

The Historic United Brothers Synagogue

205 High Street
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

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

Trustees

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

Regents

Marvin Glickman
Steve Krohn
Howard Kestenber
Harriet Priest
Larry Priest
Joan Sheff
Joan Glickman
Jim Williams

Officers

Michael Feldman	President
Michael Sheff	Immediate Past-President
Ellen Bensusan	1 st Vice President
Rick Bensusan	2 nd Vice President
Herbert Sackett	Treasurer
Debra Darkow	Recording Secretary
Fern Rouleau	Corresponding Secretary
Ronnee Wasserman	Membership Chairperson

401-253-3460
UBS Phone Number

NEWSLETTER

Elul 5774
September 2014

Words from UBS President Michael Feldman

Our building will be celebrating its centennial in 2016 and, like most 98 year-olds, it does have a few aches and pains. Some of the wiring is original, there isn't much insulation, the HVAC systems are pretty rickety and the plumbing is barely adequate.

Our building does play a central role in our congregation. Its jewel box interior connects us palpably to our past. It is easy to imagine our founders worshiping in the building and when we gather for our services we continue in their footsteps. Other synagogues might be more imposing, others might inspire more awe, but our building gives us the connection with our past.

Rabbi Jonathan Blake writes that the purpose of a synagogue is to "make God's presence noticeable" and I think our building does just that. So maintaining our building is an extremely high priority for the congregation. We are very fortunate in that a generous donor has given our United Brothers a challenge. For every dollar we raise in donations, the donor will match it dollar for dollar up to \$15,000. The donor threw down an additional challenge: **if we get 100% of our members participating, another \$2,500 will be donated.** All of the matching funds are designated for a capital fund that will help protect and preserve our building for the future.

We need to rise to this challenge. This is a generational opportunity for us to ensure that our building will be here for future generations. It is my dream – and I think it shared by most of us – that in 100 years, our great grandchildren will be able to walk into 205 High Street and celebrate their simchas, their holidays and their shabbats. Let's help make this happen.

B'shalom,
Michael

High Holiday Schedule 2014

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday Sept. 24, 2014	7:30pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Thursday Sept. 25, 2014	9:30am	Rosh Hashanah
Friday Sept. 26, 2014	9:30am	Rosh Hashanah

Yom Kippur

Friday Oct. 3, 2014	7:30pm	Kol Nidre
Saturday Oct. 4, 2014	9:30am	Yom Kippur
	Approx. 11:00am	Yizkor
	5:30pm	Neilah

Approx. 7:00pm Break Fast All are welcome to participate. We ask that you rsvp at 253-3460 or email ubsbristol@gmail.com if you are planning to attend the Break Fast and if you wish to bring a food item.

Reflections from Dr. Michael Sheff: Religious and Historical Editor

Once more, Happy New Year!

So when is New Year ? There is an Interfaith Calendar which lists all religiously important dates throughout the year. There are some you might expect, and a number you wouldn't. Who knew that the Scientologists celebrate Ron Hubbard's birthday on March 8? The list reveals the diversity of beliefs and the diversity of calendars. In the same month there is Magha Puja Day for Buddhists on the 5th., Hindu Holi on the 6th and of course St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. Month by month through the year the days of symbolic significance fill the calendar, but remarkably there is no correspondence of festivals. Our secular year now begins January 1 close to another Buddhist New Year - Mahayana, but the first Jewish New Year will be on February 4 - Tu B'shvat- the New Year for Trees. On the 21st. March come the Bahai, Zoroastrian, and Hindu New Years. The list continues month after month with dates for Shinto, Islamic, Sikh, Jain, and Wicca New Years without them being in the same secular months. For us there are four New Years including Tu B'Shvat. This year the New Year that we really think of as THE NEW YEAR will be September 24 - 25, but we could also celebrate next year - 2015 - on April 1st. Since Nisan 1st will be another Jewish New Year. Then again, there is yet another Rabbinical New Year on Elul 1st. - August 26th.! We try and explain the timing of New Year as being connected to some calendrical or agricultural significant event. And indeed for Jews in Israel, then and now The New Year brings in its wake not only Yom Kippur but the time of waiting for rain. But looking at this list we see no modern or ancient Jewish or Israeli connection to the earth's yearly orbit, no relation to astronomical observable phenomena. The same seems to apply to all the other recognized religions. The New Years are when they are. Defined by custom and the voice of authority, not by any tangible or logical reality. We Jews call it Halacha. And that's the way it is! So I wish you all a Happy New Year. See you in Temple.

Michael Sheff



MAHJONG ANYONE!!



United Brothers Synagogue now has an active and lively Mahjong group that meets every Tuesday evening from 7-9PM. Everyone has learned under the patient tutoring of Ronnee Wasserman, Carol Louison and Amy Hirsch. No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome. If you would like to come and learn this ancient game (and have some fun) call either Ronnee Wasserman or Ellen Bensusan. Give it a try!!

“CHALLENGE” CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By this time every member should have received the exciting news about our special “challenge” fund opportunity which is in full progress. Just in case you haven’t, the details are well worth repeating.

At the request of the board, a new financial planning committee was formed to study and make recommendations on how to make the membership aware and responsive that it is the responsibility of each of us to participate in bridging the gap between our modest dues structure and our budgeted expenses. That can be accomplished only through “voluntary contributions” over and above the billed dues. In recent years the bulk of those contributions have been borne through the generosity of a small percentage of the membership which is neither fair nor a secure position for our financial planning. The second task for the committee was to address the necessity to plan for the future physical needs of our aging building by creating a long range capital fund.

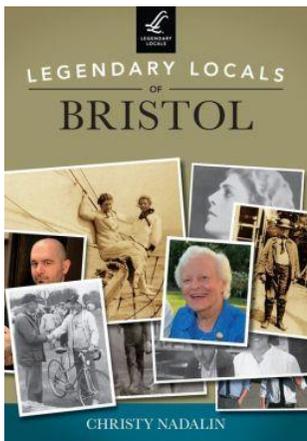
As we were debating our various options to present to the board, a devoted friend of UBS (who desires to remain anonymous) came forth with an offer to create a “challenge” campaign, in which they will create a capital fund and will donate matching dollars up to \$15,000 to that fund for every dollar our members donate to the “voluntary” fund along with their dues. In addition, the donor is offering a bonus of \$2500 provided 100% of our members participate in some amount to the “challenge” program. So here we are with the fantastic opportunity to double every dollar up to \$15,000 that we contribute in addition to our dues.

We’ve created different recognition levels of giving, we’ll be happy to accept pledges payable quarterly over the balance of the fiscal year and we’re planning a special annual (May) meeting/dinner (our 15th anniversary) to celebrate the successful close of the campaign and honor all our participants. So far the response has been excellent and each and every member to date has included a donation along with their dues. If you haven’t already mailed your dues, the holidays are around the corner and the time to do so is now. Accept the “challenge” and let’s hit that 100%!

Special thanks to finance committee members Steve Krohn, Mike Lederman, Neil Arbor and Mike Feldman for their help with this project and other financial issues we’re currently working on.
Herb Sackett, Treasurer

NEWS

Spiritual Leader, Scott Tepper celebrated his 200th Service with United Brothers Synagogue during the August Friday night Shabbat. Scott brought his parents and several friends who enjoyed this night with about 30 members of our congregation. An oneg in Scott’s honor was sponsored by the UBS Board of Directors.



Local author Christy Nadalin has recently published a book about the local history of Bristol, Rhode Island and the legendary people who established the community. Included in this book are several photos of UBS in its early years and information about the founders of our temple. A signed copy of the book is at the temple for you to look at. The book is available through the various online vendors.

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 Charles L. Silverman

Leonard and Goldie Cohen in memory of Harry Rosenzweig, Sarah Shapiro, Bessie Rosenzweig.

Ronnee Wasserman in memory of Sylvia Goldman

Herbert Sackett in memory of Edna Sonkin

Emily Gold in memory of Jacob Benjamin

Alice and Lewis Gold in memory of Jacob Benjamin

Sharon and William Fermon in memory of Helen Benjamin Tarle

Marvin Glickman in memory of Isadore Glickman

Eleanor Radin in memory of Ruth Turoff

Richard and Linda Mittleman in memory of Marcia Mittleman and Joseph C. Louison

GENERAL FUND

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

Alex and Sandy Freedman in honor of their new granddaughter Josephine Maya Freedman

Michael and Wendy Lipp in honor of Scott Tepper's 200th service with UBS

Seema and Harold Tepper in honor of Scott Tepper's 200th service with UBS

“CHALLENGE” CAMPAIGN FUND

Irwin Hazen, Michael and Diane Rabinowitz, Jerrold Weiner, E. Sybil Simon, Harvey and Dorothea Snyder, Emily Vollaro, Larry and Andrea Levinson, Michael and Faye Dion, Carol Louison, Steve Krohn and Samantha Scott Krohn, Nancy Weinstein, Michael and Aileen Lederman, Pat Pires, Don and Rita Hurwitz, Neil and Elaine Arbor, Louise Perl, George and Lois Graboys, Angela and Lewis Rudner, Michael and Joan Sheff, Alex and Sandy Freedman, Amy and Bob Hirsch, Carol Louison, Richard and Ellen Bensusan, Sylvia Greene, Joan and Kevin Fandel, Fern and Bob Rouleau, Joan and Marvin Glickman, Stanley and Anya Wallack, Herb Sackett and Ronnee Wasserman, Ken and Paulette Levy, Suzanne Cohn, Debra and Kevin Darkow, Jonathan and Carol Feinstein, Mim Rosenberg, Andy Teitz

MAZEL TOV TO

Alex and Sandy Freedman on the birth of their new granddaughter, Josephine Maya Freedman

Scott Tepper on the celebration of leading his 200th service with United Brothers

Marilyn Zuller and David Morin on their beautiful marriage ceremony held at United Brothers

CONDOLENCES TO

Andy Teitz on the loss of his sister, Alexis Dale Teitz

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

June - Marilyn Zuller and David Morin

July - Steve Krohn and Samantha Scott Krohn

August – The UBS board members in honor of Scott Tepper's 200th service