



The Historic United Brothers Synagogue

205 High Street
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

Religious Leader: Scott A. Tepper
Musical Director & Organist: Patrick Aiken

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Neil Arbor
Sandy Freedman
Alex Freedman
Barry Schrutt
Samantha Krohn
Andy Teitz
Miriam Rosenberg
Ronnee Wasserman

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Steve Krohn
Howard Kestenberg
Harriet Priest
Larry Priest
Joan Sheff
Joan Glickman
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401-253-3460
UBS Phone Number

NEWSLETTER

Sh'vat 5775
February 2015

Words from UBS President Michael Feldman

Anti-Semitism is on the rise. We read daily of attacks on synagogues, cemeteries and Jewish neighborhoods. This is in the context of religious intolerance in general. Even in Rhode Island, a state founded on the principles of religious freedom, an Islamic school was recently a victim of a hate crime.

The question for us is how do we, as the only synagogue in Bristol, respond to this? I think we need, both as individuals and as a congregation, to become more proactive in the fight against religious hatred. As individuals, we should speak out and become more involved in groups such as the Anti-Defamation League. As a congregation, we need to become far more vocal in condemning acts of religious intolerance and become more involved, with other faith organizations, in combatting this scourge.

To this end, we will be discussing this issue at our next board meeting and I hope we can come up with concrete and actionable items for United Brothers. I truly believe we must stand up against hatred in our community and in the world.

B'Shalom,
Michael

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

- Friday, March 6, 2015 7:30 PM – Purim and reading of the Megilah
- Friday, April 3, 2015 – 6:00PM – First night Seder
- Friday, April 10th – regular Friday night services
- Friday, May 1 – Rededication of the reopening of UBS
- Sunday, May 3 – Annual Dinner

Ongoing events at the Temple

- Every Weds. at 7PM – Mah Jong
- Monthly Book club
- Contact Ellen Bensusan or Ronnee Wasserman to get more information

Reflections from Dr. Michael Sheff: Religious and Historical Editor

PURIM

Sometime between 2200 and 2400 years ago an unknown author wrote a secular tale of politics, deceit, arrogance, bigotry, sex and violence that has been lovingly preserved in our tradition. A weak tyrant presiding over a vast polyglot empire is enticed by a subtle ego-centric advisor into issuing an order to commit genocide. Tragedy is averted when the advisor's machinations are revealed through the courage of a young woman and after two days of street slaughter all ends well. That, of course, is the ganze megillah. Why Shakespeare never used this story, why Verdi never wrote the opera Esther is unfortunate; it lends itself to the stage.

For us it is the basis of Purim and we are expected to read the Megillah twice on either the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th or 15th of Adar depending on the classification of the town to which we belong. This year, 2015, the principal date is Adar 14 - March 4/5 but our service on March 6th is still a valid date. So we will hear the Megillah being read, we will whirl our noise makers at the mention of Haman's name and maybe our Baal Tephila will manage the task of "say all the names of Haman's ten sons in one breath to show that they were all hung with their father in one moment". Afterwards we are enjoined to eat and feast and - if we are not driving - to get very drunk. We celebrate life. In this manner we turn a secular tale of near disaster into the most joyous occasion of the religious year. Unlike Chanukah, where there is a historical provenance, we do not know on what foundation this story is built. It is placed in Babylonia in the reign of either Xerxes 1 or Ataxerxes 1 sometime in the 5th century BCE when Jews were largely assimilated into Babylonian society. The text of the Megillah has no reference to G-d but the festival shares with Chanukah a prayer for the occasion celebrating G-d's miracles which underlie the escape from catastrophe. So now, go read your bible for the details.

"CHALLENGE" CAMPAIGN – (APPROACHING THE FINAL DEADLINE!)

With the end of our fiscal year, (April 30, 2015) in the not too distant future, one of the greatest opportunities for the financial future of UBS will also be coming to an end. As you will recall, a most generous donor (who chooses to remain anonymous) made a very special offer to us which has been in place throughout the current fiscal year. The donor "challenged" us to raise \$15,000 in voluntary contributions to our general fund over and above our normal dues payments with a promise to contribute a matching amount of \$15,000 toward our building fund. In addition, an extra \$2500 will be ours if we achieve 100% participation from every member.

With the deadline rapidly approaching, this is an appeal for response in one of two ways: If you have already contributed to the campaign, please know how much we appreciate your participation and support. If you would like to make an ADDITIONAL contribution before the campaign ends (in any amount you feel comfortable), know it would be graciously appreciated, would qualify toward the matching funds and would be added to the "category" amount you have already achieved. If you have not yet contributed at all, please don't be the one that prevents us from receiving our bonus. ALL donations (past and present) will be officially acknowledged and recognized during our annual meeting in May. Send donation to: UBS Challenge Fund c/o Herb Sackett, 127 Windward Lane, Bristol, R.I. 02809 (or simply use our website if you prefer). Many Thanks, Herb Sackett, Treasurer

GIFTS OF CARING AND SHARING.

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

UNITED BROTHERS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT

MEMORIAL FUND

Ronnee Wasserman in memory of Paul Goldman, Gertie Wax and Freda Thomas

Linda and Richard Mittleman in memory of Irving Mittleman

Louis Hafken, M.D. in memory of Mary Hafken, Saul Hafken and Irving Hafken

Marvin Glickman in memory of Ruth K. Glickman and Donna Glickman

Richard and Joan Abrams in memory of Pearl Abrams

In memory of Dr. Jan Feldman

Dr. Steven and Libby Pieser, Herb Sackett and Ronee Wasserman, Elizabeth T. Shaw, Larry and Shelley Parness, Dr. Maynard Shusman, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Pezza, Robert F. Hall, Anita and Vartan Vartanian, “The Bogies,” John O. Eastman, DDS, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Krassin, Dr. Neal and Arlene Rogol, Mrs.

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Prof. Louise Ellen Teitz and Stephen Groskin in memory of Alexis Dale Teitz

Alfred and Lorraine Benjamin in memory of Rose Benjamin and Samuel Benjamin

Leonard and Goldie Cohen in memory of Etta Gerber, Robert Cohen, Felisa Nadine Cohen

and Dr. Charles Rose Lattner

Amy and Bob Hirsch in memory of Sally Roberts, Louis Roberts and Lawrence Hirsch

Lisa Raiola and Waterman Brown in memory of Phyllis Wurtzel

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Michael Feldman and Faye Dion, Debra and Kevin Darkow and Leslie Paine and Herb Holman in memory of Harriet Block

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Eleanor Radin in memory of Henry Turoff

Herb Sackett in memory of Evelyn Sergy Sackett and Shirley Helen Sackett

GENERAL FUND

Leonard and Goldie Cohen in honor of the special birthday of Spencer Cohen

In honor of Ronnee Wasserman’s special birthday - Harris and Myrna Rosen,

Richard and Linda Mittleman, Clare and Richard Segall and Dr. Walter and Meredith Thayer

Samuel and Phyllis Wurtzel in honor of Lisa Raiola

HIGH HOLIDAY FUND

Rebecca T. Ackerman

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“CHALLENGE” CAMPAIGN FUND

Howard Kestenberg, Brad Louison, Joan and Richard Abrams, Dr. Jan and De Feldman.

Norman and Dr. Sylvia Orodener, Mel and Arlene Landesberg, David and Donna Kelman, Herb Sackett and Ronnee Wasserman, Paul and Rona Bishins, Nancy and Bill Mayer, Gloria Brody, Michael Lichtenstein, Iris and George Cavallo, Harriet and Larry Priest, Jim and Rita Williams, Barry and Denise Schrutt

MAZEL TOV TO

Anya Rader Wallack who has been chosen by Governor Raimondo to be the new head of HealthSource RI

Chloe Dessel, daughter of Allison and William Dessel who celebrated her recent Bat Mitzvah before family and friends in our beautiful and historic United Brothers Synagogue

Lisa Raiola for her leadership (founder and president) in the creation of “Hope and Main”, a non-profit culinary business incubator headquartered in a specially renovated building in Warren, R.I.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Allison and William Dessel, Barrington, R.I.

Lisa Raiola and Waterman Brown, Bristol, R.I.

Bonnie and Doug Brout, Little Compton, R.I.

GET WELL WISHES

To Neil Arbor

CONDOLENCES TO

De Feldman on the loss of her husband, Dr. Jan Feldman

George Graboys on the loss of his brother, Dr. Thomas Graboys

Ellen Bensusan on the loss of her mother, Harriet Block

Brenda Stahl on the loss of her father

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

Sept. Carol Louison and Amy and Bob Hirsch

Nov. Joan and Richard Abrams

Dec. “Latkepalooza” sponsored by the UBS Social Committee

Jan. Denise and Barry Schrutt

Feb. Ronnee Wasserman and Herb Sackett

Special thanks to Harriet Priest for all her efforts in organizing another successful and delicious “breakfast” following our Yom Kippur service

