



# 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  
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## NEWSLETTER

March 2016  
Adar 5776

### Words from UBS Rabbi Carolan Glatstein

When I think of Passover, I immediately remember the story of the angel of death literally passing over the houses of the Israelites and I'm reminded that there are forces in this universe bigger than myself. When I think of Pesach, however, I imagine the days of the Temple, and the priests making the Pesach sacrifice in order to honor the festival commemorating the Exodus. When we refer to the holiday as Chag Matzot, the Festival of Unleavened Bread, I laugh to myself thinking of the year we served 20 guests in my parents' Lilliputian house. Without enough room to seat everyone, we spontaneously held a "Moroccan Seder" wherein all our guests reclined on the floor, supported by decorative pillows. My father slaved over a meal to fit the theme, much to the delight of our participants. Moments before Seder began, we realized he had returned home from the store with non-kosher-for-Passover matzah.

We all celebrate in different ways, both haunted and sustained by the memories we have collected over the years. The National Jewish Population Survey estimates that close to 85% of American Jews will attend a Seder. This holiday, perhaps more than any other, is a great unifying factor for our people. Maybe it's because Passover usually takes place on the home-turf and the possible expressions for its celebration are truly endless. Maybe a traditional Seder isn't for you? That's all right – perhaps you'd feel more comfortable at a chocolate Seder, or women's Seder, a social justice Seder, poetry, coloring, or musical Seder? One that focuses on survival after Holocaust, or one that specifically does not use the name of God? Or just the good ole Maxwell house hagadah? We are free to choose the expression that best fits our needs.

This holiday offers everyone a seat at the table, not only with its wide array of options, but also in my favorite name for our holiday: Z'man Cheiruteinu, the Time of Our Freedom. Unlike the other names, all of which invoke a general sense of the holiday, this title places us directly in the course of history. During the Seder we are told that "everyone is obligated to see oneself as if having personally left Egypt" (Mishna Pesachim 10:5). When we celebrate Z'man Cheiruteinu, we link ourselves to generations of Jews, each of whom have had to discover their own means of living as freely as possible. We can also review our previous year, applauding the ways in which we freed ourselves from our own restraints – psychological, physical, or spiritual. We take pause to examine ways in which we still struggle and how we can assist others in this world who still strive for freedom. This season, may we be inspired by our freedoms gained, and those which are still possible for many future generations. Ken yehi ratzon – be this God's will.

## **President's Message**

Recently, Rick and I went on a 5 week road trip to celebrate his retirement. One of our destinations was Savannah, Georgia where we spent a full week in order to explore this beautiful and historic city more thoroughly. One of our favorite tours was to Congregation Mickve Israel, one of the oldest congregations in the United States. The docent who gave the tour explained how the original congregants came in 1733 from London's Bevis Marks Synagogue and included Sephardim who had recently escaped from the Inquisition in Portugal. Despite the many hardships this group faced in the new colony of Georgia, they grew and thrived. The docent told many stories of specific congregants and their amazing contributions to the new colony and their integration into the fabric of Savannah life.

After the tour, we reflected on all that we had heard and came to the conclusion that we, as Jews, have survived thousands of years and many horrific struggles because we are an adaptable tribe. Our ancestor's will to preserve the Jewish religion and traditions was so strong that they were willing to change, move and adapt to what was thrown in their paths. It could not have been an easy decision to get on a ship and leave London for some strange, swampy, unknown new colony, but the desire to preserve their Jewish faith was stronger than their fear.

We at United Brothers Synagogue are doing what we can to preserve the Jewish presence in the Bristol area. At times, it may seem like a struggle, but it is well worth the effort. Our congregation provides a warm and welcoming environment for everyone to participate. We, like the early Jewish settlers, have learned to adapt and embrace all those who have been put in our path. Please join us at the next service or celebration; become more actively involved on our Board or committees. We hope, with your help, to continue to grow and thrive.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

2016 calendar Services schedule through September

Friday April 1, 2016 7:30pm

**Sunday April 24, 2016 Congregational Seder**

**Sunday May 1, 2016 Annual Meeting**

Friday May 6, 2016 7:30pm

Friday June 3, 2016 7:30pm

Friday July 8, 2016 7:30pm

Friday August 5, 2016 7:30pm

Friday September 2, 2016 7:30pm

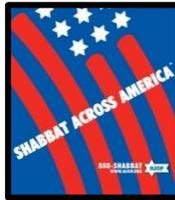
## **December Latkepalooza**

To quote Rabbi Glatstein, "Who knew that Chanukah was the third High Holiday!" The Annual Latkepalooza drew over 40 people to the Temple for a delicious dinner of a variety of latkes, salads, kugels and after services, desserts. The entire congregation contributed to the wonderful dinner and dessert. Although the room was packed, everyone enjoyed getting to talk to friends and meet new people. Members and non-members alike commented on the "hamish" feeling United Brothers Synagogue fosters in all of our events. Good food, good friends...what could be better!



## January Chocolate and Wine Service

January is always a bitter cold month, so how do you tempt people to come to Friday night services? Chocolate and Wine!! About 30 people attended our first Chocolate and Wine service with our own congregant, Sandra Freedman leading us in prayer. Sandra taught us some new tunes and helped us understand the reason behind many of the prayers we say each Shabbat. She also read from the Torah and encouraged the entire congregation's participation. The oneg, sponsored by the Mah Jong group, featured everything chocolate, including a homemade Chocolate Challah created by Lisa Kotlen. Steve Krohn donated four different wines to pair with the chocolate desserts, making for a celebratory evening. The night was a hit...might have to make this an annual event!



## Shabbat Across America

Friday night, March 3<sup>rd</sup> was the Annual Shabbat Across America celebration. This program has been conducted for 20 years across both Canada and the United States, uniting more than a million Jews in a unique Shabbat experience. This year, United Brothers joined the celebration for our first Annual Shabbat Across America. Thanks to the hard work of Michael Feldman, Fern Rouleau and Deb Darkow (and others), Rabbi Glatstein and participants had a delicious dinner and welcomed Shabbat as a community. Everyone had a wonderful time! This looks like another social event to add to our growing annual calendar of celebrations!



GIFTS OF CARING AND SHARING.

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

UNITED BROTHERS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT

MEMORIAL FUND

Sharon and William Fermon in memory of Helen Benjamin Tarle and Ida Benjamin Kraft  
Ronnee Wasserman in memory of Cora Goldman and Freda Thomas  
Leonard and Goldie Cohen in memory of Robert Joel Cohen, Felisa Nadine Cohen and Dr. Charles Lattner Rose  
Joan Glickman in memory of Murray Stern  
Anya Rader Wallack in memory of Rose Wallack Asnes  
Amy and Bob Hirsch in memory of Sally Roberts, Lawrence Hirsch and Louis Roberts  
Dr. Shirley Kessler in memory of Minnie H. Bassing  
Alfred and Lorraine Benjamin in memory of Rose Benjamin and Emily Benjamin Gold  
Joan and Richard Abrams in memory of Jim Suzman and Stanley Wallack  
Steve and Samantha-Scott Krohn in memory of Shirley Rich Krohn and Lewis Krohn  
Beth Rabin in memory of Jessie and SBL Liebman, Ida Breiter and Dede Dinah Karlin  
Herbert Sackett in memory of Evelyn Sergy Sackett and Shirley Helen Sackett  
Carol Louison in memory of Leonard Louison and Lillian Silverman  
Marcia Rouslin and Lee-Ellen Stutman in memory of Esther Hazen Alter and Albert Alter  
Ken and Paulette Levy in memory of Ida Levy and Louis Levy  
Jerrold Weiner in memory of Erna Jane Siegel and Cecile Weiner

GENERAL FUND

Rachel and Bruce Siegel, Michael Lichtenstein, Mel and Arlene Landesberg, Jonathan Schur, Michael Mizrahi, Paula Rosput Reynolds

HIGH HOLIDAY FUND

Joan and Michael Sheff, Fern and Bob Rouleau, Stanley Bleecker, Harriet and Larry Priest, Mel and Arlene Landesberg

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Joan Sheff in memory of Dr. Joseph Brenner  
Herbert Sackett in memory of Elaine Rodman  
Richard and Joan Abrams in memory of Pearl Abrams  
Paula and Steve Reynolds in memory of Emily Benjamin Gold

THANK YOU - To the sponsors of our most recent Shabbat Onegs  
November – Marilyn Zuller-Morin  
December - Latkepalooza by UBS Congregation  
January – Chocolates and Wine by UBS Book Club  
February - Steve and Samantha-Scott Krohn  
March – Shabbat Across America by UBS Social Committee

**Don't forget to sign up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Congregational Passover Seder on  
Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM!! This is a  
fully catered event. \$25 per member, \$30  
non member. Seating is limited, so call  
Ellen Bensusan at 253-3354 for  
reservations.**