

Building a Community of Learners



The classes below will be planned based on community interest. If you would like to participate in one or more of these offerings, please complete our Interest Form by scanning the QR code or visit TouroSynagogue.com/Learning. Your response serves as a soft

RSVP and will help us determine whether there is enough participation to move forward with scheduling each class!

- **Learn to Read Hebrew for Adults**

Interested in discovering the key and secrets to our Shabbat and holiday liturgy? Explore the Hebrew language by learning to recognize the shapes and sounds of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

- **Jewish Baking**

Learn to bake traditional Jewish treats in a fun, hands-on, approachable class. Cookies, pita bread, and more!

- **Touro's Book Club**

Each quarter we will select a Jewish-themed book that sparks conversation and reflects topics of interest to our community. This shared-leadership style group aims to learn from one another and connect through good books.

- **Mahjongg Lessons**

Are you curious about the mahjongg craze? Interested in learning to play? Join us on Sundays this fall during mahjongg social play. We will have a dedicated space and group instruction for beginners!

- **Knitting Practice**

Are you interested in learning to knit and/or taking your knitting to the next level? How about taking the challenge of knitting a sweater in a group situation? Open to all skill levels!

- **Embracing Judaism / Taste of Judaism**

Come and learn! A Taste of Judaism®, a partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism, provides an open door to community, connection, and meaning! If you have always wanted to learn more about Judaism but haven't been sure where to start, this is the opportunity for you. Particularly aimed at those in an interfaith relationship, raising Jewish children, or considering conversion, Taste of Judaism is open to all who are curious about Judaism and want to learn more, assuming no previous experience or knowledge of Judaism.

- **Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism: Text Study Intensive**

Using Shalom Hartman Institute's exceptional curriculum "Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism", we will form a cohort of committed learners who want to engage in Judaism's biggest questions around practice, peoplehood, faith, and ethics.

Ongoing Opportunities

RSVP Online at
TouroSynagogue.com/Learning

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 engage with the Torah portion of the week, ideas that help us prepare for upcoming holidays, and foundational texts of our tradition. *RSVPs are not required for Touro members.*

Jewish Ethics Series: Judaism and Democracy

with Touro Member Sara Gershen and Rabbi Bauman

Upcoming Session: Sunday, October 25, 10:00am

In this election year for both the United States and Israel, we will examine how our Jewish ethics can inform how we engage as citizens in a democracy. Topics will include making difficult choices when voting, dwelling in politically diverse communities, maintaining relationships across challenging divides, embracing power while living with vulnerability, and many more.

Lunch and Learn for Prime Timers

with Rabbi Katie Bauman

Select Thursday Afternoons | 12:00pm

Upcoming Dates: Oct 8; Nov 12; Dec 10

Each session will focus on a theme relevant to our lives and the season. Past topics include the power of nostalgia, rising antisemitism, the Israel poetry of October 7th, and generational changes in the Jewish community. *Our monthly Prime Timer Lunch and Learns are generously sponsored by The Esther's Elders Fund.*

New! Jewish Mysticism

with Touro Member Rabbi Gary Gerson

Monthly on Sundays | 7:00-8:30pm on Zoom

Upcoming Dates: Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 6

Together, we will explore the central ideas, symbols, and spiritual practices of Kabbalah: the infinite nature of God (Ein Sof), the flowing structure of the sefirot, the mystery of creation, the presence of evil, and the possibility of transformation and repair. Along the way, Rabbi Gerson, beloved Touro member and Rabbi Emeritus of Oak Park Temple in the Chicago area, will introduce carefully selected passages from classic sources, allowing participants to hear the authentic voices of the tradition and deepen your connection to its poetic and symbolic language. No prior knowledge required!

Highlights for the Fall



Paper Midrash!

Sunday, November 8th
for Yamim Yafim Families

Monday, November 9
at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience

Husband and wife “dynamic duo” Isaac and Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik create new pathways into Torah, combining deep Jewish scholarship with comic books and pop culture for a unique take on traditional texts. Artist Isaac (@NiceJewishArtist on Instagram) cuts up comic books and reassembles them into papercuts that explore the stories of the Jewish people. Rabbi Shawna adapts traditional Jewish concepts to a modern Reform context, and brings that synergy to students of all ages, bringing text to life in a unique, modern perspective. Together, they are Paper Midrash.

A whirlwind New Orleans tour will have Paper Midrash joining Touro Synagogue at Yamim Yafim on Sunday, November 8th – with an eye on our upcoming bicentennial celebration, Paper Midrash will help our Yamim Yafim students and families to create a powerful and creative collaborative piece of art celebrating Touro Synagogue, our past and our future!

Paper Midrash will also present a special program at the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience on Monday, November 9th. More information about the papercutting workshop at the museum will be available on their website msje.org

Touro is grateful for the partnership of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, the New Orleans JCC, Northshore Jewish Congregation in Mandeville, and the Institute for Southern Jewish Life in bringing Paper Midrash to New Orleans.



La'Zman Hazei

לזמן הזה

*Sharing the Newest Jewish Ideas from
the Oldest Synagogue in New Orleans*

Rabbis Bauman and Silverman will host a podcast where we will discuss contemporary Jewish ideas that affect our Touro Synagogue family, our beloved city of New Orleans, and our Jewish world. Look out for our first mini-series of La'Zman Hazei about our new Shabbat dinner experience “Roots and Roux” and why knowing, feeling, and even tasting our Jewish story may be the best medicine for the pain of this moment. ***Our first episode will drop in September!***

Stay Tuned!

Stay tuned for more information on special guests: Nicholas Lemann in collaboration with the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience; Rabbis Rinat Safania and Leora Ezrachi Vered of our Reform Movement in Israel; Rabbi Amichai Lau Lavie in collaboration with JPNOLA and the Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience, Rabbi Ethan Linden of the Shalom Hartman Institute, and more!

Interest Form



Help shape this season's lifelong learning! Scan the QR code to complete our Interest Form and tell us which classes you'd like to attend. Your responses will help us determine which offerings have enough interest to move forward this year.