

THE SHOFAR

TOURO SYNAGOGUE



SPRING 2025

Let's Celebrate

JAZZ FEST SHABBAT

Featuring the
Dirty Dozen Brass Band
Friday, April 25

Chag Sameach!

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
& PESACH MITZVAH OPPORTUNITIES
SUNDAY, APRIL 13

SPECIAL UPCOMING SHABBATOT

*Broadway Shabbat,
Confirmation, & More*

The Serious Lesson of Purim

A Message from
Rabbi Bauman

A Look Back at SUNDAY NIGHT FEVER AT STUDIO 504

Photo Highlights and Thanks

BEIT MIDRASH

Upcoming Lifelong
Learning Opportunities

Photography by Scott Saltzman

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CONGREGATIONAL SEDER



BROADWAY SHABBAT

From Our President



A Message from Laura Levy

Dear friends,

Welcome to spring at Touro Synagogue! The upcoming months are rich with opportunities for learning, service to our community, music and festivities (think Jazz Fest Shabbat!), and celebrating the upcoming holidays together. You will find information about all

of these and more within the pages of this bulletin. I will highlight a few here, but first I want to express my thanks for making Sunday Night Fever at Studio 504, our fundraiser this year, such a success. Thanks to the participation of so many of you, the party was great fun and we reached our revenue goal for the event. The generosity of our congregation is remarkable as are the impressive dancing skills! We owe a debt of gratitude to Liz and Larry Gottfried, the event co-chairs, and to their committee, including Lauren Greenberg, Lawrence Haber, Kelly Haber, Marilyn Levin, Kay Levy, Dana Lieber, Alix Paige Loomis, Patricia Luria, Gail Pesses, Randy Roig and Brian Weimer. They worked tirelessly to reach their goal and had a lot of fun doing it.

And speaking of leadership, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Beth Lavin, Ellen Kempner, and Julie Koppman together with many dedicated committee members, our Caring and Mitzvah offerings and our Ambassador Program are working hand-in-hand to support the needs of our congregants and to help all of us find what we are seeking at Touro Synagogue. In addition, thanks to our Tikkun Olam co-chairs Erika Zucker

and Chris Lorenzen, their subcommittee leaders and dedicated participants, Touro Synagogue submitted a Climate Action Plan to the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. As described elsewhere in this bulletin, we will be working together over the coming year to address the important goals of that plan. Look for an open meeting in mid-March for interested congregants to begin the discussion. As you will also read, our Combatting Hunger Initiative is active and making progress. We invite all of you join us and enjoy being together while making a difference.

Finally, I want to let you know about a project underway by our Board of Trustees. Following the strong recommendation of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), our Board of Trustees is working to develop a Congregational Code of Conduct. Anchored in our mission and our Reform Jewish values, the code declares by its existence that our Touro Synagogue community aspires to act according to the highest standards of individual behavior. It serves to remind us that the sanctity and safety of our community is maintained when everyone in the community acts according to a set of shared values and ethical responsibilities. We expect to complete the Congregational Code of Conduct soon and look forward to sharing it with you.

As this is my last Bulletin article as Touro's President, I want to say that it has been a privilege and an honor to serve in the role. I am grateful to you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I hope you have found and continue to find the richness of living Jewishly at Touro Synagogue.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Laura

Thank you, Laura!

Our deepest gratitude for your dedication and leadership throughout your term as President of Touro Synagogue. Your thoughtful guidance has left an indelible mark on our congregation, and we are profoundly grateful for the time, energy, and love you've given. Your legacy of service will continue to inspire us for years to come. Thank you!

**Love,
Your Touro Family**

From Our Rabbi



The Serious Lesson of Purim

A Message from Rabbi Bauman

Dear Touro Synagogue Family,

It was a joy to see so many of you during the Carnival season. Whether this has been a personally joyous or challenging season for you, I hope you have found shelter and purpose within this synagogue community. In what is a time of tremendous turmoil for us as Americans and as Jews, it is always my hope that the culture we build within Touro is a port in a storm and a source of inspiration.

It is hard to believe that we are entering the spring holiday season and anticipating the end of the school year and the start of summer. The Festival of Purim begins on March 13th, and its full moon reminds us that Passover is only one month away. And Passover launches us into the introspective period of Counting the Omer, culminating with Shavuot seven weeks later, commemorating the receiving of the Torah.

On Purim Eve, we will gather at Touro in costumes and playfully engage with the story of Esther and the triumph of the Jews of Shushan over the Wicked Haman and their revenge upon all who would harm them, our graggers and laughter drowning out the evil of Haman's actions and emphasizing our delight at his demise. The revelry of Purim's observance ironically masks a story

filled with these most solemn of themes: sexual coercion, antisemitism, attempted genocide, and an often overlooked part of the Megillah, the brutality of vengeance.

By the time Passover comes, the mask is removed, and we are reminded in the strongest of terms that we may not rejoice over the death of our enemies. In the Midrash, God is disgusted with the angels' celebration at the shores of the Red Sea upon the drowning of the Egyptians. God says, "My creations

are drowning... how dare you sing songs of celebration?!" The drops of wine we remove from the second cup to remember those who lost their lives for our freedom is our moral instruction, a reminder that we must value all human life, even that of our enemies.

Purim, true to form, delivers the same chastisement as Pesach does but on its head, by granting us one day and one day only to boo Haman and cheer for his execution and that of his sons and followers. The medium of Purim's absurdity is the message, that visiting the

most gruesome revenge upon one's enemies is not permitted in Judaism, and the most permissive our tradition can be is to grant us one day a year to fantasize about such a revenge. We are never to forget that this day stands apart and is the opposite of what is expected of us at other times.

**“ WE ARE CALLED TO
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STRONG, COURAGEOUS,
AND ACTIVE FOR THE SAKE
OF OUR OWN PROTECTION.”**

Purim and Passover's lesson, that we must not embody the moral rot we find so abhorrent in our enemies, has been on my mind so much throughout recent weeks and months. It is moral to strive for survival and to fight for safety and self-preservation. But identifying the line between a righteous struggle to protect ourselves and the indulgence in self-aggrandizement and vengeance is not always easy and is absolutely essential.

We see this struggle playing out in real time all around us. Only a few weeks ago, we learned of the horrific deaths of Ariel and Kfir Bibas, the youngest Israeli hostages, along with their mother Shiri and several other innocents whose bodies were returned to Israel in a horrific and obscene celebration in Gaza. So many of these hostages' families are crying out, "Release, not revenge!" They hope and pray and work to preserve the fragile ceasefire so that more loved ones can return home. The impulse for vengeance is strong among all those who have lost so much, and the fate of Israel, Gaza, and the entire region rests upon the question: Can the lesson of Purim transcend? Can continued vengeance be relegated to the world of fantasy, and can those who cherish life center a reality based upon what can be built, not destroyed?

Under the Trump administration, America's presence and legacy on the international stage is changing dramatically. The courage of our parents and grandparents' generations to fight against fascist dictators in previous eras was a rejection of the Hamans of the world and their reigns of terror. It was a moral claim that opportunistic material gain was not as important as democratic values and human rights. But their commitment and sacrifice is being diminished by the implementation of a new vision that valorizes not American values but American power and might. Who are we if we cannot even properly identify who today's Hamans are? And who will we be if we turn our back on our history, abandoning our closest allies and our commitment to aid for the most vulnerable of the world for the sake of a dark and distrustful world order?

And so very close to home, our Governor is planning to resume executions in Louisiana, now by the method of nitrogen gassing. As you likely know, there is a coalition in place called Jews Against Gassing, convened and led by many Touro congregants and leaders that is urging the governor to change course and is working together with other coalitions to achieve that goal. Our system of justice must not indulge in acts of vengeance by allowing the implementation of this slow and painful method of execution, even upon those who have made the gravest of mistakes. Our humanity depends on whether we can dispense justice without cruelty.

In closing, I will share with you my words to that effect offered at a press conference on the steps of Touro Synagogue a few weeks ago. To me, this time of year offers us a chance to remember that we are called to be principled and compassionate, even as we are called to be strong, courageous, and active for the sake of our own protection. May we have the wisdom to do both and never to sacrifice one for the other.

Looking forward to celebrating these special days with you and to continuing to learn and grow together along the way.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Katie Bauman

Jews Against Gassing Press Conference

Words by Rabbi Katie Bauman

Delivered Monday, February 17, 2025

Our gathering represents a statewide coalition called "Jews Against Gassing," Jewish community members seeking the removal of the recently approved use of gassing as a method of execution from the laws of the State of Louisiana.

This method, called nitrogen hypoxia, forces a person to breathe pure nitrogen gas through a mask, eventually causing organ failure and suffocation. Witnesses to gassing report observing a horrifically lengthy and painful death. Some of those in this coalition are opposed to the death penalty in all its forms; others are not. But despite such differences of opinion, we are united in our belief that gassing is uniquely abhorrent, and we object in the strongest of terms to its inclusion in the laws of our state. While gassing has only been used a few times in the United States, it was used thousands of times by the Nazi regime to methodically exterminate millions of our ancestors.

And so we have come here today to say that our Jewish history -- as a people whom a democratically elected government tried to gas to death and very nearly succeeded - this history matters here and now. Let the State of Louisiana have nothing in common with the Nazi regime of Germany. Let us not allow our efforts at a principled system of justice, however flawed, to be sullied by relying on an execution method associated with mass murder.

Governments have been punishing people by execution for the entirety of human history. But modern, ethical, humane administrations no longer subject people to burning at the stake...to drawing and quartering... to stoning...to crucifixion... because we reject the brutality of these methods. Gassing belongs in that category.

For the sake of our ancestors who died in the gas chambers, and for the sake of all those people of faith who strive to do the right thing in hard situations and to fulfill God's will here on earth, we must pray and we must mobilize to avert the grotesque moral failure that the inclusion of gassing as a form of execution represents for the good people of our state.

Israel Education

Continuing Our Deep Exploration of Israel and the Global Jewish Experience

Monday, March 17 | 7:30pm
Touro Synagogue

Israel's Political Map: Past, Present, and Future
With Dr. Sammy Smootha, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Haifa, and Dr. Aviva Halamish, Professor Emerita of History at The Open University of Israel; Moderated by Dr. Brian Horowitz

Israeli politics is deeply divided into three multiparty blocks: Right, Center-Left, Arab. They significantly differ in ideology, social base and demography.



Dr. Sammy Smootha will present the contemporary Right block on key national issues: civil rights, the nature of democracy, Zionism, the Jewish character of the state and the conflict with the Palestinians. He will identify the population groups that support the political right and explain why most Jews support it and Arab citizens oppose it.



Dr. Aviva Halamish will explain why practically no Left in the universal sense of the term has ever existed in Israel, and will present the basic features of the contemporary Israeli Left: its views on political and socio-economic issues and its social composition. The main point of her contention is that the results of the Six-Day War were the decisive turning point in the decline of the Left in Israel, and that the solution of the Palestinian problem, including its territorial dimension, is a necessary condition, even if not sufficient, for the revival of the Israeli Center-Left.

Wednesdays, April 9, 16, 23, 30 | 6:00pm
Touro Synagogue

History and Frameworks for Antisemitism
Taught by Dr. Naomi Yavneh Klos, Reverend Emmett M. Bienvenu, SJ, Distinguished Chair in Humanities, and Professor and CoChair of Languages and Cultures at Loyola University, and Dr. Marilyn Miller, Professor, Department of Spanish & Portuguese Studies at Tulane University

A foundational class on the history of antisemitism and the ways it has shaped the experience of the Jewish people, including migration, politics, and culture. We will also discuss the current rise in antisemitism and ways that it is similar to and different from other periods in Jewish history.

Israel Through Film with Dr. Elad Wexler

March 19 & 26, 2025 | 7:00-8:30 PM

Touro Synagogue

4238 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70115



Elad Wexler presents an innovative approach to learning about Israel through its cinematic landscape. In two one-hour classes, participants will watch and discuss carefully selected films that explore Israeli culture, society, and history, providing a rich backdrop for critical analysis and dialogue.



Photo Credit: Amit Elkayam

Sundays, March 16, 30 | 10:15am
Touro Synagogue

Songs of the Mothers: Sephardic and North African Piyyutim
With BAMAH Visiting Artists, Neta Elkayam and Amit Hai Cohen

Join Neta Elkayam for an interactive workshop exploring the rich tradition of Sephardic and North African Jewish prayer songs. With live music by Amit Hai Cohen, we will learn to sing and uncover the interfaith roots of these melodies and their place in Jewish life and history, with a special focus on women's singing. All are welcome! Childcare is available.

Touro's Synagogue's Israel Education classes are in partnership with the Tulane University Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience and the Tulane University Department of Jewish Studies.



Introduction to Prayer Workshop at the Home of Cantor Margolius

Introduction to Prayer

*A Workshop with
Cantor Margolius*

Two Dates Available! RSVPs are required as spots are limited.

Saturday, May 17, 5:30-8:30pm

Saturday, May 24, 5:30-8:30pm



Have you felt unsure when and how to pray? Do you have questions about the content of the service? Not sure when to stand? This night is for you. Join us at Cantor Margolius's home for a night of prayer, food, and learning. We will:

- » Learn about food blessings over a pizza dinner
- » Watch a Touro Livestream and pause for your questions
- » Talk about ways to integrate small moments of prayer and mindfulness into your daily life
- » Try out a traditional evening service — a way to experience a different mode of Jewish prayer

Hebrew Reading for Adults

Touro Synagogue

Thursday Evenings | March 27, May 1, May 29

Beginners with Orientation at 6:00pm

Returning Learners at 6:30pm

For all looking to expand your Hebrew reading skills — whether absolute beginners or advanced readers!

Looking Ahead to Summer!

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Sunday, June 1

Join in the tradition of nighttime study at Touro Synagogue.

Touro Book Club

Date TBA

The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time

by Judith Shulevitz

Register Online!



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

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!

Our 2024-2025 Embracing Judaism cohort for those considering conversion to Judaism is currently underway. If you would like to join next year's group, a new group will begin in the fall.

Upcoming Classes:

Foundations of Judaism

Tuesdays at 7:00pm | March 11, 25

on Zoom with Touro Clergy

Experiencing Jewish Life

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

Sunday, March 16, 10:00am | Mikvah Site Visit

Sunday, April 13, 6:00pm | Touro Congregational Seder

Saturday, May 10, 9:30am | Shir Chadash Visit

Sunday, June 8, 12:00pm | Kosher Cajun Lunch

Pesach at Touro



Congregational Seder

Sunday, April 13, 6:00pm

Let us join together and engage in this most celebrated of Jewish holidays. Come ready to learn, share, and rejoice with our synagogue family. *Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 9 by scanning the QR code or visiting tourosynagogue.com/pesach.*

Member Adults (13 and up): \$54

Member Children (ages 3-12): \$18

Non-member Adults: \$72

Non-member Children (ages 3-12): \$36



Pesach Mitzvah Opportunities

Our congregation is our family, and it is meaningful to care for one another. To that end, thank you for doing the mitzvah of making our Congregational Seder happen through setting tables, serving food, clearing plates, and storing leftovers. While these roles are very important, they are timed in such a way as to make it possible for a volunteer to be seated and to enjoy most of the Seder. *No prior experience in the kitchen is necessary for this mitzvah; just a willingness to help host the family for Passover. Sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting tourosynagogue.com/pesach/.*



TASTY | Teen Passover Seder

Sunday, April 13, 6:00pm

Concurrent with Our Congregational Seder

Open to All 8th-12th Graders from Touro Synagogue & Temple Sinai

TASTY is excited to once again invite all 8th-12th graders from Touro Synagogue and Temple Sinai to our annual Passover Seder! Join old friends and meet new ones for a fun evening of sacred songs, blessings, and meaningful conversations designed specifically for teens and led by members of the TASTY board. And of course, there will be plenty of delicious food when we join Touro's congregational seder for dinner and dessert! *Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 9 by scanning the QR code or visiting touro synagogue.com/pesach.*

Questions about the event? Contact Leila Raymond or Rabbi Silverman anytime!



Yizkor Memorial Service

In-Person & Livestreaming

Friday, April 18, 5:00pm

Each festival brings with it a chance to remember those we have lost and hold close always. We will read the name of everyone who has died in the last year and sanctify the end of this week. To have the name of your loved one read at Yizkor services, please contact Beka at 504-895-4843 or beka@touro synagogue.com.

Pesach Food Drive

Our Haggadah states: *"Let all who are hungry come and eat."*

Hunger is an important theme of our Pesach observance, as we relive the experience of slavery and poverty through eating Matzah throughout the week.

Please participate in our Passover Food Drive by dropping off your non-perishable food donations in the collection bin located in the Shushan Assembly at Touro Synagogue, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Collections will be distributed to Broadmorr Food Pantry and Second Harvest. Monetary donations can be made to Rabbi Bauman's Discretionary Fund earmarked *Pesach Food Drive*.

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.*

9:30am 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.

10:00am Shabbat Shacharit

A kid-forward, musical, multi-denominational, lay-led minyan rooted in tradition led by Chavurat Or'Leans.

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.

Upcoming Dates:


April 19*

**3rd Shabbat this month!*

May 3

• SAVE THE DATE •

BROADWAY SHABBAT



FEATURING
THE MUSIC OF
JASON ROBERT BROWN

WITH
CANTOR KEVIN MARGOLIUS
& ALIX PAIGE LOOMIS

TOURO SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE | 6PM

Summer Union Services

During the months of June, July, and August, the three Reform congregations in New Orleans join together for Summer Union Shabbat Services. Shabbat services rotate between Gates of Prayer in June, Touro Synagogue in July, and Temple Sinai in August.

June

Gates of Prayer

Fridays at 6:15pm | Saturdays at 10:30am

July

Touro Synagogue

Fridays at 6:00pm | Saturdays at 10:30am

August

Temple Sinai

Fridays at 6:15pm | Saturdays at 10:30am

Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah

Eloise "Weezy" Simone Ritter
March 15, 2025

child of Jennifer and Adam Ritter

Caroline Butler Hunter
March 22, 2025

child of Jennifer Butler

Abram Lee Reiss
March 29, 2025

child of Charlotte and Taavi Reiss

Abby Claire Pollack
April 5, 2025

child of Jenny and Scott Pollack



Our Children, Our Builders:

Shabbat Service Celebrating the 138th Confirmation Class of Touro Synagogue

The congregation is joyfully invited to join the celebration of the Confirmation Class of 2025!

Friday, May 9, 2025

6:00pm | Main Sanctuary at Touro Synagogue

Celebratory Dinner to follow

Mazel Tov to Our 2025 Confirmands:

Pierce Cunningham
Gracie Eckstein

Eli Franco
Selma Hammer
Eve Kaufman

Tess Keleher
Netta Magnus



With a Special Graduation Blessing to the Class of 2025

Join us as we offer a special Graduation Blessing to the Class of 2025 on Friday, May 9, during Shabbat services in the same spot that their Consecration, B'nei Mitzvah, and Confirmation ceremonies have taken place throughout the years. We look forward to inviting all of this year's graduating seniors to stand alongside each other for one last sacred moment together, and to hear from them reflections about their time growing up in the Touro Synagogue community, thoughts on how they will carry Touro's values with them into the future, and words of encouragement and advice to those following in their footsteps.

***We hope you can join us to celebrate and offer blessings to both our Class of 2025 graduates
and our 5785 Confirmation Class on the same joyous evening!***

Claire Ahlquist
Andrew Brandt
Lillie Dodd
Liza Feinstein
Charlie Finger

Jake Guichet
Teo Hammer
Avery Hart
Harry Hart
Ainsley Kornman

Josie Leyens
Travis Norton
Julien Weiner
Ellie Zurik
Tyler Zweifler

Rabbi Elazar said Rabbi Hanina said: Torah scholars increase peace in the world, as it is said: 'And all your children [banayich] shall be taught of Adonai, and great shall be the peace of your children.' (Isa. 54:13) Do not read your children [banayich], but your builders [bonayich]." -Talmud Brakhot 64a



Featuring the

DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND

Friday, April 25, 2025



Panorama Jazz Band | Cantor Kevin Margolius | Touro Synagogue Choir
4238 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70115

32nd Annual Jazz Fest Shabbat

Featuring the Dirty Dozen Brass Band

Friday, April 25, 2025

Patron Fest 6:00pm

Doors Open at 5:30pm

Exclusive performance by the Dirty Dozen Brass Band

Jazz Fest Shabbat Service 7:30pm

Doors Open at 6:45pm

Free and Open to the Public. Seats are limited!

Join us for this special occasion where we'll once again celebrate the connection between Touro Synagogue's 197-year history and the unique rhythms of our amazing city. Together we are truly New Orleans.

For our patrons, the celebration begins with an exciting Patron Fest including delicious food and drinks in a festival party atmosphere, along with an exclusive performance by our remarkable guest artists, the **Dirty Dozen Brass Band**.

Celebrating 48 years since their founding in 1977, the GRAMMY Award-winning Dirty Dozen Brass Band has taken the traditional foundation of brass band music and incorporated it into a blend of genres including Bebop Jazz, Funk and R&B/Soul, spearheading the trajectory of Brass Band music into the international forum. Their unique sound, described by the band as a 'musical gumbo,' has paved the way for modern brass band sounds in New Orleans today.

In addition to the Patron Fest concert, food, and festivities, our patrons have premium reserved seating for our Jazz Fest Shabbat service immediately after the Patron party.

We hope you will consider becoming a patron. Your support helps us provide outstanding musical programming throughout the year.

Shabbat is a day of joy and a time for coming together as a community. Jazz Fest Shabbat gives us the opportunity to fill our hearts and souls with spirituality and magical rhythms found only in New Orleans.

We look forward to celebrating our 32nd year of Jazz Fest Shabbat magic with you!



Patron Opportunities and Benefits

All Stars (10 seats) | \$4,000

- Reserved table for 10 at Patron Fest
- First-choice Sanctuary seat reservations
- The 2025 Jazz Fest Shabbat kippah

Jazz (4 seats) | \$1,500

- Reserved table for 4 at Patron Fest
- First-choice Sanctuary seat reservations
- The 2025 Jazz Fest Shabbat kippah

Zydeco | \$360 per person

- Reserved seat at a Patron Fest table
- Reserve Sanctuary seats starting at 6pm
- The 2025 Jazz Fest Shabbat kippah

Blues | \$200 per person

- Open seating at Patron Fest
- Reserve Sanctuary seats starting at 6pm

Children (ages 2-12) | \$50

RSVP Online at JazzFestShabbat.com!



Social Justice and Social Action

Tikkun Olam

Climate Action

Climate Plan Submitted

Touro joined the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition and submitted its first Climate Action Plan at the end of January. The CAP is a baseline of where Touro is and what we plan to do in the next year to make our building and community more sustainable and aware of climate impact. Over the next year we want to explore the feasibility of adding solar panels and battery storage -- at Touro and on our homes -- audit use of materials and waste (including office supplies and food,) make Shabbat Dinners more sustainable, and continue to participate in community efforts to address climate change impacts.

Tree Planting

Gary Sernovitz and other parents led a team of 3rd graders to plant trees with SOUL on a frigid MLK, Jr. Day. We hope to have similar events with many age groups and with community partners, including SOUL, Glass Half Full, and Committee to Restore Coastal Louisiana.

Recycling at Touro

We continue to collect glass to be recycled by Glass Half Full, which turns glass into sand used for coastal restoration, or other decorative and construction needs.



Throw me something recyclable! Recycling bins provided by Grounds Krewe are made available at Touro throughout parade season. All throws collected are then sorted and reused or recycled by ARCNola. The more you catch, the more we can recycle!

Want to know more about Touro's Climate Action planning?

The Climate Action Task Force will have an information and planning session on Sunday, March 16th during religious school! Please join us for coffee and sharing ideas. RSVP to the Touro office at 504-895-4843.



Immigration

We are following closely the increasing challenges to immigrants in our community and are collecting information and resources to determine the best way to be informed and supportive, including printing know-your-rights information cards. We hope to have a community meeting soon to discuss immediate needs and responses.



Addressing Hunger in the Community

Continuing our efforts to address hunger and food insecurity, we have held two sandwich-making events with Yamim Yafim, one in November and one in January. Our students made a total of 700 sandwiches, some meat and some cheese, that were distributed to Lantern Light and to community fridges around the city.

Liz and Larry Gottfried delivered the leftovers from the Studio 504 fundraiser to Ozanam Inn the morning after the event. We are looking for suggestions (and committed volunteers) to distribute leftover food from Shabbat dinners and other events.

We are splitting our food drive distribution between Broadmoor Food Pantry and First 72+, which transforms the re-entry experience of people returning home from prison and ensures that they, their families, and their communities are given the greatest opportunity to grow and thrive.

The Combating Hunger Steering Committee will be meeting this spring to discuss how and where to build a raised bed garden or gardens at Touro and how to engage other actions to address hunger and food insecurity in our community.

If you want to learn more about Touro's Tikkun Olam initiatives, reach out to co-chairs Erika Zucker at ezucker@gmail.com or Chris Lorenzen at chris.lorenzen.nola@gmail.com.

Beit Ahava

Caring and Mitzvah

Celebrating and Supporting Our Members

The Caring and Mitzvah Committee helps the Touro community celebrate and support members during lifecycle events, sacred occasions, as well as health and wellness challenges and other difficult times. Caring and Mitzvah seeks to build an engaged and connected congregation that generously supports each other.

The Caring and Mitzvah initiatives include:

Meal Trains

Providing meals to families who recently welcomed new babies, along with members during times of illness, recovery, and other short-term meal support needed or requested.

Memorial Trees in Israel

Planting trees in Israel serves as a tribute and a heartfelt expression of sympathy for member families grieving the loss of a loved one.

Welcoming New Babies

Sending a "Welcome to the Touro Family" onesie and hand-written note to all member families in celebration of new babies.

Transportation To and From Touro

Connecting members with committee volunteers if they need transportation to and from the synagogue for services and other activities.

Elder Care

Short-term support, such as meals, can be provided by Caring & Mitzvah. A longer-term support program is in development in conjunction with the Membership Committee.

Shiva Support

Help as needed and requested to those organizing and sitting shiva following the loss of a loved one, as well as providing support to the synagogue staff when hosting large funeral and memorial services on-site.

Fertility Support

Help, comfort, and support members on a case-by-case basis.

We're here for you.

If you'd like to get involved or if the Caring and Mitzvah Committee can support you or someone you know in the Touro community, please contact our Caring & Mitzvah Co-Chairs, Beth Lavin bethshapirolavin@gmail.com and Ellen Kempner ekempner55@gmail.com.

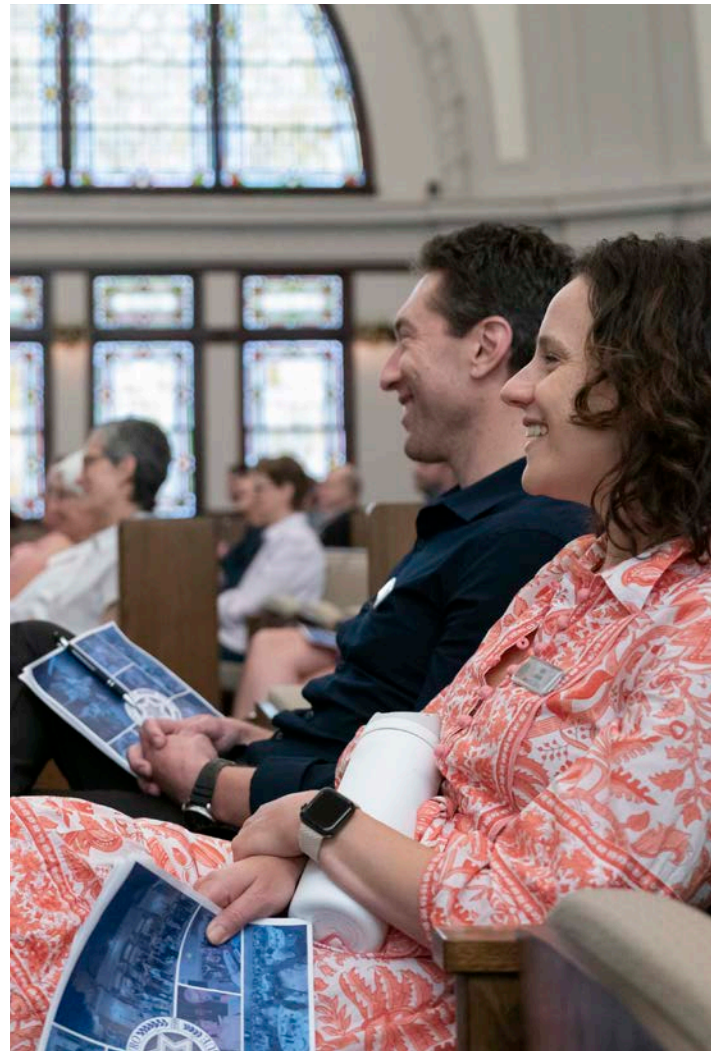
Touro Synagogue's Ambassador Program

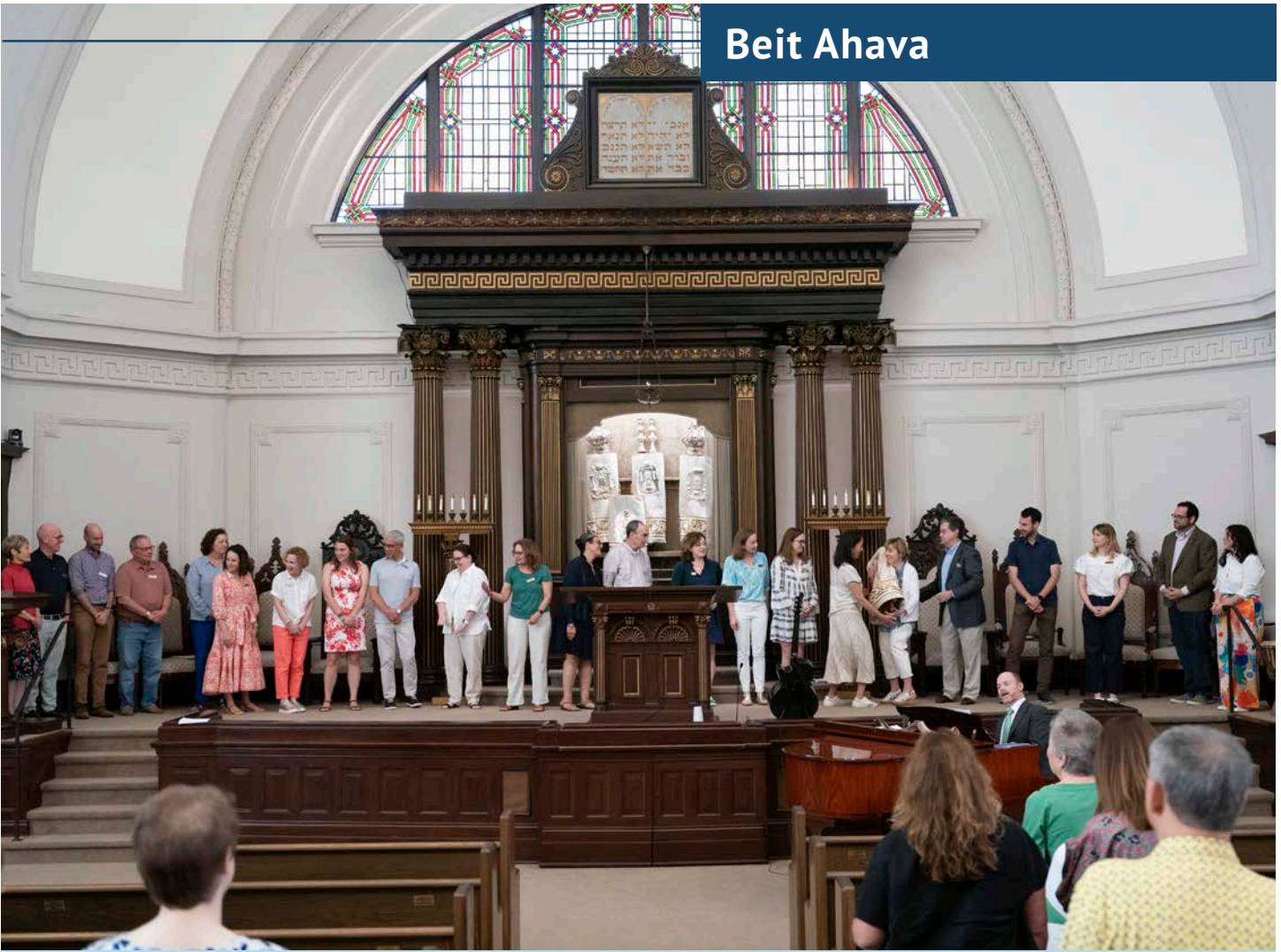
Would you like to connect with a Touro Ambassador?

It's a great way to meet others, find your fit, and get support -- whether you're new or not!



Scan the QR code or email Julie Koppman at juliekoppman@gmail.com to get started.





Save the Date!

Touro Synagogue's 197th Annual Meeting

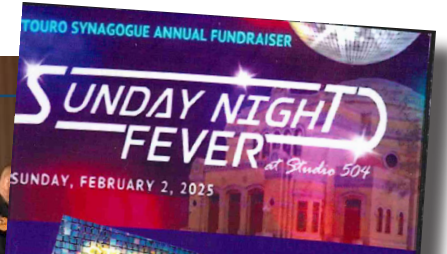
Sunday, May 18, 2025, 10:00am

Including:

- The Installation of Kevin Wilkins as Touro's 60th President
- Presentation of the 2025-2026 Budget
- Inspirational Messages from Outgoing President Laura Levy and Touro Clergy
- Rituals of transition for Synagogue officers



Beit Ahava



SUNDAY NIGHT FEVER *at Studio 504*

Thank you Underwriters

STUDIO 504 LEGENDS

Robert Hammer
Jill and Dave Israel
Julie Grant Meyer

JOHN TRAVOLTA'S STRUTTING SUPERSTARS

Kendall Scales Glade and Len Glade
Liz and Larry Gottfried

Ellie Streiffer and Ben Horwitz
Cathy Lazarus and Eric Simon

Laura and Walter Levy
Charlotte and Taavi Reiss

Kathy and Hal Shepard
Ginny Wise and Kevin Wilkins

Thank you Patrons

DAVID BOWIE'S ZIGGY STARDUST ICONS

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Abby Gaunt and Gabe Feldman
Ana and Juan Gershanik
Cathy and Charles Glaser
Krista and Alex Glaser
Susan and Lou Good

Lisa and Mike Herman
Beverly Katz
Ruth and Larry Kullman
Beth and Austin Lavin
Marilyn and Alan Levin
Kay Levy

Diana and Chip Mann
Ellen Manshel
William Procell
Joyce and Sidney Pulitzer
Rob Shepard
Julie and Scott Silbert

Nancy and Gary Silbert
Amy and Mark Stein
Jeri Wheeler and David Hammer
Ellen and Marc Yellin

DONNA SUMMER'S DISCO SENSATIONS

Jaymi and Mark Baum
Annie Bauman and Dylan White
Rabbi Katie Bauman and Adam Eckstein
Vivian and Richard Cahn
Virginia and Michael Castine
Bonnie Chambliss and Michael Millman
Sarah and Sandy Cohen
Debra Fischman
J. David Forsyth
Bethany and Steve Friedman
Holly and Jonathan Friedman
Linda and Richard Friedman

Sara Gershen
Kim Glazer Goldberg
Shannie and Rabbi David Goldstein
Caroline and Jeffrey Good
Linda Green
Lauren and David Greenberg
Kelly and Lawrence Haber
Ann and Steven Harris
Ilana and Robbie Horwitz
Diane and Ross Jacobson
New Orleans JCC
Carole and Morton Katz

Ellen Kempner and Lee Sucherman
Naomi Yavneh Klos
Robert and Millie Kohn
Mara and Stephen Kupperman
Beth Lewis
Chris Lorenzen
Patricia and Jeffry Luria
Debbie and Steve Marx
Melinda and Morris Mintz
Rickie and Gordon Nutik
Julie Wise Oreck
Gail Fenton Pesses

Molly Pulda and Gary Sernovitz
Janis Rabin
Naamah Paley Rose and Stephen Rose
Loel and Larry Samuel
Dana and Louis Shepard
Stuart Simon
Lois Sutton
Susan and Rabbi David Weis
Ellen Zakris and Peter Sather
Joan and Lawrence Zaslow
Jenny and Lee Zurik

Special Thanks

The Event Committee would like to extend special thanks to the following individuals and organizations, without whom this event would not have been possible:

Touro Synagogue Staff
Fleur de Lis
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Susan Good
Ben Lieber
Chris Lorenzen

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Gail Fenton Pesses
Randy Roig and Brian Weimer



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Cantor Kevin Margolius

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