

# THE SHOFAR TOURO SYNAGOGUE



WINTER 2024/2025

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Sunday Night Fever  
at Studio 504

## TEEN YOUTH GROUP

A Message from TASTY  
Co-Presidents

Chanukah Sameach!

PRE-CHANUKAH CELEBRATION &  
YAMIM YAFIM CONSECRATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

*Hava Nagilah!*  
**IT'S MARDI GRAS  
MITZVAH TIME**

Volunteer Opportunities Available

## SPECIAL UPCOMING SHABBATOT

*Musical Experiences,  
B'nei Mitzvah, & More*

## NEW OFFERINGS AT TOURO!

Upcoming Lifelong  
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Photography by Scott Saltzman



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## From Our President



### A Message from Laura Levy

Dear Friends,

Greetings and best wishes to all of you! I hope that you are feeling renewed and inspired after our richly meaningful holiday season at Touro Synagogue. I know you share my gratitude to our extraordinary clergy and staff for their passion and dedication to us. Now, as

we move into the new year, there is much going on at Touro Synagogue as always.

Under the able leadership of Chris Lorenzen, we continue our battle against food insecurity in our community. As you know, we set an ambitious goal this year to collect 2,000 pounds of non-perishable food over the holiday season. Thanks to you, our generous and compassionate community, we were successful in collecting 2,049 pounds of food which we donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. We have appointed a Combating Hunger Steering Committee under Chris's leadership to develop plans for our ongoing work, including the future of our congregational garden. When our much beloved vertical garden was removed during the construction, we learned that the wall on which it was supported had incurred significant damage and we were advised not to re-start the garden in that format. The Steering Committee is tasked with developing a new plan for the garden. They will take on planning for several other goals as well, including continued support of neighborhood food pantries, particularly through our partnership with Second Harvest, and participation in food preparation programs that offer meals served with dignity to those in need. Want to stop into Touro Synagogue on a Sunday morning to make some sandwiches for this purpose? The opportunity may be in your future!

The Caring and Mitzvah Committee is actively working and expanding their vision under the dedicated leadership of Beth Lavin and Ellen Kempner. Those of you who have been recipients of our Meal Train, or have participated as a donor, understand both the joy and the meaning of this important mitzvah. The committee also offers a welcome to new members of our congregation, a "mazel tov" to families welcoming new babies, and comfort to those experiencing life's sadness. Please join us in this important work, the mitzvah of caring for each other. There are opportunities to participate at any level that works for you.

Thanks to the leadership of Membership Chair Julie Koppman and many others, our Ambassador Program is thriving and growing! Their work has focused on fostering community in our congregation, and they have done so in such lovely ways. If you are a new member, please know that a Congregational Ambassador is available to you to help you get to know our

congregation and feel your membership in full. The group has also developed "Membership FAQs" that are posted on our website (under the "About Us" tab). It is packed with useful information for new members and long-time members alike.

I want to let you know that our Board of Trustees has appointed a Task Force to respond to the Union for Reform Judaism's call for a Congregational Ethics Code in each member congregation. Having a written Congregational Ethics Code serves to remind us of the sacred nature of our community and to reinforce the integrity of our Synagogue as a safe, welcoming, and sacred space. It further serves to declare our commitment as a community to act according to high ethical standards. It is the goal of the Task Force to complete their work in the spring of 2025, and I will update you on the process as it moves forward.

Finally, I am excited to tell you about our **annual fundraiser coming up on Sunday, February 2, 2025**. Mark your calendars – it promises to be a lot of fun! Committee chairs Liz and Larry Gottfried and their team have planned a wonderful evening for us. This year's fundraiser, *Sunday Night Fever at Studio 504*, is inspired by the legendary Studio 54, the iconic nightclub that defined the disco era in the 1970s. With musical performances by talented local artists and delicious food, this spectacular evening will be a chance to celebrate, connect, and create lasting memories with the Touro community. We have a special patron party planned as well as some fun perks if you are able to join us at one of the sponsorship levels. Whether you want to dance the night away, sit and enjoy the entertainment, or just spend quality time with your community, it will be an unforgettable evening. There might even be a few surprises...

This is only a sampling of the good work going on every day at Touro Synagogue. There are so many ways to be engaged with this wonderful community. In 5785, may you find a space in the life of Touro Synagogue that is meaningful to you and your family, and may you experience it in full. We on the Board of Trustees and in the Ambassador Program are here to help you.

Warm regards,

Laura







## The Space Between Us

### A Message from Rabbi Bauman

Dear Touro Synagogue Family,

As you receive this, many of us will be deep in preparations for the Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays. For some, that means traveling to be with relatives. For others, it means hosting loved ones who are coming to you. For

others, it means looking forward to time with local family or friends. And for others, this season launches a particularly lonely time when who is absent is the sharpest detail. As ever, we experience each day and particularly special days like holidays with a widely varied set of circumstances, pressures, joys, hopes, and pains. It is our pledge to each other, as people who care deeply about building community, that we will see each other, rejoice and mourn together, and humbly make room for many frames of mind in which we enter each others' presence.

The presidential election and all its implications are still fresh on all our minds, and no matter how we voted and why, it is undeniable that we are polarized as a nation and that this reality is shredding the fabric of our precious democracy. In such an environment of alienation and loneliness, the project that is Touro Synagogue is more important than ever. I believe this for two reasons.

The first is that pluralistic community is increasingly rare in this country, but it is the only way to rebuild our social capital, the connective tissue between people that allows us all to reach individual and common goals, allows us to entrust our futures to each other. We must strengthen these ties, even and especially across lines of difference, and our synagogue can be an important training ground for building those skills. The second is that religion has often been used as a weapon of exclusion, as a mechanism by which people are deemed unworthy. As the rhetoric of dehumanization is normalized, especially by certain entities in the religious sphere of this country, faith communities of conscience and care must be a port in the storm.

Both because we need to learn to speak to each other and trust each other and because religion can be a powerful tool not just for destruction but for righteousness, our community has a mandate in this moment to be strong, to be determined, and to be fearlessly loving and affirming.

Yes, this kind of space can get a little messy and requires great humility from everyone. It's harder than the transactional world of fee-for-service we live in most every other time. But I suspect that deep down, each of us yearns to live with authenticity, yearns to know that our lives have meaning, and yearns to feel that we are sitting amongst others who also seek that kind of substantive existence. Jewish philosopher Martin Buber taught a century ago that the encounter of two souls is a holy thing, and that the blessed space between us is where we can find God. In a world that curses that space as evidence of societal rot, let us stand in the breach and insist upon a different way, a way that blesses this space as evidence of the expansiveness of God's image. It's not a small thing to

do, whether in the kind words we speak or the broad initiatives we undertake, and we are up to all of it.

To be the rabbi of a community that not only speaks this commitment but lives it is a true honor. As I enter my 6th year as the Senior Rabbi of Touro Synagogue, I marvel daily - truly, *daily*, at the privilege of serving you, learning with you, growing with you, and hoping and building for the future with you. Never have these feelings been more poignant than now, as Adam

and I prepare to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of our firstborn son, Morris Robert Eckstein, whom you likely know as Mo. Raising our family in this community has been a joy, and as this rite of passage approaches in January, we delight that this is the kind of Jewish life our children have the chance to live. So thank you, from a proud mother, for being a part of our family's journey.

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Katie Bauman*

“  
LET US STAND IN  
THE BREACH AND  
INSIST UPON A  
DIFFERENT WAY.”





## *Thank You for Another Beautiful Year!*

What an unforgettable High Holy Day season! We had a lovely time celebrating with such an active and passionate congregation. Thanks to all those who made this year truly special.





## Beit T'filah

# Special Upcoming Shabbatot

### First Shabbat at Touro

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!**

#### 9:00am Shabbat Shiur\*

Sacred Text Study 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**.

#### 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.

#### 11:30am Communal Shabbat Lunch

Sponsorship opportunities are available! To sponsor a monthly Shabbat lunch, please visit [tourosynagogue.com/sponsorship](http://tourosynagogue.com/sponsorship).

### Upcoming Dates:

December 7

January 4

Shabbat Shiur and  
Shabbat Rocks only

February 1

March 8\*

\*2nd Shabbat this month!

April 19\*

\*3rd Shabbat this month!

May 3

### Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah

Miriam Alexandra Rudman  
January 11, 2025

child of Katy Wiltz and Ernest Rudman

Emma Lena Jaffe  
January 18, 2025

child of Jeanette and Ben Jaffe

Morris "Mo" Robert Eckstein  
January 25, 2025

child of Katie Bauman and Adam Eckstein

Lucy Clare Magnus  
February 15, 2025

child of Laura and Adam Magnus



### Celebrate Shabbati Gras!

Friday, February 21 - Saturday, February 22

Friday, February 28 - Saturday, March 1

Learn more about Mardi Gras at Touro on pages 14-15.



*Touro Synagogue Cordially Invites You to*

# Yamim Yafim Consecration

***A Special Blessing for Our Kindergarten Class and New First Graders***

**Friday, December 13, 2024 | 13 Kislev 5785**

6:00pm in the Main Sanctuary

*Followed by Congregational Chanukah Celebration*

*See Page 8 for more information!*

Julian Angelson Rich

Millicent Arnold

Anderson Bolz

Charlotte Braun

David Capiello

Ida Cohen

Zev Cohen

Evelen Glade

Lucille Glaser

Lyla Glaser

Maxwell Goehring

Jack Greenberg

Isabella Halstead

Mason Jacobs

Aliza Kanter

Benjamin Kaufman

Sanford Kulick

Arie Kupperman

Murray Lipsman

Zahara Lorenz

Estelle Maldonado

Zev Marks

Mae Meyer

Josephine Novod

Josephine Page

Adira Philipson

Frank Robertson

Eli Rosenthal

Payton Rudin

Elan Rufo

Lucille Sheldon

Jarrett Taquino

Ezra Tucker

Jonah Wallick

Ruth Yellin

*All Consecration families are invited to participate in the Chanukah Celebration following services at no cost. Please let us know if you notice any kindergarten or new 1st grade families missing from the list above so that we can ensure everyone is included.*



Beit T'filah

# Chanukah Sameach!

## Pre-Chanukah Celebration and Yamim Yafim Consecration

*With a Special Moment Honoring  
Our Building Committee*

**Friday, December 13, 6:00pm**

Join us for a joyful Shabbat service made even sweeter as we offer a special blessing for our kindergarten class and new first graders!

Along with their classmates and families on the bimah, each of them will be officially welcomed into our community of learners by our clergy and congregation, and receive a special gift to mark this joyous occasion. **Learn more about our Consecration students on page 7.**

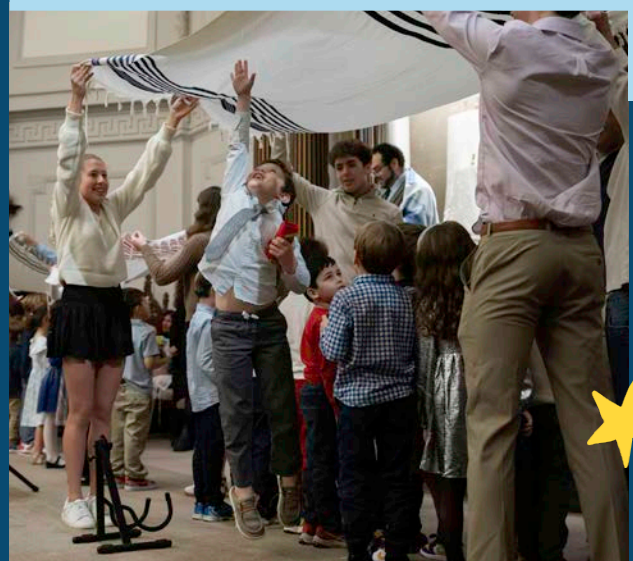
### Pre-Chanukah Celebration *Following Shabbat Services*

Let's celebrate Chanukah (a little early) with a fried food fest of deliciousness following services on Friday, December 13. Enjoy fried chicken, latkes, a sufganiyot bar, Chanukah games, songs, & more!



**\$18/Adults \$8/Kids**

RSVP at [TouroSynagogue.com/Chanukah](https://TouroSynagogue.com/Chanukah)  
or scan the QR code.





# Chanukah Candle Lighting Guide

Chanukah lasts for 8 nights, and on each night, we light one more candle than the night before. Arrange the lights in your hanukkiyah (menorah) each night starting with the rightmost branches, and the shamash (helper) light in its place.

Place the hanukkiyah where many people can see it, ideally near a window or door.

On the Shabbat of Chanukah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.

Light the Shamash - the helper candle - first using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights; say or sing the blessings below:



Join us for our Chanukah Celebration and Yamim Yafim Consecration on Friday Evening, December 13!



December 25



December 26



December 27



December 28



December 29



December 30



December 31



January 1

## Blessing 1

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik  
ner shel Hanukkah.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,  
who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to  
kindle the Hanukkah lights.*

## Blessing 2

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ  
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim  
hahaim baz'man hazeh.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,  
who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors  
in days of old at this season.*

## First Night Only

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ  
וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man  
hazeh.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,  
who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought  
us to this season.*

## Lifelong Learning Opportunities

After an incredibly challenging year, a meaningful High Holiday season, and an intense election cycle, let us look forward to delving into deep learning together in 5785, a spiritual practice as old as Judaism itself. From a new cohort of those choosing to become Jewish, to a new cycle of Hebrew reading, from foundational courses on the history and sociology of Israel, to an exploration of the Jewish ethics of war, we will come together to learn and grow as individuals and as a community.

### ★ New Offerings at Touro

**Contemporary Jewish Ethics:  
The Ethics and Morality of War**  
Wednesday, January 8, 7:00pm  
Led by Touro Member Sara Gershen

Examine the most pressing science, social, and health related concerns of our time through a Jewish lens. This session, the group will discuss: The Ethics and Morality of War.

**TAWANI FOUNDATION** | **TULANE UNIVERSITY Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience**

**INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**Rottman Family Lecture: In Each and Every Generation: Survivors and Their Descendants**

**David Slucki**  
WITH MICHAEL COHEN

**JANUARY 27, 2025 AT 6 PM**

**FORGOTSTON CHAPEL, TOURO SYNAGOGUE**

**Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans** | **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS** | **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES** | **TULANE UNIVERSITY Department of Jewish Studies**

## Israel Education

*Deepening Our Understanding of Israel, the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, and the Key Historical Dynamics that Shaped the World We Know*

For many of us, the last fifteen months have been akin to drinking from a firehose as we attempt to ground ourselves in a tremendous amount of complex history in order to understand the moment of crisis that we are living in regards to the State of Israel, the war in Gaza, and the broader regional conflict. The following courses and sessions are strong opportunities to attain some of that groundedness and orientation so that we can be productive participants in the discussions around these realities. Throughout the first half of 2025, our community members will have the chance to learn with some of the greatest scholars and teachers of our generation, made possible by Tulane University's Stuart and Suzanne Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience. These sessions will be enriching, substantive, research-based, and welcoming to all who come with open hearts and minds.

### Beginning This Month:



**Jews and the Land: An Exploration of the History, Status, and Future of Zionism and Israel**

with Israel Educator **Elhanan Brown**

*This will be a multi-session, cohort learning experience with the goal of providing participants with a strong historical framework for understanding the current moment.*

### Orientation Session

with **Rabbi Bauman and Rabbi Silverman**  
**In-Person**

Tuesday, December 3, 6:30pm

### Sunday Mornings | 10:00am

**In-Person and Zoom**

January 5, 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9

### Culminating Visit from Elhanan Brown

**In-Person**

Week of February 18-20

### Coming in March and April:

**Arab Palestinian Citizens of Israel and Questions of Democracy**

with **Dr. Sammy Smooha of University of Haifa**

**Pre-State Jewish Settlement in Ottoman and British Mandate Palestine**

with **Dr. Aviva Halamish of the Open University of Israel**

**Exploring Israel's Sociology and Culture through Film**  
with **Dr. Elad Wexler, Tulane University Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies and Israeli Filmmaker**





# Beit Midrash

## Ongoing Series at Touro

### Shabbat Shiur: Sacred Text Study Weekly on Saturday Mornings | 9:00am

Enjoy bagels and coffee, and engage in sacred text study with our clergy.

### Joy and Purpose in Parenting Jewishly Select Sunday Mornings | 9:30am

**Upcoming Dates:** December 15, January 12, February 16, March 23, April 27

A space for conversations, reflection and support as we navigate raising Jewish children: Parenting Jewishly is something we are blessed to do in community, and we have a wealth of resources among us to share strength, creativity, and support. Throughout the fall, we'll gather, learn and teach each other as we find joy and purpose in parenting Jewishly. All parents are welcome, regardless of religious background.

### Prime Timers Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Katie Bauman

**Tuesday, February 11, 12:00pm**

Enjoy delicious lunch and conversation regarding the most pressing questions of the day and how our Jewish teachings can enrich our understanding of the issue. *Prime Timers Lunch and Learn is generously sponsored by our Esther's Elders Fund.*

## New Cohort Experiences

### Embracing Judaism

#### *A Course Study for Becoming Jewish*

Embracing Judaism is our annual program at Touro for those who are not Jewish, but after spending some time participating in Jewish life, are considering choosing Judaism for their religious identity. If you have ever wondered if Judaism could be your spiritual home, this program is a great next step! Embracing Judaism includes formal and experiential classes, cohort building, engagement in communal Jewish life, and meetings with clergy. **Registration for the 2024-2025 cohort required!** Register online at [toursynagogue.com/embracing-judaism](https://toursynagogue.com/embracing-judaism).

### Upcoming Classes:

#### Foundations of Judaism

**Tuesdays at 7:00pm on Zoom with Touro Clergy**

December 3, 10; January 7, 14, 28; February 4, 11, 25; March 11, 25

#### Experiencing Jewish Life

**Dates TBA**

Periodic experiential opportunities to explore and discuss essential aspects of Judaism facilitated by lay leaders Naomi Yavneh Klos, Samantha Guichet, and Laura Adelman-Cannon.

## Hebrew Reading for Adults

**Thursday Evenings | December 5, January 16, February 13**

Beginners with Orientation at 6:00pm

Returning Learners at 6:45pm

For all looking to expand your Hebrew reading skills—whether absolute beginners or advanced readers—we'll gather to explore the best ways to learn throughout the year. We will pair up in chevruta (study-buddy groups) and meet with Cantor Margolius throughout the year to help guide your learning.

## Community Spotlight

**The Cathy and Morris Bart JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES**  
FALL 2024

*In Your Eyes, I See My Country,*  
Screening & Discussion  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

In the presence of the director, Kamal Hachkar, and the actors, Neta Elkayam and Amit Hai Cohen.

Touro Synagogue looks forward to welcoming Neta and Amit to share their internationally acclaimed and profoundly spiritual music at an **upcoming Shabbat service on January 17.**

## Register Online



Scan the QR code to register for courses online or reach out to the Touro office at 504-895-4843.

## Beit Midrash



# TASTY | Touro and Sinai Youth Group

## A Message from TASTY Co-Presidents



Janna Sherman  
11th Grade, Country Day

Henry Haber  
11th Grade, Newman

Hi everyone!

We are both so happy and proud to serve as TASTY's Co-Presidents this year, and we want to share a little bit with you about what a great semester of events and programs we've had so far!

TASTY started the year with a really fun kickoff pool party (thank you, Arjmand Family!) where we got a chance to reconnect with returning TASTY members and meet new ones, including some from the freshman class. Since then we have had at least one event per month – but usually it's been even more than that. Once a month we have held TASTY Shabbats, where our teens

join together for services and then enjoy dinner, games, and hanging out as a community in the Teen Lounge. We also hosted a Saints watch party just before Rosh Hashanah and made hygiene and supply bags to hand out to the homeless.

During the High Holy Day season, lots of teens from both Temple Sinai and Touro Synagogue participated in many different ways: helping run food drives, carrying Torahs to the Ark during Kol Nidre, coming up to the bimah for aliyot on Yom

Kippur morning, offering readings and poems during memorial services, and even chanting Haftarah at services. During Sukkot, TASTY also partnered with the local BBYO chapter to host an evening of dinner, Torah study, and community-building in Touro's courtyard sukkah.

In addition to our local events, a lot of TASTY members have participated in regional and national NFTY events too! In October, a huge group of TASTY teens attended the NFTY Collab at URJ Camp Coleman in Georgia, where we met hundreds of fellow Jewish teens from all over the country and learned valuable leadership, programming, and recruitment skills. More recently, a lot of our teens traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, for NFTY Southern's Fall Conclave.

And we have a lot of fun events coming up soon including our pre-Chanukah party with latkes, sufganiyot, and gift exchange! TASTY gatherings are a lot of fun, and they are a great way to meet new friends and hang out with other Jewish teens from Temple Sinai and Touro Synagogue. If you haven't checked out any of our events yet, we hope you do soon! If you have any questions, you can contact Rabbi Silverman, Leila Raymond, or one of us anytime.

Thank you and hope to see you soon!

- Janna and Henry





## A Message from Rabbi Silverman

Dear Friends,

Have you seen what our TASTY teens have been up to? It's actually pretty hard to miss them if you've been around Touro Synagogue at all during the past few months.

They're showing up on Sunday mornings as madrichim at Yamim Yafim, and they're helping teach Hebrew on Wednesday afternoons; they can even be seen jogging into the building for their own evening classes and discussion groups throughout the week. During the High Holy Days, some of them showed up earlier than usual to help collect and pack up nearly 2,000 lbs of food donations; some literally carried the Torah(s) on their shoulders at the start of Kol Nidre, while others ascended the bimah at various times to offer readings, sing the aliyot blessings, or lead our littlest congregants and their

families in song and prayer. If you didn't see them yourself during Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, your kids might have – because they were an integral part of our childcare team, making even babysitting a more meaningful and spiritual experience.

And beyond their deep dedication to serving our community, they're also building something amazing for themselves and their peers. As TASTY's Co-Presidents have shared in their message, the school year has been chockful of Shabbat dinners, social action projects, and opportunities to enhance their own leadership skills through programs both local and out-of-the-area. They travel together to other cities and to unfamiliar Jewish summer camps to network, learn from, and teach other Jewish high schoolers from across the country. And they do all of this – and so much more – because they value being in Jewish spaces, doing Jewish things, surrounded by their Jewish peers. It's nothing short of remarkable, and undoubtedly a point of pride for our entire congregational family.

If you have a teen in your life who would like to learn more about everything TASTY does and how to get involved, be sure to reach out to us anytime – we can't wait to bring even more engaged young adults into the fold and the fun!

- Rabbi Todd Silverman



## Beit Midrash



## GET INVOLVED!

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!



# Hava Nagilah!

## It's Mardi Gras Mitzvah Time at Touro



### *We Can't Do It Without You!*

Touro Synagogue is blessed to have, quite literally, a front row seat to the biggest, most colorful, most creative party in the world, and that gives us both responsibilities and opportunities to increase the joy.

As many know, Mardi Gras at Touro is a time of unique delight when we combine our Shabbat observance with the spirit of New Orleans during **Shabbati Gras**; a time of community and connection as we enjoy parades together comfortably and safely **within our Touro campus**; and most importantly, a time of service and loving kindness as we host our **Krewe of VIPS**, those with disabilities or special needs who view Mardi Gras parades from our wheelchair accessible platform.

Under the leadership of Juan Gershanik, Hal and Kathy Shepard, and other devoted volunteers, we are expanding a strong team of congregants who are committed to creating this experience for the congregation and our Krewe of VIPS. **Even if you've never been involved before, please consider starting a new tradition this year. Mardi Gras at Touro is a gift we give each other!**

### *Below are the ways to plug in and do a Mardi Gras Mitzvah!*

#### **1 | The Grandstand Building Team**

Handy with a hammer? Able to follow directions from someone who is? We are seeking volunteers to help assemble the wheelchair-accessible stands outside the sanctuary on Monday, February 17 and to disassemble them on Wednesday, March 5.

#### **2 | The Security and Hospitality Team**

Parade viewing with a purpose! We are seeking volunteers to welcome members at the gate of Touro to ensure that everyone who comes in receives a wrist band and is checked in on our list, for security reasons. This includes receiving payments from non-member guests who have not paid in advance.

#### **3 | Krewe of VIPS Host Team**

It is our honor each year to host the Krewe of VIPS, and we are seeking volunteers who can welcome and chaperone the group, making sure the children and their families have everything they need to enjoy the parades.

**Scan the QR Code or email Sarah Tucker at [stucker@touroynagogue.com](mailto:stucker@touroynagogue.com) to sign up!**





## Touro Parade Schedule 2025

Below you will find a schedule of when the synagogue will be open for members who would like to join the revelry of Carnival in New Orleans. Please note, the parades roll in light rain. The officials will only postpone if the weather is predicted to be severe. The local TV and radio news stations (such as WWL Radio) broadcast the hour by hour updates. You can also use the Parade Tracker App to track the parades. Touro will still celebrate Shabbat even if the parades are cancelled due to inclement weather. **Feel free to bring your coolers and snacks! Remember, no pork, shellfish, or glass (except that which you are bringing for recycling) allowed.**

### Friday, February 21

4:00PM Gates open for parade watching  
5:00PM Shabbat prayers and candle lighting followed by Krewes of Oshun and Cleopatra

### Saturday, February 22

9:00AM Shabbat Shiur  
10:00AM Gates open for parade watching:  
Krewes of Pontchartrain, Choctaw, and Freret  
***Stands are reserved for Krewe of VIPs***

### Thursday, February 27

4:30PM Gates open for parade watching  
Krewes of Babylon, Chaos and Muses  
***Stands are reserved for Krewe of VIPs***

### Friday, February 28

4:00PM Gates open for parade watching  
5:00PM Shabbat prayers and candle lighting followed by Krewes of Hermes, d'Etat and Morpheus

### Saturday, March 1

9:00AM Shabbat Shiur  
10:00AM Gates open for parade watching  
Krewes of Iris and Tucks  
***Stands are reserved for Krewe of VIPs***

***Touro's facility will be closed for all other Uptown parades that are not listed on this schedule.***

## Our Mardi Gras Guidelines

- Non-members must be accompanied by a member at all times. Each non-member will be charged \$20 at the door; \$10 for non-member guests under 5 years old.
- Members must remain on site as long as their guests are present.
- Access will be limited to the areas behind the fence, the Bowsky Garden, Shushan Assembly, and chapel bathrooms.
- Coolers are permitted. Coolers must be kept outdoors.
- No pork, shellfish, or glass allowed.
- No smoking.
- The building and property grounds must be respected by all members and guests, and all trash must be disposed of properly.
- No playing under the stands.



## Store Your Ladder!

With a donation of \$50 your ladder will be made available on all the open days listed above. Please call the Touro office to arrange a drop-off beginning Tuesday, February 17. We kindly ask that all ladders are picked up by Friday, March 7.

TOURO SYNAGOGUE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

# SUNDAY NIGHT FEVER *at Studio 504*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025  
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

**Touro Synagogue**

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504-895-4843  
[www.TouroSynagogue.com](http://www.TouroSynagogue.com)