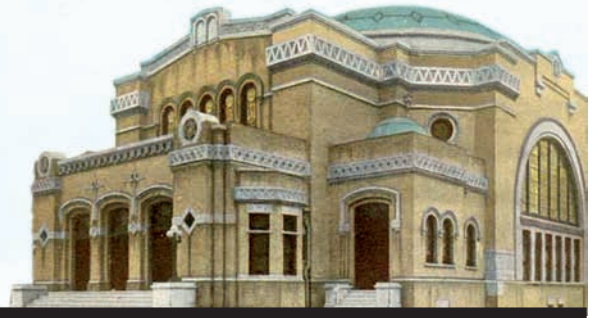


TOURO SYNAGOGUE



“

God breathed into us a

living soul -

The gifts of RESPIRATION,
INSPIRATION,
ASPIRATION.

*May we sanctify
this day by breathing deeply.*

ATTENTIVE TO ALL GIFTS,

We taste the sweetness of the world that could be.

Mishkan HaLev (p. 61)

”

2017/2018

5778

High Holy Days

2017/5778

HIGH HOLY DAYS AND FESTIVALS - SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 20

8:00pm Evening Service, Main Sanctuary

ROSH HASHANAH

Thursday, September 21

9:00am Young Family Service,
Forgotston Chapel

9:00am Tot Service,

Grant Meyer Garden Pavilion

10:00am Morning Service, Main Sanctuary

12:30pm Congregational Luncheon

4:00pm Tashlich Celebration,
City Park at the Boat Dock

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Friday, September 22

6:00pm Shabbat Service,
Main Sanctuary

7:15pm Shabbat Dinner

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, September 29

8:00pm Kol Nidre Service, Main Sanctuary

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, September 30

9:00am Young Family Service,
Forgotston 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,
Forgotston 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 5 - 11

See page 10 for a listing of all our Sukkot
celebrations

SIMCHAT TORAH

Thursday, October 12

See page 11 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, their school will be in session and only a limited amount of spots will be available. 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.

A Message from Our Clergy

Is *This* the Book of Life?

These holy days ask us to imagine a Book of Life. All of our names are inscribed. Our lives, our actions, our choices, our responses - all are recorded and recounted.

The Book of Life invites a few important questions:

Who is the author?

Who is the reader?

What is contained in the table of contents?

How can we understand the story?

How does it end?

In some ways, this very document is the Book of Life - at Touro Synagogue. The author is: all of us. The reader: anyone willing and eager to engage. The Table of Contents: every possible opportunity for a richer and more meaningful Jewish life. How can we understand the story? We can understand our own story by becoming an active participant in writing it. How does it end? In our lifetime, we will never know.

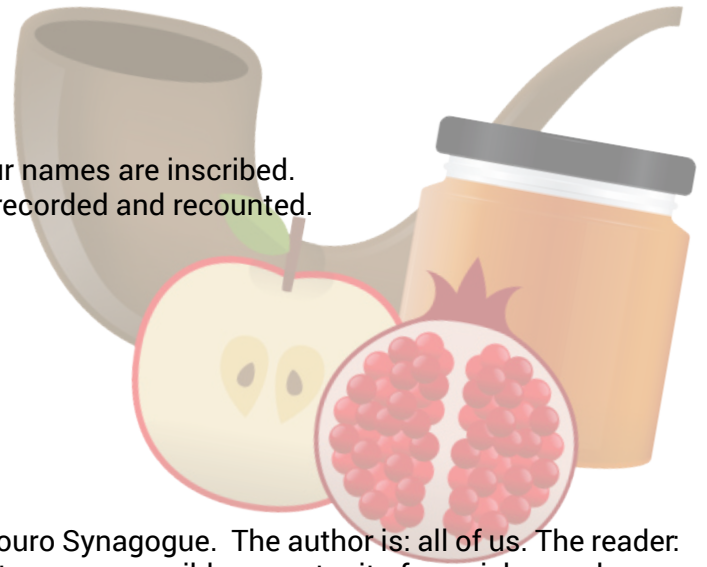
We very much look forward to writing the Book of Life with you this year. Every sacred community enjoys a profound narrative, filled with complexity and love. How will you help write ours? We welcome you.

With love,

Rabbi Alexis Berk

Rabbi Todd Silverman

Rabbi Alexis Pinsky



Let it all Go!

TASHLICH SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 21, 4 PM
ROSH HASHANAH AT CITY PARK



Meet us at the Boat Dock for a meaningful Tashlich Service and singing with Rabbi Berk, Rabbi Pinsky, 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

On behalf of Touro Synagogue, I am honored to welcome each of you to our High Holiday services. Holy Days at Touro bring with them the tradition of beautiful liturgy, music and rituals and the energy of a vibrant Jewish community. Many of you are from families who have worshipped in this sacred space for generations. Some of you are new to Touro, others are just visiting. Whatever the circumstance is for you, we hope that in being here with us (or live-streaming in) you will find a comforting, Jewish anchor during these High Holy Days and always.

As you look through the pages of this High Holy Day Bulletin, we know that you will find many opportunities to become involved with our community in ways that speak to your own interests and your personal expressions of Judaism. We look forward to participating in the coming year together and to being here with and for you. If you are not yet a member, the following pages may inspire you to become one; we'd love to welcome you into our Touro congregation.

Our clergy lead us to find spiritual meaning that is personal and accessible; our professional staff manages every aspect of synagogue life with tender care and expertise; and our Board of Trustees is an interwoven team of vision and oversight. You and this congregation are at the center of our collaborative devotion. Through our engagement with one another in the present and our thoughtful, collective planning together for the future, may this extraordinary Touro community continue to flourish in the year 5778, and for generations to come.

I wish you and your loved ones a sweet, happy, and healthy new year.

Warmly,

Teri Hunter



Teri Hunter

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 12

TOT SERVICES

FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS
CHILDREN AGES 0-3

Rosh Hashanah
Thursday, September 21
9:00 - 9:20 am

Yom Kippur
Saturday, September 30
9:00 - 9:20 am

Littlest ones (ages 0-3 years) join 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
Thursday, September 21
9:00 - 9:45 am

Yom Kippur
Saturday, September 30
9:00 - 9:45 am

Please join Rabbis Silverman and Pinsky 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.

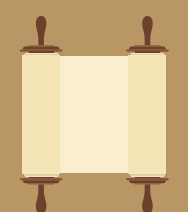
"THE STORIES AND LESSONS OF THE SEASON"

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 Thursday, September 21
in the Jacobs Social Hall.

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



Thank you

Touro Synagogue thanks the David Kanter Worship fund for greatly enhancing our High Holy Days through the purchase of new beautiful High Holy Day Torah covers and new prayerbooks, *Mishkan HaLev*, for the month of Elul. These contributions are given to Touro in loving memory of David Kanter.

May his memory be for a blessing.

BREAK-THE-FAST RECEPTION

All are welcome to join us for a light
break-the-fast in the Bowksy Garden following
the Neilah Concluding Service on September 30.

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



SHABBAT SHUVAH 5778 SEPTEMBER 22, 6:00PM MAIN SANCTUARY

THE OPEN LETTER BY: RABBI DAVID GOLDSTEIN

Who will it be this year? Dear
The list of possibilities is filled with mystery and wonder!

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! Come hear Rabbi Goldstein's particular flair for insight, humor, and reflection.

*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 4 - 11



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 12 - 13



Simchat Torah Celebration at Danneel Park

October 11, 5:15 PM

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 12, 10:30 AM

CHANUKAH
DECEMBER 12 - 20



Chanukah Family Dinner

December 15, 7:15 PM

Fried food fest of deliciousness following Shabbat services - Chicken, Latkes, Doughnuts, and more!

PURIM
FEBRUARY 28



Purim Happy Hour

February 28, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Get into the spirit of Purim with your Touro Synagogue family. Celebrate with festive refreshments, warm community, and Megillah (Age 21+)

PESACH
MARCH 30 - APRIL 7



1st Night Passover Seder

March 30, 6:30 PM

An evening of story, song and celebration with Rabbi Alexis Berk, Rabbi Todd Silverman, and Rabbi Alexis Pinsky

Seder by the Sea

March 31 - April 1 Details on page 18

Pesach Service and Yizkor

April 6, 10:30 AM

SHAVUOT
MAY 19 - 21



Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study and Dinner

May 19, 7:00 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 20, 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!

Friday, October 6

Lunch with Rabbi Silverman
12 - 1 PM

Tuesday, October 10

Lunch with Rabbi Berk
12 - 1 PM

Wednesday, October 11

Lunch with Rabbi Pinsky
12 - 1 PM



Ushpizin Fest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 5:30 PM

ushpizin (oosh'piz-een) *noun*. 1. The Talmudic (Aramaic) word for "guests". 2. Those who are invited to join family and friends under the sukkah during the festival of Sukkot.

Join us in the Touro Synagogue sukkah for our first-ever UshpizinFest – an evening of photos and stories of our beloved family and friends. As we fulfill the mitzvah of celebrating Sukkot, we invite you all to our communal space to share what makes those people so special in our eyes.

Bring the kids; Have a nosh;
Share a photo and its story; Join a sweet,
lovely evening with your Touro friends and family.

Please make sure to RSVP to info@tourosynagogue.com
Pizza and drinks for all!

Please be sure to bring *copies* of your photos - not originals!

SHABBAT SUKKAH:

Vintage Wines & Harvest Moon

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

Wednesday, October 11

Danneel Park at Danneel and Octavia Streets

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

Bring your favorite snacks and drinks;
Load up your blankets and chairs;
On-site restroom will be provided.

5:15PM – Picnic Together

Picnic; Bring your favorite dinner to share and enjoy – whatever you fancy!

5:45PM – Dance with Panorama Jazz Band

Hold the Torah; join in the celebration!

6:15PM – Torah Unroll

Hear the whole Torah in fifteen minutes! Special stories and interpretations with your rabbis.

6:45PM – Games and fun!

Bring your footballs and frisbees!

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

Simchat Torah Festival Service with Yizkor

Thursday, October 12, 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.

Additionally, Touro Synagogue will observe Yizkor at the festival morning services at Passover (April 6, 2018) and Shavuot (May 20, 2018).



EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

SHABBAT DINNER

AT TOURO SYNAGOGUE

FOLLOWING SHABBAT SERVICES

CELEBRATE SHABBAT. COME ONE. COME ALL.

SERVICES 6:00PM DINNER 7:15PM

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

Want to help cover the costs of our Shabbat dinners? Interested in sponsoring a Shabbat dinner for the congregation? Honor a loved one or celebrate a simcha with your \$250 tax-deductible donation. Call the Touro office at 504-895-4843 for more info.

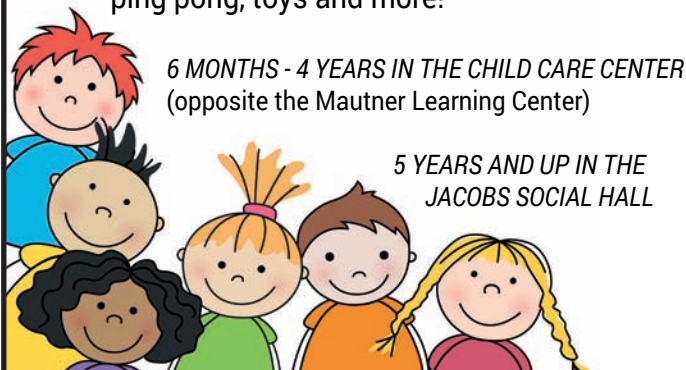


The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has awarded our congregation with The Belin Award, which is given to recognize Audacious Hospitality from congregations that demonstrate a high level of inclusion, impact, innovation, and replicability. Touro was one of the 2017 Belin Award winners. Our Shabbat Dinners were recognized as a great example of how a community can engage current members and welcome people in thoughtful and creative ways. This award comes with a \$1000 grant for Touro. Touro will be honored for this award at the URJ's Biennial in December.

There are many ways you can participate with our Shabbat dinners: sign up to help prep dinner on a Friday night, sponsor a Shabbat dinner, or come and enjoy dinner after services with members of our community.

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!



SHABBAT ROCKS at TOURO

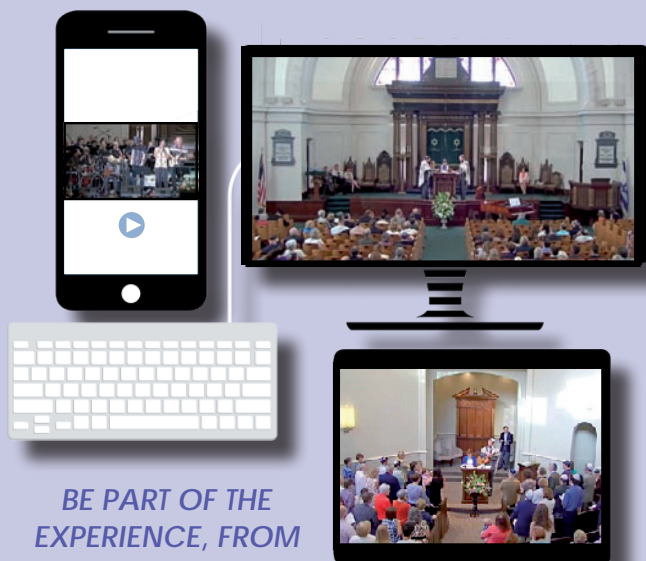
Join Rabbi Silverman and Rabbi Pinsky on these special Shabbat mornings for singing, stories, Shabbat activities, and of course challah and juice! Mark your calendars for another exciting year of Shabbat Rocks!

FOR CHILDREN AGE 0 - 6

OCTOBER 7 & NOVEMBER 11
9:30 AM in the Shushan Assembly
(visit the website calendar for other dates)



WE ARE LIVESTREAMING OUR SERVICES!



STREAM ONLINE AT
WWW.TOUROSYNAGOGUE.COM

EVER CONSIDER JOINING TOURO SYNAGOGUE?

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

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



In the Mood for a Melody

A FUNDRAISER AT THE TOURO PIANO BAR & LOUNGE



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Join us for the Touro FUNdraiser! Touro will be transformed into a piano bar and game room—with food, drink, merry-making and fabulous, participatory entertainment.

It's an evening of informal fun that you don't want to miss!

More details coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE!

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.**

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

October 26; November 2, 16, 30; December 14;
January 4, 18; February 1, 22; March 1, 15;
April 5, 19; May 3, 17



JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS MEETINGS

DINNER AND DISCUSSION
UPCOMING SESSIONS:

NOVEMBER 14, JANUARY 23, MARCH 6
6:30PM IN THE MAUTNER LEARNING CENTER

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. Past discussions focused on our response to the Ebola crisis, the ethics of gene editing and "savior babies," meaning and nature of physician work, and off label use of and repurposing of drugs. Rabbi Berk provides Jewish contextual incite to these discussions. Dinner will be provided.

We are looking forward to a stimulating year!

PLEASE RSVP TO INFO@TOUROSYNAGOGUE.COM



In the Kitchen WITH RABBI SILVERMAN

LATKES AND SUFGANIYOT
DECEMBER 14

SHABBAT SALATIM
(SIDE DISHES)
MARCH 15

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

RSVP info@tourosynagogue.com

"THEY ATTACKED US. WE WON... LET'S EAT!"

NO TRUER WORDS EXIST TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING A JEWISH LIFE – SO LET'S EAT!

Join Rabbi Silverman throughout the year to explore classic Jewish foods.
We will discuss the importance of various dishes to the cultural milieu of world Jewry, and we'll
get the kitchen a little messy as we prepare those foods with our own hands!

TALMUD TALES THURSDAYS THIS FALL

BEGINNING OCTOBER 19 - 6:00PM

For nearly two thousand years, the stories of the Talmud – stories of life and death and love and animosity and struggle and triumph – have fascinated all who approach them. Often overwhelming and always intriguing, they continue to give modern Jews a look into the ethics and socio-political realities of the ancient rabbis, who operated under the belief that fulfilling the commandments of the Torah was of paramount importance.

Join Rabbi Silverman for six Thursday evening sessions as we read through, analyze, and discuss some of the most thought-provoking stories that our Jewish body of literature affords us. Using the writings of 21st-century Talmud scholar Dr. Ruth Calderon as a jumping-off point, we will plumb the depths of these "Talmud Tales" for their contemporary importance and enjoyment.

All who attend should purchase a copy of "A Bride For One Night" by Dr. Ruth Calderon in advance of our first session.

Registration Fee:
Members: No Charge / Non-Members: \$25



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

Each week the group discusses the weekly Parashah (Torah Portion) in the Mautner Learning Center.

Each session is led by a different lay leader.

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.

THE BASICS: PART II

^{second}
A ^ CRASH COURSE IN JUDAISM,
JEWRY AND JEWISHNESS
WITH RABBI SILVERMAN

THURSDAYS THIS SPRING
FEBRUARY 22, MARCH 1, 8, 22 - 6:30-7:30PM
MAUTNER LEARNING CENTER

With the great success of last year's
The Basics: A Crash Course in Judaism, Jewry and Jewishness, it's time to take everything just one step further – while keeping it all basic!

Join Rabbi Silverman for a four-part series of
The Basics: Part II. All are invited to bring their questions and ask them proudly, surrounded by other thoughtful, inquisitive learners.

Contact Rabbi Silverman with any questions or inquiries at TSilverman@TouroSynagogue.com

REGISTRATION FEES:
Members – No Charge / Non-Members -- \$50

HEBREW FOR BEGINNERS

THURSDAY NIGHTS THIS SPRING
APRIL 19, 26; MAY 3, 10
6:30PM MAUTNER LEARNING CENTER

Join Rabbi Silverman for this weekly class for those seeking to study Hebrew for the very first time!

- Learn the Hebrew alphabet -
- Practice decoding -
- Build your skills for future Hebrew study -

MATERIALS AND REGISTRATION FEES:
MEMBERS - NO CHARGE / NON-MEMBERS - \$50

Touro Spirituality Retreat: Shabbat and the Rest of the Week

JANUARY 19-21, 2018

Do you have questions about how to 'make Shabbat' happen? Are you curious about how to embody Shabbat in a contemporary and spiritually vibrant way? Would you like to explore what a personal Shabbat practice might look like for you? In a beautiful retreat setting, we will explore Shabbat as a practice of resting into the joy of being present.

Join us for a weekend retreat to unwind from our busy lives and experience Shabbat together. We will pray, sing, explore yoga and meditation practices, and study the texts of our tradition, all in a serene retreat setting (just outside of New Orleans). The retreat will take place at the Flowering Lotus Meditation and Retreat Center in Magnolia, MS.

FLOWERING LOTUS MEDITATION AND RETREAT CENTER
204 SOUTH CLARK STREET
MAGNOLIA, MS 39652



Literature & Libations

DINNER AND A LIVELY DISCUSSION

WAKING UP WHITE, AND FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE

BY DEBBY IRVING

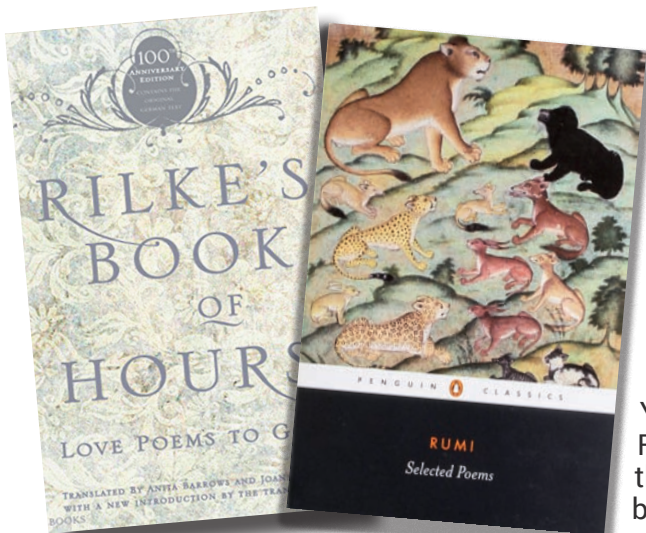
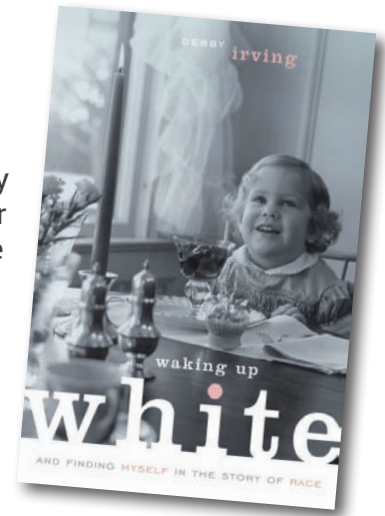
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 - 6:00PM

LED BY RABBI ALEXIS BERK

"Irving's personal and moving tale takes us on an adventure to a world utterly new to her as she wakes up to the reality of how, without her knowledge or active pursuit, she lives in a society which is set up to reward her at the expense of people of color. I cannot imagine a more understandable and compelling invitation to learn about how racism lives on in our homes, communities, and nation."

-- Bishop Gene Robinson, Retired Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire and Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, Washington, DC

Co-sponsored by TREC (Touro's Race and Equity Collaborative)



THE BOOK OF HOURS: LOVE POEMS TO GOD BY RAINER MARIA RILKE

SELECTED POEMS OF RUMI

JALALU'DIN RUMI; TRANS. BY R.A. NICHOLSON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 - 6:00PM

LED BY RABBI TODD SILVERMAN

Yes, that's right – two books for one evening! Join Rabbi Silverman for an in-depth reading and analysis of the poetry of two individuals – Rilke and Rumi – who are best known for their devotional works in love and praise of God. Although not Jewish themselves, each featured

poet does justice to the life and beliefs of Jews and Judaism by tapping into the theological and spiritual similarities that fellow monotheists share with us.

If you are new to Rilke and Rumi, or new to (or scared of!) poetry in general – this is an evening for you!

Both of these titles are available for purchase through local bookshops or online.

Bernstein on Broadway and Beyond

BE SURE TO JOIN US
FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENING!

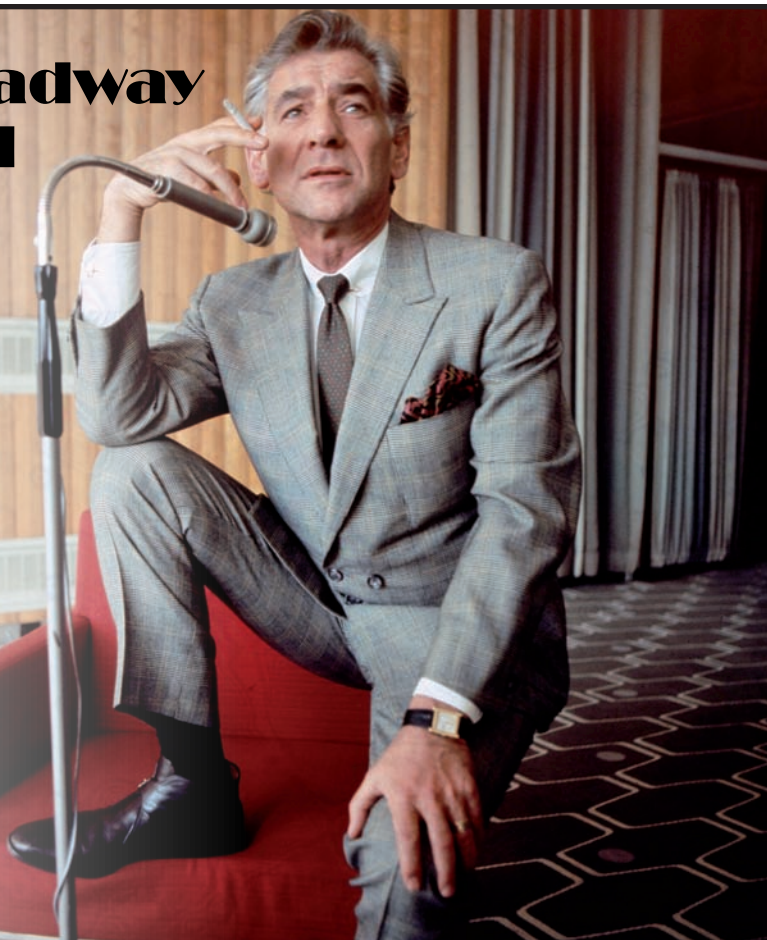
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

following Shabbat Services

Please join us for an unforgettable program as we celebrate the 100th birthday of cultural giant, Leonard Bernstein. George Dansker and friends will treat us to an informative lecture and concert featuring the music of Bernstein.



Leonard Bernstein at 100 is the world-wide celebration of the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein, the composer, conductor, educator, musician, cultural ambassador, and humanitarian, officially beginning on August 25, 2017, Bernstein's 99th birthday, and continuing through his 100th year until August 25, 2019.

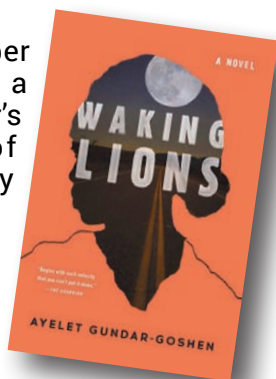


Touro Women's Book Group

***Waking Lions* by Ayelet Gundar**
Monday, October 23 - 10:30 am
Mautner Learning Center

Join us on Monday, October 23 as Pat Reardon leads a discussion on Ayelet Gundar's *Waking Lions*, winner of the 2017 Jewish Quarterly Wingate Prize.

This meeting is open to all women who wish to attend.



Please contact Pat Reardon at patriciareardon@gmail.com with any questions or to get on the email list for upcoming book discussions.



TOURO CHOIR
THURSDAYS - 7:30 PM

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
Terry Maddox at terrydalemaddox@gmail.com.

TZEDAKAH....

A JEWISH TRADITION

Tzedakah is literally translated as "righteousness." Giving is a way of life for us. When we donate to our most cherished recipients, we offer an expression of priority and value. We support the organizations to which we feel the most connection. In doing so, we believe that righteousness becomes manifest in a very real way. Touro Synagogue has established the **Tzedakah Society** to encourage members to make planned deferred gifts by including Touro Synagogue in their estate plans. In this way, donors create a legacy of generosity which sustains this sacred organization beyond their lifetimes.

WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

Planned giving, or deferred giving, creates a variety of methods to support Touro Synagogue just as you provide for your heirs. Planned gifts range from simple bequests in your will to designating Touro as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement fund or trust.

WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE?

Touro Synagogue is a pillar of our Jewish community and a central gathering place to experience outstanding Jewish education, beautiful and spiritual worship, innovative programming, pastoral guidance and vital acts of community engagement. Your planned gift will help ensure the continuation of these sacred Touro Synagogue endeavors for generations to come.

CAN PLANNED GIVING PROVIDE TAX BENEFITS TO THE DONOR?

Donors of planned gifts may be entitled to tax benefits. Donors are encouraged to consult with their attorney, financial advisor and/or accountant, as each situation is specific, personal and unique.

WHEN CAN I MAKE A GIFT?

Members can make arrangements for a future gift to Touro Synagogue at any time, with no outlay of funds today. Generally, deferred gifts are revocable at any time before death and do not require payment until then. You need not disclose the specific amount ever.

IS THERE A MINIMUM GIFT?

No. Gifts of any and all sizes are welcome and appreciated. You are not required to disclose anything about your gift. Simply let us know that you have included or will include Touro Synagogue in your estate plan.

HOW WILL THESE FUNDS BE USED?

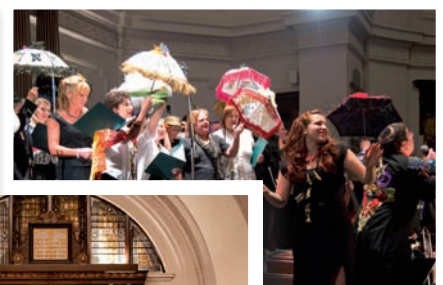
When received, gifts valued at more than \$5,000 will generally be directed to the Touro Synagogue Foundation, our endowment fund. This fund helps assure that the future needs of Touro Synagogue and our members are met. Your planned gift can honor a loved one or ensure the continuation of programs for generations to come.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Many of us postpone estate planning, but at every stage of your life, having a written plan available for your heirs is important. Your attorney and financial advisor can help with your unique situation. You can also contact Bob Gross, chair of the Planning Giving Committee, for further information about the planned giving process. Email: robertsgross@gmail.com.



A LASTING LEGACY



TZEDAKAH SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBERS

ENSURING THE FUTURE OF TOURO SYNAGOGUE

*Thank you to the following families who have committed
to including Touro Synagogue in their estate plans*

AARON AND ELIZABETH AHLQUIST
PHYLLIS AND JACK ALLTMONT
AVA AND MICHAEL ALLTMONT
ARLENE AND PAUL BARRON
ALEXIS AND BOB BERK
JOY AND ANDREW BRAUN
VIVIAN AND RICHARD CAHN
SHIRA AND MICHAEL COHEN
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NAOMI YAVNEH KLOS
BERRY AND RICHARD ZANDER
DR. LAWRENCE AND JOAN ZASLOW
JENNY AND LEE ZURIK
AND OTHER ANONYMOUS DONORS

*** OF BLESSED MEMORY**

To learn more about the Tzedakah Society, please contact Bob Gross, Chair of the Planned Giving Committee at robertgross@gmail.com



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TZEDAKAH SOCIETY

NAME(S)		ADDRESS
HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE	CITY, STATE, ZIP
EMAIL ADDRESS		

- ☐ I/WE HAVE REMEMBERED OR PLAN TO REMEMBER TOURO SYNAGOGUE IN MY/OUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN AND WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TZEDAKAH SOCIETY.
- ☐ PLEASE LIST MY/OUR NAME(S) IN THE TZEDAKAH SOCIETY AS: _____
- ☐ I/WE WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

PLEASE RETURN TO KERRY TAPIA AT EXEC DIR@TOUROSYNAGOGUE.COM
OR BY MAIL TO TOURO SYNAGOGUE, 4238 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70115

SEDER BY THE SEA

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 - SUNDAY, APRIL 1

SEDER BY THE SEA RETURNS !

- SEASIDE SAND PYRAMID CONTEST -
- BEACH SNACKS AND GRAND SCALE HANGOUT -
- WELCOMING THE SEDER AT THE SHORES -
- CREATIVE PESACH DINNER CONVERSATION -
- HAVDALAH AND CAMPFIRE WITH ROASTED MARSHMALLOWS AND SONGS -
- SUNRISE PRAYER EXPERIENCE -
- PLAY AND DELIGHT! -

JOIN US !

RSVP TO ANNAHI - INFO@TOUROSYNAGOGUE.COM FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM FOR YOURSELF, A FRIEND/COUPLE, OR A FAMILY!



**SOUTH BEACH
BILOXI**
HOTEL & SUITES
WWW.SBBILOXIHOTEL.COM

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Daniel Weiner

Stacey Weinreb Lutz

Welcome New Board Members!

A hearty welcome to our new board members!

Each of them began a two-year term July 1, 2017:

Justin Ehrenwerth, Jeffrey Fingerman, Maurya Kilroy, and Brian Weimer.



Justin Ehrenwerth is honored to join the Touro Board. Born in Pittsburgh, he went to college in Maine where he would meet his wife, Dana Dupré, from Opelousas. Justin and Dana, along with their dog Fred, live in Mid City and are the proud parents of Charles, born in early September.

Justin is President and CEO of The Water Institute of the Gulf, an applied research institution dedicated to coastal restoration and sustainable communities. Previously, Justin served as Executive Director of the RESTORE Council tasked with administering billions in BP oil spill penalties for ecosystem restoration. Before moving to New Orleans, Justin held several positions in the Obama administration including Assistant Counsel to President where he took the lead on Deepwater Horizon litigation for the White House.

Jeffrey Fingerman has considered Touro his Jewish home since moving to New Orleans in 2003. He and his wife Katie have two wonderful children, Abby Jean and Liam, and they all love being part of the Touro community. Jeffrey is honored to serve as a board member.

Originally from Cincinnati, Jeffrey first moved to New Orleans as a teacher with Teach For America. After the storm, he worked briefly in the recovery effort with FEMA, and for the past 10+ years has been in various roles on Teach For America's administrative team. He is currently the Managing Director of Leadership Development for the regional office here in NOLA.



Brian Weimer is honored and eager to serve on the Touro Synagogue Board. A native of Thibodaux, New Orleans has been home for Brian since 2004. Brian and his partner, Randy Roig, have found their Jewish home at Touro since 2008. Brian 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. Outside of Touro, Brian is a lawyer working in the area of research integrity at Tulane University and is an Adjunct Instructor at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

GIVE THE GIFT OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Take the 5778 CHALLENGE!

Our religious school is growing, and each year as we welcome new students into our program, we also face an increase of financial aid requests. Our goal is to make sure no family and no learner is denied the chance to participate.

Consider taking the "5778 Challenge":

Donate any amount that you are
able in any form of the new year.

\$5.77


\$57.78

\$577.80

\$5,778

Or any other amount that can
help us achieve our goal.

We are so thankful to all of our donors who help
make Jewish education at Touro possible!



JUMP into JACOBS
at
FAMILY CAMP 2018

MARCH 2 - 4, 2018

**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

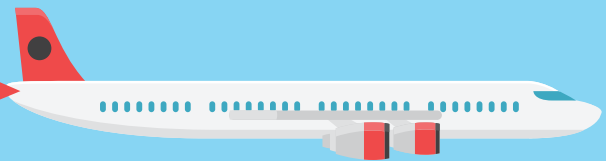


Send your teen on a trip of a lifetime



it starts with a savings account. You pick the bank, you begin to save.
Bar or Bat Mitzvahs, gifts from relatives, birthdays: each one is a step
closer to offering your child the Gift of Israel

up to
\$10,750 is available to send
your child to Israel



\$500

Savings Bonus

\$2500

From an anonymous donor

\$750

From your synagogue

\$4000

From the Jewish Federation

up to
\$3000

in additional funding*

Contact Tana Velen at tana@jewishnola.com to learn more.

Welcome, New Members!

Touro Synagogue welcomes the following members who have joined our congregation in 5777:

Aaron and Caroline Alterman <i>Henry</i>	Glenn Hartman and Elizabeth Crabtree-Hartman <i>Riley, Jameson</i>	Adam Quigley Elise Rosen
Amy Barad and Jeffrey Schwartz Angie Bartelt	Adam and Lisa Horwitz <i>Maja, Logan</i>	David Rubin and Renee Sere-Rubin <i>Nathaniel, James, Hollis</i>
Danielle Bellone and Shana Rubenstein Martha Carol	Abigail Isaacoff <i>Eli, Wolfgang, Zebulan, Opal</i>	Madison Sanders Daniella Santoro
Michael and Virginia Castine <i>Samantha</i>	Ross Klingsberg and Amy Vaughan <i>Elena, Julia, Samuel</i>	Jennifer Schnidman
Jonas Chartock	Sara and Stuart Kottle <i>Zachary</i>	Leah Shackleton and Christopher Wear
Zachary and Meredith Engel <i>Margalit</i>	Anna Labadie and Ben Capiello	Howard Shapiro and Catherine Boozman
Michal Erder and Isaac Yurco	Danielle and Benjamin Lee <i>Samuel</i>	Michael and Carey Sherman <i>Sienna, Brooklyn, Bennett</i>
Shellye Farber	Jonas Miller	Jocelyn Simons and Andrew Olinik
Brandon Faske	Amie Nissenbaum <i>Simone</i>	Michael Singer and Courtney Nathan <i>Audrey, Leo</i>
Ashlee Fenwick	Rachel Oreck and Nick Riesner	Zoe Skelton
Sara Gershen	Alexis Pinsky	Minka Shura Sprague
Maggie Glaser and Jeffrey Wolfson	William Procell and Betty Procell	Maureen Stein
Joshua and Katy Goldstein <i>Paisley</i>	Fernando Promoslovsky and Natalia Skef-Promoslovsky <i>Simon</i>	Benjamin Swig
Scott and Sara Harris <i>Millie, Elizabeth, Isaac</i>		Karen Tate
Sophie Harris and Harry Vorhoff		Sophia Zaretsky

Mazel Tov to all our 5777 Babies

Felix Parks Kushner <i>grandson of Ivy and Fred Kushner, nephew of Jared Kushner</i>	Mia Be Slaine <i>granddaughter of Sherril Herman</i>	Harper Sloan Brinn <i>granddaughter of Karen and Lance Turkish, great granddaughter of Harriet Stern</i>
Maya Abigail Marks <i>daughter of Carrie and Austin Marks, sister of Samuel, granddaughter of Cathy and Morris Bart, great-granddaughter of Hertha Bart, grandniece of Vivian Cahn (Richard), niece of Michelle Goehring (Jacob)</i>	Grey James Friesenhahn <i>grandson of Andi and Terry Lestelle, great nephew of Lee and Ellen Sucherman</i>	Emma Ruth Nichols <i>daughter of Jenny Katz and Greg Nichols</i>
Asher Liam Fingerman <i>son of Jeffrey Fingerman and Katie Coburn, brother of Abby Jean Fingerman</i>	Leon James Bowron <i>son of Rachel and Ward Bowron, grandson of Nancy and Steve Timm, great grandson of Marjorie Bissinger, great nephew of Allan and Nancy Bissinger</i>	Josephine Viola Novod <i>daughter of Kimberly and Aaron Novod</i>
Owen David Williams <i>great grandson of Barbara & Sandy Maslansky</i>	Lauren Hyatt Kupperman <i>great-granddaughter of Dotty Jacobs, niece of Shane and Allison Kupperman, great-niece of Andy and Carmen Jacobs</i>	Logan Joseph Horwitz <i>son of Lisa and Adam Horwitz, brother of Maja Horwitz</i>
Sidonie Scott Kullman <i>daughter of Freddy and Read Kullman, sister of Jack Kullman, granddaughter of Ruth and Larry Kullman, niece of Ginny Kullman</i>	Margalit Shoshana Engel <i>daughter of Meredith and Zachary Engel</i>	Samuel Aaron Lee <i>son of Danielle and Benjamin Lee</i>
Ori Federico Padilla-Goodman <i>grandson of Alan and Sherrie Goodman</i>	Zachary Saul Mintz <i>son of Mark Mintz and Jennifer Kitner, brother of Lilly Rose and Emily Mintz, grandson of Morris and Melinda Mintz</i>	Charles Percy Ehrenwerth <i>son of Justin and Dana Ehrenwerth</i>
		Charles Richard Alter <i>grandson of Susan Gingold</i>

LETTER FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE *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 these members 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 Scott Silbert

Mary Lynn and Charles Alltmont
Aimee and Steven Bain
Jaymi and Mark Baum
Jill and Michael Botnick
Joy and Andrew Braun
Marianne Cohn
Ina and Richard Davis
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Ivan Sherman
Nancy and Gary Silbert
Diane and Gordon Starling
Kerry Tapia and Ben Beasley
Jill and Marc Winston
Ellen and Marc Yellin
Elly Zakris
Jack Zoller



L'DOR V'DOR GENERATION TO GENERATION

Did you know that 20% of Touro Synagogue's operating budget comes from Touro Synagogue Foundation?

Our Sanctuary was built in 1908. We did not build this beautiful and historic building, it is a gift from our parents, and their parents.

Please consider a gift to the Touro Synagogue Foundation to ensure our congregations's future for generations to come.



CARING AND MITZVAH COMMITTEE

Caring & Mitzvah's purpose is to help Touro members connect with and support each other. Check out our current initiatives below. We are always looking for new ways to make connections; contact Lisa Keleher at lisatkeleher@gmail.com or (504) 296-5472 to make suggestions or get involved!

- 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 call from our clergy.
- Meal Trains - We have been happily cooking and delivering meals to families who recently welcomed new babies and those undergoing medical treatment. Such a nice way to connect with families in your area and a much appreciated mitzvah!
- Friday Night Blessings & Shabbat Dinner Prep - We help coordinate families to come light Shabbat candles and say kiddush with us at Friday services. Members are also invited to help prepare the Shabbat dinner that follows on Fridays starting at 2:30 pm. No cooking skills needed.
- Neighborhood Socials - An opportunity to get to know the members who live within a mile or two of you. These small groups have had pool parties, dinners, and coffee & beignets. Want to find out who is in your neighborhood? Contact Lisa Keleher.

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

Kim Sherman
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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)
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beckalini@cox.net

Carrie Marks and Robert Kohn
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carriebmarks@gmail.com;
robert@irakohnco.com

Scott & Shelley Saltzman
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scott.saltzman@gmail.com;
percybysse13@yahoo.com

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



MARDI GRAS

AT **TOURO SYNAGOGUE**

FEBRUARY 2018

FUN
FOR
ALL!

GET YOUR
PARADE
ON!

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!

- Touro members have special access to our campus during many of the parades. Bring a picnic and enjoy the parades from the street or in our courtyard - 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.
- Volunteer for one of our VIP KIDS' Parade Days. Every year we set up a wheelchair accessible platform on the steps of the sanctuary for those with disabilities or special needs to view the parades. Lend your hand with either assembling the stands or chaperoning during the parade. See page 25 for more details.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 info@tourosynagogue.com.

SOCIAL ACTION

Touro Synagogue is an incredible, intergenerational community committed to social justice. As proud adherents of this central pillar of Reform Judaism, we were inspired to begin the Viennese coffeehouse series, providing a space for dialogue where the social meets the intellectual, the problems of the day meet thoughtful responses, and thought becomes action. Out of these conversations came a desire amongst the community to focus on causes and issues we are passionate about: Criminal Justice Reform, Voting Rights, Race & Equity, Environmental Justice, Hunger, LGBTQ+ rights, and many more. Within the framework of these causes, Touro will continue to use partnerships as a means to create meaningful change for the better. We are thrilled by the many leaders who have continued to steward these causes in our community or recently stepped in to advance them. We encourage you to check out the visions that follow for our work in the next year. See something that interests you? Please reach out! Is there a cause you care about not listed here? Let us know!

We look forward to continuing the conversation, learning, and acting together. If you have any questions or wish to get involved, please feel free to reach out to us.

Shira & Mike Cohen

shira.bergman@gmail.com / mcohen@tulane.edu



Black Lives Matter, systemic racism, white privilege. The news appears inundated with issues of race & equity. However, many of us struggle to find the words to have conversations around such issues or fear we don't have enough information or context to engage in a meaningful way. Touro's Race & Equity Collaborative (T.R.E.C.) is spending the year focused on building the foundations for conversations and dialogue around issues of race and equity here in our city.

Join us on our "TREC"! Stay tuned to TMail for details about upcoming events, including:

- Literature & Libations: *Waking Up White* Wednesday, November 8th at 6pm
- Race & Equity Learning Experience (fall event)
- Becoming White: A look at the intersection of Jewish & white identity development (spring event)

If you're interested in learning more, please email Shira Bergman-Cohen at shira.bergman@gmail.com

HURRICANE FLOOD RELIEF

Touro Synagogue is committed to helping impacted areas to rebuild. As we live this mission, we are initially focusing in two areas:

- Supporting Jewish organizations that are working with communities in impacted areas
- Supporting organizations working with communities of color and other marginalized groups

We recognize that rebuilding of homes and lives will take a very long time. Many of us have close ties to these communities, and we want to provide the same level of support as they did for us during our time of need. Therefore, we are seeking Touro members who would like to help our efforts--short and long term.

If you are interested in shaping Touro's hurricane flood response, please email Michael Cohen at mcohen@tulane.edu. We are seeking team members who will shape a response that reflects the values of the Touro community. To learn more about how you can help those affected, visit the Hurricane Relief tab at www.tourosynagogue.com.



REFUGEE RESPONSE



Touro Synagogue is working with the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program to help settle immigrant families in greater New Orleans. Currently Catholic Charities is the only resettlement agency in the New Orleans area, and provides services from the moment clients arrive at the airport and beyond. Touro Synagogue has been involved in collecting donations, home set up for newly arrived families as well as in long-term mentoring. Your help is needed to support these families in their new lives.

Contact Jeanne Rademacher Margolin at ecm1112@msn.com if you are interested in helping.



AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVE

"In June 2013, the Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby County v. Holder* that states with a long history of racial discrimination no longer needed to approve any proposed changes to their voting procedures with the federal government, as had long been required under the Voting Rights Act. That meant this year's presidential election was the first in 50 years without the full protections of the act." - Ari Berman, Op-Ed, The New York Times

Voting is the foundation of American democracy. In the absence of a federally guaranteed right to vote, voting is a privilege that activists must continually fight to ensure. Whether it is partisan or racial gerrymandering, Voter ID laws, or the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, voter suppression efforts are underway across the country, with a disproportionate, and often intentional, impact on minority and marginalized communities. As members of Touro Synagogue, we have an obligation to assist our neighbors whose rights are threatened.

The Voting Rights Initiative has set a number of goals for the year including, but certainly not limited to:

- Establishing voter registration drives
- Re-registering the formerly incarcerated
- Supporting legislative efforts that protect and expand voting rights

We plan to partner with other organizations and community leaders to make an impact both locally and statewide. With a critical mayor's race in the coming months and Congressional elections in 2018, this work is as important as ever. Regardless of political affiliation, we must all stand up for our democracy.

The Voting Rights group is collaborating with Touro's Criminal Justice Reform Initiative and other community and faith-based groups in an effort to develop and distribute a guide for the formerly-incarcerated and/or recently-released probationers on steps to complete voter re-registration. Stay tuned for more information on how you can assist with this project.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email Brandon Faske at brandon.faske@gmail.com or Joy Braun at jbrown@sessions-law.com.

Our state has made huge strides recently in the realm of criminal justice reform, and the savings of dollars realized from incarcerating fewer individuals will be reinvested into programs that reduce recidivism, create alternatives to prison and enhance public safety. Input by citizens into the creation of these programs is imperative and assistance with their implementation is crucial.

The Touro Criminal Justice Reform Initiative plans to develop action items in the upcoming year to assist with the vital areas of post-prison re-entry (including opportunities for hands-on work with juvenile re-entrants), bail and sentencing reform and voter registration or re-registration of the formerly incarcerated. In addition, we have been invited to participate in inter-congregational efforts with our neighbors at St. Charles Baptist Church and other faith-based groups. Together, our work will be all the more impactful.

If you are interested in learning about these issues and being a part of this change, please join us!

The Criminal Justice Reform group is collaborating with Touro's Voting Rights Initiative and other community groups in an effort to develop and distribute a guide for the formerly-incarcerated and/or recently-released probationers on steps needed to complete voter re-registration. Stay tuned for more information on how you can assist with this project.

For more information about the Criminal Justice Reform Initiative please contact Marjorie Esman at marjorie.esman@outlook.com or Julie Silbert at julie.silbert@keanmiller.com.

DO YOU LIKE TO KNIT?

Women are, unfortunately, the fastest-growing part of the US prison population. Join us in knitting or crocheting baby blankets for babies born to incarcerated women in Indiana. Blankets may be made in any pattern out of washable yarn. They will be distributed by the non-profit Angel's Wings, which hosts baby showers four times a year. Can't knit but want to help? If there is interest, we will be happy to organize a learn to knit event.

Contact Naomi Yavneh for more details at yavneh@loyno.edu.

SOCIAL ACTION

HARRY TOMPSON REBUILD CENTER

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there are 610,042 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in the United States. The Harry Thompson Center provides a wide range of services to an average of **150 guests per day**, including showers, meals, hygiene and other supplies, medical assistance, mental health care, legal services, housing placement and case management. Touro has partnered with HTC to assist with their constant need of supplies and volunteer assistance. Their current wish list includes:

- Disposable ponchos
- Wash cloths
- Baby and foot powder
- Men's underwear
- Men's belts
- Men's running shoes size 10 and higher
- Small toiletries and other hygiene supplies, particularly small shampoos and soaps
- Handkerchiefs
- Men's reading glasses
- Small snacks such as granola bars
- Grocery tote bags and backpacks
- Insect repellent
- High efficiency liquid laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies for clients moving into housing
- Paperback books/magazines/newspapers
- Walking canes
- Copy paper, small notebooks, pens, and other office supplies

Feel free to drop off supplies in the labeled bins in the Shusan Assembly.

Volunteer opportunities abound. Explore the website at www.harrytompsoncenter.org.

Other Ideas? HTC is open to many new activities, as long as they have a volunteer to implement the idea. If you are interested in helping the guests in a unique and creative way, HTC will work with you to get it done!

To learn more or see how you can help, please contact Naomi Yavneh at yavneh@loyno.edu or Julie Silbert at julie.silbert@keanmiller.com.



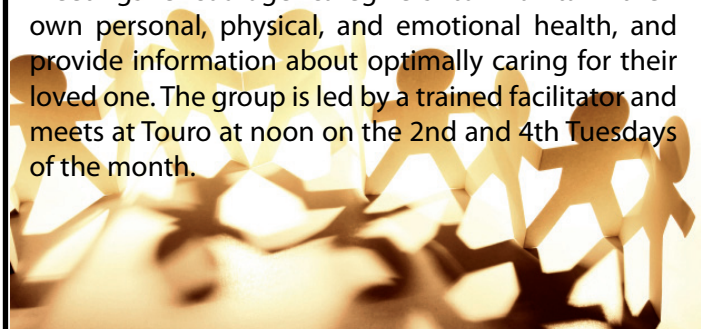
SOPHIE B. WRIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL

Our partnership neighbors at Sophie B. Wright Charter School finished the 2016/2017 school year, the first in their newly renovated building, with over \$2 million of college scholarships. One graduating senior even received the first ever Posse Scholarship Award granted to a Sophie B. Wright student for a full, four year ride to Notre Dame University! Touro's support for this achievement is offered in student incentives and teacher appreciation gifts. Want to contribute a gift card from Canes or New Orleans Coffee and Beignet Company? Drop the cards off in the Touro office and we'll deliver them. Want to help with teacher appreciation snacks or student tutoring? Contact Teri Hunter at president@touro synagogue.com.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH
12:00PM CHAPEL STUDY**

Touro serves as a location for an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group. The group is designed to provide emotional, educational, and social support for anyone caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. The meetings encourage caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical, and emotional health, and provide information about optimally caring for their loved one. The group is led by a trained facilitator and meets at Touro at noon on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.



A CARING COMMUNITY



Sometimes life can get overwhelming and an individual or a family needs extra support and assistance. Trying to cope and figure out how to deal with those bumps in the road can feel insurmountable and sometimes isolating. The Touro Synagogue Mental Health Committee, composed of members of the congregation and clergy, are trying to address the mental health needs of our own Touro community and would like your input.

For several years the committee has worked with The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to provide services for our members who suffer from chronic mental issues and those who care for them. We will continue this relationship and believe no individual or family should feel alone in their suffering. Please check out Touro's website for NAMI offerings.

The committee has recognized the need to support our congregants who may not have mental illness, but need help in achieving mental health. There is a rise in stress, anxiety and depression among children, adolescents and adults in the world today. We value prevention of mental illness and would like to provide ways for people to develop mental wellness.

We have partnered with Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans to provide support groups housed at Touro in the future. The following is a list of potential groups and we would appreciate your input as to whether you would be interested, or know of someone, who might be interested in attending any of the following groups. Please let us know!

- **Girl Power:** A series of Girl Power meetings for girls ages 8 to 13 who want to improve their social skills. Topics will include ways to create positive friendships and handle peer pressure and bullying. Strategies to communicate feelings, make positive choices, and cope with stress and anxiety will also be discussed.
- **Playful Parenting:** An interactive seminar for parents and caregivers of children ages 3 to 10 who want to learn play therapy techniques to improve communication skills with their children.
- **Transitioning to College:** A psychoeducational group for adolescents preparing for college.
- **Parenting LGBTQ Teens:** Psychoeducation/Support Group for Parents of LGBTQ teenagers who need help navigating this difficult transition period in their child's life. The group will cover how to show support, signs of depression in teens, and bullying.
- **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy:** A skills group to help adults challenge harmful patterns of thinking.
- **Bereavement:** A support group for those who have suffered a loss.
- **Caregiver Support:** A caregiver support group for families, partners and other caregivers to talk about the stresses, challenges and rewards of caregiving.
- **LGBTQ Adults with Anxiety:** A support group for adults in the LGBTQ community seeking a safe, supportive environment to explore their anxiety.

On Sunday, October 22nd at 9:00am, Rabbi Berk and a guest speaker will be presenting "A Response to 13 Reasons," a look at the recent Netflix series "13 Reasons Why", that has prompted much discussion about teen suicide and how complicated the culture of adolescence has become. Adolescents, their parents and anyone else concerned about the welfare of our youth are invited. A panel will be offered in the Spring to educate parents about how to help our children navigate a world that is constantly changing.

Please let us know if you would like to join the Mental Health Committee. All are welcome. If you have ideas about how we, as a community, can support those who are struggling with problems they are facing, please let us know.

**Contact David Hammer at
hammer.david@rocketmail.com
or Nancy B. Timm at Nancybtimm@gmail.com.**

NOLA SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS

The NOLA Survivors of Suicide Loss is a peer-facilitated support group that is open to all adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. The purpose of the group is to provide survivors the opportunity to talk about their experiences and an opportunity to listen to the experiences of others, with the hope that the mutual support and understanding will help in the healing process.

The NOLA Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:30 - 8:00pm at the NAMI New Orleans offices at 1538 Louisiana Avenue on the 2nd floor.

They ask that those interested in attending the group e-mail survivors.nola@gmail.com or leave a voice mail at (504) 410-7025 and one of their facilitators will call back as soon as possible.

**Visit nolasurvivors.com for additional
information and resources.**

SOCIAL ACTION



This year, Touro's social action initiative is launching a new Touro Committee on the Environment. Our committee will support efforts to protect Louisiana's coast by educating our community about the environment, partnering with coastal communities, and monitoring policies that affect our coast's future.

As New Orleanians, we all have a personal narrative about the impact that the coast has had on our lives. Our committee will give Touro members the opportunity to use our knowledge to help preserve our coast and protect communities that will be affected by coastal erosion.

For questions or comments and to find out how you can get involved, contact David Shepard at david.l.shepard@gmail.com.



Touro Synagogue stands proudly with the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference for American Rabbis in advocating for justice, equality and acceptance. To that end, our LGBTQ+ Advocacy Group acts as an extension of the mission of Touro Synagogue: transformative prayer, expansive thought, fearless engagement, and love. We are open and accessible to all, here for all of us as we open our minds to challenging thought and new possibilities. We seek out legislators to make our case, we engage partners in the city and the region, we worship together, envision the future together, and have just plain fun together too.

Join us on Tuesday, October 10, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, when we will gather in the Shushan Assembly to plan our agenda and goals for the year. All are welcome.

Upcoming events planned for the year include:

- Congressional Advocacy throughout the Louisiana legislative session, Spring 2018
- New Orleans Pride Parade, June 2018
- LGBTQ Shabbat, Summer 2018

Contact Laura Levy at laura.silven.levy@gmail.com for questions or comments.



ADVOCACY AWARENESS

Together, we can make a difference. Advocacy is a crucial component of Touro's social justice work. Please take a look at the Touro Advocacy Alert button on our website and at the bottom of each t-mail. The advocacy opportunities are updated on-going so be sure to click on the button frequently.

In addition to our own Advocacy Alert button at Touro, you can sign up to get direct alerts about issues closest to your heart and mind. Below is a list of websites that correspond with Touro initiatives and where you can sign up to receive direct advocacy alerts.

RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER ARM OF THE URJ:

www.rac.org

MAZON: A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER

www.mazon.org

FORUM FOR EQUALITY

www.forumforequality.org

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

ACLU OF LOUISIANA

www.laclu.org

CRIME COALITION NOLA

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

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Touro's Hunger Action Initiative, Nourish, aims to help alleviate the hunger needs of our greater New Orleans community. According to recent statistics, in Orleans Parish alone, there are 88,170 food insecure people. This number includes children as well as hard-working adults and seniors who simply cannot always make ends meet and may be forced to go without food. The threat of hunger is very real; often they must decide which to go without, food, or medicine.

You can help Touro's efforts to be part of the solution!

Our state of the art Vertical Garden, which lines the exterior walls of our building on Pitt Street, provides fresh and healthy produce for our neighborhood food pantry--sometimes as much as 70 pounds in just one harvest! The Broadmoor Food Pantry (BFP), a subsidiary of Second Harvest, distributes our fresh produce to the hungry individuals and families in our neighborhood, many of whom are diabetic or pre-diabetic in part because they cannot afford the fresh fruits and vegetables needed to sustain a healthy body.

We also support Second Harvest directly by maintaining on-going collection bins for non-perishable foods. We encourage you to bring in your non-perishable food items each Shabbat and whenever you are in our buildings. Your donations help make our New Orleans community more food secure. The Broadmoor Food Pantry depends on Second Harvest's distributions to provide food for their families in our neighborhood. Look for our focused drive each month to offer the foods they most need.

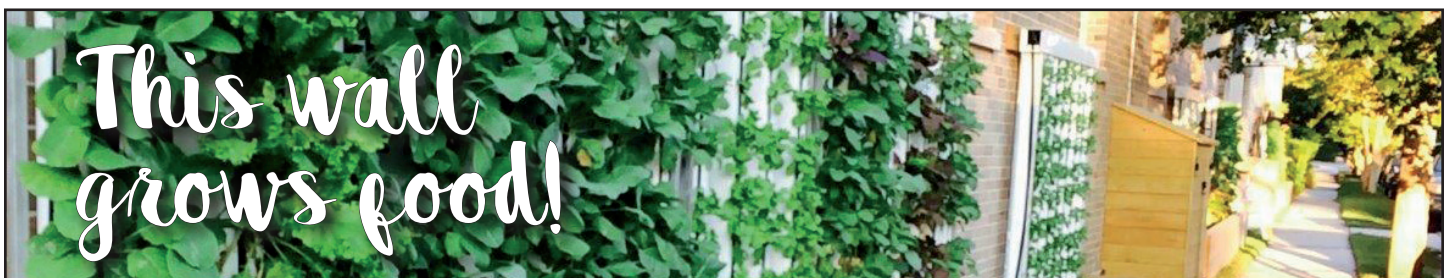
To learn more about the Broadmoor Food Pantry and what you can do to help, please contact Anamaria Villamarin-Lupin at anamariavl@live.com.

To learn more about our Vertical Gardens or to help us harvest (one time or on-going) please contact Scott Saltzman at scott.saltzman@gmail.com to say you want to help or to learn more.

YOM KIPPUR FOOD DRIVE

Each year, Touro members help replenish the shelves of the local food bank with hundreds of pounds of groceries. Help fight food insecurity in New Orleans by bringing a bag of groceries with you to the Yom Kippur morning service on September 30. We encourage each Touro family to provide food for a comparable size family in need.

Thank you for helping with this very important effort!



SOCIAL ACTION



NOURISH COMMITTEE FOOD DRIVE COLLECTIONS 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER

Canned proteins: tuna; chicken; salmon

OCTOBER

Canned fruits and vegetables;
canned beans and potatoes

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving fixins: Stuffing;
Mashed potato mix; canned veggies

DECEMBER

Baking staples: flour, sugar, oils;
seasonings, spices, salt and pepper

JANUARY

Peanut butter and jelly collection!

FEBRUARY

It's Mardi Gras: Rice and beans

MARCH

Baby food and formula

APRIL

Get rid of your chametz!
Pasta, crackers, cookies, pantry staples

MAY

Stock up for summer!
Non perishables of all kinds

*We happily accept all types of
non-perishable food donations year-round.
For safety reasons, Second Harvest prefers
not to receive any glass containers.*



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 seven 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.

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

**To reserve a spot for a child (or adult)
with disabilities, please call Juan Gershanik
at (504) 896-2229 or (504) 377-1162.**

Dear Juan and Hal,

We want to extend a most sincere thank
you to you and all of the members of Touro
Synagogue for opening its doors and their
hearts so that our students can have a safe
location to watch the parades. We are blessed
to include you in our family of friends.
We will keep you in our daily prayers.

Prayerfully grateful,

Tish Sauerhoff
President and Principal,
St. Michael Special School

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A special thank you to our Patrons who offer voluntary Annual Support beyond a sustaining level. We are deeply grateful for your heartfelt generosity upon which we rely and from which Touro Synagogue benefits.

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