

BJC Newsletter



November 2014

A Message from the President:

The High Holiday's have passed, school is in full swing and the World series is over... yes our Red Sox went from 1st to last... As the leaves turn and New England becomes this colorful landscape we know that summer is long over and we are just around the corner from another New England winter.

We at the BJC have many traditions and this year the Progressive Dinner was one of the best ever. Our turnout was tremendous and again we want to thank Donna Steiglitz & Bobby Galani for organizing, and all of you that donated your homes for hosting and the Babcock's for hosting dessert again. During the evening I was reminded how so many of you have played an integral part of keeping the BJC alive over the years.

Over the past year in Bedford we have had several Anti-Semitic incidents, that have been chronicled very well in the Bedford Citizen, Bedford Minuteman and through Jon Sills, Bedford's Superintendent of Schools, blog, emails and public forums.

<http://www.thebedfordcitizen.org/2014/03/10/diversity-an-open-letter-from-bedford-schools-superintendent-jon-sills/>

And then the progress and plan to date:

<http://www.thebedfordcitizen.org/2014/09/13/diversity-update-september-2014-an-open-letter-from-superintendent-jon-sills/>

I applaud him for investigating the incidents, and taking action. Although for some incidents we do not know the perpetrators, for others we are understanding what took place. My goal in bringing all this up is to focus on one of the action items that we can do something about and need your help with.

From Mr. Sills' post: "We have contracted with Facing History and Ourselves (www.facing.org), a renowned international program that develops educational materials and trains educators to use historical case studies to help students better understand their own identities, the phenomena of group identity, of inclusion, of exclusion, and of making ethical choices"

Since Facing History and Ourselves was not budgeted into the school year, they are facing a shortfall of \$28,000 for the training which has been requested by the schools. In the future they will budget around \$15,000 per year for additional and continuous diversity training.

The Bedford Education Foundation generously donated \$5,000 in June to kick off the work with Facing History, and although they will be able to find some funds in the current budget, they could really use the community's help. The BJC's Board has voted to make a donation, we are still determining the amount. My family will personally match that amount as we believe in this program and want to see it get started this year.

For those of you who know me, I do not often ask for donations, and do not take charity raising lightly. I am asking now for your support, to come together as a community and donate whatever you deem appropriate. Please make a contribution to the BEF (Bedford Education Foundation, c/o Bedford Public Schools, 97 McMahan Rd, Bedford, MA 01730) which has agreed to collect contributions for the Facing History and Ourselves contract to facilitate this important work. If you do so, please note on the memo line, "Facing History Initiative from the BJC" so that your contribution will directly support the district's Facing History staff training and curriculum work in addition to the BJC getting recognition for helping on this important initiative.

Please look at the upcoming events we are having and think about attending, whether family or adult events we are promoting a fun time for all. I personally am looking forward to the upcoming Jewish Film Festival in November. Caren and I love to go to the movies and have always enjoyed a film festival. If you catch the opening night of a movie very often the director and/or producer will speak about their films. We have done all the work for you to attend, all you need to do is sign up and go.

We will have our annual Kristalnacht observance on Sunday, November 9th at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, please see further details inside.

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. My email is president@bedfordjewishcommunity.org .

Upcoming events...

Boston Jewish Film Festival + Dinner	November 8th	6:30pm	Coolidge Corner Theatre, Brookline
Kristalnacht Observance	November 9th	7:00pm	The First Parish Church, Bedford
Hanukkah Party	December 7th	TBD	TBD

BJC GOES TO THE BOSTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL + DINNER

Get a little culture with the BJC!

The annual Boston Jewish Film Festival (<http://www.bjff.org/>) will be held once again this fall from 11/5 - 11/17, and the BJC is planning a dinner and movie night for Saturday, November 8th. We will go see: The Hole Story: A Night with Alex Karpovsky.

Alex Karpovsky, a star of the HBO series, Girls, began his career by writing, directing, and acting in this clever "mockumentary" set in the arctic winter of Brainerd, Minnesota. Karpovsky's aspiring television producer cashes in his life savings to make a series pilot about a mysterious hole in the middle of an icy lake. "Hilariously funny, but it also dares ask...why the hell are we on this earth?" -Boston Phoenix.

We'll see the film at the Coolidge Corner Theater in Brookline and have dinner afterwards at Zaftigs. Carpool at 5:15pm, leave at 5:30pm. See the film at 6:30pm. See the Evite for more details.

Kristallnacht Observance

All are invited to our Annual Kristallnacht Memorial Observance. As in years past Rev. Megan Lynes has organized and lead this Memorial Observance. Sunday night November 9th at 7:00 pm at The First Parish in Bedford Church (Unitarian).

We will meet outside the Church at 7:00 pm for about 20-30 minutes, We usually light candles and talk about what took place on the night of November 9th, 1938 in Germany and Austria. Kristallnacht, or the Night of the Broken Glass, was a pogrom against the Jews and that night over 1,000 synagogues were burned down, 91 Jews were killed and 30,000 were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. For more info: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristallnacht>

Young Families Hanukkah Party

We have not yet decided on the location and activities, so I would love to hear your ideas! Please e-mail Rebecca Grossman: family@bedfordjewishcommunity.org

The Adult Committee is looking to plan the following activities this year:

- Brunch on a Sunday in January with a speaker
- Casino Night - We're looking for a "volunteer" to donate their house for this. No money involved, just lots of fun and prizes.
- Possible play or performance sponsored by the JCC

If you have other ideas for activities or would like to help out, please email Donna at adult@bedfordjewishcommunity.org

Progressive Dinner Thank You!

Once again we had a very successful Progressive Dinner. Thank you to all who opened their homes to make this a great evening:

Paula and Stephen Dangel

Judy and Dick Usen
Deanna and Don Kirsch
Louise and Jerry Banner
Roberta and Aubrey Jaffer

Judi and Bob Babcock - always so generous to open their home for dessert

And a very large thank you to Bobby Galani. I couldn't do this without her!

Did you Know...

In the spring of 2013 BJC began funding an annual scholarship of \$250 for a graduating high school student through CSF of Bedford Dollars for Scholars. The CSF committee selects the student based on criteria we established: "For a student who demonstrates commitment to justice, truth, and peace." It is *not* a criterion that the recipient be Jewish, though, interestingly, for each of the first two years they have selected a Jewish student: in 2013, Leah Hamilton, and in 2014, Annie Goodman.

Membership 2014-2015

We are hoping everyone will renew their support of BJC by filling out and returning the enclosed membership form. If you have already paid your dues for the 2014-2015 year, Thank You, and no need to return the form.

If you come across someone in town who might be interested in BJC please pass along their contact information to me or any other board member. We will be happy to follow up with them. Jennifer Hurwitz, treasurer@bedfordjewishcommunity.org

BJC Babysitter list

In years past we have collected name/age/phone/email of BJC young adults who are willing to babysit. The list was then made available to other BJC member families. We would love to revive this tradition. Please forward your sitter's contact information.

Jennifer Hurwitz, treasurer@bedfordjewishcommunity.org

BJC Board – 2014-2015

President	Mark Rubin	president@bedfordjewishcommunity.org
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