

# THE SHOFAR

## TOURO SYNAGOGUE



FALL 2024

### THE SACRED TRADITION OF TORAH STUDY

New Lifelong Learning  
Opportunities for Adults

### TIKKUN OLAM

Social Action Opportunities

2024/5785

HIGH  
HOLY  
DAYS

### A Very Special **WELCOME**

Meet New Members of the  
Touro Staff and Board of Trustees

### INTRODUCING FIRST SHABBAT

*Building a Shabbat Morning  
Culture Together*

**NEW!**

Youth At-A-Glance  
Calendar for Families



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## From Our President



### A Message from Laura Levy

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed a happy, healthy summer with family, friends, and perhaps a special vacation. The gift of Summer Union Shabbat has been a joy this year as always, especially the opportunity to worship together with our neighbors at Temple Sinai and Congregation Gates of Prayer. We look forward with excitement

to returning to “business as usual” at our own Touro Synagogue when the building opens in September. As I write this letter, we are closely watching the final phase of our extraordinary renovation project with eager anticipation of its completion in the next few weeks. Because of the many devoted and loving congregants who contributed so generously to the *Lifting the Sky* Campaign, we will soon enjoy beautifully designed and renovated spaces that will serve us well for many years. This project is such a gift for all of us. **Please mark your calendars for a special Sukkot Havdalah on October 19** where we will celebrate the opening of the building and express deepest gratitude to the many congregants who made the project possible through their generosity. In addition to their extraordinary gifts to the Campaign, a remarkable group of dedicated congregants gave their time and their skills so generously to this project. In particular, the Campaign Co-Chairs (Susan and Lou Good, Ruth and Larry Kullman, and Beth and Austin Lavin) have poured themselves into the project to ensure its success. We will have the opportunity during the High Holy Days to honor the Co-Chairs and express our gratitude as a congregation.

In the meantime, even while most of our building is inaccessible, our committees have been working actively to provide programs of value for us and the broader community. I share here just a few examples among many:

- The Membership Committee under Julie Koppman’s able leadership has initiated a **new Ambassador Program**. For new and recently joined members, even for long-time members, the program seeks to foster a culture of belonging at Touro – a culture where members feel noticed, named, known, and needed. Programs have been established to host social events, greet us at Shabbat worship and dinner, and support the development of congregant groups based on a variety of affinities. The Ambassadors have also developed a terrific set of FAQs that you may find useful
- Our Tikkun Olam committee, under the leadership of Chris Lorenzen and Erika Zucker, is gearing up with a number of new and revitalized opportunities for all of us at Touro to participate in **social justice work**. We are reinvigorating

our Combating Hunger Initiative to consider how our garden might function going forward, to plan our ongoing work with Second Harvest Food Bank, and to develop opportunities to prepare food for those in need. In addition, the Tikkun Olam committee is continuing their work on the ongoing reproductive justice project with the National Council of Jewish Women, a strong voter registration and get-out-the-vote initiative with Together New Orleans, and the development of our Climate Action Plan.

- Liz and Larry Gottfried have agreed to chair our **annual fundraiser** upcoming on February 2, 2025. They are already hard at work, identifying a committee and planning what promises to be a wonderful evening. That’s a high bar after the fabulous “Night in the Catskills” at our last fundraiser, and I know that Liz, Larry and their committee are up to the challenge. I can’t wait!

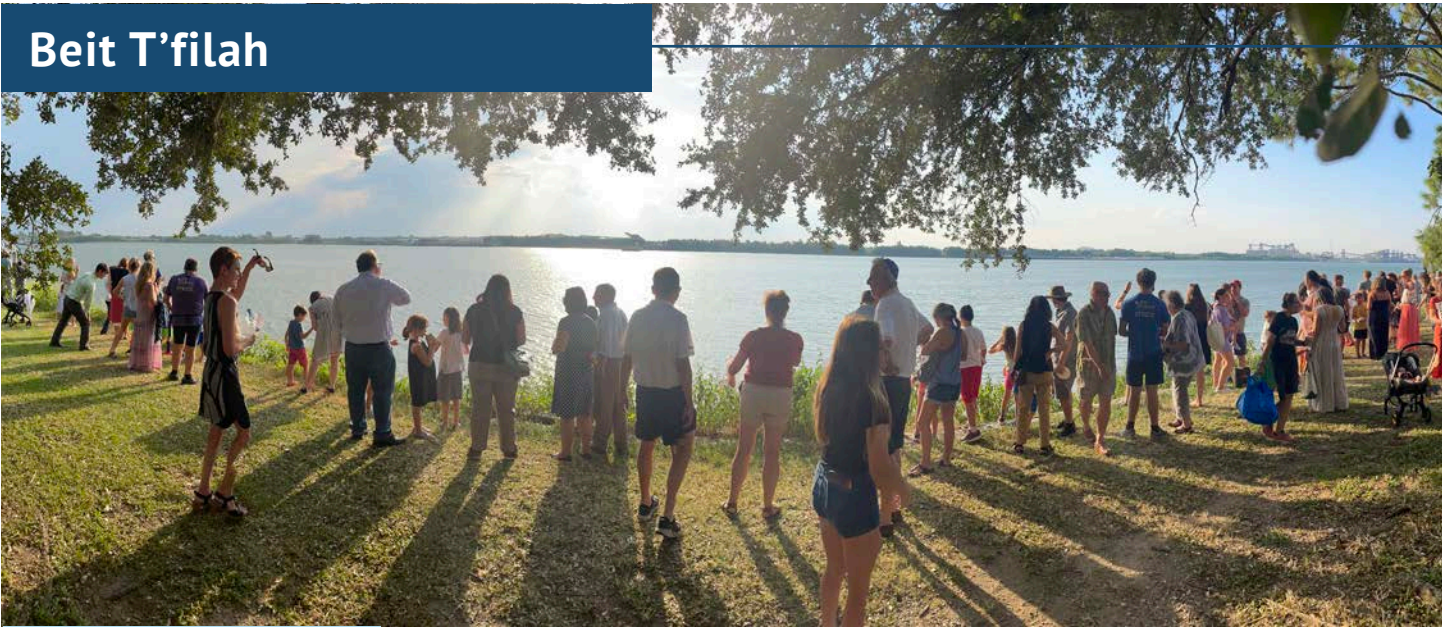
There are so many opportunities for your participation. I hope you will take advantage of them according to your interests and that you find them meaningful. Feel free to reach out to me or to any of the committee leadership to find out more information or to get involved.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting last spring, I described Touro Synagogue as a thriving and growing community. We are a values-based, robust, inclusive, and vibrant community – filled with many special moments and diverse interests. With growth like ours (nearly 25% since 2018!) comes fiscal implications. While it is exciting to be part of a growing community, we understand that with more member households comes more of everything. More diverse interests, more life-cycle events, more people at all of our activities, and more activities to meet the needs of our growing membership. And with more of everything comes more expense. As you know, our Voluntary Annual Support Program is the single major source of funds to subsidize our offerings to the congregation. Literally everything we do at Touro Synagogue is enabled by the generosity of our congregants through this program. I asked you this year to increase your Voluntary Annual Support contributions, if within your reach, and you have responded with love, generosity, and devotion to Touro. Your support is absolutely critical to our mission. Our congregation and our clergy and staff leadership are profoundly grateful for your stepping up to the challenge this year.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead together, full of joy and meaning within our Touro community and beyond. Your Voluntary Annual Support contribution is critical in making that happen, helping us to steward and grow our programs and to protect our sacred spaces. On behalf of the congregation, I thank you most sincerely. I am deeply honored to serve this remarkable congregation.

L’shalom,

Laura



## Renew and Rise

### A Message from Rabbi Bauman

Dear Touro Synagogue Family,

As you read this, our global Jewish family will have just observed Tisha B'Av, the 9th of Av, known as the saddest day on the Hebrew calendar. It is such because it is the day upon which we intentionally remember the multiple destructions that we have endured, including

the First and Second Temples, the violent expulsion of Jews from many lands in which we were dispersed, especially the catastrophic exile from Spain in 1492, and other such national tragedies, including now October 7th. These events represent almost inconceivable losses to our people and invite each remembering generation of our community into the lowest possible emotional place, as we read the Book of Lamentations, the Megillah for this Holy Day: *How lonely sits the City, once full of people...She weeps bitterly in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks.* (Lamentations 1:1-2). Lamentations imagines Jerusalem, and by extension our People, as a wounded and abused woman, her children ripped from her arms, with no one to hear her agonizing cries. She has nothing. And from this dark place, we, the modern embodiment of that City, that People, begin on the 10th of Av to climb.

The ensuing weeks of Av and Elul are a part of that climb. We hear the words of the prophet Isaiah every Shabbat between the 9th of Av and the 1st of Tishrei, comforting and consoling us, reminding us that building a new future with the pieces of a shattered past is the noblest of undertakings. *Comfort my people, says your God. Speak tender words to Jerusalem that her fighting has ended, that she is forgiven, that God's outstretched hand is awaiting her.* (Isaiah 40:1-2). Isaiah's words are meant to speak to the feeling within every grieving person, no matter the cause of that grief, and coax them - coax us - away from

hopelessness and toward a faith in new beginnings, represented by Rosh Hashanah. It is a powerful story, a universal one; for we all lose, we all hurt, we all wonder with trepidation about what the future will hold, and we all need to hear the simple and profound truth that we do indeed have the strength within us to continually be builders of a better world.

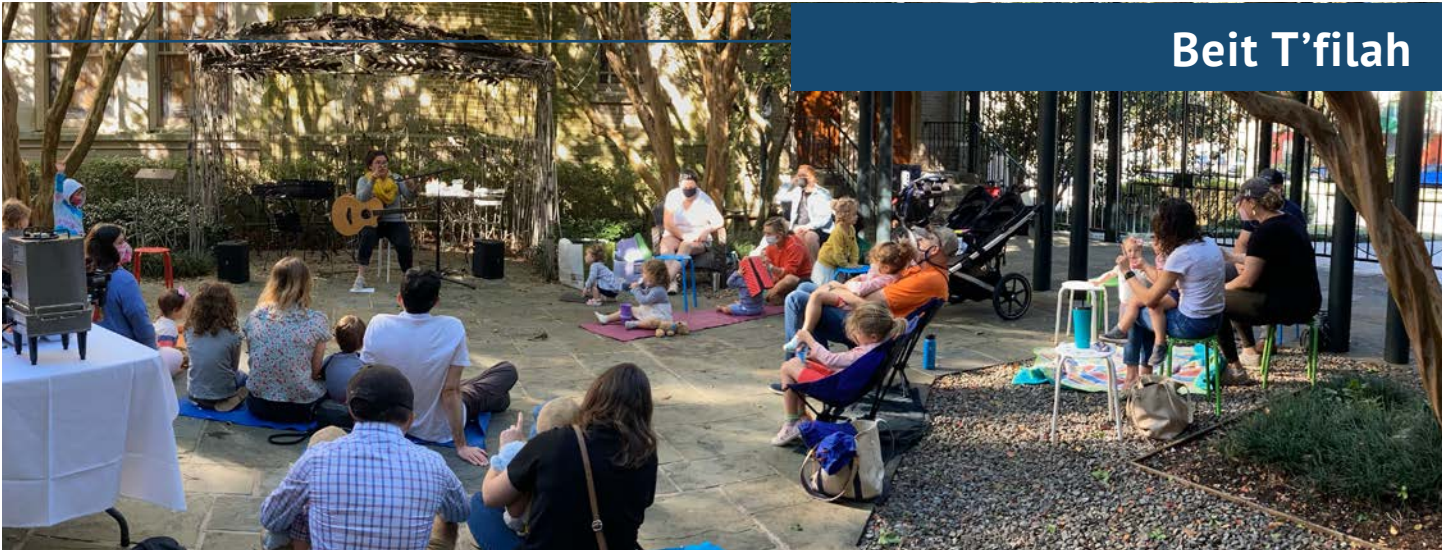
Perhaps it is partly that hopeful message about our endless collective capacity to renew and rise, that brings us back year after year to our synagogue home. The familiar words and melodies, the uniting of family and friends and community, the empty seat beside us that held a loved one just last year, the new lives that have entered the world since last year - all of this tells a story about the magnificent journey that it is to be alive, to learn, to strive, to love, and to construct a sheltering tradition that lasts, generation to generation.

It feels true that we are standing in an historic moment, both as Americans and as Jews. The next few months are of tremendous consequence for the future of our country, the future of Israel, the future of the Middle East, and the future of the world. How we show up as civically-minded Americans, as a committed and reflective Jewish community, as beautiful and broken human beings - these are huge questions that we must answer with as much passion and compassion as possible. And our collective Jewish story of destruction and building, falling and rising, mourning and hoping, is an important source of inspiration for us as we meet the moment we are blessed to inhabit.

It is the honor of our lives as your clergy to hold the space that is the center of gravity for that story, each and every year and especially this one. We eagerly await the powerful moments we will create together in our renewed congregational home. Thank you for all you do, each and every day, to sustain this home, and to infuse it with your soulful presence.

May this be a new year of goodness and blessing,

Rabbi Katie Bauman



# Introducing First Shabbat

*Let's Build a Shabbat Morning Culture Together!*

Shabbat morning is a sacred time of the week. In contrast to our non-stop culture, our tradition urges - actually commands - us to pause for 24 hours and experience another way of being. Shabbat observance generates its own delight, and First Shabbats of the month at Touro Synagogue will be a shelter for learning, prayer, and the nourishment that comes from community. Below is our First Shabbat Schedule. Let's build a Shabbat morning culture together!

### First Shabbat Morning Schedule

- 9:00am Shabbat Shiur\***  
*Sacred Text Study: A new weekly offering led by Touro clergy. \*Held every week unless otherwise noted.*
- 10:00am Shabbat Shacharit**  
*A kid-forward, musical, multi-denominational, lay-led minyan rooted in tradition led by Chavurat Or'Leans. Visit [chavuratorleans.com](http://chavuratorleans.com) to learn more about this wonderful community partner who shares our inclusive values.*
- 10:00am Shabbat Rocks**  
*A Shabbat prayer and learning experience for tots and their grownups, led by Touro Synagogue Educators. This program is intended for children ages 0-4.*
- 10:35am Kehilah KIDoshah**  
*A Shabbat prayer and learning experience for big KIDS, led by Touro Synagogue Educators. This program is intended for children ages 5-12.*
- 11:45am Communal Shabbat Lunch**  
*Sponsorship opportunities are available! To sponsor a monthly Shabbat lunch, please visit [tourosynagogue.com/sponsorship](http://tourosynagogue.com/sponsorship).*

### First Shabbat Dates 2024-2025

<b>September 7</b>	<b>March 8*</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<i>*2nd Shabbat this month!</i>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>April 19*</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<i>*3rd Shabbat this month!</i>
<b>January 4</b>	<b>May 3</b>
<b>February 1</b>	



2024/5785

# High Holy Days

## High Holy Days and Festivals Schedule of Events

*See below for a snapshot of what's to come this holiday season! More details to follow.*

### Selichot: A Meditative Beginning to the Season

**Saturday, September 28**

8:00pm *Dessert reception, study, and a beautiful service led by the Touro Synagogue Choir*

### Rosh Hashanah

**Wednesday, October 2 - Thursday, October 3**

8:00pm *Evening Service*

9:00am *Children and Family Service*

10:00am *Morning Service*

### Shabbat Shuvah

**Friday, October 4**

6:00pm *Shabbat service followed by spiritual singing session in preparation for Yom Kippur*

### Tashlich: Casting Away and Starting Anew

**Saturday, October 5**

5:00pm *Gathering for all ages at the Fly, including refreshments and activities for children*

### Kever Avot: Bringing Our Ancestors Into the New Year

**Sunday, October 6**

11:30am *A brief service of remembrance at Hebrew Rest Cemetery, along with Temple Sinai*

### Commemorating October 7 with Poetry, Song and Dedication

**Monday, October 7**

6:00pm *Acknowledging this painful first yahrzeit with art from the soul of those most affected, followed by a special dedication in the Touro Sanctuary*

### Yom Kippur

**Friday, October 11 - Saturday, October 12**

8:00pm *Evening Service*

9:00am *Children and Family Service*

10:00am *Morning Service*

*Learning Sessions throughout the Day*

4:30pm *Yizkor Memorial Service*

5:15pm *Neilah Concluding Service*

### Sukkot, The Time of our Rejoicing

**Friday October 18**

*Shabbat Sukkot, Festive Dinner in the Congregational Sukkah*

**Saturday October 19**

*Havdalah and Dedication of our New Building*

### Simchat Torah

**Wednesday October 23**

*Celebration with Panorama Jazz Band*



## Simchat Torah Celebration

Wednesday, October 23

Our Touro family will gather to celebrate our return to the beginning of the Torah! We'll celebrate the end of the Torah cycle with a festive service, special programming and moments for children, hakafof (marching) around the sanctuary, and the exuberant music of Panorama Jazz Band.



## Beit T'filah



## Shabbat Sukkot

Saturday, October 19

*Lifting the Sky*  
Building Dedication  
and Havdalah

Because of the many devoted and loving congregants who contributed so generously to the *Lifting the Sky* Campaign, we will soon enjoy beautifully designed and renovated spaces that will serve us well for many years. This project is such a gift for all of us. **Please mark your calendars for a special Sukkot Havdalah on October 19** where we will celebrate the opening of the building and express deepest gratitude to the many congregants who made the project possible through their generosity.

*Let it all go! Join us for Tashlich at the Fly on Saturday evening, October 5*

# The Sacred Tradition of Torah Study

Our Mishnah teaches: תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם - *Talmud Torah k'neged kulam*. Among the righteous deeds we can perform, human actions whose principle is perfectly Divine, the study of Torah is foundational. Our Jewish religious tradition elevates engaging in books and learning to the level of prayer, and our ability to do so is considered a gift from our Creator. This culture of passionate engagement with texts and ideas is as transformative for adults as it is for children, which is why lifelong learning is a pillar of our community and a deep commitment of our synagogue family.

Listed on this page are just a few of the many opportunities for adult learners in the 2024-2025 / 5785 year. They take the form of traditional text study, guest lectures, book discussions, age and stage cohorts, Hebrew language courses, consideration of contemporary issues facing the Jewish world, and more. We will share more information as each opportunity draws near. Unless otherwise noted, Touro Synagogue lifelong learning outlets are free of charge and open to all, with RSVPs requested.

In the midst of so much cynicism, polarization, and alienation, let us ground ourselves in our most time-honored tradition, the sanctification of Torah and learning.



## Upcoming Lifelong Learning Opportunities

### **NEW! Shabbat Shiur**

**Sacred Text Study Shabbat Mornings, 9:00am**  
Weekly | Beginning in September

### **Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism**

**An Intensive Study Cohort**  
Beginning January 2025

### **Jewish Foundations of Tikkun Olam**

Monthly | Beginning in October

### **Finding Joy and Purpose in Parenting Jewishly** **During Yamim Yafim**

Select Sunday Mornings | Beginning in September

### **Learning to Read Hebrew**

**Self-paced and Chevruta (Partner) Based**  
Beginning in November

### **Embracing Judaism**

**For Those Working Toward Conversion**  
New Cohort Launching in November

### **NEW! Jewish Ethics Discussion Group**

Beginning in October

### **Touro Book Group**

**First Book: *The Amen Effect* by Rabbi Sharon Brous**  
Beginning in October

### **Exploring Jewish Peoplehood and Israel**

Beginning in September

### **News and the Jews**

**A Lunch and Learn for Prime Timers**  
Monthly | Beginning in November





# Uptown Hebrew

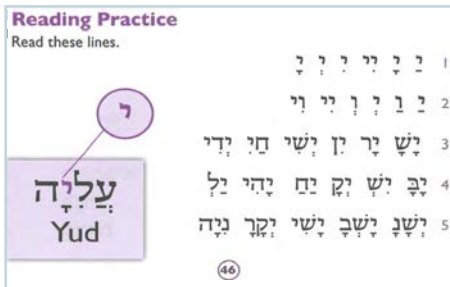
Hebrew is a part of our tradition that connects us to both our ancient heritage and to Jews all around the world today. The skills that our Uptown Hebrew students learn help unlock doors to a deeper, richer, and more fulfilling Jewish life. At Touro Synagogue, kids especially rely on their Hebrew learning as they begin preparing to become B'nei Mitzvah – a process which requires daily practice that is made easier and more enjoyable by developing strong reading

skills early on.

We are so proud that last year's launch of our new Uptown Hebrew curriculum produced such incredible levels of accomplishment across the board. One of the main drivers of that success is our new method of creating classes based on how much Hebrew a student already knows, and not solely on what grade they are in. This allows everyone to move more easily through our program's three major phases:



Cantor Kevin Margolius



## Phase 1: Learning to Read



## Phase 2: Strengthening Skills



## Phase 3: Reading to Learn

**Learning to Read:** Our beginner students work on mastering the consonants and vowels of the Alef Bet (Hebrew alphabet), as well as some of the basic reading rules that help them assemble these building blocks into sounds; we call this skill “decoding.” Most students spend an entire school year in this phase. Each week, our Uptown Hebrew class session begins with an opening ritual and some whole-group prayer practice, followed by time in small groups at three learning stations:

- **Reading Practice:** *one-on-one or in small groups with a teacher*
- **Activity Station:** *students work with flash cards, practice writing on dry-erase boards, and complete activities that help strengthen any reading difficulties*
- **T'filah Station:** *students work independently using smart tablets and interactive recordings to practice prayers from the Shabbat service.*

**Strengthening Skills:** Once students have learned the Alef Bet, the next step is to practice using their decoding skills regularly so they can rely upon them for accurate reading. The three goals of this class are **accuracy, fluency, and speed** – the key components for successfully transitioning from sounding out syllables to reading entire sentences and paragraphs.

The weekly structure of this class is similar to Phase 1, with students spending 1-2 semesters in this phase.

**Reading to Learn:** This is where the magic really happens. Students in this phase use the skills they have now mastered to begin reading comprehension—knowing the meaning of the words they sound out. For this class, our program uses Mitkadem, a self-paced curriculum which teaches vocabulary, basic grammar, and some of the “big picture” ideas regarding the Shabbat-related Hebrew our students encounter most often. It is incredible to watch our kids blend these skills to understand the meaning of entire paragraphs without an English translation. Words they hear often in services become “aha!” moments as they begin to recognize their meaning.

To end each week of Uptown Hebrew, all of our classes join together for a brief evening t'filah service where we sing and pray together. This provides a fantastic opportunity for individual and small groups of students to not only practice what they're learning, but also how to be prayer leaders – a preview of what it will be like on the morning of their B'nei Mitzvah service!

*We can't wait to welcome our students back on Wednesday, September 11, and to watch all of them learn and grow throughout the year!*

## Beit Midrash



Belle Adelman-Cannon, z"l, pictured with Confirmation classmates, 2022



# Beyond B'nei Mitzvah

## *Cultivating Our Emerging Jewish Teen Leaders*



Rabbi Todd Silverman

It is an exciting time to be a teen at Touro Synagogue, with more opportunities and engaging programming than ever before for continued Jewish learning, celebrating sacred moments, building and honing leadership and professional skills, meeting new friends, and just plain having fun. Over the past year we have all watched our teens radiate enthusiasm and eagerness in carving out a vibrant and welcoming niche

for themselves and their peers here at Touro Synagogue; beyond our walls, too, they have shown their dedication to enhancing and strengthening the Jewish community in all sorts of ways. Now as they return home from summertime adventures, this upcoming year of programming – housed within the **Belle Adelman-Cannon Center for Teen Leadership** – is sure to be our best one ever!

As we shared with you last spring, Touro's new Center for Teen Leadership is the place where all of our congregation's teenagers can explore meaningful avenues for personal and spiritual growth, and then find chances to put their passions

and interests to work for the benefit of the community. Funded through the incredible generosity of the Debra Van der Linden Sidelnik fund, the Ferber Family of Houma Foundation, and individual congregational donors, all of the many current and future opportunities offered through the Center honor the memory and legacy of its namesake: Belle Adelman-Cannon, z"l. Belle was a beloved member of the Touro Synagogue family for their entire life – a devastatingly all-too-brief 17 years. At every turn, Belle showed up with their brilliant smile and unmissable blue hair, ready to seize the opportunity to learn, teach, and lead. Whether it was bringing their radiant joy to Yamim Yafim's teaching team on Sundays, running for a NFTY Southern regional board position to help spur more teens around the South to be active in their Jewish community, or going hoarse from cheering on their Maccabiah (color wars) team at Henry S. Jacobs Camp each summer, there was just no way around loving, respecting, and wanting to emulate the type of person Belle was. And through our community's grappling with the grief over Belle's death, we chose to affix their name to the new Center for Teen Leadership and enshrine their legacy in all that it accomplishes – a guiding light and inspiration for generations to come.

Throughout the year, all of Touro's teens and their families will hear a lot about what the Center has to offer and how they can be part of it all – read on for a sneak peak at what you can expect!

## 8th and 9th Grade Yamim Yafim

Nestled between B'nei Mitzvah and Confirmation, our 8th & 9th grade class meets every other week on Wednesday evenings. Along with your peers from Temple Sinai, you'll enjoy dinner and schmoozing in the TASTY teen lounge before heading into the kitchen and exploring tastes of Jewish culture from around the world.



## TASTY and NFTY Southern

For the second year, we are partnering with Temple Sinai to continue building on the successful relaunch of our joint youth group, TASTY (Touro and Sinai Temple Youth). Throughout the year, TASTY's board of teen leaders invite you to be part of all they are eagerly putting together for you to enjoy: food-filled holiday celebrations; social outings and fun activities across New Orleans like bowling and mini-golf; Tikkun Olam (social action) community service opportunities to help those in need (and get some documented service hours), and much more! TASTY is part of the wider NFTY Southern region of Reform Jewish youth groups, and regional events like Fall Conclave (Little Rock, AR) and Spring Kallah (Utica, MS) are not to be missed.



## Beit Midrash

### GET INVOLVED!

## Madrichim Teaching Assistant Program

Remember those cool teenagers who used to help out in your Sunday school classroom? Well now it's YOUR turn to be just like them! Whether you have worked with kids a lot in the past or are brand new to it, our Madrichim Teaching Assistant Program is a great chance for any teen who wants to build or hone their teaching skills, and to make an enormous impact on the lives and development of our littlest learners.

These opportunities don't even begin to scratch the surface – there is so much more to explore, and so many ways to find your place within our Jewish community.

So if you're ready to jump in (or even if you just have some questions about it all), **contact Rabbi Silverman** to get the ball rolling!



## Beit Midrash



# Yamim Yafim

## *Fostering Joy and Connection*

One of Touro Synagogue's exciting youth programs, **Yamim Yafim**, offers a comprehensive and engaging Jewish educational experience for children in Pre-K through 7th grade. Designed to instill a deep connection to Jewish heritage and values, Yamim Yafim blends hands-on learning with community building activities, ensuring every child finds joy and connection in their Jewish journey.

The Sunday Yamim Yafim program for Pre-K through 5th graders is a camp-style program aimed at fostering a connection with Judaism through engaging in hands-on learning and relationship building. Throughout the year, students immerse themselves in Jewish values, holidays, Torah, Hebrew, and more, while forming lasting friendships. We are so excited to be back at Touro this year in our newly renovated education building and are looking forward to a great year together.

As students transition to middle school, the Wednesday evening Yamim Yafim program for 6th and 7th graders gives students an opportunity to deepen their Jewish learning as they continue on their journey toward becoming Jewish adults. Throughout the year, students dive into topics like Jewish history, philanthropy, holidays, community involvement, and Israel, all while meeting inspiring guest speakers and going on local trips. This class helps prepare students for their B'nei Mitzvah and teaches them how to be active members of the Jewish community afterward, gaining a strong understanding and appreciation of their Jewish heritage.



## Join the Fun!

Are you or someone you know interested in registering for Yamim Yafim? Email **Maya Shaar, Director of Youth Education & Engagement**, at [maya@tourosynagogue.com](mailto:maya@tourosynagogue.com) or call the office at (504) 895-4843 for more information!

# Youth At-A-Glance

# 2024/2025 Calendar

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30					

OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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30	31					

APRIL						
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MAY						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Important Dates

- 9/8 Yamim Yafim PreK-5th Opening Day
- 9/11 Uptown Hebrew Opening Day (All Students)
- 9/11 8th/9th Opening Day
- 9/18 6th/7th Opening Day
- 10/5 Tashlich at the Fly
- 10/11 Kol Nidre Service/Confirmand Participation
- 10/20 Yamim Yafim PreK-5th Sukkot Celebration
- 10/22 TASTY 9th-12th Sukkot Celebration
- 10/23 Congregational Simchat Torah Celebration
- 11/24 (Tentative) YY Weather Make-up Session

- 12/11 Chanukah Celebration 6th-9th
- 12/13 Yamim Yafim Consecration/Confirmand Participation
- 12/18 Uptown Hebrew 1st Year Students Only
- \* December 18-January 1: **Winter Break**
- 1/8 Uptown Hebrew 1st Year Students Only
- \* February 23-March 5: **Mardi Gras Break**
- \* April 13-20: **Spring Break**
- 4/14 TASTY Teen Seder
- 4/23 Yom HaShoah: Confirmation Special Session
- 5/4 Yamim Yafim PreK-5th Closing Day
- 5/7 6th-9th, Uptown Hebrew Closing Day, Confirmation Rehearsal
- 5/9 138th Shabbat Service for Confirmation

## Legend

- Yamim Yafim PreK-5th
- Uptown Hebrew
- 6th-7th Grade
- 8th-9th Grade
- Confirmation
- Kehilah KIDosha
- Holiday Celebrations & Special Events



## Beit Tikkun Olam



# Tikkun Olam

## *Repairing the World*

Touro's Tikkun Olam committee is gearing up for another year of social justice action with many opportunities for engagement:

### Climate Action Task Force

Led by Touro members Penny Freistadt and Larry Gottfried, our Climate Action Task Force meets monthly to create a Climate Action Plan that will reduce Touro's environmental footprint. This plan is to be adopted by the board on Tu B'Shevat 2025 and submitted as the key requirement of Touro's membership in the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition.

### Reproductive Rights

Our reproductive rights committee works in concert with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) which is a leader in the effort to ensure Jewish values are not suppressed. We have a vibrant presence in this work, coordinated by Touro member Gail Pesses. We are hoping to host a series of reproductive rights Havdalah services at Touro this year, as well as learning and action opportunities for adults and teens.

### Combating Hunger

Touro continues to partner with Broadmoor Community Food Pantry and Second Harvest and is looking forward to a new partnership with Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church this fall as re-launch our initiatives focused on addressing food insecurity in our community. We are excited to create new ways for members of the congregation to engage in this important work, including volunteer opportunities at Touro as well as reimagining our on-site gardening options.

### LGBTQ Advocacy

Touro remains committed to supporting our LGBTQ congregants and advocate for the community where necessary as we watch developments at the state and federal level.

### Voting Rights

Touro will continue to work with the Emerging New Voices and Voters Coalition as well as Together New Orleans, and other ways to engage our community in voter engagement, registration, and participation. More information to follow.

*If you want to know more about Touro's Tikkun Olam initiatives, reach out to Erika Zucker at [eazucker@gmail.com](mailto:eazucker@gmail.com) or Chris Lorenzen at [chris.lorenzen.nola@gmail.com](mailto:chris.lorenzen.nola@gmail.com)*



# Caring and Mitzvah

## *Celebrating and Supporting Our Members*

The Caring and Mitzvah Committee helps the Touro community to celebrate and support members for lifecycle events and sacred occasions. Caring and Mitzvah seeks to build an engaged and connected congregation that generously supports each other. Some of our current initiatives are included below, but we welcome new ways to make connections and further support the Touro community.

**The Caring and Mitzvah Committee celebrates and supports Touro members for simchas and during difficult times with:**

### **Meal Trains**

Our committee members happily cook (or order) and deliver meals to families who recently welcomed new babies and those undergoing medical treatment.

### **Planting Trees in Israel**

Touro plants a tree in Israel as an expression of sympathy for families who have lost a loved one.

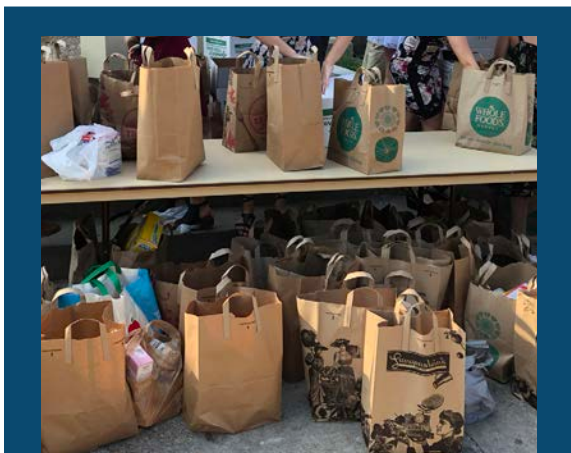
### **Shiva Support**

The Caring and Mitzvah Committee offers assistance and support to those organizing and sitting shiva following the loss of a loved one.

### **Care Packages**

Members provide 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.

***To make suggestions, get involved, or if the Caring and Mitzvah Committee can support you in any way, please contact Caring and Mitzvah Co-Chairs, Beth Lavin***



## **Ongoing Food Collections**

Touro continues to collect nonperishable food items for distribution to Second Harvest. Help fight food insecurity in New Orleans by bringing bags of groceries to Touro Synagogue, Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm. Collection bins are located in the Shushan Assembly. We encourage each Touro family to provide food for a comparable size family in need. Monetary donations can also be made to Rabbi Bauman's Discretionary Fund.



## Welcome New Staff!

We are so excited to welcome our newest staff members to our team: Sarah Tucker, Director of Operations; Aaron Rothko, Hebrew and Music Educator and URJ Clasp Fellow; and Leila Raymond, Educator for Youth and Teens and URJ Clasp Fellow.

### Our Team

**Rabbi Katie Bauman**  
*Senior Rabbi*

**Cantor Kevin Margolius**

**Rabbi Todd Silverman**  
*Associate Rabbi*

**Rabbi David Goldstein**  
*Rabbi Emeritus*

**Kurt Jostes**  
*Executive Director*

**Sarah Tucker**  
*Director of Operations*

**Maya Shaar**  
*Director of Youth Education  
and Engagement*

**Anna Federline**  
*Director of Communications*

**Beka Cole**  
*Clergy Administrative Assistant*

**Donna Provetero**  
*Finance*

**Aaron Rothko**  
*Hebrew and Music Educator  
and URJ Clasp Fellow*

**Leila Raymond**  
*Educator for Youth and Teens  
and URJ CLASP Fellow*

**Chanel Wickem**  
*Facilities*

**Branden Bell**  
*Facilities*



**Sarah Tucker**

*Director of Operations*

A native of Pensacola, Florida, she holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and masters degrees from the University of Central Florida. Sarah's deep connection to Judaism and her passion for community have been central to her career. She is excited to use her skills and enthusiasm to further Touro's mission of creating connection to Reform Judaism.



**Aaron Rothko**

*Hebrew and Music Educator  
and URJ CLASP Fellow*

Aaron graduated from Vassar College in 2020 with a major in Music. He has been a lifelong educator ever since, teaching at a variety of schools, including the JCC, youth programs, camps, as well as privately, and has led and played in a number of bands and ensembles. Originally from New York, Aaron moved to New Orleans in August of 2020 to join the Avodah Service Corps, where he worked at UNITY of Greater New Orleans.

Aaron supports all Hebrew learning for youth at Touro including B'nei Mitzvah tutoring and teaching in Uptown Hebrew. He will also be leading joyful music sessions during Yamim Yafim on Sundays and tefillah on Wednesdays, and collaborating with Leila to support Kehilah KIDosha, our new Shabbat morning programming for kids. Aaron is thrilled to be joining the Touro community, and can't wait to work with its young members.



**Leila Raymond**

*Educator for Youth and Teens  
and URJ CLASP Fellow*

Leila has just completed a Jewish Service Corp Year with Avodah here in New Orleans working in Public Health Dentistry. She graduated from Lawrence University, in Appleton, WI, a small liberal arts college where she was the president of the Jewish student organization on campus. Growing up in the Minneapolis Jewish community, attending the Minneapolis Jewish Day School and Adath Jeshurun Congregation fostered a love of creative Jewish education that Leila is excited to explore with you all.

Contact Us! Reach out to the Touro Office by calling 504-895-4843  
or by email at [tmail@tourosynagogue.com](mailto:tmail@tourosynagogue.com).



## Welcome New Board Members!

*A hearty welcome to our new board members who began a two-year term on July 1, 2024: Elizabeth Gottfried, Ilana Horwitz, Allison Lestelle, and Sam Winston.*

LAURA LEVY  
PRESIDENT

KEVIN WILKINS  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

KATHY SHEPARD  
VICE PRESIDENT

ERIKA ZUCKER  
VICE PRESIDENT

CATHY LAZARUS  
SECRETARY

JEFFREY FINGERMAN  
TREASURER

JULIE KOPPMAN  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

GARY SILBERT  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

ELLIS ARJMAND

BOB BATTERMAN

GABE FELDMAN

MAUREEN GERSHANIK

SARA GERSHEN

ALEX GLASER

JEFFREY GOOD

ELIZABETH GOTTFRIED

LAWRENCE HABER

ILANA HORWITZ

ELLEN KEMPNER

ANNA LABADIE

BETH LAVIN

ALLISON LESTELLE

ALIX PAIGE LOOMIS

CHRIS LORENZEN

CAROL MARKOWITZ

WILLIAM PROCELL

DANIELLE ROOF

KENDALL SCALES GLADE

GARY SERNOVITZ

JULIE SILBERT

STACEY WEINREB LUTZ

SAM WINSTON

MEGAN YELLIN



**Liz Gottfried** and her husband Larry moved to New Orleans in 2020 from the San Francisco Bay Area. They joined the Synagogue shortly after that and have found a true home at Touro. Liz is active in Torah Study, Uptown Hebrew, and the Choir. She is a graduate of Stanford University and spent her career in Financial Services at Wells Fargo, E\*TRADE Financial, and most recently with the Investment Risk Management firm, MSCI. Liz and Larry live in the Irish Channel and are enjoying their retirement in this wonderful city. They have two grown daughters, Rachel who lives in Los Angeles, and Naomi who lives in Astoria, Queens. Liz looks forward to helping with the continued growth and enrichment of the congregation.



**Dr. Ilana Horwitz** is an Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Sociology and the Fields-Rayant Chair of Contemporary Jewish Life at the Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience at Tulane University. Ilana immigrated to the US from the former Soviet Union when she was 7 years old and spent the rest of her childhood and adolescence in the Philadelphia area. She and her family—Robbie, Araya and Mikayla—moved to New Orleans in 2021 after spending 12 years in the Bay Area.



**Allison Lestelle**, her husband Evan, and their children Sienna and Asher, moved from New York to New Orleans in 2020 where they quickly felt at home in the vibrant Touro community. Originally from Houston, Texas, Allison attended Tulane University and Tulane Law School. Following law school, Allison lived in New York City for over ten years, working in compliance at several banks, and she has worked at Bank of America since 2016. Allison enjoys participating in the many religious and community events at Touro Synagogue and passing Jewish values on to her children.



**Sam Winston** grew up at Touro Synagogue having had his barmitzvah with Rabbi David Goldstein and Cantor Stephen Dubov. He is husband to his wonderful wife Heide and they have two boys, Lennon and Jonah, who both currently attend Yamim Yafim. Sam's parents, Marc and Jill Winston, have been members of Touro for many years. Sam and Heide are 2017 graduates of the Katz-Phillips Program. By day, Sam is an appellate lawyer where he heads up his own small firm, Winston Bergeron LLP. He also recently joined Touro's volunteer choir and is honored to serve this community.



## Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association

Jointly Owned by Touro Synagogue and Temple Sinai

*“New Orleans December 21st 1871: The undersigned joint Committee of the Hebrew Congregation Shangarai Chassed and Temple Sinai appointed to confer on the subject of an intended use of the Hebrew Rest Cemetery belonging to the said Congregation Shangarai Chassed as a common Burying Ground for both the said...”*

The minutes of that meeting end by recommending that both congregations agree to joint ownership and that Temple Sinai pay the amount of “One Dollar” for the transaction. The seven hand-written pages, archived at the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University, spell out the proposed relationship, including the rights of the congregations’ members and the structure of the Board of Commissioners.


So began the joint relationship that eventually led to the formation of Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association, Inc., jointly owned by Touro Synagogue and Congregation Temple Sinai, which each appoints six commissioners to the Board. The Association operates Hebrew Rest Cemeteries 1, 2, and 3 in Gentilly and Dispersed of Judah Cemetery near the head of Canal Street. The cemeteries primarily serve the two congregations but also are available to serve the greater Jewish Community. We are grateful to have a close working relationship with Jewish clergy and funeral directors throughout the Greater New Orleans area.

At times, we are called upon to provide burial sites for indigent members of the community and are pleased to do so. We are establishing a fund to assist at such times and also to help maintain headstones and plots for families who are no longer here. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact us or see the coming link on our web site.

Walking through the cemeteries is truly a walk through the history of the New Orleans Jewish Community. A marker at Dispersed of Judah recognizes the contributions of Judah Touro (originally interred there but subsequently moved to Newport, Rhode Island). At Hebrew Rest, one finds the final resting places of some of the rabbis of both congregations. We encourage you to visit the cemeteries which are open every day except Saturday and the major Jewish Holidays from about 8:30am to 5:00pm. Security is provided at Hebrew Rest every Sunday from 10:00am until 2:00pm.


Available burial sites include traditional in-ground plots, mausoleum crypts, and urn garden niches. Information on pricing as well as a directory of burial sites and other information can be found on our web site at [www.hebrewrest.org](http://www.hebrewrest.org).

**For information concerning pre-need or immediate need arrangements, please contact Executive Director Cliff Kern at [hrcanola@gmail.com](mailto:hrcanola@gmail.com) or at 504-615-7207.**

——  
**Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association, Inc.  
Board of Commissioners from Touro Synagogue**

Charles Glaser	Robert Kohn
Lou Good	Hal Shepard
David Greenberg	Renee Zack

Stephen Sontheimer, *Honorary Commissioner*

——

# Giving Is a Way of Life for Us

## Ensure Strength in Our Future and Today

### The 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 a beautiful glass plaque in our building.

For more information or to learn about how your gifts will strengthen our endowment, please contact Kurt Jostes or one of the following Touro Synagogue Foundation Board Members: Susan Good, Lisa Herman, or Teri Hunter.



### 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 eight 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. For more information about the Tzedakah Society contact Executive Director Kurt Jostes.

## About Our Funds

### Touro Synagogue Foundation

*These funds are gifts to the Touro Synagogue Foundation for a directed purpose*

#### GENERAL FOUNDATION FUND

*Endowment Support*

#### BARBARA S. LOEB TIKKUN OLAM FUND

*Social Justice Initiatives Support*

#### JACKIE WOLFF SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Jewish Education Scholarships*

#### ADELAIDE BERGMAN MUSIC FUND

*High Holiday Music Support*

#### DEBRA VAN DER LINDEN SIDELNIK MEMORIAL FUND

*Youth Leadership*

#### ROBERT KATZ & ALICE M. KATZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Camp Scholarships*

### Touro Synagogue Support

*These donations help support Touro Synagogue's operating budget*

#### TOURO SYNAGOGUE SUPPORT

*General Fund*

#### CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

#### PRAYER BOOKS

#### ADULT EDUCATION

#### DONALD MINTZ LECTURE FUND

*Speaker Events*

#### PULPIT FLOWERS/SHABBAT DINNER

*Allows for Sponsorship Recognition at Specific Levels*

#### BUILDING PRESERVATION FUND

*Restricted Fund for Emergency Capital Repairs*

#### HEARING IMPAIRED ASSISTANCE

#### JAZZ FEST SHABBAT FUND

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SUPPORT

#### CARING AND MITZVAH

#### KAREN J. (KITTY) GREENBERG ARTS AND EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

#### SECURITY FUND

#### BELLE ADELMAN-CANNON CENTER FOR TEEN LEADERSHIP

#### MUSIC/CHOIR

#### TORAH STUDY SUPPORT

#### DAVID KANTER WORSHIP FUND

*Enhances Worship Experiences*

#### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

For more details on our funds, please visit [tourosynagogue.com](http://tourosynagogue.com) or call us at (504) 895-4843. *Online giving is available!*

All donations made to Touro Synagogue and the Touro Synagogue Foundation are 100% tax deductible.

**Touro Synagogue**

4238 St. Charles Avenue | New Orleans, LA 70115

504-895-4843

[www.TouroSynagogue.com](http://www.TouroSynagogue.com)