

THE SHOFAR

TOURO SYNAGOGUE



SPRING 2026

BE IN THAT NUMBER!

Jazz Fest Shabbat

Featuring Tonya Boyd-Cannon
Friday, April 24, 2026

Chag Pesach Sameach!

Touro Synagogue Congregational Seder
Thursday, April 2, 2026

Spring Reawakening

**A Season of Renewal
& Celebration**

A Message from Rabbi Silverman

Celebrate Purim!

Congregational Purim Celebration
Monday, March 2, 2026

All Aboard!

Congregational Journeys in 5787

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot:
Special Art Exhibition**

with Artist Naomi Lifschitz Grant



CLERGY & STAFF

Rabbi Katie Bauman
Senior Rabbi

Cantor Kevin Margolius

Rabbi Todd Silverman
Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Lily Kowalski
*Associate Rabbi and
Director of Education
and Family Engagement*

Rabbi David Goldstein
Rabbi Emeritus

Kurt Jostes
Executive Director

Sarah Tucker Lazarus
Director of Operations

Anna Federline
Director of Communications

Maya Shaar
*Associate Director of Education
and Family Engagement*

Beka Cole
Clergy Administrative Assistant

Donna Provetera
Finance

Dana Lieber
Events Coordinator

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

Chanel Wickem
Facilities

Cathy Joseph
Facilities

Nico Gigliotti
Facilities

Corey Roy
Security Coordinator

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Beth Lavin
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Jeffrey Fingerman
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Lawrence Haber
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Kathy Shepard
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Kendall Scales Glade
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From Our President



The Strength of Our Community

A Message from Kevin Wilkins

To Our Congregational Family:

It's wonderful seeing so many congregants at Touro events this year. We are now 750+ households strong and we continue to thrive.

A thriving congregation is one where every member—whether you joined us last month or decades ago—is seen and heard. It is a community where you find your space, your people, your purpose. Belonging is not something we passively hope will happen; it is something we actively cultivate. It means creating pathways for connection, ensuring that each person who walks through our doors discovers not just a seat in the sanctuary, but a place at the table of Jewish life.

Our strength lies not just in our size, but in the diversity of gifts, passions, and perspectives each of you brings. When you engage, when you contribute your unique voice and vision, you don't just enrich your own experience, you strengthen the entire fabric of our community.

This sense of community, of belonging and mutual responsibility, was powerfully evident in our response to the arson attack on Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi on January 10th. For many of us at Touro, this was not an attack on strangers, but on mishpacha—a synagogue with which so many of our congregants share deep, personal connections through family, friendship, and shared history.

What we did in response revealed who we are at our core. Without hesitation, we sprang into action. Donations poured in. Offers of on-the-ground support materialized immediately. And in a gesture that speaks to the warmth of this community, we sent an overwhelming volume of sweets for their Oneg Shabbat—a tangible reminder that even in moments of darkness, we show up for one another with compassion and love. This is what a thriving congregation looks like: not just people who gather together, but people who stand together when it matters most.

And even as we hold this pain, we continue to celebrate the moments of joy that fill our community this year. Weddings, B'nei Mitzvah, conversions, community impact work, and some well deserved recognitions. Allow me to focus on three recognitions:

- First, **Rabbi Bauman** was honored by Avodah for her extraordinary social justice work. Her longstanding commitment to Tikkun Olam helps drive so much of the work that the synagogue does.
- Next, what a special moment to honor Touro's Historian **Adie Genet** for her years of service and generosity, with the rededication of Touro Synagogue's external sanctuary plaque, lovingly given by Adie and Errol Genet.
- And third, what an amazing L'Chayim event celebrating **Jill and Dave Israel**—we had fantastic attendance and record fundraising which shows how much our community values them and all that they do. What a joyful moment. Thank you to the amazing co-chairs, Joy and Andy Braun and Caroline and Jeff Good, and their fantastic Committee for their great work.

Now, as 2026 continues, there is a lot going on 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 want to update y'all on some of our top congregational priorities as we continue to make great progress. This work reflects our commitment to deepening and expanding our community.

Organizational Planning—The Strategic Planning Committee kicked off their work in the Fall to map out the goals and priorities for the next three to five years. As part of that work, the Committee is refreshing our mission, vision, and values to ensure that they reflect who we are today as a congregation. The plan will be finalized this spring and ready to present to the congregation at our annual meeting in May. If you want to learn more about our planning process, please visit touro-synagogue.com/contact to reach out to **Co-chairs Beth Lavin, Lawrence Haber, or Megan Yellin**.

At the same time, planning has started for our **Bicentennial Celebration**. We are excited to have begun two years of work leading up to Touro's Bicentennial on February 4, 2028. We will be taking the opportunity to highlight Touro's achievement as one of the oldest continuously operating synagogues in the country, as the start of organized Jewish life in New Orleans,

and as a place of continuous innovation and adaptation. Stay tuned for much more to come. If you would like to join the planning process, please visit tourosynagogue.com/contact to reach out to **Co-chairs Gary Sernovitz or Kathy Shepard**.

Membership—Our Ambassador Program that supports our growing membership base continues to thrive. The Ambassadors are hard at work making sure that all congregants know how to access their areas of interest in the Touro community. Some recent highlights include two Ambassador workshops with Dr. Jeffrey Luria focused on welcoming the stranger; a Havdalah get-together and Chanukah party for new members and Ambassadors; and a retiree event for those in this stage of life or approaching it.

And there is more to look forward to in the coming months. You most likely saw Ambassadors volunteering at events like our Krewe of VIP's and Mardi Gras parades. And we will be hosting more Ambassador and new member social events and opportunities for connection: retiree get-togethers, casual mah jongg meet-ups, a virtual meet and greet for out-of-town members, and another Havdalah get-together. If you would like to become an Ambassador or learn more about the program, please visit tourosynagogue.com/contact to reach out to **Julie Koppman, Membership Secretary**.

Security—Thanks to our professional staff and lay leadership, we continue to achieve safe and welcoming experiences. We recently hired a Security Coordinator, Corey Roy, to oversee events and orchestrate Community Security Service (CSS) volunteers. Corey brings decades of experience in the field to the team as we continue increasing the scale of our activity as well as the quality of our security protocols. We continue to review policies, facilities, and workflow to be certain we can provide the safest environment possible. Your safety remains our highest priority. To learn more or to join our security efforts, please visit tourosynagogue.com/contact to reach out to **Co-chairs Sara Gershen or Lawrence Haber**.

Tikkun Olam—Our Tikkun Olam work continues to expand. We have done exceptional work addressing immigration support needs, food access, and climate issues, to name a few. Learn more on pages 20-21.

Youth Education and Lifelong Learning—Our educational programs are thriving. The community has over 230 children and teens enrolled across all youth education offerings. Recent highlights include:

- Consecration and Chagigat Siddur during Shabbat Chanukah—celebrating 36 kindergarteners and first graders and 19 sixth graders.
- The plaque rededication with Adie Genet was used to help educate religious school students so they understand the rich history of Touro.

With our growing classes and numbers of students, we are so grateful for parent involvement, including on the Lifelong Learning Committee, as Teacher Observers, Speech Coaches for B'nei Mitzvah students, and with Tikkun Olam endeavors like sandwich making.

And our lifelong learning programs continue to offer something for everyone. Learn more on pages 14-15.

Organizational Effectiveness and Financial Sustainability—So much great work has been done to help Touro be more effective

and efficient in our operations. From installing new financial software, to migrating accounting systems, to optimizing Touro's reporting capabilities, to streamlining processes and much more, the team has achieved much success. We have initiated work on 23 of 24 priority areas in the Operational Audit. We've also expanded our facilities staff to keep up with the congregational growth. Nico Gigliotti brings major event experience and joins Chanel Wickem and Cathy Joseph on the team. Much gratitude for Donna Provetere, who is keeping everything moving forward even as we are making major changes, and Kendall Scales Glade who's working with staff on a near daily basis to make this happen. To learn more about this work, please visit tourosynagogue.com/contact to reach out to **Kendall Scales Glade, Treasurer**.

Finally, a broader, deeper footprint requires something essential from all of us: financial support to achieve financial sustainability. I'm deeply grateful to the many congregants who have responded to the Touro Annual Commitment request. Results to date confirm remarkable support: with over 80% responded thus far, two-thirds of the congregation increased their pledge level. That is incredible and will help us get to our financial goals for the year.

For those who haven't yet made a commitment, we ask that you make one that is meaningful and aspirational. For 2025/26, the cost per household is \$2,750 or \$229/month. For those who can give at or above the household level, please do so, as these contributions build a strong and secure future for all Touro members.

We have a tremendous amount of exciting programming and events through May. *The Shofar* is chock-full of information—please read on and see what resonates with you.

What an incredible time to be part of Touro Synagogue. Our community is thriving, expanding, and deepening our impact. Together, we're building a legacy that will inspire Jewish life in New Orleans and beyond for generations to come. So much to share with each other. So much to do in our community. I look forward to seeing y'all at Touro this Spring.

L'shalom,

Kevin Wilkins, *Congregational President*

Save the Date!

**Touro Synagogue's
198th Annual Meeting**

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 10:00am

Including:

- 2025-2026 Financial Reporting
- Inspirational Messages from Touro Clergy
- Rituals of Transition for Synagogue Leadership



Spring Reawakening: A Season of Renewal and Celebration

A Message from Rabbi Silverman

As winter's grip starts to loosen – comparatively mild though it may be around here – and the first new shoots of plants and flowers start to push through the softening earth, we stand at the threshold of spring—a season that holds profound meaning in our Jewish calendar and in the rhythm of community life. The lengthening days and warming breezes remind us

that we are entering a time of transformation, both in nature and in spirit. There is something deeply reassuring about this annual return, this dependable cycle that has marked Jewish life for millennia.

Spring ushers in so many meaningful moments in which we can dwell in our Jewish lives. Just after Mardi Gras wraps up for our city (and Mobile, apparently) Purim will arrive – that raucous festival when we read Megillat Esther and remember how courage and faith can combat even the harshest decrees. Our sanctuary will once again fill with laughter, silly costumes, and the grating but irreplaceable sound of groggers drowning out Haman's name, as our children parade around and we adults embrace the playful, upside-down spirit of the holiday with equal enthusiasm. Purim's levity serves as a perfect prelude to so much of the deeper spiritual work just ahead, reminding us that joy itself can be an act of resistance and renewal. In a world that often feels heavy with challenges, Purim is our most explicit granting of permission to celebrate, to be silly, and to trust that unexpected reversals of fortune remain possible.

And then, in a blur, our preparations for Pesach will begin – the festival of freedom that anchors the entire Jewish season. Preparing our homes and searching for chametz is our engagement in both physical and spiritual housecleaning. What begins as a practical task—removing leavened bread from our kitchens—becomes an opportunity to consider what else we might need to clear away: old grievances, limiting beliefs, habits that no longer serve us. The Seder table becomes our classroom, where we fulfill our sacred obligation of retelling the story of our ancestors' journey from slavery to freedom, ensuring that each generation tastes both the bitterness of oppression and the sweetness of liberation.

“In every generation, each person must see themselves as though they personally left Egypt,” the Haggadah teaches us. This spring, as always, we make that ancient journey our own. And as we did last year and the year before that, we'll ask: What are the narrow places—the mitzrayim—in our own lives? What freedoms are we still seeking? And perhaps most importantly, how can we use our freedom to help others be free as well? The Four Questions, traditionally asked by the youngest participants at the Seder, open a doorway for the freshest members of the community to join a conversation that sustains us throughout the year – and has sustained us for millennia.

The counting of the Omer connects Pesach to Shavuot, creating a bridge of anticipation, an ever-ascending ladder, as we move from physical freedom toward spiritual purpose. The Omer's seven weeks are meant to mirror our Israelite ancestors' journey through the wilderness of the desert toward receiving our sacred Torah at the summit of Mount Sinai. In our own lives, the Omer invites us to reflect on personal journeys – where we've been, whom we're becoming, and what wisdom we're prepared and preparing to receive. Each of the forty-nine days offers its own opportunity for reflection and growth, a spiritual practice that deepens our appreciation for the gift of Torah we celebrate on Shavuot.

For students and teachers, spring also marks the final stretch of the school year. Our Hebrew school classrooms buzz with energy as students power through their binders and books towards end-of-year assessments, practice songs and blessings for themselves and their families, and complete projects and conversations they've nurtured since August. There's something particularly fitting about this convergence – the natural world blooming around us as our children blossom in their Jewish learning and identity.

Walk through our building on a Sunday morning of Yamim Yafim this spring and you'll also hear the sounds of growth: students of all ages proudly showing off projects, debating the finer points of rituals and observances they've come to adore, and exploring contemporary issues through the lens of Jewish ethics, among so much else. You'll see art projects adorning walls, evidence of students connecting to Jewish stories through creativity. You'll witness the mentoring relationships that have developed between older and younger students, a living example of *l'dor vador*, from generation to generation.

As we watch our youngest students sound out Hebrew words with growing confidence and our older students grapple with complex ethical questions from our tradition, we witness our own kind of springtime miracle. The seeds planted months ago – in early morning Hebrew practice, in Shabbat and holiday discussions, in acts of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* – are bearing visible fruit. Teachers who began the year with a new group of faces now know each student's strengths, struggles, and spirit. And students know their teachers too. And they can all see how much they love each other, and being here together.

This spring, let us embrace both the external renewal we see in nature and the internal renewal we cultivate through our holidays and learning. May we approach the season with open hearts, ready to celebrate our festivals with full presence, to support our students as they complete another year of growth, and to find our own moments of liberation and revelation in the months ahead.

Chag sameach – may this spring's bounty and bloom be a continued blessing for our entire community.

Rabbi Todd Silverman

Celebrate Purim!

Just when you thought the time for masks, funny hats, feasting, libations, and joyful chaos was over – think again! Purim is here, bringing the silliest serious holiday on the Hebrew calendar. Let's celebrate the courage of Queen Esther, the resilience of our people, and the many ways this story still echoes today.

Check out our exciting Purim festivities below and get ready to celebrate!

Congregational Purim Celebration

Monday, March 2

5:30PM | Purim Fun for Everyone!

While adults schmooze, join us for an interactive Purim experience with crafts, activities, and holiday fun for kids ages 4 and up! RSVPs requested for planning purposes.

6:00PM | Congregational Megillah Reading

A musical, lively reading of the Book of Esther including the voices of our congregation. Get ready to make some noise! RSVPs requested for planning purposes.



7:00PM | Congregational Triangle Food Fest

Pizza, Hamantaschen, and More! RSVPs required.

Adults \$18 | Children \$10

RSVP at TouroSynagogue.com/Purim or scan the QR code above!



PURIM ROCKS!



Purim Rocks!

Saturday, February 28, 9:30am

A special celebration for our littlest revelers, children ages four and under, along with their siblings and parents! Join us for music, fun, and a joyful way to introduce our youngest to the spirit of Purim! **RSVP at TouroSynagogue.com/Shabbat-Rocks.**

Pesach at Touro



Congregational Seder Thursday, April 2, 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 Sunday, March 29 by scanning the QR code or visiting touroynagogue.com/pesach.*

Member Adults (ages 13 and up): \$54
Member Children (ages 3-12): \$18

Non-member Adults: \$72
Non-member Children (ages 3-12): \$36



Mitzvah Opportunities

Our congregation is our family, and it is meaningful to care for one another. 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 touroynagogue.com/pesach/.*

TASTY | Teen Seder

Thursday, April 2, 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 Sunday, March 29 by scanning the QR code or visiting touroynagogue.com/pesach.*

Questions about the event?

Contact Aaron Rothko or Rabbi Silverman anytime!

Pesach Rocks!

Saturday, March 28, 9:30am

Parents, children ages four and under, and their siblings are invited to join us for a special Pesach edition of Shabbat Rocks! We'll meet in the Kindergarten classroom to sing special Pesach songs and make beautiful Pesach art all while praying, playing, and making new friends.

Please RSVP so we know you are able to attend and can prepare the right amount of materials. It's a huge help.

Yizkor Memorial Service

In-Person & Livestreaming

Friday, April 3, 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@touroynagogue.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 9:00am to 5:00pm. Collections will be distributed to Broadmoor 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 Mornings at Touro

9:00am | Shabbat Shiur

Sacred Text Study led by Touro clergy.

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. *Held on First Shabbat unless otherwise noted.*

10:00am | Shabbat Shacharit

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

10:35am | Kehillah 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

Spring 2026 Dates:

February 28*

Shabbat Rocks Only (Purim)

March 28*

Shabbat Rocks Only (Pesach)

May 2

First Shabbat

March 7

*First Shabbat
No Shabbat Rocks*

April 4

*First Shabat
No Shabbat Rocks*

Yamim Yafim Class Shabbat

Join your classmates and their families for a special Shabbat service and dinner together with the Touro community and our clergy team! Following services and your special children's blessing, we'll join together for dinner (specific tables will be set aside) for you to sit, schmooze, and enjoy the time together in an informal way outside of the classroom. For all classes in the spring semester, this will be a great chance for you to get to know your classmates and families here at Touro even better! **RSVP to let us know to expect you!**

TouroSynagogue.com/Class-Shabbat

March 13
2nd Grade

March 20
1st Grade

April 17
4th & 5th Grade

Summer Union 2026

June at Gates of Prayer

July at Temple Sinai

August at Touro Synagogue

Keep an eye on Congregational emails for more information about service times and special events.

Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah

Mack David Feldman

March 7, 2026

Son of Abigail Gaunt and Gabe Feldman

Isabel "Izzy" Solomon Engelberg

March 14, 2026

Daughter of Jee Park and Danny Engelberg

Ava Grace Elichman

March 21, 2026

Daughter of Katherine and Marc Elichman

Avivah Gabrielle Epstein

March 28, 2026

Daughter of Jacqueline and Jeremy Epstein

Heron Emma Hecht

April 4, 2026

Daughter of Liz Thorpe and David Hecht

Maja Natalie Horwitz

April 11, 2026

Daughter of Lisa and Adam Horwitz

Dylan Jack Geiger

April 18, 2026

Son of Jamie Berger and Andrew Geiger

Sullivan "Sully" Adventure Bartkowiak

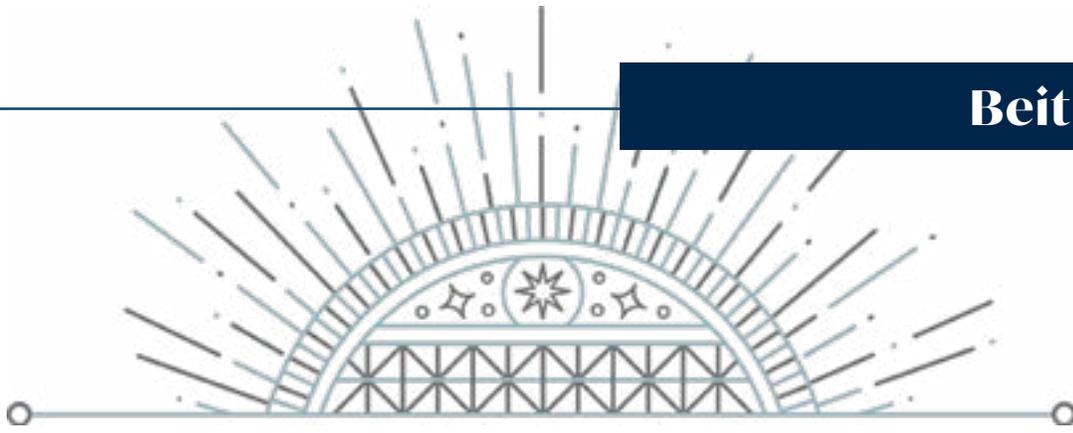
May 16, 2026

Son of Rachel and Brandon Bartkowiak

Adeline Alice Maldonado

May 30, 2026

Daughter of Jenny and Charles Maldonado



Our Children, Our Builders:
Confirmation Shabbat

Celebrating the 139th Confirmation Class of Touro Synagogue

Friday, May 8, 2026
 6:00pm | Main Sanctuary
Celebratory Dinner to follow

Hannah Alltmont
 Cyrus Arjmand
 Paisley Goldstein
 Benjamin Hill

Julia Klingsberg
 Edge Levine
 Eva Loshbaugh
 Samuel Markowitz
 Mia Pollack

Allie Ware
 Ella Ware
 Hannah Ware
 Megan Zurik

Graduation Shabbat

Friday, May 22, 2026
 6:00pm | Main Sanctuary
Celebratory Dinner to follow

Join us as we offer a special Graduation Blessing to the Class of 2026 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 moment together, and to hear from some of them reflections about their time growing up in the Touro Synagogue community, their thoughts on how they'll carry Touro's values with them into the future, and even some words of encouragement and advice to those following in their footsteps.

Sydney Alltmont
 Lili Arjmand
 Billy Braunig
 Max Densen
 Leah Eisner
 Lily Elichman

Sam Elichman
 Katie Gershanik
 Thomas Gershanik
 Henry Haber
 Cortlan Katz
 Peyton Katz

Elena Klingsberg
 Lilly Pollack
 Simon Promoslovsky
 Tyler Ruth
 Jessica Taranto
 Haylie Walsh

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

**TOURO SYNAGOGUE'S
JAZZ FEST
SHABBAT**

Featuring
TONYA BOYD-CANNON
Friday, April 24, 2026

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

33rd Annual Jazz Fest Shabbat

Featuring Tonya Boyd-Cannon

Friday, April 24, 2026

Patron Fest 6:00pm

Doors Open at 5:30pm

Enjoy Dinner, Cocktails, and an Exclusive Performance by Tonya Boyd-Cannon

Jazz Fest Shabbat Service 7:30pm

Doors Open at 6:45pm

Free and Open to the Public

Note: *Non-members wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by April 23 at JazzFestShabbat.com. Seats are limited!*

Join us for this special occasion where we'll once again celebrate the connection between Touro Synagogue's 198-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 artist, **Tonya Boyd-Cannon**.

A Mississippi-born, Louisiana-raised singer-songwriter who radiates an unmistakable confidence and passion, Tonya Boyd-Cannon is an individual who has truly dedicated her essence to the art form. Her sound puts vibe front and center instead of confining herself to genre limitations. It is a distinctive style that draws from her desire to give and heal others through music—ebbing and flowing from the most heart-wrenching ballads, to jazz, funk, soul, gospel, and everything in between!

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 33rd year of Jazz Fest Shabbat magic with you!

See You at the Patron Fest!

All Stars (10 seats) | \$5,000

- Reserved table for 10 at Patron Fest
- First-choice Sanctuary seat reservations

Jazz (4 seats) | \$2,000

- Reserved table for 4 at Patron Fest
- First-choice Sanctuary seat reservations

Zydeco | \$500 per person

- Reserved seat at a Patron Fest table
- Reserve Sanctuary seats starting at 6pm

Blues | \$225 per person

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

Children (ages 2-12) | \$50

RSVP Online at JazzFestShabbat.com!



Lifelong Learning Opportunities

Our lifelong learning programs continue to offer something for everyone. The innovative framework for the curriculum includes: entry points like Adult Hebrew for beginners and Shabbat Shiur Sacred Study; in-depth examinations of Jewish topics and ongoing dialogue through book clubs and our continuing series on Jewish Ethics of AI. There are also goal-oriented classes in which you can work toward an Adult B'nei Mitzvah or a process of conversion. To learn more about our adult programming, please visit touro synagogue.com/contact to reach out to **Co-chairs Jeffrey Fingerman or Liz Gottfried**.

Ongoing Series at Touro

Jewish Ethics Series: Judaism in the Modern Technological Age with Touro Member Sara Gershen

Select Wednesday Evenings | 7:30pm

Next Session: March 11

Examine how our Jewish ethics can inform our interaction with rapidly evolving and accessible technologies. Topics will include: the ethical implications of artificial intelligence (AI), the use of technology within sacred spaces and customs, and the privacy and environmental concerns that accompany technological advances.

Lunch and Learn for Prime Timers with Rabbi Katie Bauman

Select Thursday Afternoons | 12:00pm

Upcoming Session: March 26

The most pressing news stories of our day challenge us as human beings and as Jews. Each session will focus on a story from the recent news cycle, viewed through a Jewish historical, cultural, and ethical lens.

Shabbat Shiur: Sacred Text Study with Touro Synagogue Clergy

Weekly on Shabbat Mornings | 9:00am

Enjoy bagels and coffee, and engage in sacred text study with our clergy. We will explore the Torah portion of the week, ideas that help us prepare for upcoming holidays, and foundational texts of our tradition.

★ New Offering at Touro

Exploring Death and Dying in Judaism with Touro Synagogue Clergy and Community Leaders

Wednesday Evenings | March 4, 11, 18 | 6:15pm

Sunday Morning | March 22 | 10:00am

There is no experience more universal or yet more mysterious than dying. During this multi-week course, we will explore the ways that Judaism encounters death, from a logistical and spiritual perspective. Issues such as Jewish law around care for a body through burial, Jewish mourning rituals, Jewish theologies on the afterlife, and the creation of ethical wills will all be included.

Session 1 | March 4

Why Do We Die?

Session 2 | March 11

How Do We Mourn?

Session 3 | March 18

What Comes Next?

Session 4 | March 22

Caring for the Deceased

Looking Ahead to Summer!

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Special Exhibition and Workshop

with Artist Naomi Lifschitz Grant

Sunday, May 17 - Sunday, May 24

See page 15, and stay tuned for more details!



Register Online!

Scan the QR code to register for courses online
or visit TouroSynagogue.com/Learning

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

A Spiritual and Creative Journey Through the Texts of Shavuot with Artist Naomi Lifschitz Grant

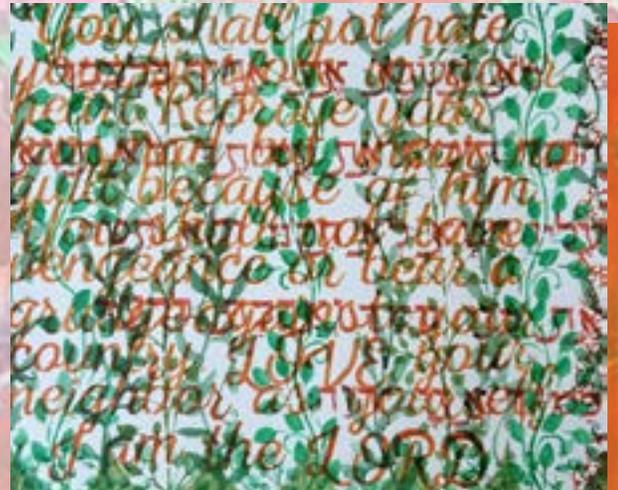
Exhibition on Display at Touro

Sunday, May 17 - Sunday, May 24

More Details to Follow

In the months following the events of October 7, Naomi Lifschitz Grant's artistic focus turned toward the unfolding war in Israel and Gaza. The urgency and anguish of this moment compelled her to seek deeper grounding in the ethical, historical, and spiritual dimensions of the conflict. In the summer of 2024, she received a travel grant from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke to attend a seminar at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Immersed in Jewish texts, philosophy, ethics, and history, she engaged directly with scholars, thinkers, and the lived complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian reality. This experience became a catalyst for new creative work, offering both intellectual rigor and emotional resonance as she grappled with the ethical questions of the war through the lens of religious teaching.

This exhibition invites viewers into a contemplative space, one where ancient moral teachings and contemporary conflict meet, and where art becomes a site for questioning, witnessing, and imagining ethical possibilities.



Leviticus 19:17-18 (2025)
Acrylic ink on Bristol Board

From Text to Image: A Shavuot Ink-Wash Workshop with Artist Naomi Lifschitz Grant

Thursday, May 21, 7:00pm

More Details and RSVP to Follow

Shavuot celebrates both the first barley harvest and the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, the pivotal moment when the people of Israel accepted God's law. One of the central biblical texts read on this holiday is The Book of Ruth. In this workshop, we will explore these sacred texts through the visual arts. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with selected passages and create ink-wash paintings inspired by the themes, characters, and imagery found within these holy texts. **Stay tuned for more details and link to RSVP.**



Deuteronomy 32:5-Haazinu (2025)
Acrylic ink on Bristol Board

Background: Red Cotton (2021)
Acrylic on Canvas



Rabbi Lily Kowalski
Associate Rabbi and Director of
Education & Family Engagement



Maya Shaar
Associate Director of Education
& Family Engagement



Youth & Teen Programming

Our educational programs are thriving. The community has over 230 children and teens enrolled across all youth education offerings. Priorities going forward include continued evaluation of our new, reimagined, and/or revitalized curricula for Yamim Yafim on Sunday mornings and our B'nei Mitzvah and post-B'nei Mitzvah classes. To support the great work of our clergy and staff leading our youth programming, the youth-focused subcommittee of Lifelong Learning will conduct focus groups with specific grades of Yamim Yafim students. We are eager to hear, directly from the children themselves, what they think of Yamim Yafim, what they like, and what could make it better. Stay tuned for more learnings!

Upcoming Special Events

**Mar
22**

4th Grade Pre B'nei Mitzvah Family Education Program

- Stay tuned for more information!

**May
3**

Last Day of PreK-5th Yamim Yafim!

- Have a great summer! *Special Schedule Dismissal | 9:30am-11:00am

**May
6**

Last Day of 6th-9th Yamim Yafim & Uptown Hebrew!

- Have a great summer!

**May
8**

Confirmation Shabbat

- Mazel Tov to our 2026 Confirmands! *More details on page 11*

**May
15**

Graduation Shabbat

- Mazel Tov to our 2026 Graduates! *More details on page 11*

Important Reminders

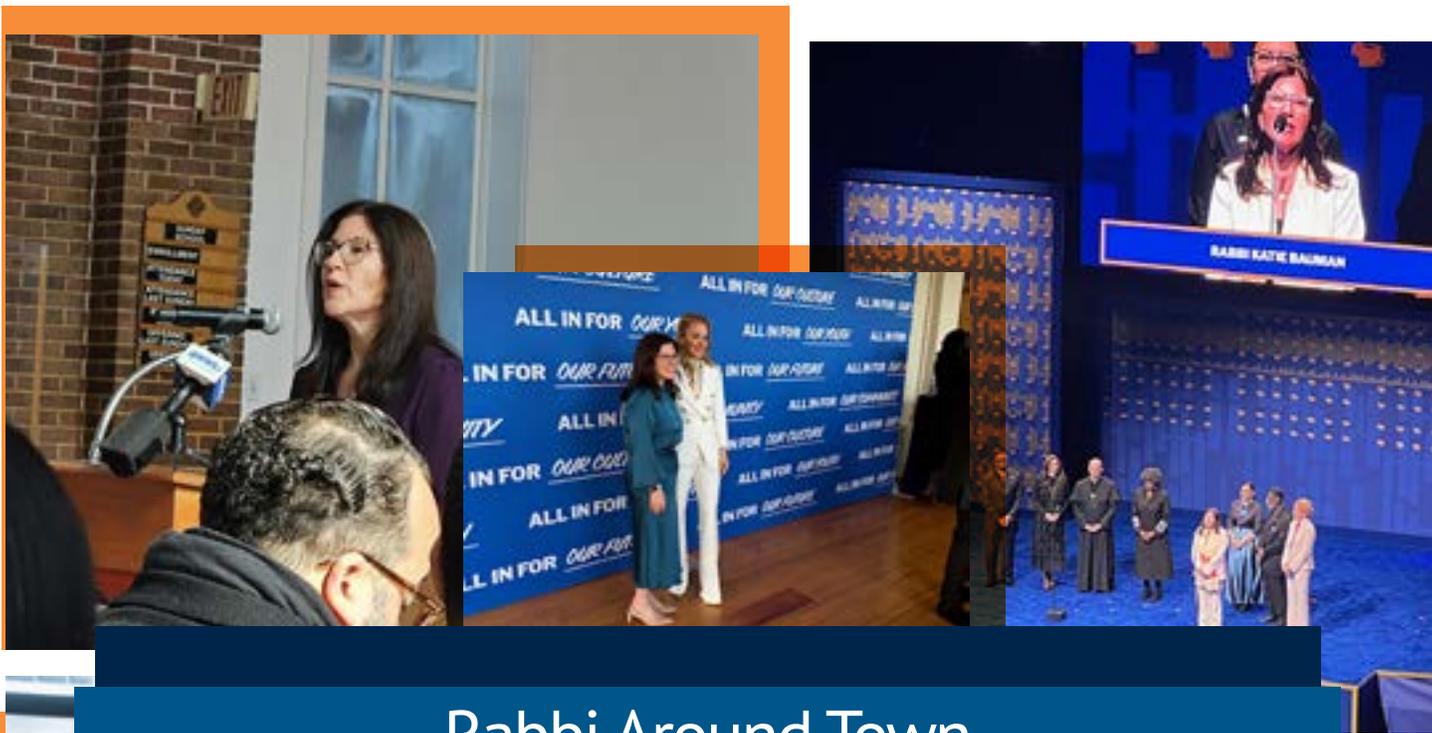
Please note there will be NO Yamim Yafim or Uptown Hebrew on the following dates:

- February 8, 11, 15, 18 | Mardi Gras Break
- April 1, 5, 8, 12 | Spring Break



Yamim Yafim Consecration

*Yamim Yafim students
participated in our
Consecration Service on
December 12, 2025.*



Rabbi Around Town

Touro's Values Beyond Our Walls



Top Left: Rabbi Bauman offered an invocation at New Orleans' MLK Day Observance and March; **Top Right:** Rabbi Bauman participated with other faith leaders in the Inauguration of Mayor Helena Moreno; **Middle Right:** Touro hosted Avodah's Partners in Justice Breakfast and Day of Service, Rabbi Bauman honored as an awardee; **Bottom Left and Right:** 200+ gathered in a Shabbat of Solidarity for Jackson's Beth Israel Congregation with services led by Rabbi Bauman and Jewish musician Dan Nichols

Congregational Travel



Touro Synagogue Congregational Israel Trip (2023)



Continuing our Journeys Together in 5787

A Message from Rabbi Katie Bauman

Dear Touro Family,

In 5787, there will be two powerful opportunities to continue our congregational journeys together.

In October 2026, we will travel to Poland and the Czech Republic, delving into the fascinating, mystical,

and difficult history of our people in those lands. As a group of adult learners, we will experience cities old and renewed, tread the painful roads to several concentration camps, and meet those building a Jewish future in Eastern Europe. This trip will be a mixture of sadness and inspiration, a pilgrimage to a part of the world where many of our families lived before coming to America, and where Jewish civilization developed for over 1,000 years.

In June 2027, we will travel to Israel on a multi-generational trip that will include those who have been to the Holy Land before and those for whom it will be the first time. This multi-track experience will include spiritual and educational moments in our most significant historical and cultural sites, as well as deep and pressing conversations with the leaders and change makers who are shaping a better future for all who dwell in the land. This trip will include two beautiful and very different Shabbat experiences, one in Jerusalem and one in Tel Aviv, as well as the celebration of our Festival of Shavuot!

Please save the dates and look forward to future informational sessions with our tour group, J2. If you're ready to sign up, please do! Registration is open. Learn more by scanning the QR codes or visit TouroSynagogue.com/travel.

Looking forward to sharing these experiences with you and bringing back our learnings to Touro,

Rabbi Katie Bauman



Poland & Czech Republic



October 11, 2026 - October 21, 2026
Warsaw > Krakow > Prague
Adults Only



Israel



June 2, 2027 - June 13, 2027
Jerusalem > Upper Galilee > Tel Aviv
Multi-Generational

Repairing the World

Tikkun Olam

The Tikkun Olam Committee has been hard at work this year actively responding to crises in the New Orleans area and continuing to work on our ongoing social justice projects. Our committee, with the help of strong congregant engagement and leadership, has been working hard to respond to needs within our immediate and larger communities. Below are just some highlights of this work:

The Tikkun Olam committee plans to continue much of the work listed here and remain flexible to respond to evolving social justice and advocacy issues. We plan to continue to promote community events and opportunities that allow our congregants of all ages to serve their community. If you are interested in learning more about Tikkun Olam or becoming involved in our efforts please contact Committee Co-Chairs Chris Lorenzen and Sara Gershen at TouroSynagogue.com/Contact.

Combating Hunger

Coming off a hugely successful High Holy Day food drive, the Combating Hunger subcommittee shifted to address this fall's federal government shutdown and pause in food stamp assistance. With the support of Touro leadership, we reimagined our generous hunger fund and were able to provide direct monetary assistance to community partners actively feeding our fellow New Orleanians. We provided direct grants to Broadmoor Food Pantry, Second Harvest Food Bank, and The First 72+.

Ongoing initiatives:

- All leftover food from Touro events is donated to community fridges or organizations that accept cooked food.
- Once a month we order extra food for Shabbat dinner that is packaged and donated to community fridges by congregant volunteers.
- We have hosted two sandwich-making events during Yamim Yafim that allow our children to assemble sandwiches that are delivered to Lantern Light and community fridges. Our children also continue to decorate bags for food donations.
- Ongoing food drives continue, and you are welcome to bring non-perishable items to Touro that will be delivered to food pantries in the community.
- Non-perishable food donations can be delivered to Touro Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm.



Climate Action

Our Climate Action subcommittee continues the work of creating and following a Climate Action plan here at Touro. This initiative began with the creation of our first Climate Action Plan in January 2025 and was led by Penny Freistadt and Larry Gottfried. Thanks to their leadership we were able to establish a committee and framework for our climate work here at Touro. The Taskforce is now being chaired by Monique de la Cour and Daniel Weiner who are continuing this important work.

Our Completed and Ongoing Projects:

- A new Climate Action Plan was submitted to Adama in January 2026.
- The Taskforce hosted an environmentally-friendly Shabbat last fall with all reusable dinnerware that was washed and dried by volunteers. We are now using reusable silverware and cups at most Shabbat dinners!
- Touro volunteers helped bag oyster shells to rebuild our coast with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.
- We secured a grant from New Orleans Parks and Parkways to plant trees around our campus. Look for eight new trees to be planted on St. Charles, General Pershing, and Pitt Streets after Mardi Gras!

Additional Projects

- We hosted a donation drive for diapers, wipes, and hygiene supplies for Saul's Light, an organization co-founded by Touro members Kimberly and Aaron Novod dedicated to supporting NICU and bereaved families across the state.
- Congregants participated in service projects through Avodah's Partners in Justice: Mitzvah Day this past MLK Jr. Day weekend, where our own Rabbi Katie Bauman was honored for her work supporting social justice work in the community.

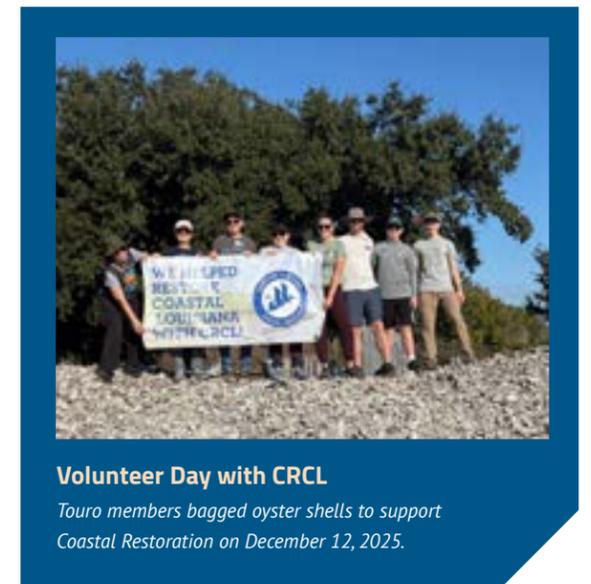
Immigration Support

Our Immigration Support subcommittee was re-formed from our previous work on refugee support in response to the increase in federal immigration enforcement in metro New Orleans. Since early December, members of this committee have been working daily to best figure out ways for Touro to help address the needs of our immigrant neighbors. **This work would not be possible without the tireless work and leadership of Anna Herman, Nadav Herman, Gary Sernovitz, Scott Saltzman, and Ben Horwitz along with a cadre of regular Touro volunteers.**

Since December 2025, the Immigration Support Committee has accomplished the following:

- Hosted a **Bystander Training** at Touro for members to know their rights when interacting with immigration enforcement officials. The event was attended by over **130 participants!**
- Worked with Familias Unidas to **pack and deliver groceries to 750 families** that were sheltering in place during the height of the enforcement. Touro Synagogue volunteers made up **60-70%** of all of Familias Unidas' volunteer base. Touro has supported the purchasing and packing of over **3,000** bags of food, or about a week's worth of groceries, for the community. We have had 4 events at Touro for our children and adults to help package the food.
- **We have raised approximately \$100,000 to support these efforts.** Rabbi Bauman is working with the Immigration Support Committee to thoughtfully manage these funds. Direct grants have been made to Puentes, ISLA, and the Hispanic Apostolate. Familias Unidas has received in-kind donations to support food and supplies costs. Additionally we intend to support the Loyola Law Clinic with a large grant to support the ongoing legal needs of our neighbors.

Visit TouroSynagogue.com/Help to join this committee or to make a monetary donation.



Volunteer Day with CRCL

Touro members bagged oyster shells to support Coastal Restoration on December 12, 2025.

Together We Thrive

Strengthening Our Annual Commitment

This year, Touro thoughtfully revitalized the Touro Annual Commitment (TAC) program to make it easier to understand how community support sustains synagogue life. The updated approach connects membership giving to the real costs of our buildings, programs, clergy, staff, and communal life, while honoring that households contribute at many different levels and reinforcing our practice that all are welcome.

The results have been encouraging and meaningful, thanks to our incredible Touro community. To date, TAC now covers 57% of Touro's annual expense budget, marking real progress toward our three-year strategic goal of reaching 80%.

Current:

Progress! Our current Annual Support now covers 57% of our budget.



Goal:

We need Annual Support to cover 80% in order to sustain our operations.

Just as significantly, many households responded generously by deepening their support this year. We appreciate that:

Thank You!

- **82** households increased their commitment to the cost-per-household level
- **21** households stepped up to the Patron level
- **25** Patron households moved up to higher Patron levels
- And, in total, **67%** of households who have already submitted their Annual Commitment chose to increase their giving this year.

These collective steps strengthen Touro's financial foundation and affirm a core value of our community: when each household participates as they are able, our synagogue thrives and remains a welcoming home for all.

We are deeply grateful to all who participated in this year's Touro Annual Commitment with intention, trust, and generosity. Your support ensures that Touro remains a thriving spiritual and communal home today and for generations to come.



Still Need to Contribute for the 25/26 Fiscal Year?

Scan the QR Code or Visit TouroSynagogue.com/AnnualCommitment

Please contact the Touro Synagogue Office at 504-895-4843 if you need assistance accessing your ShulCloud account.



Thank You, Patrons!

*A heartfelt thank you to our Patrons who contribute Annual Support above the sustaining level.
Your generosity at the Patron level helps make our sacred community accessible for all.*

Mary Lynn Alltmont
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