

TOURO SYNAGOGUE NEWS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 192 ISSUE 1

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5781

L'shanah Torah! *Socially Distant, Spiritually Connected*



Tashlich 5780 at City Park, New Orleans

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Lisa Herman

Dear Touro Family,

As I write this, 5781 is fast approaching. Will it be different from 5780? Will it be more of the same? Each year during the High Holidays, we find ourselves with the opportunity for a fresh start, a new beginning. We reflect, we seek forgiveness, and we open our hearts to God as we celebrate the chance to begin a new year full of promise. In that respect, this year will be no different – and yet we do understand that it will be different.

Last year in my comments from the bima as we entered the Days of Awe, I spoke about my awe of Touro Synagogue – my awe of our amazing clergy team, our extraordinary staff, our Board of Trustees, and of all of you who make up this incredibly vibrant, active, and proactive congregation. As we approach 5781, my awe has only increased. I have watched the Touro family rise to the occasion of finding new and meaningful ways to engage, connect, and care for each other and our greater community, and to live our best Jewish lives in the midst of a pandemic. I have watched us as, together, we looked at new ways to examine and begin

work on addressing pressing social justice issues, and as we've embarked on developing community partnerships that have the potential to benefit us all for years to come. I have watched us do the important work of codifying our vision, mission, and priorities. And I've watched as we cared for our beautiful facilities, while planning for their continued care well into the future.

In short, I have watched us act and truly innovate without fear during a time of great challenges. At this unprecedented time, you all have made me prouder than ever to be a part of the Touro family. So how will 5781 be different than any other new year? Well, it won't be "normal". And yes, we know in advance that it will be challenging. So while we of course look forward to fewer challenges and a return to some sort of normalcy, we should all feel proud that we are creating something beautiful and lasting right now – something that will help us grow from strength to new strength in the years to come.

I look forward to spending time with you in the year ahead, whether virtually or in person, and wish you and your loved ones a sweet, healthy, and happy new year. As always, we will be here for each other.

L'shanah Tovah,

Lisa

LET'S MAKE A BIG IMPACT THIS HIGH HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!

Touro is collecting nonperishable food items at the synagogue for distribution to Second Harvest. Please drop off your donations in the collection bin located outside in our courtyard - Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Again and again, our tradition teaches us that the preservation of life is the highest value. During these Covid-19 days, that teaching guides and directs so many of our actions and occupies so much of our minds. Our actions are restricted in order to support that teaching right now, but we constantly ask, *"What can we do to help preserve life at any given moment?"*

Childhood hunger is soaring! Our food banks and pantries are running out of food and are in desperate and constant need. We can help Second Harvest offer our neighborhood families well-rounded, nutritious meals. That is something we can do.

When shopping for non-perishable food items to donate, please consider buying items that a family could use to feed their children a day (or days) worth of healthy, well-rounded meals. What if each of us brought in a bag that contained breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a family? And maybe a healthy snack or two? Think *meals!*

If you are unable to drop off groceries at Touro, please consider a monetary donation to Rabbi Bauman's Discretionary Fund labeled High Holiday Food Drive. ***Thank you for helping with this very important effort!***



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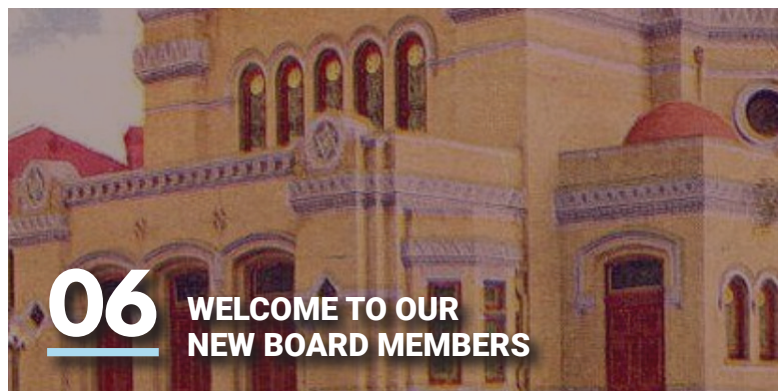
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MISSION AND VISION



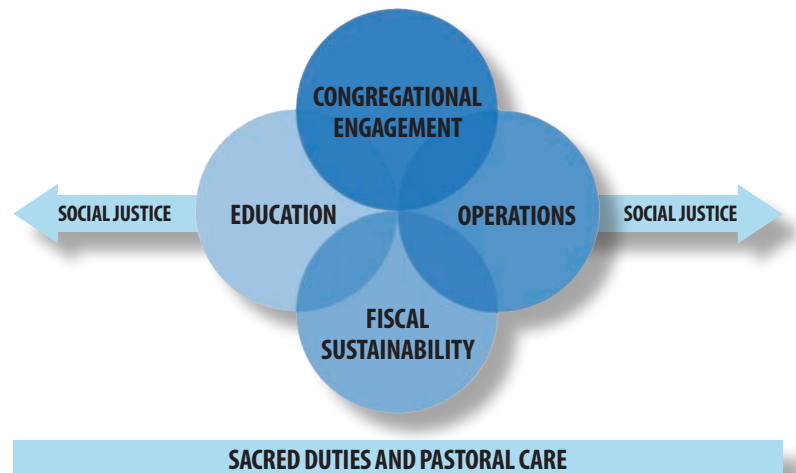
MISSION AND PRIORITIES TASK FORCE REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM LAURA LEVY CHAIR, MISSION AND PRIORITIES TASK FORCE

Late last summer, following Rabbi Bauman's arrival, Lisa Herman asked me to chair a new working group, *the Mission and Priorities Task Force*. Lisa charged the Task Force to develop renewed Vision and Mission Statements that reflect our core values as a congregation, our goals and aspirations, and to recommend and prioritize approaches to reach them. The Task Force of eighteen members was appointed. We began with a planning session at the Board of Trustees retreat last August and have been meeting in earnest throughout the year, albeit via Zoom in recent months. The process we used was highly consultative. We made use of valuable congregational input collected last year from Town Hall meetings and surveys that had been conducted during the search for our new rabbi. Many of you participated in those processes to articulate our goals and aspirations together. This information was very helpful. We also solicited input from constituencies of the congregation including the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Past Presidents, and Chairs of standing committees. Rabbi Bauman, Rabbi Silverman, Cantor Margolius, and Kerry Tapia participated actively in the process. We are prepared now, indeed eager, to share our new Vision and Mission statements and the articulation of goals and priorities for the coming years.

The new Vision and Mission statements emphasize our role as *Beit Kneset, Beit T'filah, Beit Midrash, Beit Tikkun Olam, and Beit Ahava*. They also reflect our core values as articulated a few years ago: *Transformative Prayer, Expansive Thought, Fearless Engagement, and Love*. **Guided by our work on these statements, we clustered the major activities of the synagogue into six major areas: Congregational Engagement, Operations, Fiscal Sustainability, Education, Social Justice, and Sacred Duties and Pastoral Care.**

Through our discussions, it became clear that the area of Sacred Duties and Pastoral Care is foundational, providing meaning, context and direction for all we do. The lifecycle moments, prayer services, holiday observances, support during difficult times, and other sacred duties are the privileges and responsibility of our clergy. They will continue to plan and set priorities in this area as they do every day, ongoing. We also came to view Social Justice as an operating philosophy that is cross-cutting through all we do, integrated within and supportive of the other strategic areas. Social justice is the lens we apply to the priorities and activities that define us, truly an essential element of a congregation oriented around justice and equality. For this reason, social justice goals and priorities are embedded in the planning for all other strategic areas. As depicted above, those areas are drawn as overlapping, intended to emphasize the mutually supportive nature of our major activities. Subgroups of the Task Force were identified to address each strategic area, and to consider goals, needs, and priorities, both short-term and longer-term, for the next five years. This effort resulted in a thoughtful inventory of our strengths, our needs, our opportunities, and an articulation of successful outcomes we envision in each area. The final product includes prioritized recommendations to help us actualize our goals over the coming years. A summary of this report is available to you on our website at <https://bit.ly/3jJHhpN>. If you should have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lisa Herman at president@touroynagogue.com or me at laura.silven.levy@gmail.com.



It has been a joy to experience the commitment, sincerity, talent, and collaborative spirit of this group. All on the Task Force have worked with dedication and insight, but I want to thank in particular the subgroup leaders, Bob Batterman, Mike Cohen, Teri Hunter, Cathy Lazarus, and Gary Silbert, as well as the writing subgroup, particularly Kevin Wilkins.

Warm regards,

Laura Levy, Chair, Mission and Priorities Task Force
Board of Trustees Executive Committee Member

TOURO SYNAGOGUE MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

OUR VISION

Reform Jewish values actualized to inspire present and future generations.

OUR MISSION

Touro Synagogue creates a haven for individual, family, and communal connection to Reform Judaism and to each other. Grounded in our enduring history and guided by our innovative spirit, we are an ever-evolving expression of Jewish faith, hope, possibility, meaning, and impact within our walls and beyond.

WE ADVANCE OUR MISSION THROUGH OUR ROLE AS:

Beit Kneset a home for gathering, where we experience the fullness of life together in community.

Beit T'filah, a home for prayer, where we mark sacred moments, express our deepest longings through timeless blessings, and creatively nurture spiritual yearnings.

Beit Midrash, a home for study, where we stimulate one another's minds and hearts through lifelong Jewish learning.

Beit Tikkun Olam, a home for healing through engagement with social justice.

Beit Ahava, a home for inclusive love, joy, and spiritual sustenance.



Welcome New Board Members!

A hearty welcome to our new board members who began a two-year term on July 1, 2020



Jeffrey Good is excited to join the Touro Synagogue board. He and his wife, Caroline, together with their children Benjy and Claire, are thankful for the gift of being Touro members. Jeff shares his father's awe for the main sanctuary, the place in which he became a Bar Mitzvah. While Jeff is looking forward to the eventual return of Shabbat dinners, he enjoys seeing Benjy and Claire participate in the socially distanced Yamim Yafim youth programming. As an alum of Henry S. Jacobs Camp, Jeff is a supporter of Touro's partnership with Jewish camping. Jeff is an alum of American University and obtained a JD/MBA from Tulane University. He practices real estate law with Jones Walker LLP.



Carol Markowitz (originally from Los Angeles) and her husband Donny (originally from Queens) moved to New Orleans in 2011. They are proud members of Touro Synagogue, where their children Sam (10) and Sadie (9) have attended Religious School (and now Uptown Hebrew) since 2014. Carol is Loyola University's COO and SVP of Finance, responsible for all financial management, accounting operations, facilities, public safety, human resources, and information technology for the University. Prior to joining Loyola in July 2019, Carol spent six years launching New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), a post-secondary culinary school that is the first of its kind in New Orleans. She is grateful to be using her unique combination of entrepreneurial capabilities and extensive experience in corporate finance (for Fortune 500 to smaller private equity and venture capital backed companies) for the benefit of her community. Markowitz earned a B.A. in Economics from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.



William Procell is a native Louisianian, born and raised in Shreveport, LA and currently lives on Bayou Barataria in Lafitte. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Northeast Louisiana University and went on to receive a Doctorate of Medicine from LSU Medical School in Shreveport. Bill was the Medical Director of Bastrop County in Austin, Texas and developed an educational program for the AIDS epidemic for the county leaders and general public. He was also secretary of the Bastrop County Medical Society where he was responsible for coordinating county medical staff meetings and educational programs. Bill moved back to Louisiana in 1988 and has practiced on the Westbank since then. He has volunteered with CASA and other charitable organizations in the Greater New Orleans area. He also precepts for the nurse practitioner programs at UAB, LSU, Nichols State, and Southern University. Bill's first visit to Touro Synagogue was in 2002 for the congregational Seder. He has always enjoyed Jewish studies and has thoroughly enjoyed the classes lead by the clergy at Touro. He became a member of Touro Synagogue in 2016. He enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, hunting, and entertaining, and of course the Touro Torah Study Group.



Stacey Weinreb Lutz is happy to return to the Board of Trustees after a multiyear hiatus. Stacey joined our synagogue in September 1995, just days after arriving from New York, for a three-year stint with Ochsner in their physical therapy department. She never left! After studying to become an adult B'nai Mitzvah with Rabbi Goldstein, she immersed herself in the Touro community, becoming involved with the religious school as a third grade co-teacher, and singing with the choir. She was honored to act as cantorial soloist for Friday night services in 1996 and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Sisterhood president prior to her terms on the Touro Synagogue Board of Trustees. Stacey is a graduate of the JFGNO's Lemann-Stern Young Leadership Program and served, along with fellow Touro member extraordinaire, Hal Shepard, as a Katz Philips advisor. Stacey was introduced to her husband, John Lutz, by a Touro Synagogue Sisterhood friend back in 2013. They are Friday night regulars and live in Mid City.



Elly Zakris and children, Sara, Arielle and Jake, moved to New Orleans in 1992 and shortly thereafter made Touro Synagogue her Jewish home. Her children all attended religious school through confirmation, and all made Bar/Bat Mitzvahs there. Elly enjoys participating in Touro's community outreach activities and the Mental Health Committee. She and partner Peter Sather especially love weekly services and Shabbat dinners. Outside Touro, Elly is an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at LSU Medical School and the Director of Radiation Oncology at Touro Infirmary, University Medical Center, and Children's Hospital. She is also on the board of Bridge House/Grace House, Susan G. Komen, and Touro Infirmary.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI BAUMAN

Dear Touro Synagogue Family,

The irony that this year's High Holidays - one of our most ancient traditions - will be the first of their kind is really remarkable. In 5781, the path we will walk will be a blessing and an inspiration to those who come after us. To that end, I'd like to make a few suggestions as we prepare our own home sanctuaries for the holidays. I'm hopeful that one or more will speak to you and support you as you join the congregation from your home.

Prepare the space where you will be praying. Perhaps set up chairs ahead of time in front of your screen, whether computer, tablet, or television. Determine which direction in the room is East (downtown for most of us) so you can face it at certain times. Make sure you have your prayer book and Book of Remembrance nearby. Please plan to check out a High Holiday Siddur (prayer book) from Touro in the coming weeks. For an online version of Mishkan HaNefesh or to purchase your own copy, please visit www.ccarnet.org/publications/hhd. (The Book of Remembrance and High Holiday Meditations booklet will arrive at your home by mail in the coming weeks. They will also be available as a PDF on our website.)

Shelter service times from other time commitments and pressures. When we're gathered in the synagogue, this is easier to do. But it's important to try and do it at home as well. Turn off devices and alerts, clear your schedule of work of any kind, and plan to be in the moment - Jewish time connects us across all space.

Enliven your sense for the High Holidays. This may mean wearing particular clothing or jewelry that sets the day apart. If you have a tallit, this is a great time to wear it - it's customary on Rosh Hashanah morning, Kol Nidre, and all day on Yom Kippur.

Perhaps having something in the oven that will make the house smell like Rosh Hashanah. Perhaps it's surrounding yourself with visual reminders of your Jewish heritage.

Don't "watch" the service. Participate in it! Having services on a screen may prime us to think of them as some sort of show. We should be intentional about keeping them out of that realm. Read aloud, sing with Cantor, bend or sway at appointed times. It is our mindset that will break through the physical separation we'll experience.

Include your children when you can. Many have powerful memories of being in synagogue with our parents. Sometimes those memories include feeling bored or fidgety, but I imagine they also include curiosity and emotional attachment to this adult experience our elders were having that we were privy to. This is a great opportunity to include our children without any worry of them disturbing others or being there too long. And to help with that, we have prepared and will make available some holiday-themed materials for our youngest members so that they can find ways to express themselves during prayer services.

Through our commitment and determination, we will welcome our holidays despite the challenges, and when we do, we will add our voices to the glorious chorus of our people who have always been defined by creativity and resilience. Nothing has ever kept our people from celebrating who we are and where we've come from, and that will be as true this year as ever.

I'm looking so forward to being in prayerful connection with you during this sacred time.

L'shanah tovah umetukah,

Rabbi Katie Bauman

WAYS TO ENGAGE

This High Holiday season we will be broadcasting our major services on WLAE-TV as well as livestreaming on our website and Facebook page. Other opportunities this season include small outdoor, in-person gatherings and Zoom sessions. Please refer to the legend below to learn how you can be a part of these experiences.



WLAE-TV



LIVESTREAM



IN PERSON



ON ZOOM

WLAE-TV CAN BE SEEN ON:

COX - CH. 714 & 1014
CHARTER - CH. 11 & 711
AT&T, DISH - CH. 32

COMCAST - CH. 1032 (HOUMA)
RTC - CH. 2 (RESERVE)
32.1 - WLAE HD

32.2 - WLAE ENCORE
VISION COMM - CH. 32

WLAE-TV IS NOT CARRIED ON DIRECT TV

High Holidays 5781

ROSH HASHANAH

EREV ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 8:00PM

ROSH HASHANAH MORNING SERVICE  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 10:00AM

TASHLICH AND HAVDALAH AT CITY PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 5:00PM, 6:00PM (AT CAPACITY) NEW! 7:00PM SERVICE OFFERED

We'll gather at City Park to participate in Tashlich, a ritual of "casting off" the remnants of the old year and embracing the possibilities ahead in the new one. We'll conclude with a short Havdalah service. RSVP is required to attend.

To ensure enough space for as many people as possible to safely and healthily participate, we will be offering multiple Tashlich/Havdalah services and asking members to RSVP for one in advance. In case of inclement weather, we will postpone until the following evening, Sunday, September 20.

DURING THE DAYS OF AWE

KEVER AVOT AT HEBREW REST CEMETERY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 & THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 9:00AM

We will participate in the tradition of Kever Avot, visiting the graves of loved ones between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Whether or not loved ones are laid to rest in Hebrew Rest Cemetery, all are invited to attend one of the brief and meditative morning services during the Days of Awe and recall our dearly departed whom we carry with us into this new year. RSVP is required to attend.

SHABBAT SHUVAH WITH SPECIAL GUEST PROFESSOR JONATHAN JUDAKEN

PRESENTED BY THE DORIS CHESKY INSTITUTE OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

"JEWS IN THE AGE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER"

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 AT 6:00PM

Dr. Judaken is the Spence L. Wilson Chair in Humanities at Rhodes College, whose scholarship focuses on intellectual representation of Jews, Judaism, race and racism. Zoom link sent upon RSVP.



HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOKS

BORROW FROM TOURO:

We currently have prayer books available for pickup during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm).

If you would like to borrow a prayerbook, or if you have a loved one who is not able to come in person please reach out to Lauren at lauren@toursynagogue.com.


VIEW ONLINE OR PURCHASE:

Visit CCARNet.org/publications/hhd for a free online version of Mishkan HaNefesh or to purchase your own copy.

YOM KIPPUR

KOL NIDRE SERVICE  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 8:00PM

YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 10:00AM

YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON LEARNING SESSIONS  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1:00PM - 4:00PM

Zoom links sent upon RSVP. Recordings will be available after Yom Kippur

1:00-2:00PM THE BIBLICAL ORIGINS OF YOM KIPPUR WITH DR. JASON GAINES

Thousands of years ago, the ancient Israelites celebrated a holiday called "Purge Day," or Yom Kippur, when God required that sacred objects and places be physically decontaminated of sin. The Torah's version of this holiday is drastically different from the chag we observe today. In this talk, we will work to understand the origins of this most holy day, giving our commemorations further meaning and nuance.

2:00-3:00PM GUILT, SHAME, & SELF-COMPASSION: CREATING A PATH TOWARD SELF-FORGIVENESS & EVERYDAY HOLINESS WITH DR. JOSEPH BODENMILLER

As we seek to give and receive forgiveness, we too often neglect the essential function of forgiving ourselves. Together, we will consider the nature of self-directed *Rachamin* (self-compassion) as an essential function of psychological wellness, and as a necessary ingredient in creating a life of everyday holiness.

3:00-4:00PM HOW PEOPLE CHANGE WITH KEVIN WILKINS

During Yom Kippur, we reflect upon and commit to making changes in our personal lives for the upcoming year. We will consider this process through the lens of organizational change, asking ourselves the same powerful questions that help large, mission-driven institutions make change, seeking not only to survive this time, but to thrive.

MEDITATIVE TIME IN THE SANCTUARY 
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 12:30PM - 3:30PM

Our members are warmly invited to reserve a 20 minute block to sit in the sanctuary and engage in personal reflection and prayers. To minimize risk, there will be single-use seats and limited capacity for each block of time. RSVP is required. **Please note that everyone entering the sanctuary will be asked to wear a mask and have their temperature screened.**

YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SERVICE WITH CONGREGATIONAL VOICES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 3:15PM

The Yom Kippur Afternoon Service focuses on our stories and values. Many from our congregation will give voice to these powerful texts, from Jonah wrestling with forgiveness to the ancient ritual of Yom Kippur in the Temple.

Zoom link sent upon RSVP.

YIZKOR AND NEILAH CONCLUDING SERVICE  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 4:00PM

We conclude this holy day by remembering all our loved ones whom we have lost in recent and distant days. The 5781 Book of Remembrance will be mailed to each household. Additional copies will be available for pickup from the Touro Synagogue office. We will conclude with our last Tekiah Gedolah and Havdalah at 6:00pm.

LEGEND



IN PERSON



ON ZOOM



LIVESTREAM



WLAE-TV NEW ORLEANS

RSVP ONLINE!

TO RSVP FOR UPCOMING EVENTS, VISIT
WWW.TOUCROSYNAGOGUE.COM/HHD

SUKKOT

Sukkot is known as the most joyful holiday of the Jewish year. Its hallmarks are a return to the gentle embrace of nature, audacious hospitality, and an open heart to those who have neither home nor shelter. We'll savor this week of communion with our natural world by shaking the lulav, dwelling outside in the sukkah, and reflecting on our responsibility to provide for all. Please stay tuned for more information about learning opportunities throughout Sukkot! Most especially, **we look forward to celebrating the leadership of Rabbi Todd Silverman on the first night of Sukkot, Shabbat evening, October 2 at 6:00pm.** RSVP is required for in-person attendance.

SHABBAT SUKKOT AND CELEBRATION OF RABBI SILVERMAN 🧑🏫 📅
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT 6:00PM

SIMCHAT TORAH

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION ON SIMCHAT TORAH 🧑🏫 📅
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 AT 6:00PM

Our Touro family will gather outside as we celebrate our return to the beginning of the Torah! Just as Simchat Torah pairs the conclusion of one cycle of Torah reading with the first words of the next, **we will honor our Confirmation students as they transition to the next phase of their Jewish learning.** RSVP is required for in-person attendance.

FESTIVAL YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE 📖 📅
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 10:30AM

Our tradition teaches that when we observe festivals together as a community, we also bring the memories of those who are no longer with us. We will read the names of those in our extended Touro Synagogue family who have died since last Simchat Torah. We will also read the names of loved ones we have lost in years past. Please call Donna in the office at (504) 895-4843 to add the names of those you are remembering to our Yizkor service.

YOUTH HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES

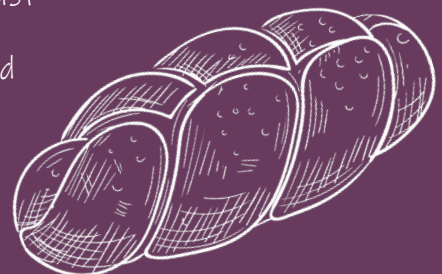
**PLEASE REVIEW THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON OUR HIGH HOLIDAY OFFERINGS FOR YOUTH**

Rabbi Silverman's Favorite Challah

Enjoy Rabbi Silverman's delicious challah recipe at home this High Holy Day season.

Find the full set of instructions at <https://goo.gl/axjKNp>

- 1 cup warm water
- 2 1/2 tsp. fresh or active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil or applesauce
- 3 eggs (2 for dough, 1 for brushing)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1-2 tbsp honey
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 5 cups flour
- 1. activate yeast
- 2. mix & knead
- 3. proof & braid
- 4. bake
- 5. enjoy!





TOURO YOUTH

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI SILVERMAN

With each new year comes an innumerable number of ways to grow one's understanding of people and outlook on the world, to immerse deeply and thoughtfully in new knowledge and challenging information, and to celebrate life's special occasions and sanctify moments of Jewish life. At Touro Synagogue, 5781 will be no different. Our congregational youth -- from the littlest ones crawling around during Shabbat Rocks! to our teenagers preparing for their Confirmation service in 10th grade -- exemplify what it means to joyfully bring those opportunities to life. Despite the world around us having changed so dramatically lately, we are nevertheless immensely excited -- perhaps more than ever before -- for the engaging, thought-provoking, ridiculously fun opportunities planned for Touro's kids and teens throughout the year ahead.

Shanah Tovah!
Rabbi Todd Silverman

YOUTH HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES

Throughout the High Holiday season, we warmly welcome families to join us for an array of sacred moments and celebrations geared towards kids, teens, and families. We look forward to sharing stories, immersing in music, reflecting on the past year, and dreaming dreams about the new one with you all -- safely, healthily, and full of joy! All in-person activities require RSVP. Please check our weekly Tmails for more information on how to register. Here are a few highlights:

ROSH HASHANAH ROCKS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

K'tanim families (Kindergarten and under): Shabbat morning, September 26 will be a *Rosh Hashanah Rocks!* We'll gather in the Bowsky Garden to celebrate the New Year and hear the blast of the shofar.

YAMIM YAFIM CELEBRATES THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Yamim Yafim (Grades 1-6): Parents are invited to join their kids for two special High Holiday-themed Sunday mornings of Yamim Yafim: September 20 (Rosh Hashanah) and September 27 (Yom Kippur).

SUKKOT EVENTS FOR TEENS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Madrichim (Grades 7-12): Teens will gather for Sukkot events throughout this joyful week with small-group opportunities to shake the lulav, bless the beautiful outdoors, and be in community with old and new friends.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

SIMCHAT TORAH FOR YOUTH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

SHABBAT ROCKS!

Touro Synagogue's Shabbat morning fun for families with young children (Ages 0-5). Older siblings, cousins, and friends are always welcome to join us! In addition to the Rosh Hashanah Shabbat Rocks! noted above with other youth holiday experiences, please save these dates for more fun times together!

SUKKOT ROCKS!
Sunday, October 4

CHANUKAH ROCKS!
December 19

PURIM ROCKS!
February 27

SHAVUOT ROCKS!
May 15

SHABBAT ROCKS!
November 28

TU B'SHEVAT ROCKS!
January 23

PASSOVER ROCKS!
March 27

Stay tuned for times and Zoom information in upcoming Tmails!

BEIT MIDRASH



WHAT WE
USED TO CALL
"RELIGIOUS SCHOOL"

IS NOW KNOWN AS
"YAMIM YAFIM"

('yah-MEEM yah-FEEM')

YAMIM YAFIM (BEAUTIFUL DAYS)

TOURO'S BRAND NEW YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR 2020: CAMP-STYLE, OUTDOOR, SOCIALLY DISTANCED, & IN-PERSON!

Following the success of our summer fun program, Yamim Yafim ("beautiful days"), we are thrilled to launch our new year-long religious education program for kids under the same banner! With health and safety as our priorities and in-person fun as our goal, we're looking forward to an engaging year of outdoor, socially-distanced, camp-style learning activities.

K'TANIM
Pre-K &
Kindergarten

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES
YAMIM YAFIM: SHABBAT BA-BOKER!
Shabbat Mornings
9:30am – 10:45am

**UPTOWN
HEBREW**
3rd-6th Grade

UPTOWN HEBREW
3RD-6TH GRADERS
Weekly on Zoom

**1ST-6TH
GRADE**

1ST – 6TH GRADERS
YAMIM YAFIM: SUNDAY FUNDAY!
Sunday Mornings
9:00am-10:15am or 10:45am-12:00pm

**7TH-10TH
GRADE**

7TH - 10TH GRADERS
BI-WEEKLY SESSIONS
Online and In-Person Experiences

LEARN MORE!

*If you are interested in learning more about our new Youth Education programs, visit
www.tourosynagogue.com/cle or contact Rabbi Todd Silverman at tsilverman@tourosynagogue.com.*

MAZEL TOV, 2020 CONFIRMANDS!

This past spring, despite needing to find new ways of commemorating sacred communal moments from the safety of our own homes, Touro Synagogue proudly and joyfully highlighted our 2020 Confirmation class during Friday night services. These fantastic teens are the future of our people, and we are beyond proud to call them ours.

We cannot wait to formally celebrate this Jewish milestone with them and their families during Shabbat services on October 9.

AIDAN ADLER

child of Stephanie and Keith Adler

CHLOE DEITELZWEIG

child of Stacy and Steven Deitelzweig

ELLA GUICHET

child of Samantha and Joe Guichet

AUDREY LIGIER

child of Anna Pasyuk and JD Ligier

NICO (KARAH) NACHLAS

child of Emily and Aaron Nachlas

EMMET PATON

child of Rebekah and Lane Paton

SOPHIE RABALAIS

child of Cynthia Steward and Frank Rabalais

NFTY SOUTHERN & JEWCCY LEADERS FROM TOURO

Participating in Jewish youth group events not only grows lifelong friendships, but also future Jewish leaders. We are incredibly proud of our Touro teens whose local and regional involvement has drawn them into a variety of leadership positions:

ELI BARRON

JewCCY Programming Vice President
child of Consuelo and Scott Barron

CHLOE DEITELZWEIG

JewCCY Membership Vice President
child of Stacy and Steven Deitelzweig

ANA FINGER

NFTY Southern Regional President
child of Becky and Simon Finger

AUDREY LIGIER

JewCCY Social Action Vice President
child of Anna Pasyuk and JD Ligier

JewCCY (Jewish Crescent City Youth) and Junior JewCCY are our communal Reform Jewish high school and middle school programs, respectively. If you know a New Orleans Jewish teen who is interested in getting involved with our local or regional middle school and high school programs, please contact our Community Youth Engagement Director, Sarah Bate, at JewCCY@gmail.com.

UPCOMING B'NEI MITZVAH

CORTLAN KATZ

Saturday, October 17 at 10:30am

Two years ago I came home from Sunday School and told my parents that I wanted to have a Bar Mitzvah. I had no idea what was in front of me or what it even meant. Through all the hard work, an ongoing pandemic, and countless virtual meetings, I realized that becoming a Bar Mitzvah is more about the journey and less about the destination. Not only is it a journey to solidify my Jewish heritage, but also a step toward adulthood. I hope you will join me (virtually) on my Bar Mitzvah day to celebrate this journey.

Cortlan is the child of Jonathan and Meggie Katz.



We look forward to celebrating with all our amazing B'nei Mitzvah, including those coming up in November and December.

TRAVIS NORTON

November 7, Parashat Vayerea
child of Valerie and Patrick Norton

PEYTON KATZ

December 12, Parashat Vayeshev
child of Dollie Gill Katz and Ralph Katz



ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

Through challenging and compassionate conversations and bold, principled action, Touro Synagogue will continually strive to be an anti-racist congregation. This striving will be embodied in our learning offerings, our opportunities for prayerful listening and teshuvah, and our communal engagement in the work of dismantling of racist systems within which we all live. **Two upcoming programs that will launch our new year:**

- Selichot for Racial Justice (*More information can be found on our website*)
- Shabbat Shuvah with special guest Dr. Jonathan Judaken (*More information can be found on page 8*)

Please look forward to more information about these efforts during and after the High Holidays, and contact Rabbi Bauman at kbauman@tourosynagogue.com with questions or suggestions.



VOTING RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Touro's Voting Rights Initiative continues to be an active member in ENVV (Engaging New Voices and Voters) - a non-partisan coalition of over a dozen non-profit organizations spanning Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parishes with the mission to expand voter registration (over 9,000 new voters and counting), and to GOTV (Get out the Vote). Please consider joining ENVV's mailing list to stay informed and to learn about volunteer opportunities. **Recent Touro Voting Rights/ENVV activities include:**

- Facilitating virtual voter engagement events with college students on Zoom
- Creating customized university-themed sharable flyers/voter information sheets
- Co-hosting virtual candidate forums
- Printing voter information posters in multiple languages to display in high traffic areas
- Collaborating with the Saints and Pelicans organizations on voter engagement messaging
- Using social media and PSA's to uplift voter information
- Recruiting volunteers to train as Poll Commissioners

To learn more and to become involved, please contact Joy Braun at jbrown@sessions-law.com or call 504-258-5052.



10,000 CONVERSATIONS PROJECT

As a partner with Together Louisiana, a grassroots network of more than 250 faith-based organizations statewide, Touro Synagogue is enthusiastically participating in the 10,000 Conversations project. Through the 10,000 Conversations project, we seek to engage our congregants in small group conversations on topics of immediacy and relevance to our members and to the broader faith-based community. **The 10,000 Conversations project has three goals:**

- To fight isolation in a time of social distancing
- To bring light to the issues we face as the impact of the pandemic deepens
- To build a base of community sufficiently broad and diverse to bring about change that will strengthen our city and state

We began the project with conversations among our own congregational membership on topics including Caring for Family Members during the Pandemic, Challenges for Educators and Those Close to Them, and Obstacles to Our Pursuit of Equity. Later this year, we will reach outward to host conversations with two partner congregations, Cornerstone United Methodist Church and Masjid-ur-Rahim mosque. The conversations are held remotely by Zoom until we can gather again, and are facilitated by volunteers trained by Together Louisiana for this role. Watch for announcements and opportunities to register for conversations. We welcome your participation!

Contact Laura Levy at laura.silven.levy@gmail.com with questions, suggestions of topics you might like to discuss, or to express your interest in serving as a facilitator. We look forward to working together on 10,000 Conversations.



INTERFAITH CLIMATE COALITION

Touro is an inaugural steering committee member of the Interfaith Climate Coalition, launched in early March by Pastor Gregory Manning of Broadmoor Community Church and led by a steering committee with representatives from a broad cross-section of faith traditions. The coalition has established working objectives to green faith communities, address environmental injustice, and preserve the environment. The coalition regularly organizes and promotes environmental community-building events, learning opportunities, and advocacy projects. **Contact David Shepard at David.L.Shepard@gmail.com to learn more.**



ESTHER'S ELDERS

Through a generous donation, the Esther's Elders Fund has been created at Touro Synagogue with the sole purpose of reminding each of our wonderful senior members how important they are to the Touro Synagogue family. During this High Holiday season and beyond, volunteers will be reaching out to our oldest Touro family members to offer holiday greetings, make special deliveries, and create programming and points of connection between them and the rest of the congregation. If you would like to be a part of this effort, or if you know of a senior member who would appreciate outreach, please contact the Touro office.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS COMMITTEE

During this time of anxiety and uncertainty, Touro Synagogue's Mental Health Committee seeks to support you and our whole community with programming and resources, which can be found at www.tourosynagogue.com under the *Community* tab. Please be in touch with our co-chairs, Joseph Bodenmiller at jjbodenmiller@gmail.com and Naomi Yavneh Klos at yavneh@loyno.edu, to make a suggestion for a resource or program, ask a question, or join our committee. **As always, if you have a personal concern or are worried about a loved one, please reach out to our clergy.**

Look for announcements of future behavioral and mental health programs and activities being planned, including a weekly conversation group for older congregants, a lunchtime workshop on writing as spiritual practice, and two support groups focused, respectively, on loss during covid, and parenting in a time of anxiety and uncertainty.



HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE LAURA

The Jewish Federations of Greater New Orleans, Greater Baton Rouge, and North Louisiana, and the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana, have partnered to create a relief fund for our neighbors in areas impacted by Hurricane Laura. We are collecting funds for both short term and long term needs. The synagogues in both Lake Charles and Alexandria were badly damaged, and many Jewish residents of southwest Louisiana have lost their homes and businesses as a result of the hurricane.

Tikkun olam starts with our neighbors, and we hope you will consider joining our efforts.

100% of all funds donated will be distributed to those in need across Southwest and Central Louisiana.

FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES OR TO MAKE A DONATION, VISIT WWW.JEWISHNOLA.COM/LAURA-RELIEF

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE!

Mazel Tov, Touro Members!

JILL ISRAEL

named one of Avodah New Orleans' 2020 Partners in Justice

MEG MARINO

chosen as one of Gambit Magazine's 40 Under 40 for her work in creating free pediatric educational opportunities for Louisiana paramedics and EMTs

SANDY ROSENTHAL

founder of levees.org, published her new book this year called "Words Whispered in Water: Why the Levees Broke in Hurricane Katrina"

ZACHARY WILKINS

chosen as one of Gambit Magazine's 40 Under 40 for founding Remedy Ribbons, a nonprofit supporting the mental health needs of frontline healthcare workers

New Babies of 5780

MADISON COLBIE BRINN

granddaughter of Karen and Lance Turkish, great-granddaughter of Harriet Stern

BENJAMIN LEE BECKER

grandson of Suzette Toledano and Bill Roberti, great nephew of Jill and Michael Schneider

SOLOMON RAE BELLONE

son of Danielle Bellone and Shana Rubenstein

XYLA BROWN

daughter of Laura Sirkin-Brown and Michael Brown

LOUIS HERSCH EHRENWERTH

son of Dana Dupre and Justin Ehrenwerth

PENN BRODIE FREISENHAHN

grandson of Andi and Terry Lestelle

ALEXANDRA JOY GOEHRING

daughter of Michelle and Jacob Goehring, granddaughter of Cathy and Morris Bart, niece of Carrie and Austin Marks, great-granddaughter of Hertha Bart

GRAYSON LAWRENCE JOHNSON

son of Ginny Kullman and Cameron Johnson, grandson of Ruth and Larry Kullman, nephew of Read and Freddy Kullman

JULIAN "JUDE" SHEPPARD KULLMAN

son of Read and Freddy Kullman, brother of Sidonie and Jack Kullman, grandson of Ruth and Larry Kullman, nephew of Ginny Kullman and Cameron Johnson

SOLEIA ALEXANDRA LIGIER

daughter of Anna Pasyuk and JD Ligier, sister of Audrey, Donovan, and Max Ligier

NICO FELIX NUNEZ

son of Anna Federline and Alex Nunez

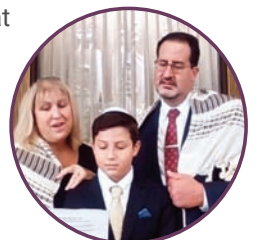
AXEL ADAMS NUTIK

son of Chelsea Hylton-Nutik and Chandler Nutik, grandson of Rickie and Gordon Nutik

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LIFECYCLE CEREMONIES AT TOURO SYNAGOGUE

During difficult times, it may be more important than ever to mark sacred moments. There is no doubt that life cycle ceremonies in these months look different than they have in the past. Our clergy team knows that this weighs heavily on the minds of Touro families. Understanding how deeply significant such moments are, we have, with the invaluable advice of our Medical Advisory Committee, developed several different scenarios from which families can choose so that we can mark these special moments.

If you are anticipating a simcha such as a baby naming, a wedding, or a Bat or Bar Mitzvah, please reach out to us. It will be our honor to accompany you through the planning and celebrating of such occasions. *L'chaim!*



Welcome New Members!

Touro Synagogue welcomes the following members who joined our congregation in 5780:

KELLEE ANDERSON &
JEREMY GATZ-MILLER

MONIQUE & PAUL JACOB
HOLDEN

JAMIE & BENTLEY O'BERRY
WYATT

ANNIE BAUMAN & DYLAN WHITE

SHANNON & BENJAMIN JELIN
HUNTER

TZOFIT & ARI OFENGENDEN
MICHAEL AND EMILE

DEBBIE BRESLER

NATHAN JOHNSON

JILL & MICHAEL PINSKY

SHAWNA CAHILL

RACHEL & LEV KAPLAN
LIRA

DANIELLE ROOF

ROSE & WESLEY CLES

EDWARD ROSENBLUM

LINDA COPPLESON

KERRY FOLEY-KESSLER
& JEFFREY KESSLER
JAMES

BABS & JAY ROSENFELD

GWEN DILWORTH

JANE & GENE ECKSTEIN

STEFAN KOSTOLITZ

LAURA SIRKIN-BROWN
& MARCUS BROWN
XYLA

MARK & SUSAN FIJMAN

SUZY LAZARUS

ALEXIS SHOOK &
BENJAMIN ZWAIN

MARLANA FIREMAN

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MADISON HURWITZ
& JEREMY GETTES

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 or visit our website at
www.tourosynagogue.com/membership

We'd love to welcome you home!



GIVING IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR US



RABBI DAVID GOLDSTEIN SOCIETY

Anyone giving a cumulative, non-restricted gift of \$100,000 or more to the Touro Synagogue Foundation during their lifetime is invited to become a member of the Rabbi David Goldstein Society. Members of the Rabbi David Goldstein Society are honored on the beautiful glass plaque in our main foyer.

For more information or to learn about how your gifts will strengthen our endowment, please contact one of the following Touro Synagogue Foundation Board Members: Phyllis Alltmont, Scott Silbert or Susan Good.

THANK YOU TO OUR RABBI DAVID GOLDSTEIN SOCIETY MEMBERS

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**OF BLESSED MEMORY*

TZEDAKAH SOCIETY

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. Touro Synagogue established the Tzedakah Society three years ago to recognize and honor members who, through their planned gifts, have decided to help sustain Touro beyond their lifetime and ensure the future of the Synagogue for generations to come.

A planned gift could be a simple bequest in your will or the designation of Touro Synagogue as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement fund or trust. You can make arrangements for a future gift to Touro Synagogue at any time, without an outlay of funds during your lifetime. To be included in the Tzedakah Society, simply communicate to us that you have, or intend to include the Synagogue in your estate plan. You are not required to disclose anything about the nature of your gift. All gifts are welcome and appreciated regardless of size. Become a member of the Tzedakah Society online at www.tourosynagogue.com/tzedakah-society. For more information about the Tzedakah Society contact Bob Gross, Planned Giving Chair, at robertsgross@gmail.com or Gary Silbert at gsilbert@cox.net.

THANK YOU TO OUR TZEDAKAH SOCIETY MEMBERS

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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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Rabbi Todd Silverman's relentless energy,
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In Honor of:

Special Birthday of Charel Katz
*Jan W. Katz and Jim Derbes and
Alexa and Rob Craig*

In Loving Memory of:

Jack Lengsfeld
Robert A. Katz
Alice Mayer Katz
Burton Waggoner
Dorothy Waggoner
*Jan W. Katz and Jim Derbes and
Alexa and Rob Craig*

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Dana and Louis Shepard

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Donations:

*Raquel Singleton
Garland Rolling*

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In Loving Memory of:

Jill Barrasso
Sara Shackleton and Michael McKeogh

Donations:

Samantha and Joseph Guichet

THANK YOU TO OUR LIVESTREAM SPONSORS (MAY AND AUGUST 2020)

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*Sharing life's sacred occasions and simchas with our community is a wonderful way to remember and honor your loved ones.
If you'd like to sponsor our livestream, visit www.tourosynagogue.com/livestream or call the Touro office (504-895-4843).*

GABRIELA LEHMANN LEAVES A JEWISH LEGACY

Before Gabriela Lehmann passed away on March 9, 2010, she made provisions in her will to fund the Kurt J., Molly S., and Gabriela Lehmann Yahrzeit Designated Fund, which she had established at the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana in 2007. Through this fund, annual donations are made to Touro Synagogue and to other Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox congregations in metropolitan New Orleans to inscribe the names of her loved ones, as well as to remember all those who have passed away and no longer have friends or family to remember them on Yom Kippur, in the synagogues' memorial books.

By establishing this fund and providing generous donations to these congregations, Gabriela Lehmann has created a meaningful and important Jewish legacy for our community, managed by JEF, to benefit our Greater New Orleans congregations and ensure forever for future generations.

May her memory always be a blessing.

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DONATE IN SUPPORT OF TOURO SYNAGOGUE

YAHREZEITS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 / SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

George B. Aarons, Victor Cupple Burk, Harriet Levy Felix, Minnie Sarnoff Fierman, Meyer Goldberg, Harry Haas, Ophelia Peine Hausmann, Alex Hochstein, Edith Kaufmann, Gustave J. Klotz, Jr., Sara Kohn, Murray J. Kops, Leonard W. Krinsky, Charles Edward Loeb, Israel Samuel Lurie, Isidore Manasses, Samuel Rabin, Sam A. Schulman, Sylvia L. Silven, Vivian Mayer Teague, Leon Max Teles, Isaac Widofsky, Andre Zilbermann

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 / SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Henry Berlin, James Matthew Davis, Emanuel Fliegel, D.D.S., Nat Friedler, Salomon Geismar, Benjamin Goldenberg, Sol Grishman, Isidore Heymann, Marjorie I. Kullman, Henry Lazarus, Max H. Levy, Harcourt N. Levy, Jon Francis Leyens, Emanuel S. Pulitzer, Henry Schwartz, Sam Schwartz, Lester Benjamin Shapiro, Rubin Weaker

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 / SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Leonard Louis Bain, Eleanor Honey Brener, Madelyn Patz Cohn, Arthur Irving Gottsegen, Reuben R. Graff, Karen Jacobson Greenberg, Edith Israelson, Herbert Charles Leopold, Isadore Levy, Julian Julius Loeb, Max Meyer Tannenbaum

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 / SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Bella Levy Aaron, Elias Berenson, Ferdinand Nathan Falk, Rabbi David Fichman, Henrietta L. Frank, Dr. Aaron David Heinemann, Hilda Hiller, David Kanter, Rose L. Kaufman, Gertrude Levy, Michael David Meyer, Mrs. Elkin Moses, Alphonse Pincus, Dr. Joseph R. Seelig, Julie Trautman, Aaron Daniel Zack

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 / SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Emil Emanuel Block, Alvin Lee Duber, Milton M. Feitel, Louis Alan Francis, Blanche Samuel Goldman, Velma Lazarus Goldstein, Julia Heymann Goodman, Joseph O. Grant, D.D.S., M.S., Florence Hartson Hiller, Helen Morse Kottwitz, David Levy, Barbara Sherman Loeb, Sigmund J. Loeb, Captain Benjamin Newman, Peter Roussel Norman, Camille Hagedorn Ochs, Harry Rothschild, Mathilda Friedman Shushan, Samuel Jacob Spiegel, Solomon Aaron Stolaroff, Albertina Lob Waldhorn, Sandra Joy Willenzik, Bryna Winer Yellin

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 / SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Sadie Bennett, Charles Bennett, Nettie B. Bloch, Adolph Ira Botnick, Marian Fliegel, Meyer Heinemann, Dr. Sidney A. Kantor, Harry Latter, Shepard M. Latter, Norma Reine Levy, William H. Levy, Florence Rosenthal Maas, Sarah Levy Newman, David Ochs, Fannie Lehmann Ochs, Fannie Berenson Rubenstein, Sidney Sigoloff, Alex Watsky

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 / SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Dorothy R. Caplan, Jacob Melvin Cohn, Dr. Isidore Cohn, Jr., Irma M. Isaacson, Ansel S. Kottwitz, Dorothy Mann Marcus, Irving Redler, M.D., Philip David Rittenberg, Amelia Blum Samuel, Nathan I. Schwartz, Milton Sheen, Edwin A. Vacant, Virginia Ullman Weil, Louise Goldstein Wolchansky, Charles D. Zucker

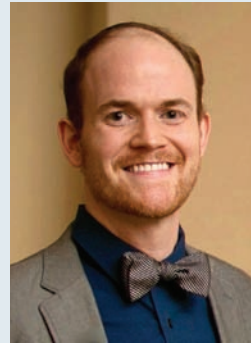
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 / SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Joseph Lester Ames, Theresa Lubel Baum, Saul Brooks, David Cohn, Gustave P. Covert, E. Sylvia Frank, Beryl Levy Gernsbacher, Mary Sommer Solinsky Good, Isaac L. Haspel, Elizabeth Jacobs, Shirley Latter S. Kaufmann, John B. Lefkowitz, Pearl Kaufman Levy, Estelle Aaron Levy, Judith F. Lowenberg, Samuel Clarence Pulitzer, Ruth Rosen Weisler, Eva Levenberg Yarrut

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 / SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

Miriam Levy Asher, Adelaide H. Bergman, Jean Salmon Frankel, Milton M. Glueck, Jonas Hiller, Morris Ellis Irving, Gustave Lehmann, Sylvia Baskind Levitch, Bernard Gretzner Levy, Pauline Joseph Levy, J. Isadore Lindy, Sam Margolis, August Marx, James D. Neuirth, Steven Howard Phillips, Tilden Pick, Irma Leucht Rosen, Max Schwartz, Hope (Tikva) Teles Solomon, Anna Solomon, Mercedes P. Sontheimer, Dorothy Burger Waggoner, Moise Waldhorn, Julia Mayer Weiss, Jacques Wildenstein, Charles Louis Yuspeh

DAYS OF AWE, DAYS OF MEMORY



A MESSAGE FROM CANTOR MARGOLIUS

There is a moment each summer when, for me as a cantor, I begin to feel how apt the name "Days of Awe" is for the High Holiday season. It usually occurs sometime in August as I'm preparing for our services and rehearsing *Avinu Malkeinu* in the

sanctuary for the first time in almost a year. The music Max Janowski composed is breathtakingly beautiful, but that's not why this moment moves me. After all, there are plenty of beautiful songs. Instead, without fail, the melody reminds me of my very first Rosh Hashanah service, and I find myself transported back to my childhood.

Sitting next to my mother, we could feel the vibrations in the room as the first deep low notes of the prayer rang out from the organ. She held my hand and whispered in my ear, "*I love this so much.*" I understood what it meant to feel awe.

Every year since, I have entered the New Year on Rosh Hashanah not with the setting sun or the candle lighting or the first shofar blast, but with the first notes of *Avinu Malkeinu*. When that moment arrives, a part of me is also sitting in the light peach upholstered chairs of my hometown synagogue, sitting next to my mother.

This year, as we enter the High Holidays, everything will surely feel different from years past. But we also have an opportunity, *especially* this year, to invite in the memories that truly make this the Season of Awe. Each prayer is overflowing with meaning from the words on the pages of our *Machzor* and from the hands held and smiles shared across the room that we hold in our hearts from years past. When we incorporate the power of memory, then the transformative prayers of our liturgy and the love of this community — the things that truly matter — will all be there for us.

In the words of the traditional closing benediction on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning:

Hayom t'amtzeinu - Strengthen us on this day.

Hayom t'varcheinu - Bless us today.

Hayom tidr'sheinu l'tovah - Grant us goodness today.

Hayom tishma shavateinu - Hear our heartfelt words on this day.

Hayom t'kabel b'rachamim uvratzon et t'filateinu - On this day, receive our prayers with love.

May we find in these Days of Awe the strength and blessing and goodness we seek.

HIGH HOLY DAYS

at home

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Rosh Hashanah often begins with a family meal usually accompanied by a round challah and apples dipped in honey. Before the Erev Rosh Hashanah meal, the following blessings are recited:

BLESSING OVER THE CANDLES ON ROSH HASHANAH

Baruch Atah Adonai,
Eloheinu Melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,
v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir
shel Yom Tov.

ברוך אתה יי,
אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
וצונו להדליק נר
של יום טוב.

*Praised are You, Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe,
who hallows us with mitzvot,
commanding us to kindle
the festival lights.*

BLESSING OVER THE WINE OR GRAPE JUICE

Baruch Atah Adonai,
Eloheinu Melech haolam,
borei p'ri hagafen.

ברוך אתה יי,
אלהינו מלך העולם,
בורא פרי הגפן.

*Praised are You, Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.*

CELEBRATING THIS MOMENT

Baruch Atah Adonai,
Eloheinu Melech haolam,
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu
v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

ברוך אתה יי,
אלהינו מלך העולם,
שהחיינו וקיימנו
והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Praised are You, Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe,
for giving us life, sustaining us,
and enabling us to reach this season.*

BLESSING OVER THE ROUND CHALLAH

Baruch Atah Adonai,
Eloheinu Melech haolam,
hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz.

ברוך אתה יי,
אלהינו מלך העולם,
המוציא לחם מן הארץ.

*Praised are You, Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.*

BLESSING FOR DIPPING APPLES INTO HONEY

Baruch Atah Adonai,
Eloheinu Melech haolam,
borei p'ri ha'etiv.

ברוך אתה יי,
אלהינו מלך העולם,
בורא פרי העץ.

*Praised are You, Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the trees.*

YOM KIPPUR

Yom Kippur usually begins and ends with a meal shared by family and friends. The meal is eaten before sundown and includes the blessing over the bread but not the blessing over wine. Also before sundown, in memory of deceased family and friends, yahrzeit candles are lit that will burn throughout Yom Kippur. After the meal, two holiday candles are lit with the following blessing. This marks the beginning of Yom Kippur.

BLESSING OVER THE CANDLES

Baruch atah Adonai,
Eloheinu Melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,
v'tzivanu l'hadlik neir
shel Yom haKippurim.

ברוך אתה יי,
אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
וצונו להדליק נר
של יום הכיפורים.


*Praised are You, Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe,
who hallows us with mitzvot,
commanding us to kindle
the lights of Yom Kippur.*

TOURO SYNAGOGUE

4238 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70115

Phone: (504) 895-4843

www.TouroSynagogue.com

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VIRTUAL SHABBAT SERVICES

Fridays at 6:00 PM

Saturdays at 10:30 AM

SAVE THE DATE!

SHABBAT SHUVAH WITH SPECIAL GUEST
PROFESSOR JONATHAN JUDAKEN
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 6:00 PM

“JEWS IN THE AGE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER”

Dr. Judaken is the Spence L. Wilson Chair in Humanities at Rhodes College, whose scholarship focuses on intellectual representation of Jews, Judaism, race and racism.
RSVP at www.tourosynagogue.com/HHD

Presented by The Doris Chesky Institute
of the Central Conference of American Rabbis

Dr. Judaken will also teach a series
for our congregation later this fall.
Stay tuned for more details!

