

TOURO SYNAGOGUE



“

The World
**IS NOT COMPREHENSIBLE,
but it is embraceable,**
THROUGH THE EMBRACING
of one another.

adapted from Martin Buber

”

2016 / 2017
5777

High Holy Days

2016 5777

HIGH HOLY DAYS AND FESTIVALS - SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, October 2

8:00pm Evening Service, Main Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, October 3

9:00am Young Family Service, Forgetston Chapel

9:00am Tot Service, Grant Meyer Garden Pavilion

10:00am Morning Service, Main Sanctuary

12:30pm Congregational Rosh Hashanah Luncheon

3:00pm Tashlich, City Park at the Boat Dock

Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, October 7

6:00pm Shabbat Service, Forgetston Chapel

7:15pm Shabbat Dinner

Erev Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 11

8:00pm Kol Nidre Service, Main Sanctuary

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 12

9:00am Young Family Service, Forgetston Chapel

9:00am Tot Service, Grant Meyer Garden Pavilion

10:00am Morning Service, Main Sanctuary

12:30pm Music & Meditation Service,
Grant Meyer Garden Pavilion

2:00pm Afternoon Study, Forgetston Chapel

3:15pm Afternoon Service/Torah Reading,
Main Sanctuary

4:15pm Yizkor/Memorial Service, Main Sanctuary

5:00pm Neilah-Concluding Service, Main Sanctuary

Break-the-Fast

Enjoy a light break-fast following the Neilah Concluding Service in the Bowsky Garden.

Sukkot

October 17 - 23

See page 7 for a listing of all our Sukkot celebrations

Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 23

See page 8 for more information



Parking Information - We are grateful to our friends at the Academy of The Sacred Heart who have graciously offered us the use of their parking lot located on Carondelet St. between General Pershing and Milan. Unfortunately, during the day-time services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur school will be in session so the available spots will be limited. Please use the available spaces furthest from the school. Please respect our neighbors and do not park in a driveway, and observe any posted signs you find in the lot.

The Blessing of a Green Apple -- **A Sweet New Year for Us All**

When I was a young girl, my best friend in elementary school used to always bring a granny smith apple for lunch. This gorgeous, rotund, bright green fruit always appealed to me. When I asked if we could get green apples for my lunch box, my mother told me those apples were too tart. They should be used only for cooking, she said. I thought to myself, how tart could they be? I see my friend eating them every day, and her face doesn't look like it's suffering from sourness.



Well, it turns out, my mother's feeling about green apples is totally affirmed in Jewish tradition. We recognize, on a ritual level, that apples (especially green ones) can be tinged with tartness. So, we make sure to dip them in honey to offset any tingle of the tongue that might feel unpleasant.

You know, we could just eat something purely sweet for the new year if we wanted to. We could just eat cookies. Or chocolate. But, this is not how we frame our year, our lives.

We understand, existentially and pragmatically, that life is not comprised of one dimensional flavor. We have bitterness and sweetness; we have sickness and health; we have sadness and joy; we have hardship and ease. We have facets and aspects and timelines that tell our stories. And, it's never just one thing.

I have always loved the Jewish practice of wishing one another a sweet New Year. There is something so rich and attainable in wishing for a sweet year. Especially when we appreciate that sweetness is always possible, even when faced with the sharpness of a sour apple. We are always able to capture a taste of sweetness - it is always available - even alongside some bitterness. The deep metaphor of apples and honey is worth exploring - culinarily and spiritually.

My prayer for us all is to find the sweetest parts of this new year - together. I am looking forward to it very much.

With love,
Rabbi Alexis Berk

Let it all Go!

TASHLICH SERVICE

OCTOBER 3RD, 3 PM

ROSH HASHANAH AT CITY PARK

Meet us at the Boat Dock for a meaningful Tashlich Service and singing with Cantor Mintz, Rabbi Berk, and Rabbi Silverman. Bring a picnic snack, cold beer or soft drinks to share. Come with your frisbee, football and even your dog!



A Letter of Welcome from our President

As president of this historic congregation, it gives me great pleasure in welcoming each of you to our High Holiday services. At Touro, the Holy Days bring with them a tradition of beautiful liturgy, music and rituals. We are fortunate that our clergy continue to guide each of us to find a spirituality that is personal and meaningful.

Many of our families have worshipped in this sacred space for generations and some of you are new to Touro. Members and visitors alike are here to find peacefulness and stability. Just being here, or connecting by live-stream, hopefully gives each of us a heightened sense of renewal and rededication.

As you peruse through the following pages of this High Holiday Bulletin, look for an activity or program which may interest you. Your engagement during the year on any level will be rewarded with new experiences and relationships. Our clergy, staff and Board of Trustees are committed to making this a community where all are welcomed and appreciated.

Please join us this year, 5777, as we go from strength to strength. On behalf of Touro Synagogue I wish you all a healthy, prosperous and sweet new year!

B'Shalom,
Susan Good
President@TouroSynagogue.com



High Holy Day Services for Families with Children Under 12



TOT SERVICES

For Babies and Toddlers
Children ages 0-3

Rosh Hashanah
Monday, October 3
9:00 - 9:20 am

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, October 12
9:00 - 9:20 am

Our littlest ones (ages 0-3 years) are invited to join Cantor Mintz and Rabbi Berk for a blessing and singing in the New Year.

**Services held in the
Grant Meyer Garden Pavilion.**

YOUNG FAMILY SERVICES

For Children
ages 4-8

Rosh Hashanah
Monday, October 3
9:00 - 9:45 am

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, October 12
9:00 - 9:45 am

Please join Rabbi Silverman and Nick May for interactive services for children ages 4-8, accompanied by their parents. There will be prayer, stories, music and fun!

**Services will be in the Forgotston Chapel
and are not intended for babies or toddlers.**

"THE STORIES AND LESSONS OF THE SEASON"

CHILDREN AGES 8-12

Special discussion session and interactive project during services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning.

Exit service when announced and rejoin your family in time for the conclusion of the service.

***This break-out session will be
held in the Forgotston Chapel
and Shushan Assembly.***

ROSH HASHANAH LUNCHEON

You are cordially invited to join us for
lunch after Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
on Monday, October 3 in the
Jacobs Social Hall

OPEN TO ALL
\$20 adults / \$10 children



BREAK-THE-FAST RECEPTION

All are welcome to join us for a light
break-the-fast following the Neilah Concluding
Service in the Bowksy Garden on October 12.

*The Break-the-fast is generously
underwritten by a gift made by the Sisterhood
to Touro Synagogue's Foundation.*

JEWCCY TASHLICH

JewCCY (Community Youth Group) will be
hosting a "Tashlich in the Park" on October 3rd
at 3:30pm. They will meet in City Park at the
New Orleans City Park Reunion Shelter located
just off Friedrichs Avenue. All high-school,
junior high, and middle schoolers are
welcome and encouraged to attend.



*An Open
Letter to...*

SHABBAT SHUVAH 5777

AN OPEN LETTER TO...
...FROM RABBI DAVID GOLDSTEIN
OCTOBER 7, 6:00 PM

Do you remember the peak of the High Holy Day season when the congregation would - in the weeks leading up - begin to wonder to whom Rabbi Goldstein would address his letter?

For over three decades Rabbi Goldstein delivered an open letter on the High Holy Days. Dear Mr. Gorbachev... Dear Louis Farrakhan... Dear David Duke... Dear Menachem Begin... Who will it be this year?

In a reprisal of a brilliant modality of addressing the most pressing and reflective issues of the time, Rabbi Goldstein will bring this gift back to his Touro Synagogue community. If you remember the great years of this High Holy Day tradition, you will surely want to come back for it again. If you've never had this experience personally, you'll be so glad you came!

And be sure to stay after for our community Shabbat dinner.

More Holiday Celebrations

AT TOURO SYNAGOGUE

- MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE OBSERVANCES -

SUKKOT
OCTOBER 16 - 22



Sukkot activities and times can be found on page 7
Decorate the Sukkah at Religious School, Enjoy a Sukkot Harvest Dinner with vintage wines, Lunch with the clergy in the sukkah, Shake the lulav and etrog

SIMCHAT TORAH
OCTOBER 23 - 24



Simchat Torah Celebration at Danneel Park
October 23, 9:30 AM
Bring a picnic and celebrate Simchat Torah to the sounds of the Panorama Jazz Band. Full details found on page 8
Simchat Torah Festival Service and Yizkor
October 24, 10:30 AM

CHANUKAH
DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 1



Chanukah Family Dinner
December 30, 6:30 PM
Fried food fest of deliciousness following Shabbat services - Chicken, Latkes, Doughnuts, and more!

PURIM
MARCH 11



Megillah & More
March 11, 5 PM
Brand new time! Brand new celebration! Join us for the most joyous festival on the Jewish calendar. Dress up in your best costume, eat hamantaschen, enjoy a pizza dinner and enjoy a little extra L'Chayim at Touro Synagogue

PESACH
APRIL 10 - 17



1st Night Passover Seder
April 10, 6:30 PM
An evening of story, song and celebration with Rabbi Alexis Berk, Rabbi Todd Silverman and Cantor David Mintz
Pesach Service and Yizkor
April 17, 10:30 AM

SHAVUOT
MAY 30 -31



Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study and Dinner
May 30, 7 PM
An evening dedicated to learning and celebrating Torah. We kick-off the evening with a dairy potluck dinner
Shavuot Festival Service and Yizkor
May 31, 10:30 AM



Sukkot at TOURO

JOIN US FOR LUNCH IN THE SUKKAH

Come be with our clergy for a lovely lunch in our congregational sukkah,
hand built by Touro Synagogue members.

Bring yourself and a brown bag lunch, and we'll provide drinks
and a gorgeous courtyard sukkah on these fall days.

Join us for one, or all three – we'd love to be with you!

Tuesday, October 18

Lunch with Rabbi Silverman
12 - 1 PM

Wednesday, October 19

Lunch with Cantor Mintz
12 - 1 PM

Thursday, October 20

Lunch with Rabbi Berk
12 - 1 PM



SLICE in the Sukkah

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 5:30 PM



Sukkot, a Hebrew word for "booths" or "huts," is the Jewish Festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest, as well as the commemoration of the forty years of Jewish wandering in the desert after Sinai.

Come celebrate this festival with our Uptown Hebrew scholars, enjoy a pizza dinner, and shake the lulav.

RSVP to info@tourosynagogue.com so that we can be sure to order enough *Slice Pizza* for everyone!



SHABBAT SUKKAH:

Vintage Wines
& Harvest Moon

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

Join us for an elegant Shabbat dinner after Services in our courtyard in celebration of Sukkot!

Scrumptious food, delicious wines and great company – under the twinkling white lights in the trees of our Bowsky Garden.

Bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share!



Simchat Torah in the Park

Sunday, October 23
Danneel Park at Danneel and Octavia Streets

Join us at Danneel Park for a Simchat Torah brunch and community celebration, as we lift our voices in song, hear the chanting of the Torah and dance into the afternoon with the Panorama Jazz Band!

Bring your favorite brunch items like donuts and milk or Bloody Mary fixings with extra olives. Load up your blankets and chairs; On-site restroom will be provided.

9:30 a.m. – Brunch Picnic

Brunch Picnic; BYOB (bring your own brunch) donuts and milk; mimosas and fruit – whatever you fancy!

10:15 a.m. – Dance with Panorama Jazz Band

Hold the Torah; join in the celebration with Cantor Mintz

10:45 a.m. – Torah Unroll

Hear the whole Torah in ten minutes! Special stories and interpretations with Rabbi Berk and Rabbi Silverman

11:15 a.m. – Games and fun!

Bring your footballs and frisbees!



Religious School not in session on Sunday, October 23rd.

All Religious School families are encouraged to attend the celebration in the park.

In case of inclement weather, the celebration will move back to Touro Synagogue -- indoor picnic and all!



Simchat Torah Festival Service with Yizkor Monday, October 24, 10:30 AM Forgotston Chapel

The Torah instructs us to set the first and last days of our festivals apart to make them special and holy. Touro Synagogue will hold festival morning worship services, which will be a beautiful way to set our festivals of Simchat Torah, Passover, and Shavuot apart from other days. To have the name of your loved one read at Yizkor services, please call the office and speak to Donna.

Please mark your calendars for our other Yizkor and festival morning services:
Passover - April 17, 2017, and Shavuot - May 31, 2017.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

SHABBAT DINNER

AT TOURO SYNAGOGUE

FOLLOWING SHABBAT SERVICES

CELEBRATE SHABBAT. COME ONE. COME ALL.

SERVICES 6:00PM ♦ DINNER 7:15PM

Brings the kids - they are welcome to join us for services or they can attend Shabbat Fun for Kids (babysitting) after the children's blessing. Free babysitting is available for children ages 6 months and up.

Interested in sponsoring a Shabbat dinner for the congregation? Honor a loved one or celebrate a simcha with your \$150 tax-deductible donation. Call the Touro office at 895-4843 for more info.

Shabbat Fun for Kids

Children of all ages are actively invited to stay, play and pray with us at Shabbat Services, but we also offer fun activities for our youngest attendees during Shabbat services. We've got board games, ping pong, toys and more!

6 months - 4 years in the Child Care Center
(opposite the Mautner Learning Center)

5 years and up in the
Jacobs Social Hall



Shabbat Rocks at Touro

A BRAND NEW SHABBAT MORNING
EXPERIENCE FOR OUR YOUNG FAMILIES

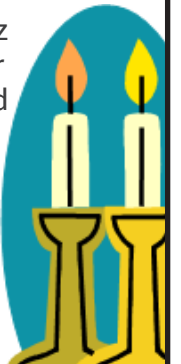
TOT SHABBAT (Infants - 3)

SHABBAT KREWE (Ages 4-6)

Join Rabbi Silverman and Cantor Mintz on these special Shabbat mornings for singing, stories, Shabbat activities, and of course, challah and juice! Mark your calendars an exciting year of Shabbat Rocks!

OCTOBER 15 & NOVEMBER 12

9:30 AM in the Shushan Assembly
(visit the website calendar for other dates)



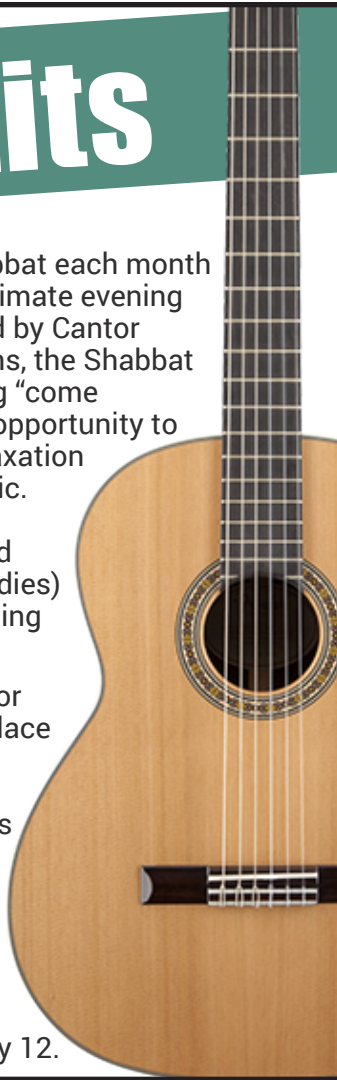
SHABBAT Kumzits

Join us for a special Shabbat each month when we gather for an intimate evening of communal singing. Led by Cantor Mintz and guest musicians, the Shabbat Kumzits (literally meaning "come and sit") offers a special opportunity to embrace Shabbat joy, relaxation and celebration with music. Through singing z'merot (Shabbat table songs) and niggunim (wordless melodies) let's raise our voices, singing songs both old and new.

The monthly gatherings for communal singing take place after a soulful Shabbat service and a delicious community dinner. Join us for these special Shabbat evenings each month!

Mark your calendars!

October 14, November 4,
January 13, February 10,
March 10, April 7, and May 12.



JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS

Join Rabbi Berk and Dr. Walter Levy in exploring how we bring Jewish medical ethics to our professional lives. The session is driven by relevant ethical issues affecting health care providers.

Dinner and Discussion on these dates:
November 1, January 31, and April 4
6:30 PM in the Mautner Learning Center

We look forward to seeing you there.
Please RSVP to
info@touro synagogue.com.

NEWS AND THE JEWS

SELECT THURSDAYS, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

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! Bring a brown bag lunch and we'll provide the drinks. All are welcome.

FALL SESSIONS:

October 27, November 10, December 1 & 15
January 5 & 19, February 2 & 16, March 9 & 23

Late Spring dates will be published in early 2017



*A Lunchtime Study
with Rabbi Berk
exploring current events
through a Jewish lens
with a Jewish mindset*



TOURO SYNAGOGUE AND
SHIR CHADASH CONSERVATIVE
CONGREGATION PRESENT

**JOEY
WEISENBERG**
AND THE HADAR ENSEMBLE
NEW ORLEANS SHABBATON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH -
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

Join us for a weekend of singing and learning with Joey Weisenberg and his Brooklyn-based 8-piece band, the Hadar Ensemble. You'll hear traditional sounding Jewish melodies, chants and prayers blended with the sounds of contemporary Brooklyn: jazz, Balkan, soul, flamenco, bluegrass, and more.

Opportunities include:

- Learning, praying, and singing with Joey Weisenberg, both Friday night and Saturday morning as a Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence at Shir Chadash, generously underwritten by the Sandy Kahn Memorial Lecture Fund
- Experiencing Shabbat services at Touro Synagogue, elevated by guest musicians from the Hadar Ensemble
- Coming together for an uplifting and participatory Saturday evening concert with Joey Weisenberg and the Hadar Ensemble at Touro Synagogue, 8:00 pm

EVENTS AT TOURO:

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
6PM SHABBAT SERVICE**

**WITH GUEST MUSICIANS
FROM THE HADAR ENSEMBLE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
8PM CONCERT**

**JOEY WEISENBERG AND
THE HADAR ENSEMBLE**

“Joey’s unique vision for building inclusive, participatory singing communities is a much needed contribution to modern prayer groups, regardless of age, size, or affiliation...”

Sabbath

J

FAMILY

Rabb

COST (no
\$3,350 fo
\$2,350 fo
Jewish F

Join Rabbi Berk and the New Orleans Jewish Federation next summer for a trip to Israel. For the first time ever, you'll be able to choose from four exciting tracks:

INTERESTED?

Sunday, October 30, 9:15 AM Mautner Learning Center

Rabbi Berk will discuss details and itinerary for next summer's adventure.

\$3,350 for those 37 and older, and for all out-of-town adults.

\$2,350 for children under age 17, and for those 21-36 who are members of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. View the itinerary at JewishNola.com.

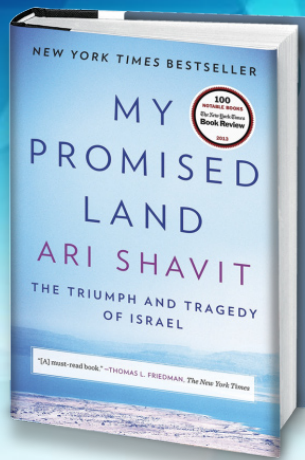
**And, whether you can make the trip or not,
please join us for a year of study and preparation.**

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Israeli couscous;
Shakshouka; Israeli Salad
with Rabbis Berk and
Silverman

Tuesday, March 21,
7 PM

see page 14



NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLER

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW AND THE ECONOMIST

WINNER OF THE NATAN BOOK AWARD, THE NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD, AND THE ANISFIELD-WOLF BOOK AWARD

ISRAEL READING SERIES

My Promised Land

BY ARI SHAVIT

3 SESSIONS IN JANUARY 2017

LED BY RABBI BERK

An authoritative and deeply personal narrative history of the State of Israel, by one of the most influential journalists writing about the Middle East today.

Facing unprecedented internal and external pressures, Israel today is at a moment of existential crisis. Ari Shavit draws on interviews, historical documents, private diaries, and letters, as well as his own family's story, illuminating the pivotal moments of the Zionist century to tell a riveting narrative that is larger than the sum of its parts: both personal and national, both deeply human and of profound historical dimension.

**Three consecutive but self-contained sessions - come to one or all.
January 11, 18, 25 - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

IN THE KITCHEN

WITH RABBI SILVERMAN

- Challah Baking
September 22
- Chanukah Latkes
December 15
- Shakshouka
March 9
- Matza Balls
April 6

Materials and Registration Fee:
Members - No Charge
Non-Members - \$18

Join Rabbi Silverman throughout the coming year for four sessions exploring examples of classic Jewish food. We will discuss the importance of various dishes to the cultural milieu of modern Jewry, and we'll get the kitchen a little messy as we prepare those foods with our own hands!



Want to ask a local where a famous Israeli site can be found? Need to find a bathroom, or perfect your falafel order? Interested in learning some basic Hebrew and Israeli lingo, either for a trip you are taking or just for fun? All are welcome to a crash course on Modern Hebrew phrases!

Join Rabbi Silverman on May 8, for an introduction to some key statements, sayings and questions one might hear when visiting Israel, as well as listen to some of her current music and taste some popular foods.

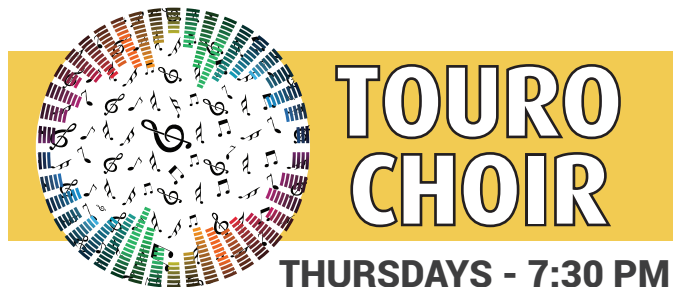


IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR YOUR TEEN'S SUMMER TRIP TO ISRAEL

Help unlock Israel for the next generation by sending your current 8th through 12th grader on an immersive 3+ week group trip to Israel. This year, Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and Touro Synagogue have made available:

**GRANT FUNDS OF UP TO
\$7,750 PER TEEN TOWARDS
SUMMER 2017 TRIPS**

Want to learn more? Ready to sign up?
Contact giftofisrael@jewishnola.com or
(504) 780-5600 or visit <https://jewishnola.com/goi>



An integral part of the musical experience at Touro, our congregational choir adds its voice throughout the year, during the High Holy Days, Jazz Fest Shabbat and other special Shabbat services. If you've ever thought about becoming a part of the choir yourself, consider giving it a try in this new year! With no long-term commitment required, anyone is invited to attend a rehearsal to see if the Touro Synagogue choir is right for you!

What choir members are saying:

"I love singing and celebrating my Judaism. In the choir, I get to do both!", "Something amazing happens when people sing in harmony. I can't get enough of it!", "I love the people and the music. It never disappoints."

**For information about the choir, please contact Cantor
Mintz at dmintz@touro synagogue.com**



Literature & Libations

DINNER AND A LIVELY DISCUSSION

SHE'S NOT THERE: A LIFE IN TWO GENDERS

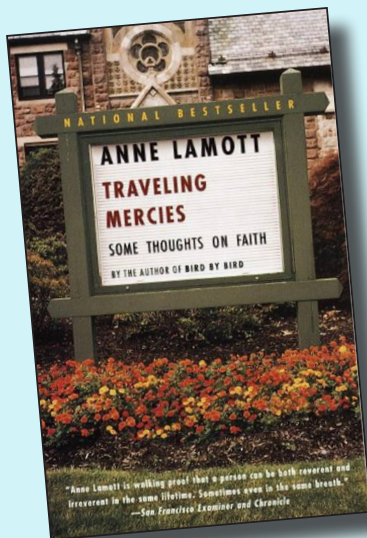
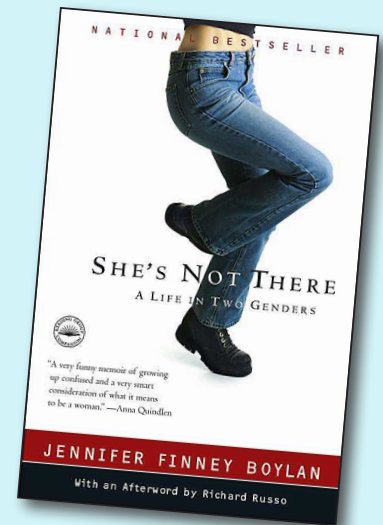
BY JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - 6:00PM

LED BY RABBI ALEXIS BERK

By turns hilarious and deeply moving, Jennifer Finney Boylan explores the territory that lies between men and women, examines changing friendships, and rejoices in the redeeming power of family. Told in Boylan's fresh voice, *She's Not There* is about a person bearing and finally revealing a complex secret. As James evolves into Jennifer in scenes that are by turns tender, startling, and witty, a marvelously human perspective emerges on issues of love, sex, and the fascinating relationship between our physical and intuitive selves.

Plan on joining Rabbi Berk for a light dinner, a glass of wine, and a lively and reflective discussion. All are welcome.



TRAVELING MERCIES: SOME THOUGHTS ON FAITH

BY ANNE LAMOTT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 - 6:00PM

LED BY RABBI TODD SILVERMAN

With her characteristic humor and self-deprecation, Anne Lamott weaves a "narrative spiced with stories and scripture, with diatribes, laughter, and tears...[and] how, against all odds, she came to believe in God and then, even more miraculously, in herself." Through the trials of alcoholism, drug addiction and bad relationships, she manages to show the world the very best parts of her heart and soul — and encourages us to recognize the best of ourselves even with all our flaws and faults.

Join Rabbi Silverman on April 5 to discuss this life-changing memoir by an author who "has relished and soaked up the details of her existence, equally of mirth and devastation, spirit and grief, and spilled them onto her pages."

Both of these titles are available for purchase on Amazon.com.

PLEASE RSVP TO THE TOURO OFFICE SO WE CAN APPROPRIATELY PLAN FOR DINNER.

ADULT HEBREW ACADEMY:

HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS PART I

**TUESDAY NIGHTS
THIS FALL AT 6:30PM**

October 25
November 1, 15, 22, 29
and December 6

Join Cantor Mintz for this weekly class
for those seeking to study the Hebrew
language for the very first time!

The class will include learning the basics
of decoding Hebrew letters and building
the skills for Hebrew reading.

HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS PART II

**TUESDAY NIGHTS
THIS SPRING AT 6:30PM**

January 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14

For those who completed the introductory
Hebrew course in the fall, or those with basic
Hebrew reading ability but want to take his or
her skills to the next level by exploring the
Hebrew of the siddur (prayer book), be sure to
join Cantor Mintz for this Tuesday evening class!

Materials and Registration Fees per semester:
Members - No Charge / Non-Members - \$50

Register by emailing
info@tourosynagogue.com.

PIRKEI AVOT: THE ETHICS OF OUR SAGES

THURSDAYS THIS FALL BEGINNING OCT. 27

There is arguably no text other than the Torah as
widely known throughout the Jewish world as
Pirkei Avot — the Ethical Sayings of the Rabbis.
Found within a 1st-century Jewish legal anthology,
Pirkei Avot has steered the moral compass and
ethical decisions of Jews for nearly two millennia.
Together we will study it chapter-by-chapter to
mine the depth of its wisdom and challenges.

Join Rabbi Silverman on Thursdays at 6:30 for a
lively discussion and some light refreshments.

Materials and Registration Fee:
Members - No Charge / Non-Members - \$50
Register by emailing info@tourosynagogue.com.

THE BASICS: A CRASH COURSE IN JUDAISM, JEWRY AND JEWISHNESS WITH RABBI SILVERMAN

Do you ever feel like you want a gentle introduction
— or refresher — to all different aspects of Judaism
and Jewish life, but don't know where to begin?
Join us on Thursday evenings as we explore the
basics of Judaism, including Hebrew, Shabbat
and other holidays, life cycle events, history,
philosophy and ethics. Bring your questions and
ask them proudly surrounded by other thoughtful,
inquisitive learners.

Tuesdays this Spring:
March 16, 23, 30; April 20, 27; May 4
6:30 PM

Contact Rabbi Silverman with any questions or
inquiries at tsilverman@tourosynagogue.com

Registration Fees:
Members - No Charge / Non-Members - \$50



A Community Event featuring
ANAT HOFFMAN
 Thursday, December 1, 7:30 PM
 Congregation Gates of Prayer

Anat Hoffman is the executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. Previously, she held a seat on the Jerusalem City Council, where for fourteen years she stood in opposition to the policies of the city's right-wing and ultra-Orthodox administration. She has dedicated her adult life to the Jewish principle of tikkun olam.

THE *L'Chayim* AWARD

LET'S RAISE OUR GLASSES IN HONOR OF

Kathy & Hal Shepard



TOURO SYNAGOGUE'S
 BENEFIT DINNER
 JANUARY 29, 2017
 6:30 PM

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS





**BE SURE TO JOIN
US FOR THIS
SPECIAL EVENING!**

**ALL THE SOUNDS OF THE
EARTH ARE LIKE MUSIC:**

THE GREAT BROADWAY MUSICALS OF RICHARD RODGERS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

following Shabbat services

Please join us for an unforgettable program as we explore the life, times and beautiful music of Richard Rodgers.

George Dansker and friends will treat us to a concert featuring an excerpt from each musical in which Rodgers collaborated with renowned lyricist, Oscar Hammerstein, II; from the familiar "Oklahoma!" and "The Sound of Music" to the less familiar "Pipe Dream" and "Allegro".

Come and celebrate the life and music of the composer who revolutionized the Broadway musical for all time!



**EVERY SATURDAY MORNING
9:00 - 10:30 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Each week the group discusses the weekly Parashah or Torah Portion in the Mautner Learning Center, and the session is led by a different lay leader each week. Come to one, or all the sessions.

All who are interested are welcome. No prior Torah knowledge or Hebrew skills needed. Join us for bagels, coffee and a thoughtful conversation.



TORAH READERS

DO YOU ENJOY CHANTING TORAH?

Are you looking for opportunities to use this vital skill to empower yourself and the community?

Has it been many years since you chanted Torah, but are looking to re-learn, review and re-use this skill?

Have you always wanted to chant Torah, but have never learned?

Join our corps of Torah chanters and help lead and elevate our community! Basic Hebrew skills are necessary.

If you're interested, please contact Cantor Mintz at dmintz@tourosynagogue.com.

Welcome New Board Members

A hearty welcome to our new board members. Each of them began a two-year term July 1, 2016: Chris Kornman, Laura Levy and Scott Saltzman.



Chris Kornman is a native New Orleanian who moved back home in 2003 after convincing his wife, Arian Elfant, that leaving their psychology careers in Nashville, TN would be a great idea. Immediately upon his return home, he gave up his life as a psychologist and followed generations of family members into construction.

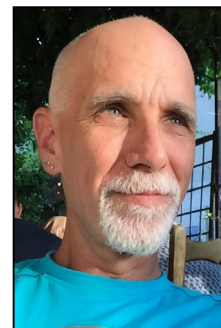
Currently, Chris spends his time as a partner in Entablature, LLC, a custom construction and real estate development company. Chris is also a real estate broker.

Chris and Arian are very proud of their ten year old daughter, Ainsley and their six year old son, Noah.



Laura Levy is honored and eager to serve on the Touro Synagogue Board. She and her husband, Walter, have been Touro members since 1984 together with their children, Daniel and Julia. They will soon welcome new members to their family, daughter-in-law-to-be Perry Cass and son-in-law-to-be José Cruz.

Laura proudly serves the synagogue as leader of the LGBTQ Advocacy group. Laura also serves Tulane University as Professor of Microbiology & Immunology and Vice President for Research. Her research interests focus on the interface between virus infection and cancer. As Vice President, she serves as an advocate and champion for high quality research, scholarship and creative endeavor at Tulane.



Scott Saltzman is husband to Shelley, father to Tierney, dog whisperer, house renovator, Katrina documenter, epidemiologist, photographer, jigsaw puzzler, and fortunate conservator of an exceptional collection of good friends. Friends and family would say he's an excellent listener, is loathe to say no when asked for help and makes the best fried turkey in Midcity.

Shelley, Scott, and subsequently, Tierney have found their Jewish home at Touro since 2001, and can frequently be found at Friday night services, Purim Shpiel rehearsals, harvesting vegetables and feeding the homeless on Christmas Day. Scott relishes working with his fellow Touro members whether it is making a difference in the world, or simply sharing in the joys of Jewish spirituality, ritual, wisdom, and community. Scott is looking forward to offering his energy and commitment to the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees

Susan Good
President

Teri Hunter
Executive Vice President

Samantha Guichet
Vice President

Robert Kohn
Vice President

Austin Lavin
Vice President

Jill Israel
Treasurer

Gary Silbert
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Rebecca Finger

Ann Fishman

Jared Glassman

Robert Gross

Ron Gubitz

Lisa Herman

Andrew Jacobs

Bernard Jaffe, MD

Lisa Katz

Lisa Keleher

Naomi Yavneh Klos

Julie Koppman

Chris Kornman

Danielle Levine

Laura Levy

Anamaria Villamarin-Lupin

Austin Marks

William D. Norman, Jr.

Naomi Orlansky

Thaia Pick

Scott Saltzman

Kathy Shepard

Daniel Weiner

Stacey Weinreb Lutz

Scott Silbert
Immediate Past President

Welcome, New Members!

Touro Synagogue welcomes the following members who have joined our congregation in 5776:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Jenna Addis | Shane and Allison Kupperman <i>Ellie</i> | Pamela Metzger <i>Cole, Phoebe</i> |
| Jason and Nicole Adler <i>Reese and Piper</i> | Lindsay and Josh Friedmann <i>Caroline</i> | Jennifer Kitner and Mark Mintz <i>Lillian, Emily</i> |
| Julie Yuspeh Benson and David Benson | Michelle and Jacob Goehring | Melinda and Morris Mintz |
| Otylia "Tilly" and Martin Benson | Lawrence and Kelly Haber <i>Jack, Sam, and Henry</i> | Samantha Katz and Jared Oberlin |
| Jessica and Andrew Bizer <i>Ruby and Rose</i> | Benjamin "Benjy" and Jeanette Jaffe <i>Emma</i> | Jenny Katz and Greg Nichols |
| Seth Bloom | Rebecca and Walker Jones <i>Eli and Sylvie</i> | Valerie and Patrick Norton <i>Hunter and Travis</i> |
| Christine and David Brandt <i>Andrew</i> | Mark and Jennifer Kutash <i>Adeline</i> | Allison and Mario Padilla-Goodman <i>Ilara</i> |
| Tad and Helene Breaux <i>Benjamin and Zachary</i> | Andy and Jo Lawton | Melanie Fawer and Christian Recile <i>Gabriel</i> |
| Ivan Brizzio | Perry Cass and Daniel Levy | Cindy and Robert "Bobby" Richter <i>Quintin</i> |
| Greg and Joanie Cox <i>Charlie and Sally</i> | Lauren and Russell "Rusty" Libby | David Shepard |
| Rachel Dufour | Joseph Ligier <i>Dylan, Donovan, Maxwell</i> | Cheryl and Kevin Slane <i>Ben and Rachel</i> |
| Jee Park and Daniel Engelberg <i>Lillian and Isabel</i> | Emily Nykaza and Jonathan Lissauer | Aimee Brown and Keigan Stacho <i>Brayden</i> |
| Brenda and Michael Goldman | Joanna and Craig Lotterman | André Strumer <i>Kristall</i> |
| Stephanie and Raymond "RJ" Gutierrez | Ben and Megan Lowenburg <i>Eli</i> | Hannah Udell and Jonathan Tebelev |
| Emma Herr | Meg Marino | Rachel David and Oliver "Bob" Weisz |
| Amanda and Graham Hill <i>Benjamin and Louis</i> | Debbie and Steve Marx | Stacy Swanson and Mark Winograd <i>Ruby</i> |
| Jennifer Hood | Nicky Mast | Gillian Wolff |
| Suri Dutich and Neil Kleiman <i>Asher and Zelda</i> | Jessica Meyer | |
| Fern Kruger | | |

Mazel Tov to all our 5776 Babies

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Remi Pearl, daughter of Jenny and Scott Pollack, granddaughter of Brenda and Michael Goldman | Henry Isaac, son of Alysia and Carey Loshbaugh | Isabela Mayer, daughter of Alexa and Robert Craig, granddaughter of Jan Katz and Jim Derbes |
| Meyer Martin, son of Rella and David Zapletal | Levi Ephron Leopold, grandson of June Leopold and Martin Goldstein | Ellie Sophia, daughter of Allison and Shane Kupperman, granddaughter of Stephen and Mara Kupperman, niece of Zachary & Emily Kupperman |
| Amelia Claire, daughter of Beth and Austin Lavin, granddaughter of Nancy Aronson and Virginia Besthoff | Brayden Samuel, son of Aimee Brown and Keigan Stacho | Shaun Owen, son of Lauren and Rusty Libby |
| Josephine Emery, daughter of Daniel Meyer and Jennifer Barriere, granddaughter of Judy Barrasso and Brent Barriere | Lillian Nadia Orbitz and Henry Landan Kessler, grandchildren of Carole Jacobson, and Ross and Diane Jacobson | Crosby Bernhard Olsen, grandson of Gale and Randy Pick, great-grandson of Thaia Pick, great-nephew of Lisa and Robert Conescu, and Laura Pick |
| Nadav Tal, son of Cantor David and Deborah Mintz | August "Gus" Herbert Herman Noble, grandson of Lisa and Michael Herman | Benjamin Michael, son of Daniella and Jonathan Silberstein |
| Genevieve, daughter of Ava and Michael Alltmont, granddaughter of Phyllis and Jack Alltmont, niece of Jeff and Rachel Alltmont | Ezra Clark, son of Simone Levine and Will Harrell | Anina, daughter of Kerry Tapia and Ben Beasley |
| Isaac Alan Harris, grandson of Ann and Steven Harris, and Lois and Joey Sutton | Wyatt Sonny O'Berry, grandson of Ellen and Lee Sucherman | Eliana Hazel Yellin, granddaughter of Ellen and Marc Yellin, and great-granddaughter of Bryna Yellin |
| Micah Drew Rosenblum, great-grandnephew of Lois and Joey Sutton | Weston Peter, son of Erica and Pierre Bordeaux, grandson of Andy and Carmen Jacobs, Sharon Jacobs and Leonard Davis, and great-grandson of Dotty Jacobs | |
| | Eleonore Sloane Greenberg, granddaughter of Nancy and Gary Silbert | |



EVER CONSIDER JOINING TOURO SYNAGOGUE?

Talk to one of our board members or clergy or call the office about our revolutionary voluntary annual support system.

We'd welcome the opportunity to talk to you about membership at Touro! Call us at (504) 895-4843.



26TH ANNUAL JAZZ FEST SHABBAT

SUNPIE BARNES

and the
LOUISIANA SUNSPOTS

JOIN US IN WELCOMING TOURO'S FIRST
EVER ZYDECO GUEST ARTIST TO THE
26TH ANNUAL JAZZ FEST SHABBAT

APRIL 28, 2017



LETTER FROM THE OFFICERS OF *Touro Synagogue Foundation*

The Touro Synagogue Foundation provides stability and continuity for our congregation, and building the endowment is a way to ensure our future. In addition, the annual allocation of a small percentage of the endowment is essential for the operational budget of the synagogue.

With gratitude, we list those who have made donations in the last year. Their commitment strengthens our synagogue for the present as well as future generations.

To those congregants who have not contributed, it is not too late. Please let Kerry Tapia or an officer of the Foundation know if you would like to learn more about how to support the endowment.

Thank you,

Foundation Officers - Hal M. Shepard, Phyllis Alltmont and Walter Levy

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Anonymous | Samantha and Joseph Guichet | Estate of Andree and Sidney Samuel Rosenblum |
| Lisa and Lance Africk | Robert Hammer | Stanley Schwam |
| Mary Lynn and Charles Alltmont | Barbara Herman | Phyllis and Jay Shames |
| Aimee and Steven Bain | Lisa and Michael Herman | Kathy and Hal Shepard |
| Jaymi and Mark Baum | Teri and Jonathan Hunter | Lois and Ralph Shepard |
| Kerry Tapia and Ben Beasley | Carmen and Andrew Jacobs | Ivan Sherman |
| Joy and Andrew Braun | Susan and Byron Kantrow | Nancy and Gary Silbert |
| Rebecca and Simon Finger | Dollie Gill Katz and Ralph Katz | Julie and Scott Silbert |
| Catina and Daniel Forman | Andrea and Terrence Lestelle | Ellen and Lee Sucherman |
| David Forsyth | Laura and Walter Levy | Touro Synagogue Sisterhood |
| Adrien and Errol Genet | Susan Krinsky and Hugh Long | Nathan Wexler |
| Terri and Jay Goldsmith | Stacey and John Lutz | Ellen and Marc Yellin |
| Susan and Lou Good | Linda Mayer | Helen Weil Young Memorial Designated Fund |
| Carole and Marshall Gottsegen | Andree Moss | Jennifer and Lee Zurik |
| Lauren and David Greenberg | Mary McCormick and Jonathan Nussdorf | |

Havdalah & Chaverim

January 21 and April 1

Gather with other Touro members
in their home to close out Shabbat and
enjoy dinner with each other

Close out Shabbat by meeting
new Touro members, enjoying the
company of old friends, and savoring
delicious home-cooked food by
signing up to host or be a guest
in a congregant's home.

Guests will be randomly
assigned to a host family for
dinner in their home on this night.
Single adults, couples, and
families are all welcome!

Questions?

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



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT. SO EASY. ANYTIME.

Touro Synagogue is an engaged community. We engage with each other within the walls of our synagogue and with each other and the New Orleans community outside of our walls. There are countless ways that you can engage—once, once in awhile, or on-going. We are committed to supporting your involvement with us in ways that feel just right to you. There is always something going on and we hope you will get involved with us! We look forward to engaging with you!

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The “SignUp” button on our website and weekly t-mails will make engagement easy for you. You can click on the “SignUp” anytime to see what’s happening that you might want to be a part of.

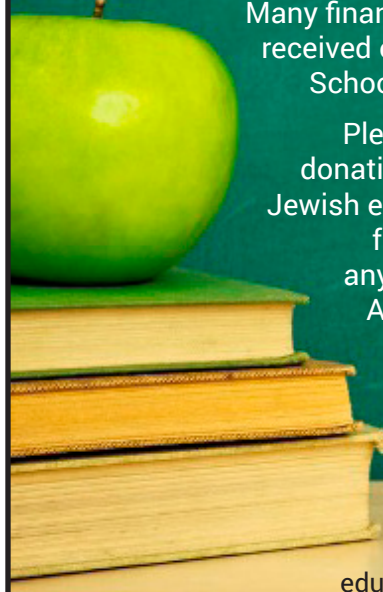
Check T-mail. Each week the current events are highlighted. It’s never too late to hop on board and engage with others.

Call or email us. Want to know what’s going on and want to connect to a person? Have a specific talent or interest you’d like to share? Call or email Samantha Guichet, our “Volunteer Czar,” to find out what’s going on at (504) 722-1237 or ssguichet@me.com. Call or email Lisa Keleher, our Caring and Mitzvah Coordinator, to see if there is a way for you to connect with a family in need at (504) 296-5472 or lisatkeleher@gmail.com.

WHAT’S GOING ON?

Whether you want to engage in an activity once in a while or you would like to have a regular way to connect with others through activities in our community, there is an engagement opportunity available. Visit the Engagement Opportunities page under the Community tab of our website. There you will find a list of things currently going on in our community. The list is not comprehensive and can be added to at any time. Your imagination is the only limit to what we can do together and if you have an interest, share it!

Give the Gift of a Jewish Education



Many financial need requests are received each year for Religious School and Uptown Hebrew.

Please consider making a donation to sponsor a child’s Jewish education. Sponsor one full tuition at \$450 or at any amount you can give. Any amount will help us achieve our goal.
Donate \$180.
Even \$18 helps!

We thank all our donors who make Jewish education at Touro possible.



April 7 - 9, 2017

SPEND A WEEKEND AT HSJ CAMP IN UTICA MISSISSIPPI

Climb the tower. Try your hand at arts & crafts. Get behind the wheel of a boat, and more!

Family Camp programming is best suited for 1st-5th graders. But don’t worry! Your 6th-8th graders will participate in NFTY’s Junior Youth Weekend, which will also take place at Henry S. Jacobs Camp that weekend.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.JACOBSCAMP.ORG

Thank you to all those who have participated as givers as well as those who have graciously received. It takes courage to do both. We have appreciated baking, writing, and stopping by. And we know from the lovely responses, that you have enjoyed our visits, prayers, and offers of comfort.

A little summary of what our group has been up to lately:

- **Meal Trains** – We have been happily cooking and delivering a few meals to families who recently welcomed new babies and those undergoing medical treatment. Such a nice way to connect with families in your village, and a much appreciated mitzvah!
- **Care Packages** – Pre-assembled or home-baked gifts to bring a little comfort to those recovering from illness or surgery, or those who need some extra hugs in the form of challah and tea. (Please contact Touro's office if you know of a member who would appreciate receiving a care package or a call from our clergy.)
- **Havdalah & Chaverim** – Close out Shabbat as a host or a guest in another member's home with a delicious home-cooked meal and the opportunity to make new friends or engage in conversation with old ones. Look for more information on how to sign-up in the T-mail and bulletins.
- **Birthday Treats** – We're still growing this wonderfully fun way to connect with fellow members. Contact Lisa Keleher to get involved with baking or delivering flowering plants in your neighborhood.
- **Friday Night Blessings** – We are inviting members in advance to join us at Shabbat services on Friday night for the honor of candle lighting and Kiddush.
- **Socials** – Supervillage Chesed, consisting of all members in the 70115 zip code, has enjoyed two get-togethers so far, with more planned for 5777. We made hamentaschen at Purim and picnicked for Shavuot. To find out how to socialize more with your Touro neighbors, or to offer ideas on future get-togethers, contact Lisa Keleher or your village coordinator.
- **Our Villages** – We are making connections with members in our villages (geographically close Touro families) with our current activities. But we continue to brainstorm new ways of helping each other connect. If you have an idea or would like to join our coordinator team, please contact us.

caring and mitzvah committee

Reach out to request comfort or care for yourself or others

Contact our Chair, Lisa Keleher
(504) 296-5472 or lisatkeleher@gmail.com



TOURO SYNAGOGUE VILLAGES

**CONNECT WITH
YOUR VILLAGE
COORDINATOR**

Susie Allen (Chesed 1 - 70115)
susieallen1@gmail.com

Jared Glassman (Chesed 2 - 70115)
jaredglassman@gmail.com

Maurya Kilroy (Chesed 3 - 70115)
maurya.kilroy@usace.army.mil

Julie Schwartz (Chesed 4 - 70115)
dajumaje@cox.net

Jenny Zurik (Chesed 5 - 70115)
jenniferzurik@me.com

Kim Sherman (Tiferet 1 - 70125, 70119)
kim.sherman@gmail.com

Rita Olmo (Chochma 2 - 70130, 70113)
olmorita@gmail.com

Sarah Thorrick
(Netzach - 70116, 70117, 70032, 70128)
sarahvizer@live.com

Erin Densen and Rebecca Finger
(Binah 1 - 70118, 70121, 70123)
erindensen@gmail.com; beckalini@cox.net

Carrie Marks and Robert Kohn
(Binah 2 - 70118, 70121, 70123)
carriemarks@gmail.com; robert@irakohnco.com

Scott & Shelley Saltzman (Tiferet 2 - 70125, 70119)
scott.saltzman@gmail.com; percybysshe13@yahoo.com

Naomi Orlansky (Hod 2 - 70124, 70122, 70148)
norlansky@cox.net



GET YOUR
PARADE ON!

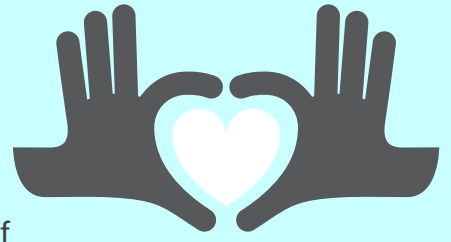
FUN FOR
EVERYONE!

We are very fortunate to be located right on the parade route - for what we believe to be one of the best spots on St. Charles Avenue. There is much to do during Carnival and we invite you to join us.

- Shabbati Gras - Join us for a casual, relaxing and abbreviated Shabbat service followed by a family dinner in the Bowsky Garden as the parades go by.
- Volunteer for one of our VIP KIDS' Parade Days. Every year we setup a wheel chair accessible platform on the steps of our sanctuary for those with disabilities or special needs to view the Mardi Gras Parades. Lend your hand with either assembling the stands, or chaperoning during on our parade dates.
- Touro members have special access to our campus during many of the parades. Bring a picnic and enjoy the parades on the street or from the comforts of behind the gate - all while knowing that you'll have access to clean restrooms and a place to store your parade day necessities. You can also bring friends. There is an entrance fee for all our non-member guests.
- Store your ladder at the synagogue for a small fee so it's here and ready during any of the times we are open during Carnival.
- Watch Super Krewe Bacchus from our coveted parade spot. Avoid the masses and enjoy good food and drink at Touro's Annual Bacchus Bash!
- Recycle those beads! Each year we collect your leftover beads on behalf of ARC of New Orleans, a non-profit organization serving people from birth through childhood who have intellectual disabilities and delays.

Volunteers make Mardi Gras at Touro possible! If you are interested in helping us this coming season, please email our Volunteer Tzar, Sam Guichet at ssguichet@me.com

SOCIAL ACTION



Embracing the ancient command “Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof! Justice, justice shall you seek!”, social justice and a striving to improve the world around us has long been a fundamental component of Reform Judaism. In fact, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, longtime President of the URJ, once said, “A Reform synagogue that does not alleviate the anguish of the suffering is a contradiction in terms.” The many arenas in which Touro is active in the New Orleans community evidence our dedication to this social justice mandate. We have an on-going desire to create opportunities for internal community education and reflection about issues at the forefront of contemporary social concern and move to an ever deeper awareness of human circumstances on countless fronts. Awareness and education leads us to action in both hands-on engagement opportunities and through advocacy, both are vital. Our engagement opportunities offer immediate support and relief while our collective advocacy can ultimately affect policy changes that will promote systemic, long-term, and wholistic changes in social justice issues.

As we begin this New Year together, we invite you to join us in our social action endeavors. All engagement opportunities are open to all and offer one-time or on-going commitments. You decide what works for you.

New this year is an Advocacy Alert section of t-mails and bulletins to alert us about current advocacy needs in the areas Touro is currently focused on. These Advocacy Alerts will guide you in easy steps to allow your voices to be heard and work for systemic change from the comfort of your own home.

For more information about any of the initiatives or advocacy or to find out how you can get involved, contact the person listed at the end of each section, Teri Hunter, chair of social action, at tlhunter22@gmail.com or Lisa Herman, co-chair, at herman87@cox.net.



MASS INCARCERATION

We here in the United States hold many distinctions. We are wealthy, influential, and quick to aid other nations in need. We also hold another, more dubious distinction. We incarcerate more people than any other nation on Earth. Although 636,000 people exit prison each year, people are sent to jail over 11 million times a year in America. We have 2.3 million people in federal and state prisons, local jails, and other types of detention centers. The vast majority, 1.35 million, have not been convicted, but are locked up because they cannot post bail, and are essentially in debtor's prison, too poor to pay a premium for their constitutionally asserted freedom.

We in Louisiana have an even more dubious distinction. At 816 out of every 100,000 residents, we have the highest incarceration rate in the world, followed by Russia at 492 out of every 100,000, and China at 119 out of every 100,000. The crown jewel of the Louisiana mass incarceration complex is the Louisiana State Penitentiary, also known as Angola, or the "Alcatraz of the South," and is the largest maximum security prison in the United States. 9% of the population of Angola serving life sentences are imprisoned for non-violent offenses. The average sentence of a person at Angola is 93 years, and an estimated 95% of people incarcerated there will die there. For this dishonor, Louisiana bills taxpayers in excess of \$115,000,000/year.

It is our charge as Jews to help right this injustice:: tzedek, tzedek, tirdof. Touro is committed to help usher in the necessary change. Stay tuned for upcoming educational and advocacy opportunities to this end. In addition, if you would like to be included in an email distribution list advising of topical speakers, events and proposed legislation, please email Julie Silbert: julie.silbert@keanmiller.com.

To find out more, please contact **Seth Belgard** at sethbelgard@gmail.com, **Julie Silbert** at julie.silbert@keanmiller.com, **Naomi Yavneh Klos** at Yavneh@loyno.edu., or **Dani Levine** at dlevine@avodah.net.

CRIME COALITION

Touro Synagogue serves as a participating member of the New Orleans Crime Coalition. The New Orleans Crime Coalition (NOCC) includes fifteen community organizations working together to reform our local criminal justice system. The coalition works to address violent crime in New Orleans by engaging and helping integrate all components of the local criminal justice system, identifying best practices and holding accountable those responsible for implementing such practices at every level. The Crime Coalition meets monthly and Dr. Jay Shames is the Touro representative. For more information on NOCC, their focus and opportunities for advocacy and involvement, contact **Dr. Jay Shames** (jayshames@cox.net) and visit the NOCC website at crimecoalitionnola.com.

FIRST 72+

Touro Synagogue and The First 72+, an organization that helps formerly incarcerated individuals transition and become independent members of our society, have developed a very special relationship over the past couple of years, thanks to the generosity of the Touro congregation. There are many exciting opportunities in the upcoming year for members to continue their support. As always, The First 72+ is always in need of material donations such as:

- Adult men's clothing
- Toiletries (shaving, toothpaste/brushes, soaps)

The First 72+ has acquired a new house in Central City, in addition to the Mid-City location, which is under renovation. Please stay tuned for opportunities in which to get our "hands dirty" as they make the house a home! The First 72+ is a perfect opportunity for us as a Jewish community, to make a difference in the lives of people who have been affected by mass incarceration. Currently the organization has a 100% success rate in keeping people from reentering the prison cycle, which is astounding for our state, the highest incarceration rate in the WORLD. Please look for upcoming opportunities to become involved with this incredible organization. Any questions regarding donations for The First 72+, or general questions can be sent to **JaredGlassman@gmail.com**.

WEEKEND OF PEACE

Once again this year we will be collecting gently used clothing and household items for distribution by our friends at Masjid ur-Rahim at their annual Weekend of Peace community event over the weekend prior to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. If you have ever been to this extraordinary event, which also offers free health screenings and a hot meal to those in need in our city, you know what an honor it is to be able to contribute. We want to continue our support of the efforts of the wonderful folks at Masjid ur-Rahim. So start collecting now! The event itself will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017 and we will take drop-offs at Touro earlier in that week. Stay tuned for more details in December.

EDEN HOUSE

Eden House is a residence/program for women who are recovering from sex and human trafficking. It is a safe home where women go to heal, learn, and rehabilitate for a better future. Touro has been a supportive community partner to Eden House often providing donated items and experiences that help these women feel a sense of belonging. Interested in helping? Contact **Susie Allen** to learn more (susieallen1@gmail.com).

SOCIAL ACTION



KREWE OF VIPS

Mardi Gras is said to be ‘The Greatest Free Show on Earth’. Nevertheless the complexities of navigating Mardi Gras parade logistics and crowds makes this ‘free show’ difficult if not impossible for children with disabilities and their families to enjoy. VIP Balcony is an accessible balcony at Touro Synagogue built for and provided free of charge to children (and sometimes adults) with disabilities and their families in the New Orleans community during some Mardi Gras parades. Food, entertainment, and friendship are a part of these extraordinary parade experiences.

During the six years since we started this program, roughly 250-300 children with disabilities and their families have been able to experience Mardi Gras because of our program.

Want to be a part of this joyful experience? Save these dates to get involved:

- Building stands: February 13
Breakdown stands: March 2
- Pontchartrain, Choctaw, Freret
Saturday, February 18, 2017
- Babylon, Chaos, Muses
Thursday, February 23, 2017
- Iris and Tucks
Saturday, February 25, 2017

For more information or to sign up to help contact **Hal Shepard** at hal@taylor-seidenbach.com.

To reserve a spot for a child (or adult) with disabilities call (504) 896-2229 or (504) 377-1162.



LOYOLA HONORS

Touro Social Action proudly works in interfaith partnership with the Loyola University Honors Program. As a community, the UHP seeks to pursue truth, wisdom and virtue, preparing students – whatever their career paths – to lead meaningful lives with and for others and to work for a more just world. In addition to supporting the synagogue’s community action activities, Honors invites the Touro community to join them in their own engagement partnerships, including ACT and subject tutoring for high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds and reading programs for elementary students. They will also call upon Touro members to join in support of their other community initiatives (such as their annual feminine hygiene drive for homeless women). For more information, please contact **Naomi Yavneh Klos**, University Honors Program Director and Touro board member, at 504-864-7330 or yavneh@loyno.edu.

YOM KIPPUR FOOD DRIVE

Each year, Touro members help replenish the shelves of Second Harvest Food Bank with hundreds of pounds of non-perishable groceries. Help fight food insecurity in New Orleans by bringing a bag of groceries with you to the Yom Kippur morning service on October 12. We encourage each Touro family to provide food for a comparable size family in need.



SAUL’S LIGHT

Touro has partnered with Saul’s Light Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping local families navigate the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) journey and supporting them through the trauma of infant loss. Saul’s Light carries out their mission through targeted programs and initiatives: financial assistance funds; spreading awareness & education about neonatal trauma and infant loss issues; and specialized care packages for families staying in NICU units and hospital staff supporting those units.

This foundation is the legacy of Saul Novod, the son of Touro congregants, who died as a result of complications from his premature birth. It is the foundation’s goal to ensure that all New Orleans families with a baby in the NICU receive caring, community support just as the founders did.

To learn more about Saul’s Light or about the ways that you can help, please contact **Kimberly and Aaron Novod** at saulslightfoundation@gmail.com; saulslight.org; and [facebook.com/saulslightfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/saulslightfoundation).

FLOOD RELIEF

Families and individuals affected by the recent, devastating floods in Louisiana continue to need our support and energy. To find out how you can help click on the “Louisiana Flood Relief” button on our website or contact Naomi Orlansky at norlansky@cox.net.

HARRY TOMPSON CENTER

Touro is proud to support The Harry Thompson Center (also known as the Rebuild Center) which works tirelessly to provide support to the large number of homeless New Orleanians. The Center is also actively involved, in collaboration with UNITY of Greater New Orleans and the City of New Orleans, in efforts to end the cycle of homelessness that so many in our community face. Last year, these partners were successful in ending homelessness for local veterans. Current efforts seek to eradicate homelessness for new target populations: the chronically homeless, homeless youth and homeless families. In the first 6 months of 2016:

- 207 case management clients were served, 63 of whom were placed into housing
- 470 received basic medical care
- 160 received psychiatric care
- 12,531 showers were gratefully taken
- 3949 loads of laundry were washed
- 2631 received personal hygiene supplies
- 5361 phone calls were placed

How can you help? Touro has ongoing drives for gently-used books and for unused travel-size hygiene supplies. Stay tuned for periodic fresh fruit drives intended to add nourishment for the HTC guests. Touro members can volunteer to help serve lunch or to provide and serve breakfast at any time. If you have expertise in psychiatric or psychological services, there is a need for volunteers in these areas. New this year...HTC is part of Amazon Smile. If you shop on smile.amazon.com and select Harry Thompson Center as your nonprofit choice, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to HTC!

The following is a wish list of items that are particularly needed: ponchos, men's shoes sizes 10 and up, men's belts, insect repellent, grocery tote bags, backpacks, bandanas, towels, washcloths, books, magazines, newspapers, men's socks, deodorant, men's reading glasses, baseball caps, small snacks, i.e. granola bars, walking canes, wheelchairs, copy paper, notebooks, pens, office supplies, underwear, and t-shirts. Donations may be brought to Touro.

For more information contact **Naomi Yavneh** (yavneh@loyno.edu) or **Julie Silbert** (julie.silbert@keanmiller.com).

TOURO WALKS

Light The Night: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light The Night® Walk funds research to find cures and ensure access to treatments for all blood cancer patients. The New Orleans area walk is Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 5:30 pm at Lafreniere Park in Metairie. Touro members can register as individuals to participate....or they are invited to join with many other Touro members who walk as a part of Team Sessions. Team Sessions has raised \$100,000 over the past four years! For more information: <https://registration.lightthenight.org/event-selected/44192>.

SOPHIE B. WRIGHT SCHOOL

After undergoing years of building renovations, Sophie Wright is back in our neighborhood, back in their home building! The state of the art building is beautiful, including a brand new gym! Sophie Wright looks forward to sharing the building with Touro and the community. Now that they are back in the neighborhood, we can resume our partnership activities with them. Here are some ways that you can get involved:

Donating \$5 gift cards to Canes: These cards are hugely motivating for the Sophie Wright students and are used to incentivize student achievement in many areas. Cards can be dropped off at the Touro office and marked for Sophie Wright.

Tutor a student who needs some extra 1:1 support. Tutoring is needed in all subjects. Hours are flexible during the school day. A commitment of 1x weekly is needed.

Show the teachers how much the community appreciates their efforts. Any teacher will tell you that a little treat goes a very long way! Let the SBW teachers know that Touro appreciates what they do! It is so EASY! Sign up to contribute something yummy for the teachers. Days are flexible. Nothing fancy is needed. To learn more or say you will help (once or on-going) contact Sam Guichet, ssguichet@me.com, or click the community engagement button on our website.

For more information about the Sophie Wright partnership, to inquire about ways you can help, or to sign up for a tour of the new building, contact **Teri Hunter** at tlhunter22@gmail.com.



SOCIAL ACTION



QUEER ADVOCACY

American Reform Judaism has a unique, progressive history of advocacy for and support of the queer/LGBTQ community. Through our embodiment of Tikkun Olam, Reform Judaism has become a leading religious movement in advocacy for the queer community in both policy and practice, through action in synagogues and community centers, national organizations, and the legal and political sphere. Many have questions about our policies and actions regarding the queer community, and one simple answer exists: We know what it is like to be the other. We are admonished to employ empathy, to consider how it must feel to wish for invisibility or fear physical harm from anti-gay bullies, to be denied housing or employment because one is a lesbian, or to not even be able to use the restroom as a transgender person without fear of arrest and prosecution. These are problems that we must actively confront and repair, as is our charge as Reform Jews. We have historically demonstrated our belief that we are all b'tselem Elohim.

- 1965:** Women of Reform Judaism passes a resolution calling for the decriminalization of same sex relationships.
- 1977:** Central Conference of American Rabbis calls for "human rights for homosexuals."
- 1980:** Hebrew Union College changes admission policy to allow openly lesbian and gay people to join the student body.
- 1990:** Union for Reform Judaism declares lesbian and gay Jews to be full and equal members of the religious community.

1993: Union for Reform Judaism recognizes gay partnerships, and in 1996 officially opposed any attempt to ban same-sex marriage.

2000: Central Conference of American Rabbis resolution allows clergy to officiate same-sex unions.

2015: Union for Reform Judaism resolution urges active advocacy for and inclusion of all transgender and non-gender binary persons.

The cultural landscape we currently face is rife with the same problems we've always faced.

They now look like so-called religious freedom laws that seek to legitimize discrimination and frame it terms of faith. We as Reform Jews must continue to answer the call: tzedek, tzedek tirdof. We must continue to put ourselves in the place of the other, to have the uncomfortable conversation with friends, family, colleagues, and strangers. So please stay tuned to upcoming bulletins for opportunities to lend your time and support to the cause of love, equity, and inclusion.

Please contact **Seth Belgard** at sethbelgard@gmail.com or **Laura Levy** at laura.silven.levy@gmail.com for questions or comments.

*Join us on Tuesday October 18 for dinner under the Sukkah and to discuss our agenda and goals for the year. Contact laura.silven.levy@gmail.com for questions, comments or to RSVP. We also invite you to attend "Literature and Libations" on Wednesday, November 30, led by Rabbi Berk and where we will discuss *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders* by Jennifer Finney Boylan. We look forward to seeing you there!*

Advocacy Awareness

Together, we can make a difference. In addition to the new Advocacy Alert button from Touro, you can sign up to get direct alerts about issues closest to your heart and mind. Below are a list of websites that correspond with Touro initiatives where you can sign up to receive direct advocacy alerts.

Mazon: A Jewish response to Hunger

www.mazon.org

Everytown for Gun Safety

www.everytown.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

education@namineworleans.org

Forum For Equality

www.forumforequality.org

For general alerts on a broad array of issues affecting civil liberties:

ACLU of Louisiana, www.laaclu.org

For information on local criminal justice issues:

www.crimecoalitionnola.com

Visit our website and watch for the Alert section of t-mails and bulletins about current advocacy needs in the areas Touro is currently focused on:

www.tourosynagogue.com

NOURISH AND THE BROADMOOR FOOD PANTRY

Touro is committed to impacting food insecurity in New Orleans. Our Nourish initiative includes an innovative, high-yielding vertical garden along the length of our building on Pitt Street, a close partnership with a neighborhood food pantry--The Broadmoor Food Pantry--and an on-going relationship with Second Harvest. Last year Touro donated 1,602 lbs. of food to Second Harvest. Since 2011, our congregation has donated 11,137 lbs. of food.

Touro also is a significant and on-going contributor to the Broadmoor Food Pantry's shelves, generously donating cans and dry goods each and every week. Thanks to the bounty from our vertical gardens, Touro is also able to donate fresh, healthy, organic vegetables to the Broadmoor Food Pantry now, often providing their clients with the only fresh produce they get. These produce donations are highly valued by BFP clients.

Just to give you a sense of what an impact these gardens have made, consider this:

- In one month, Touro's vertical garden contribution totaled roughly 50 pounds of fresh greens.
- In the month of July, BFP assisted 161 households--including 208 children, 271 adults and 39 seniors.

This is where YOU come in! We harvest almost weekly and we are always in need of help! If you would like to assist with harvesting, we would love to hear from you. Harvesting is a fun, easy, communal experience. Will you volunteer some of your time to help, once, occasionally, or on-going? You choose what works best for you.

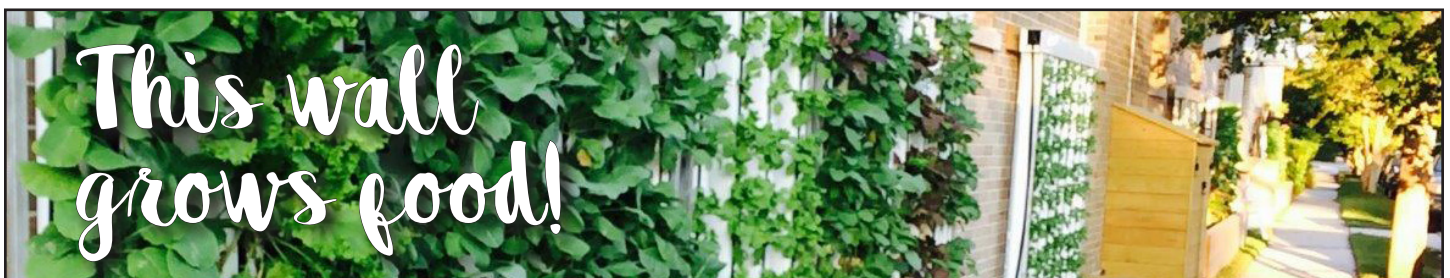
Broadmoor Food Pantry also continues to collect dry foods, especially healthy protein items and non-food items. Popular items that our clients continuously ask for include:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| • flour | • canned tuna | • female hygiene |
| • rice | and chicken | products |
| • corn bread mix | • crackers | • toiletries |
| • jambalaya | • spices | • sugar |
| • sardines | • cooking oil | • coffee |

And BFP can always use extra grocery bags!

Look for the Broadmoor Food Pantry Shelves just outside the chapel in the Shushan Assembly and drop off your contributions the next time you are in the building!

To volunteer to harvest the garden, work at the food pantry, or learn more about our Nourish initiative, contact **Anamaria** at **504-259-6604** or at **wellness@broadmoorimprovement.com**.



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