



# The Historic United Brothers Synagogue

205 High Street  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

Religious Leader: Rabbi Carolan Glatstein  
Musical Director & Organist: Patrick Aiken

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401-253-3460

UBS Phone Number

## NEWSLETTER

Tammuz 5775  
Summer 2015

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### Words from UBS Rabbi Carolan Glatstein

It seems as though summer has just begun, but the High Holy Days are just around the corner. A certain awe and majesty accompany their arrival. However, just as Shabbat can be enhanced when we dedicate energy to its preparation, the High Holy Days also come with a planning period than can heighten our experience.

The Jewish calendar itself is inbuilt with time and space for us to ready ourselves for these great upcoming spiritual events. Rosh HaShanah falls on the 1st of Tishrei (this year, the evening of September 13th), but the High Holy Day season truly commences much earlier with beginning of the month of Elul (sunset on August 15th). The Jewish calendar came into existence during the Babylonian exile. The names of the months, therefore, are actually Aramaic. The word, “Elul,” means “search.” Our focus during this time is on teshuvah – repentance, but the nature of each one of our searches is extremely individual. Some may be focused on examining their relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. Others need to renew their dedication to themselves. Some of us have work to do with God.

The rabbis claimed that “Elul” (aleph, lamed, vav, lamed) is an acronym referring to a verse from Song of Songs which many of you might be familiar with from the wedding scene, “Ani l’dodi v’dodi li – I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine” (6:3). We are reminded that our relationships, with both humans and the Divine alike, are based in mutuality. Do we try to give as much as we take? Are we aware of the affect of our actions? Perhaps this translates into spending more quality time with your spouse or kids. Or maybe life’s blessings would be more deeply appreciated with ten minutes of meditation after dinner. Elul is our opportunity to make changes. Elul is guided in a more direct manner in traditional communities with the insertion of Psalm 27 after the conclusion of the weekday morning prayers. Psalm 27:4 reads:

Achat sha’alti mei’eit Adonai otah avakeish  
shivti b’veit-Adonai kol-y’mei chai’yai  
lachazot b’noam-Adonai ul’vaker b’heichalo.

One thing I ask of God, one thing do I seek –  
that I may stay in the divine presence all the days of my life,  
envision divine delight, and contemplate God’s presence.

(Kol HaNeshamah, pg. 219)

After this psalm is read or sung, the shofar is sounded. This “spiritual alarm clock” urges us to wake up and take note of the season and its meanings. I find particular significance not only in the sharp blast, but in the silence that follows it. Elul is a month of listening, being brave enough to hear the true answers the Universe delivers to us, and being strong enough to make the changes in our lives we see necessary.

B’vracha - with blessings,  
Rabbi Carolan Glatstein

**Upcoming Calendar of Events:**

July Service – Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM

August Service – Friday, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM at The Chapel by the Sea – Colt State Park (weather permitting)

**High Holidays Schedule**

**Sunday, Sept. 13 –Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:30PM**

**Monday, Sept. 14 – Rosh Hashanah services 9:30AM**

**Tuesday, Sept. 15 – Rosh Hashanah services 9:30AM**

**Tuesday, Sept. 22. – Kol Nidre services 7:30 PM**

**Weds. Sept. 23 – Yom Kippur services 9:30 AM**

**Approximately 11 AM Yizkor**

**5:30 PM Neilah**

**Aproximately 7:00PM Break fast**

October – Installation of Rabbi Carolan Glatstein (details to follow)

**UBS goes to the Pawtucket Red Sox!**

Thanks to Debra Darkow for her arranging for an outing to Pawtucket to watch the Red Sox take on Louisville.

Although the home team did not win, those in attendance had a great time (even with some rain showers)! This will hopefully become an annual event! Thanks to everyone who participated.



**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Revival**

May 1<sup>st</sup> Shabbat service celebrated the 40th anniversary of UBS (Chevra Agudas Achim) being reopened. Thanks to the efforts of a few very committed people, UBS was “reborn” on April 4, 1975 after many years of having no services. Speaking at the May 1<sup>st</sup> service was Gloria Brody, one of the forces behind the reopening in 1975. She spoke glowingly about how the congregation has grown and flourished. A celebration sponsored by the Board of Directors followed the service.

### **Annual Dinner**

It was a busy weekend for everyone with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Friday night and the Annual Dinner on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The business meeting was very positive in terms of where UBS stands financially due to our successful anonymous donor matching challenge campaign. The money raised through this campaign is dedicated to refurbishing the building as it ages. The congregation voted to raise dues slightly, as they have not been adjusted in quite some time. Also, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the hiring of Rabbi Carolan Glatstein as our new religious and spiritual leader. Awards were given to Herb Sackett for his leadership in the challenge campaign and making sure UBS is steering the right financial course. The Alton Brody Award went to Ronnee Wasserman for all she does for the UBS congregation. Ronnee's tireless efforts in membership recruitment, social committee and being a master guru of Mah Jong are priceless. Many thanks, again, to Harriet Priest for all her efforts in organizing another successful "pot luck" lunch following our annual meeting held in the vestry. It certainly was a feast!!

### **Passover Seder**

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, UBS celebrated the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Passover Seder. Led creatively by Sandra Freedman, everyone enjoyed great wine, Passover Broadway songs and lots of fun. The dinner was catered by Just Ellen's Catering (Ellen Locanto) and once again, was absolutely delicious. This annual event continues to be a sold out evening. Special thanks to Sandy Freedman for leading us in a most wonderful seder and to the social committee for arranging the delicious catering and beautiful décor

### **Message from UBS President, Ellen Bensusan**

Margaret Mead said, "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For indeed, that's all who ever have." While we at UBS are not out to change the entire world, we are charting a new course for our community's future. We have (and some believe for the very 1<sup>st</sup> time) hired a Rabbi to lead us in worship and in spirit. We are undertaking some much needed renovations and updates to a cherished and beautiful, but somewhat tired building. We are trying to expand our social programming as evidenced this year with a very popular Mah Jong group that meets weekly and our first trip to the ball game. I know, as we go forward, we want to become more involved in our secular community of Rhode Island, connecting to other "caring people" who also want to make our part of the world more accepting and diverse. As Rabbi Glatstein points out in her message above, we are approaching a season of reflection and change. I encourage all of you to embrace this exciting time and be a part of those "few caring people" at United Brothers Synagogue who are moving into a season of renewal and growth. Have a wonderful and safe summer! We look forward to seeing you all soon.

GIFTS OF CARING AND SHARING.

“One who donates much charity becomes the richer for it.”

UNITED BROTHERS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT

MEMORIAL FUND

Carol Louison in memory of Joseph C. Louison and Charles L. Silverman

Leonard and Goldie Cohen in memory of Rose Lauber Stolusky, Eva Cohen, Harry Rosenzweig, and Sarah Shapiro

Ronnee Wasserman in memory of Sylvia Goldman

Herbert Sackett in memory of Morris Sackett and Edna Sonkin

Emily Gold in memory of Dora Feldman Benjamin, Rhoda Benjamin, Martell Benjamin, MD. and Jacob Benjamin

Alice and Lewis Gold in memory of Dora Feldman Benjamin and Jacob Benjamin

Jerrold Weiner in memory of Erna Jane Siegel

Steve and Samantha Scott Krohn in memory of Lewis M. Krohn

George and Lois Graboys in memory of Dr. Thomas B. Graboys

Sharon and William Fermon in memory of William “Willy” Benjamin

Marcia Rouslin and Lee Ellen Stutman in memory of Esther Hazen Alter

Beth Rabin in memory of Ida Breiter

Sylvia Greene in memory of Howard S. Greene

Joan and Richard Abrams in memory of Neil Arbor

Herbert Sackett and Ronnee Wasserman in memory of Neil Arbor

GENERAL FUND

Stanley and Marcia Blacher in honor of Gloria Brody

Marvin and Joan Glickman in honor of Gloria Brody

Gloria Brody in honor of UBS “re-founding” anniversary

De Feldman in honor of her granddaughter Molly

“CHALLENGE” CAMPAIGN FUND

Bill Hillman and Eleanor Radin, Marilyn Zuller Morin, Stanley Bleecker, Louis Hafken, M.D.,

Harold Gold, Alice and Lewis Gold, Freda and Stephen Lehrer, William and Sharon Fermon,

Dr. Shirley Kessler, Ruth Eisenberg, Doug and Jean Lewanda, Irwin and Joann Hazen, Alfred and Lorraine Benjamin

ADDITIONS TO ORIGINAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM:

Carol Louison, Michael and Faye Feldman, Jonathan and Carol Feinstein, Fern and Bob Rouleau, Steve and

Samantha Scott Krohn, Alex and Sandy Freedman, Richard and Ellen Bensusan, Andy Teitz, Michael and Joan

Sheff, Marvin and Joan Glickman, Kevin and Debra Darkow, Mim Rosenberg, Herb Sackett and Ronnee Wasserman

CONDOLENCES TO

Elaine Arbor on the loss of her husband, longtime UBS member Neil Arbor

Don Hurwitz on the recent loss of his mother

SPEEDY RECOVERIES TO

Debra Darkow and Sandy Freedman

THANK YOU - To the sponsors of our most recent Shabbat Onegs

March – Steve and Samantha Scott Krohn

April – Larry and Andrea Levinson

May – Marvin and Joan Glickman and The Board in honor of UBS anniversary service

June – The UBS Board in honor of our new Rabbi, Carolan Glatstein