the basement on Tuesdays
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7PM at the JCC. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.
- Goldblum will be entering the hospital this week for testes
- The Men’s Club is warmly invited to the Oneg hosted by Hadassah. Refreshments will be served for a nominal fee.

SAVE THE DATE

CALENDAR FOR 2009

March 29 th (Sunday)	Family	Laser Tag @ Danvers Laser Quest
May 9 th	Adult	Play: Strangers on a Train
June 14 th (Sunday)	All	Boston Breakers Women's Pro Soccer (6PM)



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