

TOURO SYNAGOGUE

Volume 186, Issue 12

April 2016 - Adar II/Nisan 5776



A Message From Our Cantor

In the spring of 1992, Johnny Carson retired from The Tonight Show, Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot went on Larry King Live and announced his candidacy for the presidency, and Cantor Steven Dubov (z"l) created a one-of-a kind Shabbat service, aiming to capture the spirit of New Orleans. And the rest is Jazz Fest Shabbat history.

For the first few years, however, Jazz Fest Shabbat wasn't actually called Jazz Fest Shabbat. At that time, Touro Synagogue presented "The Jazz & Heritage Festival Sabbath Worship," which by and large, looked a lot like a typical Shabbat service at Touro. With klezmer as the natural combination of Jazz and Jewish music, The New Orleans Klezmer All-Star Band was invited to perform various klezmer selections at the beginning and end of the service.

In the years that followed, however, the klezmer aesthetic blended closer to true New Orleans Jazz. Klezmer All-Star band leader, Ben Schenk, returned with his new group, Panorama Jazz Band, which still plays with us to this day. In addition, Panorama was joined by guest artists like Ellis Marsalis, Jeremy Davenport, Kermit Ruffins, Allen Toussaint, Irma Thomas, and this last year, Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Of course, Jazz Fest Shabbat has become so much more than an incredible musical performance; it brings all that is wonderful about Shabbat at Touro Synagogue together with the pulse, heartbeat and essence of New Orleans.

Before moving to New Orleans and joining the Touro community, I didn't know quite what to expect for my first Jazz Fest Shabbat experience. I'd heard the stories of years past; stories of Mardi Gras Indians marching down the aisles, and of the sanctuary filled to the brim to hear Irma Thomas. I'd even seen the YouTube clip of Allen Toussaint and Paul Shafer playing an impromptu dueling pianos version of Adon Olam. None of these stories, however, adequately prepared me for the spiritual and emotional heights that we achieve together for this truly unique, truly New Orleans experience. None of these stories could have given me a glimpse for how fortunate and grateful I would feel to be part of a community that comes together to make that experience possible.

This year, we'll be celebrating twenty-five years since Cantor Dubov first invited the Klezmer All-Stars to come to Touro Synagogue. I can't help but think about Cantor Dubov and the legacy he left behind at Touro. I can't help but wonder

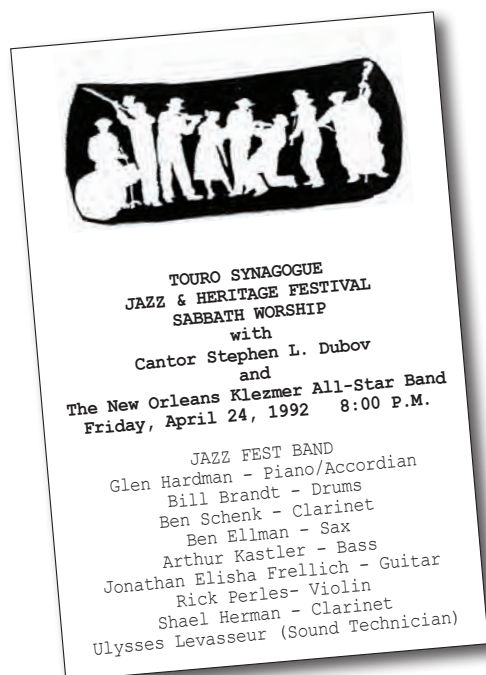


David Mintz

what he might have thought about the impact of the seeds he planted, and how this has grown into something so special, beautiful and meaningful for our community and beyond. When Jon Cleary and the Absolute Monster Gentlemen join us for the 25th Annual Jazz Fest Shabbat on April 29th, I know that I'll be thinking of Cantor Dubov and the many others who have given endless time, passion, energy and resources to help build and sustain Jazz Fest Shabbat.

I can't wait to see you there!

Warmly,
David



**SEE PAGES 4 & 5 TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT
THIS YEAR'S JAZZ FEST
SHABBAT FEATURING
2016 GRAMMY AWARD
WINNER JON CLEARY
AND THE ABSOLUTE
MONSTER GENTLEMEN**

A Message From Our President

If you have heard the description of New Orleans as “The City That Care Forgot,” I am sure you have wondered about its meaning. Most of what I have read connotes that it refers to the carefree attitude of the typical citizen. Many say that we are comprised of hard-working, fun-loving people who take the time off given and enjoy it to the fullest. As a whole, we are carefree, but in actuality I am not sure you will find a more compassionate or caring people elsewhere.

In these post-Katrina years, I particularly see our population comprised of the most giving anywhere! We are all aware of the financial and human resources which were bestowed upon us from outside this area. However, without the determination and deep commitment from our own residents, we would not have advanced to where we are today... a better city with a generous and loving citizenry.

So many of our own congregants work daily to help improve the lives of those less fortunate. The Social Action pages of our bulletin are full with information about Touro's experience with Tikkun Olam – repairing the world.

Our membership is deeply involved in a myriad of projects. Our Executive Vice-President, Teri Hunter, generates many of these efforts. Her willingness to lead, and then turn the initiative over to others, is a gift to our congregation.

We are proud of all of our undertakings. However, what may be making the biggest impact on our society is the Synagogue's involvement with the charter school movement. Our participation at Sophie B. Wright High School is making a difference in the lives of every child and educator who enters their doors. I am truly convinced that if not for our encouragement and assistance, their new gymnasium would not have become a reality.

And we certainly are thrilled with the progress of the three start-up schools which have been incubated at Touro. Encore, Bricolage and now Cypress academies have all gotten their beginnings by renting space in our facility. This has been a win/win situation for all. Our under-utilized building is allowing the school system to grow and improve, and the income received is of tremendous benefit to our congregation.

We are pleased that lease negotiations



Susan Good

are currently underway for a second year with Cypress Academy. It is exciting to watch this school expand and become a vital part of the New Orleans educational landscape.

The congregants of Touro Synagogue have never forgotten to care. We are a stronger community for having these connections. We should all take pride in each of our accomplishments.

B'Shalom,
Susan

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1st Night Congregational SEDER

TOURO SYNAGOGUE

Friday, April 22, 2016

6:00 PM

Abbreviated Shabbat Service

6:30 PM

Congregational Seder

An evening of story, song and
celebration with Rabbi Alexis Berk,
Rabbi Todd Silverman and
Cantor David Mintz

Reservations Online

<https://tourosynagogue.com/events/passover-seder/>

RSVP with a Check

Please return the form below with your check
made payable to Touro Synagogue



DETACH THIS PORTION AND ENCLOSE WITH YOUR CHECK

Mail to: Touro Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70115

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please reserve the following number of seats at the Congregational Seder:

- _____ Member Adults (13 and up): \$30
- _____ Non-member Adults: \$40
- _____ Children (ages 3-12): \$13

Do you require a vegetarian dinner? If so, how many? _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____ .00

I am unable to attend the Seder, but I am enclosing a check of \$ _____ to sponsor another person's attendance.

After the **April 15** deadline, the cost
of the Seder increases to:

Member Adults: **\$40**
Non-member Adults: **\$50**

Touro Synagogue presents

25th
Annual

JazzFest Shabbat

FRIDAY
April 29, 2016

7:30 PM

4238 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA

שבת

Featuring

2016 Grammy Award Winner

Jon Cleary

and the Absolute Monster Gentlemen

with

Panorama Jazz band

Touro Synagogue Choir

Terry D. Maddox, Music Director

and Cantor David Mintz

Design by Steve Sweet

JAZZ FEST SHABBAT FRIDAY, APRIL 29

6:00 PM

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER

Celebrate Jazz Fest Shabbat and support
Touro Synagogue at the same time.
Become a Jazz Fest Shabbat Patron.

- Exclusive performance by Jon Cleary and The Absolute Monster Gentlemen
- An Elegant Patron Dinner
- VIP seating for Jazz Fest Shabbat Service

7:30 PM

JAZZ FEST SHABBAT SERVICE

Free and open to the public.
Seats are limited. Doors open at 6:45 PM.



Invitations are in the mail! Become a Patron by returning the response card or
RSVP online by April 15 at: <https://touro synagogue.com/events/jfs-reserve-your-spot/>

JAZZ

\$1,000 per person

Includes an autographed JFS poster, Jon Cleary's
Award Winning album, *Go Go Juice* and two
single-day passes to the New Orleans
Jazz & Heritage Festival (2nd weekend)

ZYDECO

\$500 per person

Includes a free autographed JFS poster

R&B

\$300 per person

Includes Jon Cleary's Award
Winning Album, *Go Go Juice*

BLUES

\$150 per person

CHILDREN

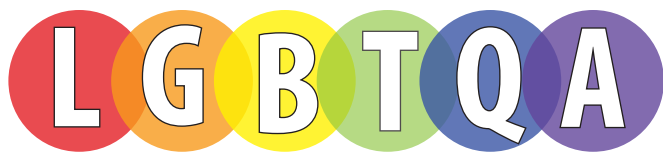
\$50 per child (ages 3 - 12)

Additional limited edition autographed posters (\$50) available for sale the evening
of Jazz Fest Shabbat or by calling the Touro Synagogue office (504) 895-4843.



LIVESTREAM JAZZ FEST SHABBAT

There's nothing like experiencing Jazz Fest Shabbat in person. However, if
you can't be with us, be sure to watch the Jazz Fest Shabbat Livestream at
www.touro synagogue.com and be part of the experience, wherever you are.



JOIN US FOR OUR LGBTQA SHABBAT, DINNER AND DISCUSSION

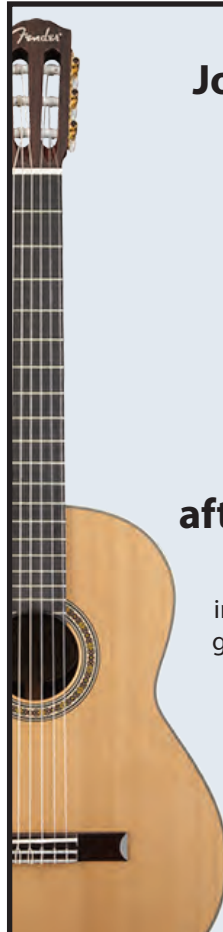
Friday, April 1, 2016

Please join us on **Friday, April 1** for **LGBTQA Shabbat**, an educational opportunity for our congregation and a celebration of Reform Judaism's commitment.

The evening will include a Shabbat service that embodies Reform Judaism's warm embrace of equality and acceptance. The service will be followed by a dinner and a panel discussion to include personal stories and guidance on the issues that continue to threaten LGBTQ equality.

We welcome participation from the entire congregation and guests, and look forward to learning, questioning and celebrating together.

For more information, contact Laura Levy at
laura.silven.levy@gmail.com.



Join Cantor Mintz for

SHABBAT KUMZITS

OUR MONTHLY GATHERING
OF COMMUNAL SINGING!

April 8, 2016
after Shabbat Services

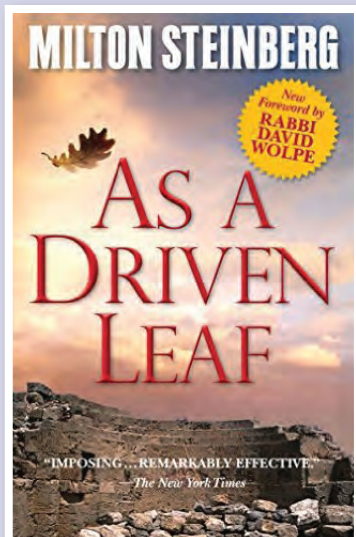
Literally meaning "come and sit" in Yiddish, a Kumzits is an opportunity to gather together in an intimate setting for some beautiful, passionate singing and a powerful, spiritual experience.

We hope you'll join us following Shabbat services and dinner!

And while you're at it, mark your calendar for the next Kumzits on May 13!

LITERATURE & LIBATIONS

AN EVENING OF DISCUSSION & DINNER WITH FRIENDS



AS A DRIVEN LEAF

WITH RABBI SILVERMAN

APRIL 14, 6:00 PM

Milton Steinberg – an American rabbi, philosopher and theologian – knew a basic truth about himself and others: Everyone is prone to feel torn between opposing forces. Such is the story of the main character of *As a Driven Leaf*.

Steinberg caught flak for publishing what many in the Jewish community viewed as a work of heresy, but for so many others he touched a nerve which continues to speak to our people: How do we live our lives with Jewish values and ethics while still maintaining our place in a wider non-Jewish society? It is an age-old question.

\$10 PER PERSON FOR DINNER.

To RSVP for the dinner and discussion, or if you have any questions, please email info@touro synagogue.com or call the Touro office (504) 895-4843.

JOIN US FOR OUR UNIQUE SHABBAT EXPERIENCE EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 6PM

Blending the ancient words of our liturgy together with contemporary texts, Shabbat services at Touro Synagogue give us the opportunity to raise our voices together in song and prayer, to transcend the here and now, and create something truly beautiful together.



STAY AFTER SERVICES AND ENJOY SHABBAT DINNER!

Did you know that for \$150 you could sponsor the congregational Shabbat Dinner on Friday Night? For more information please contact Donna in the office at 895-4843.



SHABBAT FUN FOR KIDS

On Friday evenings Touro Synagogue offers fun activities for our youngest attendees. We've got board games, ping pong, toys and more!



please join members of Touro Synagogue

Havdalah & Chaverim

SATURDAY, MAY 7 Come together for a dinner at six o'clock

We're Doing it Again! Join us for our Second Havdalah & Chaverim Gathering

Close out Shabbat by meeting new Touro members, enjoying the company of old friends, and savoring delicious home-cooked food by signing up for this special event. You can take part by hosting congregants in your home or as a dinner guest in a congregants' home. For our first Havdalah & Chaverim event, we had 6 host families who welcomed 20 guest families into their homes!

Single adults, couples, and families are all welcome!

Please indicate here your interest to attend or host by April 22:

<https://toursynagogue.com/havdalah-chaverim/>

Questions? Contact Lisa Keleher at (504) 296-5472 or lisatkeleher@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHAI LIGHTS



Above: Rabbi Berk and 5th Grade Touro Scholars participating in the sacred tradition of burying old and worn-out siddurim (prayer books) at our local Hebrew Rest Genizah. Genizah means "reserved" or "hidden" in Hebrew, and is traditionally where Jews store sacred documents when they fall out of use. This past High Holy Day season we received the gift of new High Holy Day Machzors. We were able to find a home for 1/3 of our older Gates of Repentance, and buried the rest as part of our Genizah Day with our 5th grade students on February 21, 2016.



LEFT: Touro Religious School scholars and their families attending HSJ's Family Camp on the weekend of March 11-13. Some Touro families with 1st - 5th graders participated in a fun weekend of camp-themed activities all while seeing old friends and making new ones.

Jacobs is the Union for Reform Judaism's summer camp serving the Deep South. Summer camp registration is open. Visit www.jacobscamp.org for more information.

DON'T MISS THE LAST LATE NITE PROGRAM OF THE YEAR!



DRAWING THE LINE **APRIL 13 AT 6:00 P.M.** **IN THE SHUSHAN ASSEMBLY**



We are proud to offer an additional Late Nite experience to help promote the Mitzvah Project of Ana Finger, an Uptown Hebrew alumna and older sister to current Uptown Hebrew Scholar, Charlie Finger. For her project, Ana will be screening a short (35 min) documentary entitled *Drawing the Line*, a side project of local New Orleans artist Alex Beard through his Watering

Hole Foundation which seeks to help endangered species before it is too late. Following the viewing, Ana will speak to students about the role she has taken on as Mr. Beard's intern for the past few months, and Mr. Beard himself will speak about his trips to Africa and the work he produces to help further the cause. Parents, siblings and friends are welcome to join us for the screening and panel discussion.



If you would like to volunteer as a Parent Greeter or provide breakfast for our teachers, we would be thrilled and thankful! Anyone who is interested can visit our website and click on the VolunteerSpot button, or you can go directly to this site: <http://vols.pt/FUo8Us>.

For more details, please contact Religious School Administrative Assistant Kayla Coffee at school@touroynagogue.com.

Save the Date

CONFIRMATION AND L'DOR VADOR

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016, 6 PM

The Confirmation Class of 2016-5776 and their families invite you to attend our Shabbat Service for Confirmation.
A festive Shabbat dinner will follow the service.



**A MONTHLY SERVICE FOR OUR YOUNGEST
MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

APRIL 23 AT 9:30 AM
IN THE SHUSHAN ASSEMBLY

Come celebrate Passover with Cantor Mintz, Rabbi Silverman and all your Tot Shabbat friends!

Join us for singing, dancing, stories, art projects — and, of course, juice and matzah!

Mark your calendars for our next
Tot Shabbat Rocks! on May 14



DROP YOUR KIDS AT TEMPLE SINAI AND ENJOY AN ADULTS-ONLY NIGHT ON THE TOWN -- YOU MAKE THE PLANS WE PROVIDE THE [CAMP-THEMED] CHILDCARE!

JEWCCY AND HST PRESENT:

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

April 2nd, 2016

7pm-11pm

\$20 FOR 1 CHILD, \$35 FOR 2 OR 3
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR CITY-WIDE YOUTH PROGRAMS

*WE ASK THAT ALL
CHILDREN ARE POTTY-
TRAINED!



Email Ivy Cohen for more
information at JEWCCY@gmail.com

TOURO'S DINING WITH THE STARS FUNDRAISER



Dining with the Stars Co-Chairs, Larry & Naomi Orlansky and Jenny & Lee Zurik



Peter Sather and Vicky Sperling



Hal Shepard and Bob Berk with Celebrity Waiter Jason Williams



Jonathan Hunter, Jill Israel, Teri Hunter, and Dave Israel



Keith & Stephanie Adler



Marilyn Kullman and Jane Phillips



Carol Wise and Ginny Wise



Caroline Good and Carrie Marks



Jonathan Wallick and Marjorie Esman



Ellen and Marc Yellin



June Leopold and Martin Goldstein



Diane and Alan Franco

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL



Thank you to our Dining with the Stars Celebrity Waiters. Each waiter left with a street car tzedakah box to commemorate the evening.



*Celebrity Waiter and Touro member,
David Hammer*



Above: Mark Mintz and Jennifer Kitner being served by Celebrity Waiter, Sally Shushan.

Below: Rabbi Alexis Berk and Spud McConnell singing a duet to the hit song "The Time of My Life," which was written by Celebrity Waiter Donny Markowitz. Donny accompanied the duo on guitar.



Carol & Donny Markowitz - Donny was our winning waiter for the night, collecting the most tips for Touro



Simon and Rebecca Finger



Push-up competition between Celebrity Waiter, Travers Mackel, Jeff Good and Morton Katz. Morton won!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT TOURO

Torah Study Every Saturday at 9:00 AM!



Everyone is invited on Saturday mornings to unwrap ancient wisdom in a post-modern world with our Torah Study group.

March 27 - April 2: Sh'mini

Leviticus 9:1-11:47 / Ezekiel 36:22-36

April 3 - April 9: Tazria

Leviticus 12:1-13:59 / Ezekiel 45:16-25

April 10 - April 16: M'tzora

Leviticus 14:1-15:33 / Malachi 3:4-24

April 17 - April 23: Special Reading for Pesach

Exodus 12:37-42, 13:3-10 / Isaiah 43:1-15

April 24 - April 30: Acharei Mot

Leviticus 16:1-17:16 / Ezekiel 22:1-14

May 1 - May 7: Acharei Mot

Leviticus 18:1-30 / Ezekiel 22:6-19

News and the Jews with Rabbi Berk



THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

**April 7, April 21 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
in the Mautner Learning Center**

Each week, there are stories in our community and our world that confound us and comfort us, confuse us and confront us.

What would Judaism say about these world issues?

What is a Jewish response?

Join Rabbi Alexis Berk in the Mautner Learning Center for a lunchtime study. Each session will be completely unique in that we will explore a story from the week's news through a Jewish lens, with a Jewish mindset. Come join us!

All are welcome. Bring your own lunch.

Alzheimer's Care Givers Support Group



April 12 and 26

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

in the Chapel Study

(meets every other Tuesday)

Caregivers for Alzheimer's face special challenges. You are not alone. Whether you need information about early-stage care giving, middle-stage care giving, or late-stage care giving, the Care Givers Support Group meets to discuss the issues caregivers deal with on a day-to-day basis.

For more information on the group, please contact the Group Facilitator, Claire Jacobi at clairebjacobi@gmail.com or visit the Touro calendar for the on-going schedule.

Calling all Torah readers

Do you enjoy chanting Torah and are looking for opportunities to use this vital skill to empower yourself and the community?

Join our corps of Torah chanters and help lead and elevate our community!

Basic Hebrew skills are necessary.



If you are interested, please contact Cantor Mintz at dmintz@touro synagogue.com

A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OUR ELDEST MEMBERS

You're Invited



Touro Synagogue's
New Aging Beautifully
Wellness Series

SPIRITUALITY & STRETCHING

Wednesdays in May

9 AM - 10:15 AM

May 4, 11, 18, 25

9:00 AM

Join us for coffee and
conversation with Rabbi Berk

9:30 AM

Physical Therapist and Touro Member—
Sam Guichet, PT— will lead a gentle movement
class—mostly (or all) seated and focused on
stretching, strength and balance.

Need more information? Interested, but the time
isn't right? Call Sam at 504-722-1237.

Please RSVP to Sam at the number above, or at
ssguichet@me.com. We can't wait to see you!

Need a ride? Transportation vouchers
provided through Jewish Family Service's
Catch-a-Cab Program. Call the Touro office for
more information at 504-895-4843.

SAVE THE DATE:

TOURO SYNAGOGUE'S
188TH ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016

Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. in the Forgotston
Chapel followed by a delicious brunch.
Supervised activities for children during the
meeting. Stay tuned for more details!



TOURO SYNAGOGUE VILLAGES

Our Touro Villages are doing well and have enjoyed a lot of activity over the past two years. A Village is a group of members who live in the same neighborhood. Maybe you've received a care package, a note, or a birthday treat from someone in your Village.

Would you like to become more involved with your Village? We have opportunities in leadership roles and assistant roles. We are currently developing a social director role that will organize gatherings of Village-members just for fun. Some Villages could use an extra hand in the coordinator role - dropping off care packages, writing notes, and welcoming new Touro families. We also have a group of birthday couriers, who deliver birthday treats in the form of beautiful plants or home-baked goodies.

Do any of those activities appeal? Would you like to learn more about the Villages? Call or email Lisa Keleher at 504-296-5472 or lisatkeleher@gmail.com.

WE'VE BEEN INTERVIEWED

UNPRISONED: STORIES FROM THE SYSTEM



As part of a public radio series about how mass incarceration affects our city, Eve Abrams, independent radio producer, interviewed Rabbi Berk and members of Touro's Mass Incarceration Initiative. Eve believes

that a crucial part of the story is how our larger community, including faith communities, engages with issues of criminal justice and mass incarceration.

***Unprisoned: Stories from the System*, can be heard on public radio station WWNO (89.9 FM) every other Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.** You can also visit these sites to read about the series and listen to past installments: <http://tinyurl.com/unprisoned> and <http://tinyurl.com/unprisonedfacebook>. Be on the lookout for an upcoming segment including the interviews with Touro members and Rabbi Berk.

Please see page 15 for more updates about our Mass Incarceration Initiative. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Dani Levine, dlevine@avodah.net or Julie Silbert, Julie.silbert@keanmiller.com

SOCIAL ACTION IS FOR EVERYONE

Our social action initiatives at Touro Synagogue would not be possible without the dedication of our passionate congregants. As we strive to continue our missions, the help we give the community is immeasurable. Please take a look at ongoing volunteer efforts as well as initiatives we are undertaking in the future and find out how you can help.

For more information about social action at Touro contact [Teri Hunter](#) or the individuals listed with each initiative. Also, don't forget about our VolunteerSpot button on our homepage for the most up-to-date volunteer opportunities.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Habitat for Humanity and Touro Synagogue Join Forces for a Rebuild Day Sunday, May 15, 9 AM - 3 PM

Join us as we come together for a build day with Habitat for Humanity. We've done it before and it is time to do it again! Habitat will offer a special build day for Touro members and friends. If you've never built a house with Habitat, we promise you are in for a treat. It is a fun and fulfilling experience. No building skills are needed and anyone 16 years and older can join us! All you need is a willing spirit and a desire to build a dream.

Contact Teri Hunter to sign up or to find out more information at tlhunter22@gmail.com.

Touro Shines as an Example for Notre Dame University Research Team

Sometimes it might feel hard to see or know or feel the mitzvot we as a congregation are engaged in through our housing of start-up charter schools and in our partnership with Sophie B. Wright. A Notre Dame research team with a keen understanding of what is going on across the nation recently gave us an outside lens to remind us: Touro is making a difference in public education in this city, in the lives of children, and therefore, in the future of New Orleans.

As an extension of the Gates Foundation's Expectations Project, researchers at the University of Notre Dame are looking at the sociology of education on one hand, the sociology of faith institutions on the other hand, and what is happening across the nation when those two hands join in relationship. Their starting assumption is that there is a moral imperative to ensure that all children are deserving of a free, quality education. Their initial research is looking at what happens

when faith institutions get involved in support of public education. What does it look like? What's the impact? What's the reality in specifics?

A member of a Notre Dame team of researchers got in touch with Touro and spoke with Teri Hunter to learn more about and discuss Touro's partnership with Sophie B. Wright Charter School and our housing of new, incubating Charter Schools. Touro is one of the few Jewish congregations in the country that they have uncovered as currently engaged in active efforts with public education.

In summary, Touro's vision and execution and dynamic relationship with SBW and with the new charter schools Touro has housed and now houses is unique to what the research team has found across the country. Deep admiration was expressed for what Touro is doing in both very small and very big ways to positively impact public education. The researcher with whom Teri Hunter spoke said he was

energized by Touro's example. Touro now will be a part of the team's report to the Gates Foundation and will be a significant and shining model of what is possible when faith based institutions take action to support public education in a variety of ways. The Notre Dame team expects that the second phase of their work will outline ways to large scale replicate and leverage the faith based models, including Touro, that they believe are making a difference in unique ways in public education.

May we all take pride in the role our congregation is playing to that end. And give thanks to the team at Notre Dame for recognizing us and reminding us of the mitzvot we are performing.

For more information, email Teri Hunter at tlhunter22@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED AT TOURO SYNAGOGUE

You Can Help Sophie B. Wright School

The Sophie Wright renovations are scheduled to be completed in time for the school to return to its home campus on Napoleon Ave., in July of this year. We will look forward to welcoming them back to the neighborhood when that time arrives! In the meantime, they could still use our outreach and love. Simple teacher treats are easy to offer at totally flexible times.

If you are interested in contributing snacks, offering support of any kind to the students and/or faculty at Sophie B. Wright, or learning more please contact Teri Hunter at tlhunter22@gmail.com



Harry S. Thompson Rebuild Center collecting donations

Once again, we will be collecting toiletries at Jazz Fest Shabbat! These will be donated to the Harry S. Thompson Center, which provides showers and other services to homeless guests. Special bins will be placed at the entrances to the sanctuary. It is helpful if you first put your donation of unused travel-size toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion or soap into a ziplock baggy, in case of spills.

We will be continuing to collect unused travel-size toiletries and gently used books for the homeless guests at the Harry S. Thompson Center throughout the year. Please place your donations in the bins by the General Pershing entrance. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer with the Harry S. Thompson Center or the Rebuild Center, please contact Naomi Yavneh Klos at yavneh@loyno.edu or Julie Silbert at julie.silbert@keanmiller.com.



Mass Incarceration Initiative

Touro continues to work in relationship with The First 72+, an organization that provides assistance to recently-released inmates. See <http://first72plus.org> for more information. Calvin Duncan will be speaking at Loyola in April to students and other interested members of the community about The First 72 +, focusing on issues faced by formerly incarcerated individuals; the Touro community will be invited so watch the weekly TMail messages for the date and location. Work is also underway on a program for the Touro community revolving around juvenile incarceration, in cooperation with the Orleans Parish Public Defenders office.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Dani Levine at dlevine@avodah.net, Julie Silbert at julie.silbert@keanmiller.com, or Naomi Yavneh at yavneh@loyno.edu. For more information about Touro's partnership with The First 72+, please contact Jared Glassman at jaredglassman@gmail.com.



LGBTQ Advocacy at Touro Synagogue

You might be wondering about a new sign outside our restrooms. As part of our efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive environment at Touro Synagogue, an upstairs restroom has been designated as "gender-neutral". Gender-neutral restrooms are beneficial for those who are gender-nonconforming or do not identify as men or women. They are also important for parents or caregivers who are offering assistance to someone of a different gender, and those who desire more privacy than our communal bathrooms afford.

We recognize that the upstairs location is not ideal, especially for those with physical disabilities, and ask for your understanding regarding the limitations on our historic structure. We welcome your suggestions for further improvement.

If you have questions about the gender-neutral restroom or would like to become involved in LGBTQ advocacy at Touro Synagogue, please contact Laura Levy at laura.silven.levy@gmail.com.



ANYONE CAN USE THIS
RESTROOM, REGARDLESS OF YOUR
GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION

HELP WITH THESE ONGOING INITIATIVES!

Eden House New Orleans

Eden House is a residence/program for women who are recovering from sex trafficking and human trafficking. It is a safe home where women come to heal, learn and rehabilitate for a better future. These women have nothing to call their own when they arrive at Eden House. Please consider donating items such as toothpaste, brushes, shampoo, conditioner, soap, body lotion, towels and any personal care items. These items are used to create a welcome basket that Touro lovingly provides to new residents of Eden House. It is our way of welcoming them to a home that will be their place of belonging and growth.



*Ending human
and sex trafficking,
one woman at a time.*

SPECIAL REQUESTS

1. A few of the residents have gone back to school and are requesting notebooks.
2. A laptop for homework, papers and online job searches.
3. New or used washing machine as the one they had is no longer working.

Please contact Touro at 504-895-4843 or info@toursynagogue.com if you are able to donate.

Help Our Religious School Teachers - Bring Breakfast, Be a Greeter!

Want to thank Religious School teachers for their hard work? Drop off 12 muffins or pastries at Touro Synagogue on Friday. With this simple gift, you can provide the teachers with Sunday morning breakfast. Since the start of this semester in January, Religious School teachers have also loved having our weekly Parent Greeters help start the morning each Sunday! As Touro Scholars arrive via car, bike or their own two feet, our Greeters have been welcoming them with help for those big steps out of SUVs, high-fives and cheers, reminders of where to go and who to speak to, and so much more.

Use this link to sign up for teacher breakfasts: <http://vols.pt/FUo8Us>. Or click our VolunteerSpot button on our homepage.



Touro and Broadmoor Food Pantry Partnering to Alleviate Hunger



Harvesting in Touro's vertical gardens is a very enjoyable experience and we need your help. Touro's contribution is often the only source of fresh food that the pantry distributes. We have planted a new crop of Collard Greens and Mustard Greens and will be needing volunteers to help us harvest. The harvest usually takes place on Sunday mornings and we need you to volunteer.



NON-PERISHABLE DONATIONS -- The pantry is in constant need of protein items. As a result, during the month of April we are conducting a canned tuna drive (preferably the pop-top kind). Bring these donations to Touro or to the Food Pantry on Mondays from 10am-12pm, or Wednesdays from 1-3:30pm. The pantry is located at 2021 S. Dupre St.

Please contact Anamaria Villamarin-Lupin at (504) 259-6604 or by email at wellness@broadmoorimprovement.com if you are interested in volunteering as a harvester or at the food pantry.

WHERE TO GET HELP

NAMI New Orleans Offers Support Groups

Touro's Mental Health Awareness Committee has partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to connect our congregants struggling with their own or a loved one's mental health condition with community offerings. NAMI offers hope, help and healing to people with mental illness — and to those who share their lives — through family support, education, advocacy and quality psychosocial services. If you or a loved one is seeking counseling or guidance, please see NAMI's support group offerings for the month of April.

Family Support Groups (for loved ones of those living with mental illness)

April 6: 6:30-8:00pm at 1538 Louisiana Ave in New Orleans (NAMI New Orleans Uptown Office)
April 11: 5:30-7:00pm at 2200 Lafitte St in New Orleans (Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)
April 19: 6:30-8:00pm at 2051 8th St in Harvey (NAMI New Orleans Westbank Office)
April 28: 6:30-8:00pm at 4004 W Esplanade Ave in Metairie (Congregation Beth Israel)

Connection Recovery Support Groups (for individuals living with mental illness)

Every Thursday: 1:30-3:00pm at 1538 Louisiana Ave in New Orleans (NAMI New Orleans Uptown)
Every Friday :10:30am-12:00pm at 2051 8th St in Harvey (NAMI New Orleans Westbank Office)

NOLA Survivors of Suicide Loss

April 13: 6:30-8:00pm at 1538 Louisiana Ave in New Orleans (NAMI New Orleans Uptown Office)
April 27: 6:30-8:00pm at 1538 Louisiana Ave in New Orleans (NAMI New Orleans Uptown Office)
(Please call 504-410-7025 or email survivors.nola@gmail.com before attending your first meeting.)



National Alliance on Mental Illness

The Family-to-Family class started March 24th, but someone could join as late as April 7th. Call Shannon at 504-896-2345 for more information.

Donations & Sponsors

TOURO SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor of:

Birth of Amelia Claire Lavin
By: Naomi and Larry Orlansky
Adie Genet for her efforts in sharing the history of Touro Synagogue
By: Keren Weiner
95th Birthday of Leona Shlosman
By: Hertha Bart
Jenny and Lee Zurik
By: David Willenzik

In Memory of:

Minel Geismar
By: Nonnie D'Bardeleben
Judy Cohen
By: Lillian Samardzija
Leona Stich
Arnold Jerome "Jim" Bennett
By: Stanley Schwam
Barbara J. Weiner
By: Kathy and Hal Shepard
Sarah and Joe Pasternack, Jr.
Amy Bonoff
By: Leona Stich
Donations:
By: Beverly Katz/Exterior Designs, Inc.
Minka Shura Sprague
Garland Rolling

DINING WITH THE STARS DONATIONS (not published in last month's bulletin)

By: Jo and Andrew Lawton

CHOIR MUSIC SUPPORT FUND

In Honor of:

Birth of Levi Ephron Leopold
By: Janice and Jeffrey Smith

PRAYER BOOK SUPPORT FUND

In Memory of:

Louis Shushan
By: Marjorie Shushan

TORAH STUDY SUPPORT FUND

In Memory of:

Mary Alyce Buck White
By: Thaia Pick
Donations:
By: R. W. McGehee

BUILDING PRESERVATION FUND

In Memory of:

Ethel Lilly Gordon
By: Marjorie and Roy Weiner

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of:

Judy Cohen
By: Gerald Cohen and family
Donations:
By: Linda and Peter Mayer

RABBI BERK'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of:

Judy Cohen
By: Gerald Cohen and family

Thank You

TO OUR FEBRUARY SPONSORSHIPS

We thank these generous supporters for their help in making Shabbat a wonderful experience:

Pulpit Flowers

Joyce and Woody Widofsky
Carol and Gary Gerson
Marion Freistadt
Charel Katz
Robert Hammer and family
Janet and Rene Koppel
George Greenberg
Family of Sara Baskind Smith and Irvin Smith
Jane Phillips and her children
Family of Ellen Loeb Gandle

Yahrzeits

Perpetually enshrined on the Yahrzeit Tablets of Touro Synagogue are the following loved ones for whom Kaddish will be recited for the month of April.

Friday, April 1 / Saturday, April 2

MOLLIE BERGMAN, SAM S. SOLOMON, SHEPARD H. SHUSHAN, STELLA M. VACANT, ALPHONSE B. HILLER, LOUIS J. PHILLIPS, SAMUEL GREEN, HARRY ROSS, ANNA L. ROSEN, RALPH J. SCHWARZ, LEAH S. LAZARUS, JACOB MAAS, PATRICK W. BORDELON, LOUIS OCHS, JR., DAVID ADIGER

Friday, April 8 / Saturday, April 9

SADIE MARX, MURRAY AARON KOPPMAN, MARK BARTLETT, MARVIN L. "BUDDY" JACOBS, SAM CORENSWET, SR., KIPPY ABROMS, LOUIS OCHS, SR., ELEANOR MILLER SCHWARTZ, THELKA KRAUSS HEYMANN, FRIEDA LEVY ZANDER-GOLDMAN, JUDITH KOPS SHER, IKE BLOCH, JR., HENRIETTA LEMLE MARKS, FANNIE WEXLER RUBENSTEIN, WALTER F. MARCUS, JR., ERHARD MAYER, SARAH LISSA SPIRO, NOAH WEAKER, DEBRA VAN DER LINDEN SIDELNIK

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 / SATURDAY APRIL 16

ETHEL K. ROSENBAUM, SHONNETTE WEIL MEYER KAHN, HELEN MANSHEL SPEARS, IRMA BRANDT, GILDA TRAUTMAN NEWMAN, AUDREY SIMON HAAS, BERNICE WOLFF NORMAN, DAVID M. HASPEL, LILLIAN LEBED GLAZER, H. LEON MINTZ, ROSALYN FISCHMAN WEXLER, ROSALIE BOWSKY NEWMAN, HARRY S. HASPEL, BETTY FREEDMAN REGENBOGEN, FANNIE SCHWARTZ WEIL, LOUIS PICK, SIGMUND MANN, SOL C. EPPENSTEIN

FRIDAY, APRIL 22 / SATURDAY, APRIL 23

GEORGE ZELDEN, LOLA SCHLEMOFF BERNSTEIN, GEORGE BOWSKY, BENI B. TOLEDANO, HANS GLASER, ROSINE L. HASPEL, ELI G. WAGNER, JACK BLOOM MAYER, FANNY BLOCH, LEONARD KROWER, HANNAH LEIPZIGER, JEROME S. GLAZER, BEATRICE ROSEMAN FALK, MARKS ISAACS, RAYMOND H. WEILL, GISELLA DRESNER CAPLAN, JULIETTE LEMLE LEVY, CHARLES HERMAN GOLDSMITH, DAVID KASTEN, JULIA KAUFMAN GOOD, HANNAH WILDENSTEIN ALLMONT, MIRIAM SHIELDS ALLMONT, JONAS LEVY, BERNARD ROSS, WILLY WOLFF, GILBERT BERNSTEIN, BERYL SAMUELSON, ESTELLE WEIL BERLIN

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 / SATURDAY APRIL 30

RUTH SIGOLOFF, HENRIETTA "TUDDY" MEYERS MATTISE, ROBERT ALEXANDER "BOBBY" KATZ, ANNA BONART MARCUS, HELEN LEVY SMITH, LUCILLE S. GERMAIN, MELVILLE ISRAEL, WALTER B. MOSES, JR., CHARLOTTE TAXMAN MILLMAN, HILDA GUMBERT SMITH, MILTON H. LATTER, THEODORE KLINE, LOUIS K. GOOD, SR., DONALD R. MINTZ, GERALD DAVID KATZ, GOLDA BRANDT HIRSCH, MATILDA SONFIELD WEIL, DAN STEUER, JOSEPH SCHOEN, ANNA SACHS KAMIN, HENRIETTA ROSEN ZILBERMANN, SAMUEL BUCKMAN

FRIDAY, MAY 6 / SATURDAY MAY 7

LOUIS SEIDENBACH, HAROLD GREER GOLDENBERG, AVRAM CHARLES HERMAN, JACOB W. NEWMAN, LOUIS SCHERCK, ELKIN RUBENSTEIN, ABRAHAM ULLMAN, MAX MARX, MAX U. MARCUS, RUTH FREEDMAN SCHWAM, MAX ZELDEN, ISIDORE MANASSES, GULNARE LEVENSTEIN BERNSTEIN, PETER E. MOSS, MAURICE BLUMENFELD, BARBARA BORINSKY STILES, BERYL ALAYNICK MARCHIZ, IRA MAURICE KOHN, ESTELLE FRIEDMAN GERVIS, ALVIN COHEN, M.D., SARA MEYERS

Mazel Tov to:

Alysia and Carey Loshbaugh
on the birth of their son, Henry Isaac Loshbaugh

Tom Oelsner
on the Stephen Martin Fine Art Gallery
showing his photographs from April 2-May 2

Welcome New Members

Perry Cass and Daniel Levy

Lauren and Russell "Rusty" Libby

Jessica Meyer

Stephanie and Raymond "RJ" Gutierrez

In Memoriam

Touro Synagogue extends its deepest sympathies to the families and friends of...

Abraham Bernard Kupperman,
father of Stephen Kupperman (Mara),
grandfather of Zach Kupperman (Emily),
Shane Kupperman (Allison) and Jake Kupperman,
and great-grandfather of Matthew Kupperman

Pamela Elliott Gernsbacher,
aunt of Adrien Gernsbacher Genet

Barbara J. Weiner,
mother of Dan Weiner (Margo Moss),
grandmother of Julien Weiner

Mary Alyce Buck White,
mother of Roger White

Our beloved are with us through the blessing of memory ... we think of them now; they live in our hearts; they are a continual blessing.
-Chaim Stern, Paths of Faith



Online Donations

Our website has an easy-to-access online donation form. If you'd like to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one, please visit www.tourosynagogue.com/donate/donate-online/

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> Pesach Morning Service with Yizkor Friday, April 29, 10:30 AM If you would like the name of your loved one read during the yizkor service, please e-mail donnap@tourosynagogue.com by Monday, April 25. </div>					1 6:00 p.m. LGBTQA Shabbat Service/Birthday Blessings	2 9:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service/ Bar Mitzvah of Alistair Tate Cunningham
3 9:00 a.m. Religious School (All Grades)	4	5	6 4:00 p.m. Uptown Hebrew	7 12:00 p.m. News and the Jews with Rabbi Berk 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Friday Night Kumzits	9 9:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
10 9:00 a.m. Religious School (Grades Pre-K - 8th)	11	12 12:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Care Givers Support Group	13 4:00 p.m. Uptown Hebrew 5:30 p.m. Uptown Hebrew Late Nite with special program <i>Drawing the Line</i>	14 6:00 p.m. Literature & Libations with Rabbi Silverman 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	16 9:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
17 9:00 a.m. Religious School (All Grades)	18	19	20 4:00 p.m. Uptown Hebrew (Closing Day & Awards)	21 12:00 p.m. News and the Jews with Rabbi Berk 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22 6:00 p.m. Abbreviated Shabbat Service 6:30 p.m. First Night Congregational Seder	<i>Pesach I</i> 23 9:00 a.m. Torah Study 9:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat Rocks! 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
<i>Pesach II</i> 24 Religious School not in session - Pesach	<i>Pesach III</i> 25	<i>Pesach IV</i> 26 12:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Care Givers Support Group	<i>Pesach V</i> 27	<i>Pesach VI</i> 28	<i>Pesach VII</i> 29 10:30 a.m. Pesach Morning Service with Yizkor 6:00 p.m. JFS Patron Concert & Dinner 7:30 p.m. Jazz Fest Shabbat Service	<i>Pesach VIII</i> 30 9:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service

TOURO SYNAGOGUE

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Phone: (504) 895-4843

www.TouroSynagogue.com

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Shabbat Services April 2016

Friday, April 1

6:00pm LGBTQA Shabbat Evening Service /
Birthday Blessings, Forgotston Chapel

Saturday, April 2

10:30am Shabbat Morning Service / Bar Mitzvah
of Alistair Tate Cunningham, Main Sanctuary

Friday, April 8

6:00pm Shabbat Evening Service, Forgotston Chapel
7:30pm Friday Night Kumzits (Communal Singing),
Shushan Assembly

Saturday, April 9

10:30am Shabbat Morning Service, Forgotston Chapel

Friday, April 15

6:00pm Shabbat Evening Service, Forgotston Chapel

Saturday, April 16

10:30am Shabbat Morning Service, Forgotston Chapel

Friday, April 22

6:00pm Abbreviated Shabbat Evening Service,
Forgotston Chapel
6:30pm First Night Congregational Seder, Jacobs Social Hall
(Reservations for the Seder are required)

Saturday, April 23

10:30am Shabbat Morning Service, Forgotston Chapel

Friday, April 29

10:30am Pesach Morning Yizkor Service, Forgotston Chapel
6:00pm Jazz Fest Shabbat 25th Anniversary Celebration and
Fundraiser, Main Sanctuary
(Reservations for the patron event are required)
7:30pm Jazz Fest Shabbat Service featuring Jon Cleary and
the Absolute Monster Gentlemen, Main Sanctuary

Saturday, April 30

10:30am Shabbat Morning Service, Forgotston Chapel

Torah Study - Every Saturday at 9 a.m. in the Mautner Learning Center

Join Torah study at Touro Synagogue! Each week the group discusses the weekly Parashah or Torah Portion in the Mautner Learning Center at 9:00 a.m., with the sessions led by different lay leaders. All who are interested are welcome, no prior Torah knowledge or Hebrew skills needed. A light breakfast of bagels and coffee is served. For more information, see page 12.