



The Historic United Brothers Synagogue
205 High Street
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
(401) 253-3450

Religious Leader: Dr. Cantor Joel Gluck
Musical Director & Organist: Patrick Aiken

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Fall 2020 Newsletter..... TISHREI – CHESHVAN 5781

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Presidents Message – Jonathan Feinstein

Resilience

When we look back on our recent high holiday celebration, we must be thankful for the technology, application, and flexibility that was exhibited by all to make us have a wonderful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur celebration. We would never have thought we would be in a situation where we could not congregate in our temple, pray and reflect in accordance with our rituals. We are hopeful, that in the spring and summer of 2021 we will be able to renew our in-person services and our various social events held throughout the year!

The coming months will surely be a challenge from many of us as we will learn to once again be confined during the cold and Wintery months ahead. Our faith and commitment to not only our religion but to each other will make us stronger and closer as a congregation. It is important that we are cognizant of the health and safety guidelines which we will need to both operate our home, business and religious activities Please recognize that we are here for each other and if any congregate needs help in terms of access to food ,medical supplies, prescriptions, please let us know as we will organize and provide assistance to anyone in need in the congregation.

I know as a result of our upcoming challenges during this Covid crisis we as a congregation and community will come out of it stronger and more resilient with a strong sense of perseverance. Looking forward to seeing you at our next Friday Sabbath service in our virtual environment.

Spiritual Leader/Cantor's Message
Dr. Cantor Joel Gluck



I cannot believe that the High Holidays are over. Who would have guessed that we would have needed to have virtual services for the holiest days of the year? Before Covid, people would have been very skeptical about the mode of the service as well as the Jewish “legality” (halacha) of having any worship service online, no less the Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe).

The one thing we have learned from this experience is that as a people, Jews can be very flexible. We took the sourest lemons and with the correct amount of congregational support and care, we made the best tasting lemonade possible. I am very proud of what we accomplished in the short time since I joined you as your Spiritual Leader. So far, we have had three formal Shabbatot and 7 different High Holy Day services, all via Zoom.

If I had to rank the services, believe it or not I could say I enjoyed Tashlich the most because I had the chance to meet congregants and put a name to faces, not just little squares on the screen. During that brief encounter, I met almost thirty congregants and guests. It was an absolute pleasure to see people of all ages, from very young grandchildren to adult children and parents celebrating together. Judaism is meant to be practiced by a community of people, that is why there are rules about having a minyan to say certain brachot.

I noticed something during this year’s Tashlich service that I never really noticed before. People took their pieces of bread and held them for a moment before tossing them into the water. The pieces had a shape and weight and I hope that those tactile sensations held some significance for you. Those sins you were shedding also have a weight on you. As you took that bread and rolled it into a ball, perhaps you were thinking about what things or characteristics you wanted to change in the coming year. The mere fact that you considered the need to change is monumental.

I explained to those who were present that Tashlich is symbolic. We know that the bread does not contain our sins, but instead the bread contains our wishes for becoming a more holy people. Stale bread is hard. It does not taste good and if it is old enough can hurt your teeth. We throw away stale bread. However, the birds love it! I think in the master bird calendar, Rosh Hashanah is marked in red to remind the entire flock that the Jews will be there to feed them. But why do the birds love the stale bread? Why do they sometimes fight each other to get to it as it floats in the water?

I believe that the water softens the bread enough so the birds can use it for food. That is quite an analogy. We get rid of our “sins” by throwing them into the water. The water recycles them so the birds can use it for nourishment. Nothing here goes to waste. Think about that for a moment. Our sins are made usable for the birds. The High Holy Days are about cleansing ourselves of the things that make us unholy and incomplete. We eagerly toss them away after days of self-reflection and we become “better people.” The birds also benefit by getting a meal. By improving ourselves we can contribute to repairing our world (Tikun Olam).

May our collective desire to return (teshuvah) be the impetus for the world to be a better place for everyone. Ken Y’hi Ratzon, let this be God’s will.

High Holiday Services

While we've not often been together physically, the High Holidays were celebrated together, and the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah brought a socially distanced and meaningful Tashlich at Bristol's harbor. A few photos to share:



Erev Rosh Hashanah 5781



Cantor Dr. Joel Gluck, Spiritual Leader



Rosh Hashanah 5781
Day 1



Yom Kippur 5781
Kol Nidre



United Brothers Synagogue

Chesva Agudas Achim

30 HIGHT STREET, BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02909 401.253.3400

Hazzan Dr. Joel Gluck, Spiritual Leader



Yom Kippur 5781
Shacharit



United Brothers Synagogue

Chesva Agudas Achim

30 HIGHT STREET, BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02909 401.253.3400

Hazzan Dr. Joel Gluck, Spiritual Leader



Yom Kippur 5781
Neilah



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Chesva Agudas Achim

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Hazzan Dr. Joel Gluck, Spiritual Leader



Yom Kippur 5781
Yizkor



United Brothers Synagogue

Chesva Agudas Achim

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Hazzan Dr. Joel Gluck, Spiritual Leader



GIFTS OF CARING AND SHARING

"One who donates much charity becomes the richer for it."

UNITED BROTHERS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT

YAHREZEIT FUND

Ronnee Wasserman in memory of her mother Sylvia Goldman
Jonathan Feinstein in memory of his parents Jerome and Sarah Feinstein
Joseph and Ruth Benjamin in memory of their daughter Tracey Benjamin Richard Mittleman in memory of his mother Marcia Mittleman Eleanor Radin in memory of her mother Ruth Tuoff
Sharon Fermon in memory of her great aunt Helen Benjamin Tarle
Richard Mittleman in memory of his father Irving Mittleman
Diane Feldman in memory of her husband Jan Feldman
Kit Waite in memory of her parents John and Kaye Godfrey
Sharon Fermon in memory of her great uncle William Benjamin
Ronnee Wasserman in memory of her father Sheridan Paul Goldman

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Julie Weinberg on the passing of her father Heraldo Zolezio

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Richard and Joan Abrams
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Steve Krohn

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Rona Bishins for her generous contribution in memory of her husband Paul Bishins

Other News:

Job Strategies for Challenging Times: November 2020–March 2021

Rogers Free Library is launching a free series called [Job Strategies for Challenging Times](#). The five-month series is designed to help community members who are experiencing unemployment, underemployment, or turbulence in their careers amid pandemic-related economic disruption. Regional experts will lead 16 free webinars and workshops – from [job search techniques](#) and crafting [a savvy LinkedIn profile](#) to [designing your next career move](#) and [managing stress](#) – all via the Zoom platform. The series begins November 2 and runs through March 2021. Registration required. Open to adults of all educational and employment backgrounds, with priority given to Bristol residents. Learn more and register at: <https://rogersfreelibrary.org/jobseries/>.

Upcoming Services/Events

November 6th

December 4th

January 8th

February 5th