FJC Brotherhood

BONDINGS

Published occasionally by and for Members of the FJC Brotherhood

BROTHERHOOD OFFIERS: President: Jim Linsky; 1st Vice President: Andy Zetlan; 2nd Vice President: Lanny Eder; Treasurer: Harvey Albert; Recording Secretary: Andy Jablon; Corresponding Secretary: Barry Lew
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April 2026

From The Editor:

Brotherhood in Judaism is a deeply-rooted concept that extends beyond simple friendship, embodying a spiritual, ethical, and communal obligation among Jewish men. It is grounded in the idea that individuals are not isolated beings but ***members of a community bound by shared history, law, and responsibility***.

There are critical references to Brotherhood in the Torah, from the story of Cain and Abel ("***am I my brother's keeper***"), to the admonishment to ***not harden your heart or shut a hand against a needy brother, but rather open it generously***. "brother" is not limited to biological relation but signifies any member of the Jewish people, expanding. brotherhood into a social ethic, requiring active support and cooperation. Even the study of Torah is done collectively, as a brotherhood.

In practice, Jewish men are expected to come together not only in ritual but in mutual aid and moral support. Whether through communal prayer, lifecycle events, or acts of loving-kindness, brotherhood manifests as a network of interdependence. It ensures continuity of tradition, strengthens identity, and provides resilience in the face of adversity.

*At our **FJC Brotherhood**, we call on men to actively participate in a shared enterprise of learning, social participation, and good works in the community which enables us to continue this defining feature of Jewish continuity and cohesion.*

From the FJC Brotherhood President!

You Schmooze, You Win!

Think "schmooze you lose"? Not with our brotherhood! In February, we decided to try something different: a Brotherhood breakfast without a guest speaker. Honestly, I wasn't sure how it would go. Just two weeks before the event, only 12 brothers had signed up. I found myself wondering, "Is it the food?"

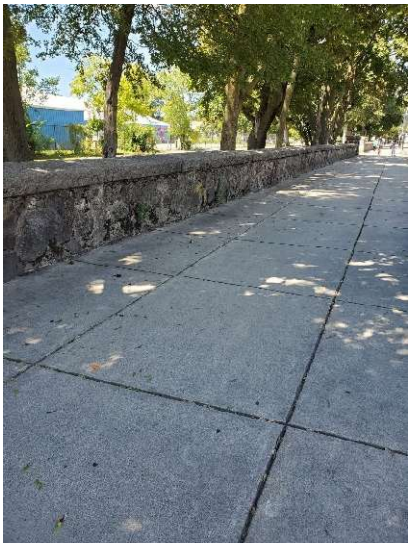
But on February 15, the room was buzzing with conversation as forty members and guests showed up, ready to connect and enjoy each other's company. It turns out, it wasn't just the delicious and plentiful buffet—or even the great deal some received—that brought everyone together. The real draw was the chance to relax, catch up, and enjoy each other's company. Of course, a little friendly competition never hurts! Thanks to VP, Andy Zetlan, and Membership Chair, Bob Mendes, our trivia contest was a big hit. Six teams, each captained by a board member, faced off—cell phones stacked in the center of the table to keep things fair and fun.

After five challenging categories and thirty questions, the contest ended in a dramatic tie: Team Bornstein and Team Courtney each answered 16 questions correctly. A nail-biting tiebreaker - *"Who was the Secretary of State for President Eisenhower?"*—decided the winner. Curious who took home the bragging rights? ***You'll have to join our FJC Brotherhood Facebook group to find out!***

So, let's put the rumor to rest: schmoozing is a win every time. Thanks to everyone who joined us and made the morning such a memorable success. We can't wait to do it again!

Jim Linsky
FJC Brotherhood President

Member Article!



The Wall - On Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester, there is a long wall, about three and a half feet high, that spans the distance between Stratton Street and Talbot Avenue. It is one boundary of Franklin Field, a vast expanse of greenery in the city that, in my youth, contained softball fields, bocce, basketball, and tennis courts. We – my peers at the time – called it simply, "The Wall." It was about in the middle of our community, Ward 14, or as we called it, "the Jewish Ghetto". At its most populous, the four square miles of Mattapan-Dorchester-Roxbury (from Mattapan Square to Grove Hall) contained over 90,000 Jews, many of whom lived in three-decker houses. There were 35-45 synagogues within those sections of the city. To borrow from the voice-over introduction of the narrator in Barry Levenson's 1990 movie, "Avalon" (in Baltimore), "When I grew up, I thought the whole world was Jewish."

The most unique aspect of that place and time was what occurred along the Franklin Field wall on the High Holidays. Thousands of Jews, dressed in their high holiday finest, would walk, drive, or take the trolley to "The Wall," where they stood or sat in places historically reserved for different sections of Ward 14 or for social/community groups (e.g., Workman's Circle), specified down to the street corners and the drug stores situated on them. Kids, teens, and young parents with children came together to celebrate being Jewish, to being free to be openly Jewish, and to be in the company of their spiritual brothers and sisters. As described in the sociological history, Death of an American Jewish Community, (Levine & Harmon, 1992), and according to a retired Boston firefighter-friend of mine, by 1969, the great diaspora of Boston Jews to the suburbs was almost complete. Most of the Jews were gone and that unique experience of "The Wall" exists only in the memories of those of us still living.

Bob Zibbell is a retired psychologist and member of the Brotherhood who lives in Bourne. He writes essays for the Bourne Enterprise in a column entitled, "Reflections."

The Calendar!

April 19 Breakfast – Speaker: Rabbi Todd Zinn

May 15 – Brotherhood Shabbat at FJC

May 31 - Breakfast – Speaker: Ben Linsky will speak about the "Meth Mile:" through the eyes of a Boston Police Officer.

June 6 - Wine Tasting and Auction Fundraiser

June 24 - Annual Meeting and Paid-Up Luncheon

Fall Breakfast (date TBA) – Speaker: U.S. Congressman Bill Keating will speak on the current state of affairs in Washing-ton. and what's happening with our bridges

Need a ride to an FJC Brotherhood Event?

There are some members who might want to come to one of our breakfasts, but they no longer drive. If you are one of those – or if you know of one, reach out to ***fjcbrotherhood@gmail.com*** and we'll do our best to work things out.