



TOURO SYNAGOGUE

HIGH HOLY DAYS

סְדַקָּב וְנִימְי שִׁדָּח הַבּוֹשָׁנוּ רִילָא הוּהִי וְנִבְיִשָּׁה

BRING US BACK, O GOD, TO YOU, AND WE WILL RETURN;
RENEW OUR DAYS AS OF OLD.

LAMENTATIONS 5:21

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

5786 MEMBER SECURITY PASS

NEW THIS YEAR! DIGITAL SECURITY PASSES

For the High Holy Days, **Touro Members have several new Member Entrance options. Security passes are now digital-only.** Passes will be emailed directly to members, and also accessible through your ShulCloud account. Government-issued photo IDs will be accepted as an alternate means to confirm membership. If you have any questions about this process, please call the office at (504) 895-4843.

SECURITY PROCESS

- Security passes are issued to all members in good standing, **to expedite entry.**
- Members are allowed entry through the Member Entrance, without security screening for the member, their family, and any accompanying guests, provided they enter together with an adult Member showing either the member security pass OR a photo ID.
- Individual passes are not required for each family member, but the group must arrive together to bypass screening.
- Security passes are valid for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- Passes are non-transferable.

VISITORS WELCOME!

- We encourage visitors who are not accompanying members as their guests to **RSVP online at TouroSynagogue.com/HHD**. RSVP seating is limited and must be reserved at least 48 hours in advance.
- Visitors who have not RSVP'd will be welcomed and admitted to our service simulcast in the Forgotston Chapel following a brief security screening.

HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

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

Throughout the High Holiday season, Touro will be collecting nonperishable food items for distribution to local food pantries. Help fight food insecurity in New Orleans by bringing bags of groceries to Touro Synagogue, Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm, including Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning services. We encourage each Touro family to provide enough food for a comparable size family in need. Monetary donations to High Holiday Food Drive Fund may be made online at tourosynagogue.com or by check.

LIVESTREAMING OUR SERVICES

Be a part of the experience, wherever you are! Touro continues to livestream our services on TouroSynagogue.com and YouTube. Service archives are available.

HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOKS

High Holiday prayer books are available for Touro congregants to borrow throughout the holiday season. Please call the Touro office at 504-895-4843 to arrange to borrow a High Holiday prayer book. To purchase your own copy of Mishkan HaNefesh, please visit ccarpress.org.

סְדֵקָב וַיִּנְיַמִּי שִׁדַּח הַבּוֹשָׁנוּ רִילָא הוּהִי וַיִּבְיֶשָׁה

Dear Touro Synagogue Family,

You are reading my words during the period of time that is the runway for the High Holidays. By that, I don't only mean a time of logistical preparations such as we do at Touro to receive the thousands of Jewish souls who come home during these days, nor such as we do in our homes to prepare to host and feed and welcome loved ones and friends. I also mean a runway for spiritual wrestling, worthy of our name Yisrael, those who wrestle with God.

During these weeks before Rosh Hashanah, we descend onto this runway by remembering the saddest days in our people's history, the destruction of our Temple in Jerusalem in both 586 BCE and 70CE and our subsequent expulsions from so many other lands after that first exile. We spend these late summer days in a state of collective mourning for the ways we thought our lives would be and aren't. But we also ascend from this runway toward a spiritual rebuilding, a mindset that embraces life's uncertainties and commits to seek out meaning and joy anyway. This intellectual, emotional, and soulful wrestling match between reeling from destruction and rising to rebuild plays out both collectively and individually, and we enter 5786 both exhausted from it and hopefully exhilarated by it, ready to marshal new forces to meet the challenges before us, whatever they may be. At least, that is the process prescribed by our tradition.

The Talmud, Taanit 7a, tells the story of the daughter of the Roman emperor who said with disdain to one of our greatest teachers, Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Hananya, "Woe to glorious wisdom such as yours, which is contained in an ugly vessel." She's complaining, "How pathetic that your rich Jewish tradition is brought into the world by such an imperfect messenger as you." She wants purity. She wants the instagram-worthy picture of a person or community whose IRL image matches the inspirational messages contained within. She's disappointed in Rabbi Yehoshua's humanness and the incoherence of his presentation of himself.

Rabbi Yehoshua responds to her and even ultimately to the emperor by reminding them that just as wine cannot be aged in a pristine silver cask but rather needs an earthen one, so too are wisdom brought to life only through someone who is humble, someone who feels that they have much to learn, someone who is striving, someone who is wrestling. The person who approaches deeply sought-after truths is someone who has worked for them and who has been weathered by them, and that process is inherently messy. **Seeking meaning, joy, and righteousness through uncertainty and pain requires authentically assessing what we thought our lives would be and why they aren't, and then taking a step forward. That wrestling is not pristine silver but rather messy earth and maybe even a bit ugly, but it is the only vessel through which sacred wisdom, compassion, and goodness can be born.**

This kind of wrestling has never before been glamorous, and this moment in our Jewish lives is no different. Like we have always done, we ask big questions but take small actions because that is all a single person can do. We cohabitate with vulnerability and hope, trauma and joy. We reject the easiest answers because we know they are inept, even as we long for the certainty that lets us rest. Committing to an aspirational and authentic Jewish existence means wearing that weariness on our faces and bodies as we wrestle every day to live with integrity and dignity. Despite what the emperors' children of the world say about us, despite the pervasive narrative that people ought to be completely coherent in their beliefs and values all the time, our tradition reminds us that we are imperfect messengers battling mightily for wisdom, so if we're weary, it means we're doing it right. Is it glamorous to live this way? No, it is not. Not for Rabbi Yehoshua, and not for us. But is it honorable? It is.

I do not enter these High Holidays certain of much. I weep for our people and all people. I yearn for a sense of safety and civility among us that seems farther away than ever. I cannot see or even imagine the Promised Land in the thick fog of war and polarization. But however uncertain of the destination I am, I do still trust the process, and I hope you will join me in doing so. The pathway for a return to our highest selves and the deepest parts of our souls has long ago been discovered, the runway built. So let us continue to journey together, descending into memory and ascending into hope, accompanying each other through the turbulence, and never forgetting that we are not alone.

May the final weeks of this year be a time of blessed wrestling and renewed hope for all of us in 5786.

L'shanah Tovah,

Rabbi Katie Bauman

A SNAPSHOT OF TOURO HIGH HOLIDAYS | 5786

PREPARING FOR THE SEASON

SHABBAT SHIUR: A SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

Saturday Mornings in September: September 6, 13, 20, 27

Preparing for the Days of Awe is a significant and meaningful process. The High Holidays are filled with special rituals and prayers that set them apart as unique in our year and significant to our lives. The Hebrew month of Elul is that period of preparation, and we look forward to sharing it with you. Please come and spiritually prepare for the High Holidays during a special series of our weekly Shabbat Shiur. Doors open at 8:30am for bagels and coffee, with sacred text study beginning at 9:00am. All are welcome!

September 6 | 13 Elul

All About God on the High Holidays with Rabbi Katie Bauman

September 13 | 20 Elul

Teshuvah: An Act of Prayer, Ritual, and Relationships with Rabbi Todd Silverman

September 20 | 27 Elul

The Voices of Torah and Haftarah with Rabbi Lily Kowalski

September 27 | 5 Tishrei

Avinu Malkeinu and Beyond with Cantor Kevin Margolius

Children are welcome to play (unsupervised) in the Children's Library adjacent to the Main Library. If you wish to inquire about childcare, please contact the Touro office and we will do our best to help out.

SELICHOT: A MEDITATIVE BEGINNING TO THE SEASON

Saturday, September 13, 8:00pm

Dessert reception, study, and a beautiful service led by the Touro Synagogue Choir, with special guest teachers David Slucki and Jacob Sachar presenting *Jews on Television Today*.

Jews on Television Today

The 21st century has seen a plethora of Jewish shows on American television, from *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* to *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Transparent*, and *The Rehearsal*. Join television historian David Slucki and Jewish comedian and comedy researcher Jacob Sachar for a discussion on why this matters and how it has developed over time.

Jacob Sachar is an award winning comedian and Jewish Studies researcher from Melbourne, Australia. His most recent special, *Promising Young Mensch*, explored his upbringing in the ultra orthodox Chabad community, and was nominated for Best Comedy at the Melbourne Fringe Festival. His research explores the Yiddish comedy archetype of the *Schlemiel*, and investigates how it found its way onto mainstream television shows of the 21st century. Jacob is the 2025 recipient of the Doris & David Burstin Yiddish Education Scholarship. Jacob is currently a Graduate Student at Monash University.

David Slucki is the Loti Smorgon Associate Professor in Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture, and the Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. He is the author of *Sing This at My Funeral: A Memoir of Fathers and Sons* (2019) and *The International Jewish Labor Bund after 1945: Towards a Global History* (2012). David writes and teaches about Jewish history and culture, television, comedy, and politics, and is leading major projects investigating antisemitism in Australia.

ROSH HASHANAH: CELEBRATION OF A NEW YEAR

EREV ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 8:00PM

ROSH HASHANAH MORNING SERVICE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 10:00AM

ROSH HASHANAH FAMILY SERVICE FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
Tuesday, September 23, 9:00am

TASHLICH AT THE BATTURE: CASTING AWAY AND STARTING ANEW
Tuesday, September 23, 5:00pm **New Location!**

We'll gather at The Batture, a wonderful venue along the river, to celebrate the New Year and symbolically cast our worst moments and wrongdoings away. Bring a picnic dinner, games and balls, any friends and family and dogs, a full heart, and we'll enjoy this meaningful ritual with song and community. Don't forget your birdseed!
(Rain Date: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 5:00pm)



Dr. Ilana Horwitz

SHABBAT SHUVAH: A SABBATH OF TURNING
Friday, September 26, 6:00pm

Amidst the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, we are invited to prepare for Yom Kippur and linger in the mindset of *teshuvah*. On this Shabbat Shuvah, the Shabbat of Return - to ourselves, to the right path, to God, and to community - we will gather as a congregational family for a solemn and spiritual Shabbat service with guest speaker Dr. Ilana Horwitz, presenting *Why Jewish Institutions Matter*. Following services and dinner, we will have a *kumsitz*, a time of communal singing in preparation for Yom Kippur.

Dr. Ilana Horwitz is an Assistant Professor in the Tulane University Department of Jewish Studies and the Fields-Rayant Chair in Contemporary Jewish Life. She is a sociologist of religion and education, as well as being a Touro Synagogue Board Member.

KEVER AVOT: BRINGING OUR ANCESTORS INTO THE NEW YEAR
Sunday, September 28, 11:30am
At Hebrew Rest Cemetery

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

YOM KIPPUR: THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

KOL NIDRE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 8:00PM

YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 10:00AM

YOM KIPPUR FAMILY SERVICE FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
Thursday, October 2, 9:00am

YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SESSIONS: STAY THE WHOLE DAY!
Thursday, October 2, 12:15pm-3:15pm

As we emerge from the contemplative depths of the Yom Kippur morning prayer service, everyone is encouraged to remain at the Synagogue all day, engaging in learning sessions and services including the following opportunities:

- 12:15PM Embracing Judaism Panel: The Process of Conversion at Touro Synagogue**
with Cantor Margolius and Touro leaders
- 12:15PM The Ethics of Teshuvah**
with Sara Gershan and Rabbi Lily Kowalski
- 1:15PM Songs of Hope and Healing: A Reflective Musical Hour**
with Aaron Rothko, Rabbi Bauman, and Touro Musicians
- 2:15PM Exploring the World of Mikvah**
with Louisiana Community Mikvah board member Naamah Paly Rose and Rabbi Bauman

AFTERNOON SERVICE WITH CONGREGATIONAL VOICES, 3:15PM
The Yom Kippur Afternoon Service focuses on our stories and values. Many from our congregation will give voice to these powerful texts, from Jonah wrestling with forgiveness to the ancient ritual of Yom Kippur in the Temple.

YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE, 4:30PM

NEILAH CONCLUDING SERVICE, 5:15PM

We remember all our loved ones whom we have lost in recent and distant days. The 5786 Book of Remembrance will be made available in the sanctuary and electronically. We will conclude with our last *Tekiah Gedolah* and Havdalah at 6:00pm.

COMMUNITY OCTOBER 7 COMMEMORATION

Saturday, October 4, 7:30pm

Hosted by the Uptown JCC

The evening will feature acclaimed journalist and author Lee Yaron, discussing her powerful book *10/7: 100 Human Stories*, along with dramatic readings and a meaningful prayer service.

SUKKOT: THE TIME OF OUR REJOICING

Sukkot is known as the most joyful holiday of the Jewish year. Its hallmarks are a return to the gentle embrace of nature, audacious hospitality, and an open heart to those who have neither home nor shelter. We will savor this week of communion with our natural world by shaking the lulav, dwelling outside in the sukkah, and reflecting on our responsibility to provide for all. Here are a few highlights, with more information to follow:

TOURO SYNAGOGUE SUKKAH BUILD

Sunday, October 5, 8:30am

Fulfill the mitzvah of building a sukkah with your Touro family. All are welcome, no experience required. Sign up coming soon!

ORIENTATION TO EMBRACING JUDAISM, TOURO SYNAGOGUE'S CONVERSION PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 8, 7:00pm

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! RSVP online at TouroSynagogue.com/Learning.

TOURO BOOK CLUB IN THE SUKKAH: 10/7: 100 HUMAN STORIES BY LEE YARON

Wednesday, October 8, 7:30pm

Gather in the Sukkah to delve into 10/7: 100 Human Stories by Lee Yaron. Come ready for insightful discussions and meaningful connections. Refreshments provided. RSVP online at TouroSynagogue.com/Learning.

SHABBAT SUKKOT:

Shabbat Sukkot Celebration | Friday, October 10, 6:00pm

with Dinner and Wine in the Congregational Sukkah

First (Second) Shabbat in the Congregational Sukkah | Saturday, October 11, 9:00am

including Shabbat Shiur, Sukkot Rocks, Kehillah KIDoshah, and Shabbat lunch!

SIMCHAT TORAH: STARTING OVER

SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION WITH PANORAMA JAZZ BAND

Monday, October 13, 5:30pm

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

FESTIVAL YIZKOR SERVICE

Friday, October 10, 5:00pm

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

YOUTH HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES

We are so excited to celebrate the upcoming High Holidays with Touro's kids, teens, and families. We will mark these passages of sacred time with reflections of the past year, dreams of the new one ahead, and lots of joyful music. We hope to see all of you with us, celebrating life and the start of the new year together!

HIGH HOLIDAY CHILD CARE DURING SERVICES

We are happy to offer child care for select services during the High Holidays for children ages 1 to 7 years old. Children will spend time making holiday crafts as well as reading holiday stories and observing other fun and meaningful traditions. **Please note, the deadline for High Holiday Child Care registration is Monday, September 15.** However, space is limited and we may reach capacity before then. Once capacity is reached, we will open up a waitlist and accept children if spots become available. **Sign up online at www.tourosynagogue.com/hhd.**

Rosh Hashanah Morning Service Child Care
Tuesday, September 23, 9:50am-12:30pm

Registration Deadline: September 15

Yom Kippur Morning Service & Yizkor Child Care
Thursday, October 2, 9:50am-12:15pm & 4:15pm-6:15pm

Registration Deadline: September 15

ROSH HASHANAH FAMILY SERVICE FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Tuesday, September 23, 9:00am

Join your Touro clergy and music team in the Garden Pavilion for an exciting and engaging start to the new year. Geared for our families with children up through second grade, this family-friendly introduction to the High Holidays is sure to be as sweet as honey and filled with age-appropriate songs and content, a wonderful entry into 5786.

ROSH HASHANAH KEHILLAH KIDOSH AH FOR STUDENTS IN 3RD-6TH GRADE

Tuesday, September 23, During Morning Service

Students in 3rd through 6th grade will be invited to step out of the main service and join a special Rosh Hashanah experience tailored just for them, offering a meaningful and age-appropriate small group learning opportunity.

TASHLICH AT THE BATTURE

Tuesday, September 23, 5:00pm

YOM KIPPUR FAMILY SERVICE FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Thursday, October 2, 9:00am

Join your Touro clergy and music team in the Garden Pavilion for an exciting, engaging, and meaningful continuation to 5786. Geared for our families with children up through second grade, this family-friendly introduction to the High Holidays will be filled with age-appropriate songs and content, a wonderful entry into 5786.

YOM KIPPUR KEHILLAH KIDOSH AH FOR STUDENTS IN 3RD-6TH GRADE

Thursday, October 2, During Morning Service

Students in 3rd through 6th grade will be invited to step out of the main service and join a special Yom Kippur experience tailored just for them, offering a meaningful and age-appropriate small group learning opportunity.

SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH FOR TEENS, KIDS, & FAMILIES!

PreK-5th Grade Sukkah Decorating and Sukkot Celebration | Sundays, October 5 and 12

During Yamim Yafim

6th-9th Grade Sukkot Celebration | Wednesday, October 8

During Yamim Yafim

Shabbat Sukkot Celebration | Friday, October 10, 6:00pm

with Dinner and Wine in the Congregational Sukkah

Sukkot Rocks! | Saturday, October 11, 9:30am

Simchat Torah Celebration With Panorama Jazz Band | Monday, October 13, 5:30pm