

THE SHOFAR

TOURO SYNAGOGUE



FALL 2026

SHANAH TOVAH!

High Holy Days 5787

Holidays and Festivals Schedule of Events

Together We Thrive

*Touro Annual Commitment
Update for 2026-2027*

Roots & Roux

Learning Our Jewish Story
Through Food and Flavor

Welcome Back, Students!

Upcoming Youth and Teen Programming

Not “What Will Happen,”
But Rather, “Who, Then, Am I?”

A Message from Rabbi Katie Bauman



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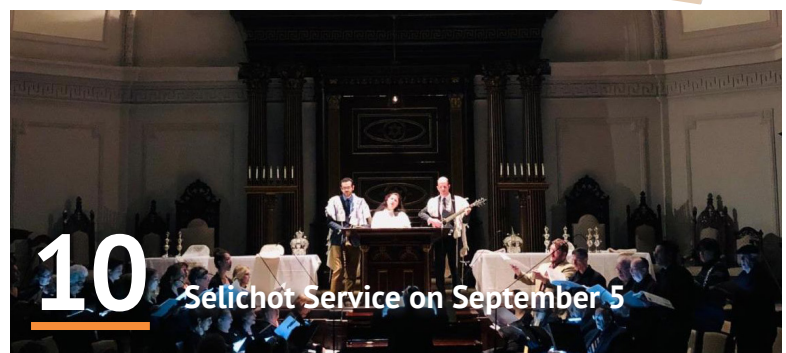


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From Our President



This Is Touro, This Is Home

A Message from Kevin Wilkins

Dear Touro Synagogue Family,

I hope summer has been filled with special moments that bring you joy. It is hard to believe that in a few weeks, we will be saying “Shanah Tovah” as we cross the threshold into 5787. During this time of year, I find myself moved by the sight of our congregation filling our historic building. The warmth, the familiar faces, the children who have grown inches since last Rosh Hashanah: this is Touro. This is home.

Jewish life has always drawn its strength from community, and that has never felt more urgent. In a world marked by rising antisemitism, uncertainty, and division, the need for a place where we genuinely belong, where we are known and loved and called to something larger than ourselves, is profound. Touro Synagogue is that place. We don't simply observe Judaism here; we live it together, through prayer, through learning, through showing up for one another in moments of joy and sorrow alike.

This past year has been one of remarkable vitality. **We welcomed 60 new households**, bringing our net total to 740 member households, with over 240 children and teens enrolled in religious school and youth programs. We are actively nurturing the next generation of Jewish life in New Orleans.

Some extraordinary highlights:

- A relaunched Religious School serving over 240 youth PreK–12, with a new curriculum and inspired teaching under Rabbi Kowalski's leadership
- Rabbi Kowalski's formal installation, welcoming her fully into our clergy family
- An incredible L'Chayim event honoring Jill and Dave Israel
- A robust Ambassador Program welcoming new members

and connecting them to our diverse community

- Our most successful High Holiday Food Drive ever, with over 3,000 pounds of food collected and distributed
- Shabbat Dinners, Jazz Fest Shabbat, Shabbati-Gras, and Purim events that brought our community together in joy
 - Ongoing security investments ensuring every person who walks through our doors feels safe

“We don't simply observe Judaism here; we live it together, through prayer, through learning, through showing up for one another in moments of joy and sorrow alike.”

Additionally, after a thoughtful 9-month process engaging lay leadership, clergy, staff, and congregants, we are proud to share **Touro Synagogue's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan**, a living framework to guide our decisions, align our energy, and maximize our impact in the years ahead. Thank you to Beth Lavin, Lawrence Haber, Megan Yellin, and the amazing Strategic Planning Committee

for their great work.

We have anchored the plan in our core identity: a historic, thriving Reform Jewish congregation in New Orleans. Our expression of Judaism is egalitarian and respectful of the unique humanity of all.

Our vision and mission are empowering and memorable. The vision is **a strong, vibrant, joyful Jewish future** supported by our mission - to lovingly nurture **a warm, diverse home for Jewish living**, while boldly shaping **a community of purpose and connection**. Both are grounded in six guiding principles through which every congregational decision will be evaluated: *B'tzelem Elohim (God's Image)*, *Klal Yisrael (Jewish Peoplehood)*, *Kehillah Kedoshah (A Holy Community)*, *Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World)*, *L'dor Vador (From Generation to Generation)*, and *Kavanah (Presence and Awareness)*.

The plan is organized around **four strategic pillars**, each with markers of progress:



1. Congregational Engagement

We are committed to an engaged membership at sustainable levels, responding to our growth intentionally without compromising our values or mission. Every congregant should feel connected to at least one member of our clergy, and our Ambassador Program will continue to deepen intra-congregational bonds across all life stages, from young families to retirees.

2. Education

Our youth will be equipped with the knowledge, values, and identity to carry Jewish life forward, through an engaging curriculum that involves their voices in shaping programming. We are committed to ensuring families feel supported and that financial barriers never stand between a child and their Jewish education. For adults, we will offer a multi-pronged curriculum spanning deep dives and flexible specialty topics, meeting congregants wherever they are in their Jewish journey.

3. Tikkun Olam

Our work will make New Orleans a measurably better place to live, work, and worship. With passionate leadership, sustainable committee structures, and dedicated funding, it will be effective, efficient, and easy for congregants of all ages to engage, giving every member a meaningful pathway to repair the world.

4. Bicentennial

Touro was founded in 1828, and in 2028, we will celebrate 200 years. This milestone is an opportunity to build shared identity, deepen pride in our history, elevate our local and national profile, and fuel long-term financial sustainability. We will document and tell our story, elevate signature events like Jazz Fest Shabbat, and engage the broader Jewish community in our celebration.

Supporting all four pillars are **three cross-cutting priorities** embedded across all our work. First, **our clergy** will maintain clear focus across the four sacred duties anchoring congregational life: lifecycle, prayer, holidays, and pastoral care. Second, **our operations work** will sharpen accountability, expand classroom and security capacity, and ensure our infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

Third, Financial sustainability: Year one of our Touro Annual Commitment (TAC) was a genuine success with 65% of pledging households increasing their contributions. We now fund 57% of our total budget through member generosity, up from just over 50%.

Our three-year goal is to fund 70–80% of a right-sized budget, both of which are benchmarks for healthy congregations of our size. For 2026/2027, the **cost per household is \$2,950 (or \$245/month)**. We ask those who can give at or above this level to do so joyfully. Your generosity makes Touro accessible to every family who wants to be here. Economic insecurity will never be a barrier to belonging at Touro. For more about TAC, please see pages 26-27.

As we enter 5787, **I am filled with gratitude** - for our clergy, our staff, our board, and above all, for each of you. Together, we are building a legacy that will inspire Jewish life in New Orleans for generations to come. May this New Year bring health, happiness, and deep meaning to you and your families.

L'Shalom,

Kevin Wilkins, *Congregational President*



Strategic Plan | 2026-2030



Touro Synagogue recently completed a strategic planning process to help guide our future. The plan refreshes our mission, vision, and values while outlining key priorities to strengthen our community for years to come! Scan the QR code or visit touro synagogue.com to read the full plan.

Shabbat at Touro

Introducing

Roots & Roux

A New Monthly Shabbat Dinner and Learning Experience at Touro Synagogue

Shabbat dinner at Touro Synagogue is one of the heartbeats of our congregation. Each Friday, we gather not only for worship, but for conversation, community, storytelling, laughter, and a delicious meal prepared by Chef Jessie Wightkin Gelini—a professional chef, culinary instructor at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, and lifelong Touro member.

Even something as timeless and grounding as Shabbat deserves a new twist now and then. **This year, we're excited to introduce Roots and Roux—a chance to dedicate one Shabbat dinner each month to highlighting Jewish communities from around the world through the foods they have shared across generations.**

The connection between Jewish food and culture is one and the same. Through these special Shabbat dinners and **optional hands-on cooking classes**, we'll explore the stories of our heritage through the diverse cuisines of Jewish communities near and far. Together, we'll discover how food preserves tradition, builds community, and reflects the global journey of the Jewish people.



Meet Chef Jessie!

Jessie Wightkin Gelini is a native New Orleanian and lifelong Touro Member. Chef Jessie's passion for food led her to study Culinary Anthropology at the University of Alabama, where she explored the cultural stories behind cuisine. Jessie spent four years at the prestigious Commander's Palace, and was also instrumental in the launching of the kitchen team at Bacchanal Wine, Company Burger, and Taceaux Loceaux food truck. Passing on the traditions of her culinary roots is what Chef Jessie is most passionate about, making the transition from the restaurant world to culinary education a natural move. Her culinary teaching career began at Edible Schoolyard and led her to NOCCA. Chef Jessie creates the dinners at Touro for Shabbat. A self-proclaimed Food Explorer, she is enthusiastic about traveling the world through food. Telling the stories of people, places, and ingredients, one plate at a time.



Roots and Roux Shabbat Dinner Friday, August 21, 2026

Following 6:00pm Shabbat Service

Our first stop is Italy, where we'll taste and discover the rich and fascinating history of Italian Jewish cuisine!

Roots and Roux Family Cooking Class Wednesday, August 19, 6:00-7:30pm

RSVPs Required!

Designed for Kids Pre-K and Up & Their Grown-Ups



Join Chef Jessie as we make fresh pasta by hand! We'll mix the dough, roll it out, and shape our own pasta together. Everyone will take home their handmade pasta to cook later, and we'll enjoy a taste test together before the evening ends. **Please RSVP at TouroSynagogue.com/Roots.**

Special Upcoming Shabbatot

A Shabbat Evening with Chef Alon Shaya

RSVPs Required!

Friday, November 6

Acclaimed chef and Touro member Alon Shaya will be our guide on this Shabbat evening as we contemplate our history through the lens of Alon's new cookbook *Memories of a Good Meal: Recipes of Resilience Inspired by Stories of World War II Survival*.

4:30pm | Reception and Book Signing

6:00pm | Shabbat Service with a message of Jewish resilience from Alon

7:30pm | Delicious "Roots and Roux"
Shabbat dinner with recipes from Alon's new cookbook, and an intimate discussion with Alon on his Jewish and culinary journey to preserve this important history.



Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah

Audrey Slater Buchtel
September 5, 2026

Daughter of Frannie and Charles Buchtel

Liora Eliana Kaplan
October 10, 2026

Daughter of Rachel and Lev Kaplan

Piper Elliot Adler
October 17, 2026

Daughter of Nicole and Jason Adler

Virginia deLaureal Hunter
October 24, 2026

Daughter of Jennifer Butler

Molly Elizabeth Rosenbloom
November 7, 2026

Daughter of Brittany and Skylar Rosenbloom

Meier Abraham Krane
November 14, 2026

Son of Mari Ann and Spencer Krane

Abigail Jean "Abby Jean" Fingerman
November 21, 2026

Daughter of Katie Coburn and Jeffrey Fingerman

Asher Samuel Kofsky
November 28, 2026

Son of Niki and Edward Kofsky

Shabbat Tirdof: A Sabbath of Sanctifying the Pursuit of Justice Together

RSVPs Required!

Friday, August 14, 6:00pm



After a special experience together at the Juneteenth Seder at Historic St. James AME Church, we would love to continue the conversation between our multi-faith and multi-cultural communities. In the Jewish community on August 14, we read from the book of Deuteronomy the powerful words "Justice, justice shall you pursue," or in Hebrew, *Tzedek, tzedek Tirdof*. In sanctification of this Biblical charge, let's gather to share prayer, music, food and hopes for the future together.

We'll begin with Shabbat services and a message shared by multi-faith clergy. Following services, please stay for a special Shabbat dinner during which there will be a discussion led by recent graduates of the New Orleans chapter of the Rekindle Fellowship, a national Black-Jewish leadership program. Come meet new people, hear what they've learned about building relationships across communities, and discover how you can stay engaged in this ongoing work.

Our Shabbat dinner is graciously sponsored in part by the Behar Center for Jewish-Multicultural Affairs, an initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

The New Orleans Rekindle Chapter is organized by the Behar Center for Jewish-Multicultural Affairs, an initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. Community partners include ADL South Central, Dillard University, the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, NAACP New Orleans, New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund, Urban League Louisiana, and Xavier University of Louisiana. **To participate in an upcoming cohort of the Rekindle Fellowship, please visit rekindlefellowship.org/neworleans.**



From Our Rabbi



Rabbi Katie Bauman
Senior Rabbi

Not “What Will Happen,” But Rather, “Who, Then, Am I?”

A Message from Rabbi Bauman

Dear Touro Synagogue Family,

There is a period of time on the Hebrew calendar between 17 Tammuz and 9 Av (corresponding in 2026 to July 2 to July 23) that is called ben ha-metzarim, or “between the straits or narrow places.” It refers to the three weeks in our history between the first breach of the walls of Jerusalem and the ultimate destruction of the city by the Romans in the year 70CE. In

Jewish tradition, it is a time of collective mourning for both current and impending loss, and it is bookended by two fast days. After Tisha B’Av, the second of those fast days, we begin to climb toward the hope and renewal that Rosh Hashanah promises, seeking renewal through teshuvah, unsure of what the future holds but resolved to make it meaningful. This year, I spent most of these three weeks in Jerusalem itself, what’s left of those walls in sight on my walks through the city, and it was for me **a time of deep reflection on the way this calendar maps onto our collective and personal lives.**

To understand what our calendar invites us to personally consider each year, we can ask a very Jewish question prevalent in our midrashic literature: What is this like? (Our sages loved parables.) **For me, the emotions of this “between the straits” time are like the feelings of being the cone of uncertainty of a hurricane, or perhaps the period of time between diagnosis and treatment plan when someone is ill.** Such moments create strictures within which we must each exist for a time, the future hanging in the balance, and it is profoundly disconcerting because there is only so much control we have over the outcome of the situation. **We are compelled to sit within the narrow confines of circumstance and consider the simple and yet profound question of how we will show up within it.** This is like ben ha-metzarim for each individual and family.

The same could be said about many of the collective currents in which we’re caught right now as Americans and as Jews: the reality of brutal wars and mass suffering, the fraying of our communal fabric driven by a toxic media environment and what it brings out in us, the degrading of democratic norms and the suspense of extremely consequential upcoming elections in both countries, the prevalence of virulent and yet casual Jew-bullying and antisemitism on both ends of the political spectrum. **We are vulnerable, much has already been cracked, and much still hangs in the balance. This is ben ha-metzarim for us today. And just as our ancient ancestors came to terms during this time 2,000 years ago with their human limits, we too must acknowledge our own.**

We sense that we too are living in an important moment in history, and we too have finite power and time to influence what happens. So the most pressing question for us as we seek

to live lives of meaning cannot be, “What will happen?” That question can only be answered by our future selves, and it will not help us on our journey of growth toward the new year. The storm is upon us now. The walls are breached now. We are preparing for the new year now. As with the arrival of storms and their aftermath, as with the strong currents of all historical moments, what emerges as most important is what individuals and communities choose to do in response. The stories that continue to empower us are those of the acts of goodness, strength, courage, even heroism in very difficult circumstances, despite and in some cases because of the vast forces acting upon us that we cannot hold back. In the narrowest places, such rebellions against the strictures of major events bring hope and resilience, and are not these the tools we need to face the new year?

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (z”l) wrote beautifully of the difference between history and memory, words that I believe speak to this moment in our year and our lives. “History is someone else’s story. It’s about events that occurred long ago to someone else. **Memory is my story. It’s about where I come from and of what narrative I am a part. History answers the question, ‘What happened?’ Memory answers the question, ‘Who, then, am I?’** This is the question I’d like to put before all of us as we orient toward 5787. Who am I, and who are we, called to be that will make us strong sources of memory for those who come after us. In yet other words, how can we, through the ways we chose to respond to this moment of uncertainty, be ports in the storm, repairers of the breach, and good ancestors?

To be good ancestors to our descendants, we must not only be concerned about history, much of which is beyond our control like a hurricane or a diagnosis or the breaching of the walls in battle, none of which we have the power to avert. If we only concern ourselves with these dictates of history and twists of fate and nature, we will not feel empowered to make changes in our lives, and that is the most urgent call of this time of the year. So we must also and especially pay great attention to the memory we are going to be a part of for the legacy we are building, for the ways we stood up to hard moments by striving to be the best version of ourselves, which is very much within our power.

So our charge as we enter these weeks of spiritual preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is to remember that **we are a part of creating a memory for ourselves and those who follow us...of people who strove, who leaned into joy when we could, who picked up shards of glass ben ha metzarim, who held onto hope even in the most difficult of chapters. Yes, our metaphorical walls may be breached, our sense of coherence in the world threatened by so much strife and change. But we are still standing, and what we help each other remember about what is possible within us is indestructible if we choose to make it so.**

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Katie Bauman



TOURO SYNAGOGUE

HIGH HOLY DAYS

5787 | 2026

High Holy Days and Festivals Schedule of Events

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנָשׁוּבָה חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם

*Bring us back, O God, to You, and we will return;
renew our days as of old.*

Lamentations 5:21

High Holy Days

Preparing for the Holiday Season

Shabbat Shiur

A Spiritual Preparation for the High Holy Days Saturday Mornings in Elul

Preparing for the Days of Awe is a significant and meaningful process. 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 Holy Days during a special series of our weekly Shabbat Shiur, focusing on the most important texts of the season. Doors open at 8:30am for bagels and coffee, with sacred text study beginning at 9:00am. All are welcome!

- **August 15 | 2 Elul: Lamentation's Portrait of Destruction**
- **August 22 | 9 Elul: Genesis and Humanity's Striving**
- **August 29 | 16 Elul: Jonah's Universal Struggle**
- **September 5 | 23 Elul: Isaiah's Words of Consolation**

Children are welcome to play (unsupervised) in the Children's Reading Room adjacent to the Goldring-Franco Family Library.

Selichot

A Meditative Beginning to the Season With the Touro Synagogue Choir Saturday, September 5, 8:00pm

*Led by Touro Synagogue
and Temple Sinai Clergy*

In partnership with Temple Sinai, we prepare ourselves for the High Holy Days with prayer and deep reflection on the year we are leaving and all that lies ahead. We will sit in a mostly dark sanctuary, experience a service of both song and silence, and hear the shofar to call us to attention in this season of teshuvah.

We will gather for a dessert reception followed by a service led by clergy of both congregations and the Touro Synagogue Choir.



Rosh Hashanah

Celebration of a New Year

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
Friday, September 11, 8:00pm

Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
Saturday, September 12, 10:00am

Rosh Hashanah Family Service
For All Families With Children
Saturday, September 12, 9:00am

Join your Touro clergy and music team in the Jacobs Social Hall 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 Holy Days is sure to be as sweet as honey and filled with age-appropriate songs and content, a wonderful entry into 5787.

Rosh Hashanah Kehillah KIDoshah
For Students In 3rd-6th Grade
Saturday, September 12

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 Fly: Casting Away and Starting Anew
Sunday, September 13, 4:00pm

We will gather at The Fly for Tashlich, a ritual of “casting off” the remnants of the past year that we wish to leave behind. With music, prayer, blankets, furry friends, and time spent together as a community, we will look ahead to the possibilities and opportunities for 5787 alongside our congregational family. Be sure to bring your bread or bird seed, and feel free to bring a picnic dinner too! All ages are welcome. *Rain date, Saturday, September 12 at 5:00pm.

Kever Avot: Bringing Our Ancestors into the New Year
Sunday, September 13, 12:00pm
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.

Shabbat Shuvah: A Sabbath of Turning
Friday, September 18, 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.



Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement

Kol Nidre Service
Sunday, September 20, 8:00pm

Yom Kippur Morning Service
Monday, September 21, 10:00am

Yom Kippur Family Service
For All Families With Children
Monday, September 21, 9:00am

Join your Touro clergy and music team in the Jacobs Social Hall for an exciting, engaging, and meaningful continuation to 5787. Geared for our families with children up through second grade, this family-friendly introduction to the High Holy Days will be filled with age-appropriate songs and content, a wonderful entry to the new year.

Yom Kippur Kehillah KIDoshah
For Students In 3rd-6th Grade
Monday, September 21

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.

Yom Kippur Afternoon Sessions: *Stay The Whole Day!*
Monday, September 21, 12:30pm-4:30pm

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:

- **12:30pm | This is the Fast I Desire: A Reflection on Our Responsibility to Others**
In the spirit of the prophet Isaiah's message on Yom Kippur, we will learn from a panel of local experts about some of New Orleans' most critical needs and how Touro can be more active in building the city and world we wish to see. We look forward to welcoming leaders from LCMC Health, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Planned Parenthood.
- **1:30pm | Atem Nitzavim: A Sharing Session with Those Who Have Embraced Judaism Through Conversion**
Our Torah teaches that all members of the Jewish community stood at Mount Sinai. Touro Members Ann Kaufman, Charles Cannon, and Bill Procell will share about their Jewish journeys that have led them to take that stand.
- **2:30pm | Songs of Hope and Healing: A Reflective Musical Hour**
Rabbi Katie Bauman, Educator and Musician Aaron Rothko, Touro Synagogue musicians and teen leaders will lead an hour of prayer and song that will help our hearts to break open and our souls to be renewed.
- **3:30pm | Afternoon Service with Congregational Voices**
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
Monday, September 21, 4:30pm

Neilah Concluding Service
Monday, September 21, 5:15pm

We remember all our loved ones whom we have lost in recent and distant days. The 5787 Book of Remembrance will be made available in the sanctuary and electronically. We will conclude with our last Tekiah Gedolah and Havdalah at approximately 6:00pm.



Scan to Register

High Holy Day Childcare During Services

For children ages 2-7. Space is limited and fills up quickly! Note: Capacity may be reached before the deadline.

Rosh Hashanah Morning Service Child Care
Saturday, September 12, 9:50am-12:30pm
Registration Deadline: August 31

Yom Kippur Morning Service & Yizkor Child Care
Monday, September 21, 9:50am-12:15pm & 4:15pm-6:15pm
Registration Deadline: August 31

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

Tuesday, September 22, 4:00pm

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

Shabbat Sukkot:



Celebrate Shabbat Sukkot!
Friday, September 25, 6:00pm
RSVP Online at TouroSynagogue.com/HHD



Scan to RSVP

Shabbat Sukkot Celebration | Friday, September 25, 6:00pm
with Dinner, Wine, and Singing in the Congregational Sukkah

Celebrate Shabbat Sukkot with a beautiful, musical service followed by scrumptious food, delicious wines, and great company – under the twinkling white lights in the trees of our Bowsky Garden. Because this service will be brief, musical, and especially welcoming for kids, we will not be offering childcare this week.

Scan the QR code to RSVP for dinner!

\$18/ Member Adults | \$8/ Member Kids (7th Grade and Under)

\$36/ Non Member Adults | \$16/ Non Member Kids

Shabbat Shiur | Saturday, September 26, 9:00am

Sukkot Rocks | Saturday, September 26, 9:30am
with a Special Pre-K Class Shabbat Experience

Shabbat during Sukkot this year will include a fabulous Sukkot Rocks program for our littlest friends at Touro and our first Yamim Yafim Class Shabbat experience of the year for our Pre-K class. Join Rabbi K, Maya, and Aaron for a fun-filled morning of music, crafts, and Sukkot celebrations! We'll wave the lulav and enjoy some time to relax and schmooze together over brunch! **Please RSVP online at tourosynagogue.com/shabbat-rocks.**

Simchat Torah

Starting Over

Simchat Torah Celebration with Panorama Jazz Band

Friday, October 2, 6:00pm

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.

Shabbat Morning Service with Chavurat Or'leans, including Yizkor and Shabbat Lunch

Saturday, October 3, 10:00am

On this last day of our holiday season, we will gather for a musical, traditional Shabbat morning service with Touro clergy and our partners from Chavurat Or'leans to celebrate the end of a beautiful season and to observe Yizkor. 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. Following the service, we will enjoy a Shabbat lunch cosponsored by Touro and Chavurat Or'leans. Please call Beka in the office at (504) 895-4843 to add the names of those you are remembering at our Yizkor service.



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.

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!

Youth and Teens



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



Session 2 Jacobs Campers | 2026

Home, Belonging, & Community

A Message from Rabbi Kowalski

"Welcome Home, Rabbi K!"

For those of you in the know, I'm writing these fall greetings to you from the cozy and homey environment of URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi. This familiar yet ever so slightly disconcerting greeting, I received it many times over in my first few hours on campus. At one and the same time, this is both my first ever camp experience, particularly as a staff member, and as extremely comforting and familiar as it is, I've also never met some of these people before; and yet, we all fit right in. "Is there a word yet for old friends you've just met?" Kermit the Frog asked us as we pondered the rainbow connection. And truly there is – it is absolutely that sense of home, belonging, and community.

Jacobs Camp and Touro have this in common, in different ways. We work together, often collaboratively even, to create meaningful moments for individuals, actively developing community and a strong sense of Jewish identity in our youth and teens, and serve as a beacon of community and Jewish values for the Jewish community of the deep south. Camps around the country often talk about living "10 for 2", meaning they wait all year long for those two extraordinary months of the summer. Here at Touro, we get the gift and privilege of being a part of you and your family's lives year round: whether you join us weekly or monthly, if you've just started attending or your commitment goes back years or even generations, we see and value and appreciate the place we have in your lives and the life of New Orleans.

Such impact does not happen in a vacuum. Rather, like with Jacobs Camp, we work in partnership with all of you, our community and lay leaders, to create opportunities to enhance all that we do, especially important for me as we continue to hone our vision for education here at Touro for the next few

years. We want our education programs to also capitalize on the impressive work of our Strategic Planning Committee on our new Strategic Plan, which we shared with you all during the Annual Meeting.

We also announced at the Annual Meeting two very special and meaningful opportunities to enhance living and learning together here at Touro:

With great appreciation, we want to thank again the Reiss family and the Lockman, Townsend, and Mark families for their continued investment in the future of Touro and its families. Our new **Emerging Jewish Leaders Fellowship**, cultivating the next generation of Jewish leaders, is supported in loving memory of Benjamin Lockman Townsend Mark. This new opportunity will help guide and mold current university students and Yamim Yafim assistant teachers into skillful and savvy Jewish community members, lay leaders, and maybe even Jewish professionals. See page 17 to learn more!

Additionally, the **B'nei Mitzvah support fund, thanks to the generosity of the Reiss family**, will help our community members marking B'nei Mitzvah in their families, enhancing their celebration of this important lifecycle milestone. We are looking ahead to a new year together with lots of opportunities for continued and ongoing learning and celebration together!

After a full first year together, I am proud of the work we have already accomplished... but more so, I am excited for all we still must work on, together, and the ways we can dream, try, and do good together. As the dog days of summer come to a close, welcome back home to Touro!

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Lily Kowalski, RJE



Cultivating the Next Generation of Jewish Leaders

Emerging Jewish Leaders Fellowship

A Yearlong, Cohort-Based Program Led by Touro Synagogue Clergy, Tulane Faculty, and Leading Jewish Educators from Across the Country

Assistant Teaching

Cohort Learning

Professional Development

Career Networking



Together, our cohort will explore Jewish educational leadership, Jewish values, child and adolescent development, classroom management, communication, resume writing, teamwork, and networking. In this program, you will:

- Serve as Paid Assistant Teachers with Touro Synagogue's Religious School*
- Participate in Monthly Cohort Learning Sessions
- Gain Concrete Skills in Jewish Education, Leadership, & Professional Development
- Make Professional Connections in a Wide Range of Areas Beyond Jewish Education

*In addition to weekly compensation beginning at **\$60 per session**, participants will receive a **\$500 participation stipend**. A **transportation stipend of up to \$250** is also available to help offset travel expenses.*



**Touro Synagogue is one of the fastest growing synagogues in the south, with a vibrant community of over 740 families and 240 students in our religious school programs. Touro's mission is to lovingly nurture a warm, diverse home for Jewish living, while boldly shaping a community of purpose and connection.*

Apply Today!

Visit TouroSynagogue.com/Fellowship to learn more and submit your application





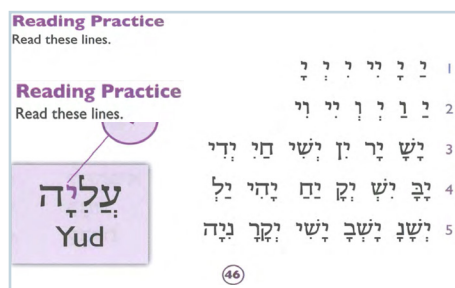
Cantor Kevin Margolius

Uptown Hebrew

Unlocking the Door to a Fulfilling Jewish Life

We are thrilled to welcome our new Hebrew learners to join our returning students and dedicated team of teen reading coaches and teachers on Wednesdays. Hebrew is a part of our tradition that connects us to both our ancient heritage and to Jews all around the world today. The skills that our Uptown Hebrew students learn help unlock doors to a deeper, richer, and more fulfilling Jewish life. At Touro Synagogue, kids especially rely on their Hebrew learning as they begin preparing to become B'nei Mitzvah – a process which requires daily practice that is made easier and more enjoyable by developing strong reading skills early on.

Below is a quick overview of what we hope to accomplish this school year:



Alef: Learning to Read

Alef - Learning to Read: Our beginner students work on mastering the consonants and vowels of the Alef Bet (Hebrew alphabet), as well as some of the basic reading rules that help them assemble these building blocks into sounds; we call this skill “decoding.” Each week, our Uptown Hebrew class session begins with an opening ritual and some whole-group prayer practice, followed by time in small groups at three learning stations:

- **Reading Practice:** *one-on-one or in small groups with a teacher*
- **Activity Station:** *students work with flash cards, practice writing on dry-erase boards, and complete activities that help strengthen any reading difficulties*
- **T'filah Station:** *students work independently using smart tablets and interactive recordings to practice prayers from the Shabbat service*



Bet: Strengthening Skills

Bet - Strengthening Skills: Once students have learned the Alef Bet, the next step is to practice using their decoding skills regularly so they can rely upon them for accurate reading. The three goals of this class are **accuracy, fluency, and speed** – the key components for successfully transitioning from sounding out syllables to reading entire sentences and paragraphs.

Gimel & Dalet - Reading to Learn: This is where the magic *really* happens. Students in this phase build on the Hebrew reading skills they have developed in earlier years to deepen their comprehension and understanding. As they continue expanding their vocabulary, strengthening their knowledge of basic grammar, and becoming more familiar with the language of Jewish prayer and tradition, students begin to read not just the words, but their meaning. It is incredible to watch our students connect these skills to understand entire passages of Hebrew without relying on an English translation. Words and phrases they hear regularly during services become exciting “aha!” moments as they recognize and understand them independently.



Gimel & Dalet: Reading to Learn

To end each week of Uptown Hebrew, all of our classes join together for a brief evening t'filah service where we sing and pray together. This provides a fantastic opportunity for individual and small groups of students to not only practice what they're learning, but also how to be prayer leaders – a preview of what it will be like for their B'nei Mitzvah service!

We can't wait to welcome our students back for our first full day on September 9, and to watch all of them learn and grow throughout the year.

Youth and Teens



Maya Shaar
Associate Director of Education
& Family Engagement



Youth & Teen Programming Calendar at a Glance



Aug
12

Confirmation Orientation Dinner | 6:00pm-7:30pm
Students & Parents; More Details to Follow

Aug
19

Junior-Senior Seminar Orientation Dinner | 6:00pm-7:30pm
Students & Parents; More Details to Follow

Aug
21

Confirmation Shabbat Gathering | 6:00pm
Students & Parents; Class Blessing and Dinner; More Details to Follow



Sep
2

6th&7th Grade Opening Day | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Sep
9

Uptown Hebrew Opening Day | 4:30pm-6:00pm
8th&9th Grade Opening Day | 6:00pm-7:30pm
Confirmation Class In Session | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Sep
16

Uptown Hebrew In Session | 4:30pm-6:00pm
6th&7th Grade In Session | 6:00pm-7:30pm
Junior-Senior Seminar In Session | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Sep
26

Sukkot Rocks! & Special Pre-K Class Shabbat Experience | 9:30am
See High Holy Day Guide for more information!
RSVP at TouroSynagogue.com/Shabbat-Rocks

Sep
27

Pre-K-5th Grade Opening Day & Sukkot Celebration | 9:30am-12:00pm

Sep
30

Uptown Hebrew In Session | 4:30pm-6:00pm
6th-12th Grade Sukkot Celebrations | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Oct
4

Pre-K-5th Grade Simchat Torah Celebration | 9:30am-11:00am
Early Dismissal Day!



Touro Teens



TASTY Teens Honored at Our 2026 Annual Meeting



Rabbi Todd Silverman
Associate Rabbi



Aaron Rothko
Hebrew and Music Educator

Touro Teens Are Leading The Way Opportunities to Engage for Grades 6-12

Another year of phenomenal teen programming is coming soon with all sorts of ways for every Touro teen to get involved! Along with this year's amazing TASTY (Touro And Sinai Temple Youth) board, we're excited to once again offer an array of experiences and opportunities to fit just about everyone's interests.

Whether you're drawn towards continuing your explorations of Judaism and your own Jewishness, personal and spiritual growth through prayer and holiday celebrations, developing and honing professional skills, or gaining insights and experiences that help prepare for college and beyond, we're committed to offering something for every one of our emerging leaders to dive into as you find your place in this community that loves seeing you grow.

Check out all of the different ways that Touro teens can get involved in fun and engaging ways!

Get Involved!

These opportunities listed here are just the start. There is so much to explore and so many ways to find your place in our Jewish community.

Ready to jump in? Have some questions about anything or everything?

Contact Rabbi Silverman or Aaron Rothko to get the ball rolling!

Youth and Teens

TASTY & NFTY Southern

TASTY (Touro and Sinai Temple Youth) is our 9th-12th grade youth group in partnership with Temple Sinai. Driven by the enthusiasm and creativity of its board of elected teen leaders, we invite you to join us for holiday celebrations with plenty of delicious food, social outings and activities like bowling, mini-golf, and “Friendsgiving”, Tikkun Olam community service opportunities to support those in need, and much more throughout the year!

TASTY is one of the many youth groups that constitute the Southern Region of NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth). NFTY-SO regional events like Fall Conclave and Spring Kallah, which bring together more than a hundred Jewish teens from around the South to Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, MS, are not something you’ll want to miss out on, and we’re also looking forward to once again taking our 8th/9th grade Civil Rights trip to Birmingham and Montgomery, AL in February!

Madrachim and Morim Teaching Assistant Opportunities

Madrachim

Sundays at Yamim Yafim

(Open to all 9th-12th graders)

Remember those cool teenagers who used to help out in your Sunday school classroom? Well now it’s YOUR turn to be just like them! Whether you’ve worked with kids a lot in the past or are brand new to it, the Madrichim teaching assistant program is a great chance for anyone who wants to build or hone their teaching skills, and make an enormous impact on the lives and development of our younger learners.

Morim

Wednesdays at Uptown Hebrew

(Open to All Post-B’nei Mitzvah Teens)

Admit it...you kind of liked conquering Hebrew in pursuit of your B’nei Mitzvah service – right? Well then dust off your Alef-Bet knowledge, brush up on your vowels, and join our team of Uptown Hebrew teachers on Wednesday afternoons! Not sure you remember enough after all this time? Don’t be so sure – reach out right away and let’s build our team of Morim (teachers) together!

Opportunities for Continued Learning

We care about making all the time our teens choose to spend at Touro Synagogue meaningful, relevant, and fun – especially considering how busy everyone already is. Be sure to keep an eye on The Shofar Blast, Touro’s weekly Youth E-newsletter, for learning opportunities designed specifically for you!

- **6th/7th Graders**
- **8th/9th Graders *Roots and Roux***
- **10th Grade Confirmation Class**
- **Junior & Senior Seminar in Jewish Studies**



Madrachim Supporting our Yamim Yafim Students

Repairing the World

Tikkun Olam

5786 was one of our busiest years for Tikkun Olam to date, with members of the congregation rising to the many challenges facing our city. As we enter 5787, we are building on that momentum with new opportunities to make an impact. Read on to learn more about our accomplishments over the past year and the important work ahead.

Combating Hunger

We hosted our most successful High Holiday Food Drive ever, collecting over 3,000 pounds of food for Second Harvest and Broadmoor Food Pantry. Touro children and teens helped by decorating donation bags and weighing and loading donations.

In response to the government shut down and pause in food stamps this past fall, we quickly leveraged our generous Hunger Fund to directly support community organizations with significant monetary support.

We have expanded our efforts to reduce food insecurity and food waste by donating extra food from Shabbat dinners and Synagogue events to local charities and community fridges. Yamim Yafim students have participated in three sandwich making events to benefit the Harry Thompson Center and Lantern Light. A special thank you to Anna Labadie for organizing our sandwich making events, which have become a favorite activity for our Yamim Yafim students.

After the enormous success of last year's High Holy Day Food Drive, **we have decided to raise our collection goal this year to 4,000 pounds (two tons!)** of non-perishable food items. Second Harvest will be on site Yom Kippur morning to collect donations, but we will accept donations at any time during the holidays. As in years past, be on the lookout for personalized grocery bags, lovingly decorated by Touro's children. It's a shared effort and a powerful mitzvah in which everyone can participate.

Climate Action

Touro remains committed to the environment by maintaining and updating our Climate Action Plan. A new plan was submitted in January 2026 and our committee meets regularly.

Thanks to a grant from the Department of Parks and Parkways, we were able to plant eight new trees around our building to help grow our city's tree canopy and beautify our neighborhood! We also sponsored volunteer opportunities, including tree plantings with S.O.U.L. Nola and oyster shell bagging with CRCL, and hosted sustainable Shabbat dinners with reusable dinnerware.

This fall, the Climate Action Task Force, co-chaired by Monique de la Coeur and Dan Weiner, will roll out their agenda for the coming year. Be on the lookout for additional tree plantings, oyster shell bagging, and other events designed to lessen our impact on the environment!



Immigrant Support

Touro truly met the moment this year in response to supporting our immigrant neighbors during increased ICE operations in our city. Within days, we mobilized hundreds of volunteers to learn about bystander rights and directly help deliver food and goods to our neighbors sheltering in place. In just a few weeks, our community raised over \$100,000 to directly support organizations working on the front lines to protect the rights and safety of immigrants in our city. ***A huge thank you to Anna Herman, Gary Sernovitz, and Scott Saltzman for their tireless work and extraordinary leadership.***



Voting Rights Initiative



Joy Braun and Jill Israel relaunched Touro's Voting Rights Initiative in advance of the crucial midterm elections nationwide. Touro is committed to the Reform Movement's mission: to ensure that every eligible voter has a say in the decisions that impact our lives to create a better future for ourselves and all people. We are working with the non-partisan Religious Action Center and Center for Common Ground to increase voter participation by sending personalized postcards to identified voters in specific states. Scan the QR code to join our outreach team or reach out to Jill Israel or Joy Braun to get involved.

Looking Ahead...

New! Tikkun Olam Strategic Planning Task Force

Touro is studying the expansion of the Tikkun Olam committee as our congregation continues to grow and as the needs in the community persist. Ann Kaufman and Ben Horwitz have graciously agreed to chair this task force, and the Board of Trustees will keep the congregation informed of their results. Stay tuned!

If you are interested in joining any of our Tikkun Olam committees, want to participate in ongoing projects, or have thoughts for new ideas and initiatives, please reach out to Committee Co-Chairs, Sara Gershen and Chris Lorenzen.



Touro Together

A Lookback at Touro's 198th Annual Meeting



Congregational Travel



Touro Synagogue Congregational Israel Trip (2023)

A Journey to Israel

Alive, Evolving, and Deeply Human



June 2-13, 2027

Jerusalem > Upper Galilee > Tel Aviv
Multi-Generational

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 changemakers 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 code.

We are looking forward to sharing this experience together and bringing back our learnings to Touro.



UPDATE: Our congregational trip to Poland has been postponed. We look forward to announcing new dates in the coming months.



Together We Thrive

Supporting Our Mission Through Membership

Your Annual Commitment directly supports Touro's mission: *to lovingly nurture a warm, diverse home for Jewish living, while boldly shaping a community of purpose and connection.* We have always asked our members to give generously and at a level that is meaningful to them. And we continue to do so, offering an incredible range of opportunities for involvement at all stages of life. Membership contributions enable Touro to thrive 365 days a year. **We are a community built on shared responsibility**, and our collective generosity ensures that everyone can find their home at Touro, regardless of their financial circumstance.

Every act of worship, learning, and care at Touro is funded by generosity:

- Pastoral Care from Our Dynamic Clergy Team
- Jewish Education for 240+ Children
- Weekly Worship, Shabbat Dinners, and Holiday Celebrations
- Lifelong Learning and Engagement Opportunities
- Dynamic Programming Supported by Our Staff
- Upkeep of Our Historic and Majestic Buildings
- Tikkun Olam Initiatives
- Top-notch Security for the Safety of Our Community

And so much more!



740

*Member Households
rely on Touro as
their Jewish home*

365

*Days of worship, learning,
and community made possible
by member generosity*

240+

*Children and Teens
enrolled in Religious School
and Youth Group*

2026-2027 Touro Annual Commitment Renewals

Keep an eye out for your Annual Commitment Renewal arriving around the High Holidays!

Thank You, Patrons!

Your leadership and generosity sustains our sacred community and ensures we remain a spiritual home for all.

Giborim | Heroes

Anonymous
Diane and Alan Franco
Jill and Dave Israel

Amudim | Pillars

Vivian and Richard Cahn
Mark Densen
Linda Friedman
Carol Wise

Tomchim | Supporters

Judy Barrasso and Brent Barriere
Vanessa and Charles Berg
Ana and Juan Gershanik

Bonim | Builders

Mary Lynn Alltmont
Holly and Ellis Arjmand
Lorna Blake and Robert Batterman
Leonard Glade
Cathy and Charles Glaser
Kelly and Lawrence Haber
Bob Hammer
Teri and Jonathan Hunter
Jan Katz

Ozrim | Helpers

Jack Alltmont
Cathy and Morris Bart
Annie Bauman and Dylan White
Elizabeth Black and Steve Sweet
Catherine Boozman and Howard Shapiro
Joy and Andy Braun
Virginia and Michael Castine
Gerald Cohen
Sarah and Sandy Cohen
Meredith and Mark Cunningham
Ina and Richard Davis
Roxane and Robert Dinkin
Arian Elfant and Chris Kornman
Elizabeth Ellent
Charlotte Estopinal and Barry Leader
Susan and Arnie Fielkow
Susan and Mark Fijman
Rebecca and Simon Finger
J. David Forsyth
Bethany and Steven Friedman
Abby Gaunt and Gabe Feldman
Adie and Errol Genet
Maureen and Alex Gershanik
Kendall Scales Glade and Len Glade
Maureen Goldware
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Susan and Lou Good
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Lisa and Mike Herman
Ilana and Robbie Horwitz
Jeanette and Ben Jaffe

Molly Pulda and Gary Sernovitz
Ellie Streiffer and Ben Horwitz

Ann and Carey Kaufman
Corine Koornhof and Jeffrey Scott
Katie Lasky
Beth and Austin Lavin
Cathy Lazarus and Eric Simon
Marilyn and Alan Levin
Trish and Jeffry Luria
Laura and Adam Magnus
Carol and Donny Markowitz

Dollie Gill Katz and Ralph Katz
Ellen Kempner and Lee Sucherman
Jay Kern
Maurya Kilroy and John Lovett
Millie and Robert Kohn
Janet and Rene Koppel
Julie Koppman and Brian Bain
Tamara Kreinin and Rosalind Hinton
Susan Krinsky
Laura and David Kulick
Ruth and Larry Kullman
Stephen Kupperman
Sarah and Gary Lazarus
Allison and Evan Lestelle
Andi and Terry Lestelle
Laura and Walter Levy
Megan and Ben Lowenbourg
Stacey and Josh Lowentritt
Rebecca Maisel
Diana and Lawrence Mann
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Marianne and Richard Mautner
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Jenny and Scott Pollack
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Alexa Pulitzer and Seth Levine

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Julie Grant Meyer
Melinda and Morris Mintz
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Madalyn and Robert Schenk
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Jill and Michael Schneider
Phyllis and Jay Shames
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Marguerite Sheffer and Russell Spitzer
Ivan Sherman
Nancy and Gary Silbert
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Gail and Michael Tebeleff
Jenna and Jon Walsh
Jeralyn Wheeler and David Hammer
Ellen and Marc Yellin
Megan and Brian Yellin
Renée Zack
Ellen Zakris and Peter Sather
Jenny and Lee Zurik

and other anonymous donors...

Supporting Touro



Honor, Celebrate, & Remember

Sponsorship and Dedication Opportunities



Sponsorship Opportunities

Touro Synagogue offers many sponsorship opportunities for you to consider in memory or in honor of someone you love or in celebration of a simcha.

Shabbat Livestream | \$100

Shabbat Pulpit Flowers | \$100

Shabbat Childcare | \$180

Shabbat Dinner | \$540

Shabbat Security | \$720

New! Prayerbooks (includes printed bookplate) | \$180

High Holy Day Livestream | \$360

High Holy Day Pulpit Flowers | \$540

Jazz Fest Shabbat Livestream | \$360

Jazz Fest Shabbat Pulpit Flowers | \$540

Submit your sponsorship online or call the Touro office (504-895-4843) to make arrangements. Please note that there may be multiple donors for any of these sponsorship opportunities.

Sanctuary Plaques

Create a lasting tribute by dedicating a plaque in memory or in honor of someone you love, or in celebration of a simcha. Your plaque will be installed in our Main Sanctuary in perpetuity. Please call the Touro office to make arrangements.

Sanctuary Seat Plaque | \$540

Joy Tablet Plaque | \$1800

Memorial Plaque | \$1800

Planned Giving Opportunities

Ensuring Touro Synagogue Flourishes into the Future



Planned giving and designated legacy gifts are meaningful ways to affirm your love for and commitment to Touro Synagogue. These gifts support Touro Synagogue's future without impacting your current giving practices.

Tzedakah Society

By designating a legacy gift, you will become a member of Touro Synagogue's Tzedakah Society established to recognize and honor members who, through their planned gifts, have pledged to help sustain Touro beyond their lifetime. A planned gift could be a simple bequest in your will, or the designation of Touro Synagogue as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement fund or trust. You can make arrangements for a future gift at any time, without an outlay of funds during your lifetime. To be included in the Tzedakah Society, all you need to do is communicate to us that you have, or intend to include the Synagogue in your estate plan. You are not required to disclose anything about the nature of your gift. All such gifts are welcome and appreciated regardless of size. For more information or to let us know you have already included Touro in your plans, please scan the QR code or visit touro-synagogue.com/tzedakah-society. Additionally, Touro Synagogue recommends that you consult with your attorney, accountant, or financial advisor about legacy giving.

Tzedakah Society Members | Ensuring the Future of Touro Synagogue

Thank you to the following households who have committed to including Touro Synagogue in their estate plans:

Aaron and Elizabeth Ahlquist
Phyllis* and Jack Alltmont
Ava and Michael Alltmont
Arlene and Paul Barron
Alexis and Bob Berk
Joy and Andrew Braun
Vivian and Richard Cahn
Shira and Michael Cohen
Justin Ehrenwerth* and Dana Dupré
Dr. Chris Kornman and Dr. Arian Elfant
Rebecca and Simon Finger
Diane and Alan Franco
Dr. and Mrs. Errol F. Genet
Ana and Juan Gershanik
Cathy and Charles Glaser
Jared M. Glassman
Shannie and Rabbi David Goldstein
Susan and Lou Good
Carol* and Louis* Good
Jeffrey and Caroline Good

Robert and Valborg Gross
Ron and Leslie Gubitz
Samantha Guichet
Lisa Gurk Herman and Michael F. Herman
Teri and Jonathan Hunter
Jill and David Israel
Andy Jacobs
Dotty* and Buddy* Jacobs
Jan Katz
Robert and Millie Kohn
Betty* and Ira* Kohn
Ruth and Lawrence Kullman
Richard Latner and Patricia Reardon
Drs. Laura and Walter Levy
Oscar Zachary Levy, Jr.*
Carrie and Austin Marks
Julie Grant Meyer
Bill and Doris* Norman
Thaia* and Louis* Pick
Dr. William Procell

Joyce and Sidney Pulitzer
Randy Roig and Brian Weimer
Garland Rolling
Sidney* and Andree* Rosenblum
Stanley* Schwam and Ruth* Freedman Schwam
Kathy and Hal Shepard
Dana and Louis Shepard
Robert I. Shepard
Julie and Scott Silbert
Gary and Nancy Silbert
Bob and Fran Simon
Naomi Yavneh Klos
Frances Wolff*
Berry and Richard Zander
Dr. Lawrence and Joan Zaslowsky
Jenny and Lee Zurik

And other anonymous donors

**Of blessed memory*

The Rabbi David Goldstein Society

Anyone giving cumulative, non-restricted donations totaling \$100,000 or more to The Touro Synagogue Foundation will become a member of the Rabbi David Goldstein Society. Members of the Rabbi David Goldstein Society are honored with a beautiful plaque in our main foyer. The Touro Synagogue Foundation was established as a nonprofit organization to develop and manage an endowment fund that provides monies for Touro Synagogue's current and long term needs. For more information, or to learn about how your gifts will strengthen our Foundation, please contact Executive Director Kurt Jostes.

Thank You to Our Rabbi David Goldstein Society Members

Elias "Al" Bowsky*
Carol* & Louis* Good Jr.
Susan & Louis Good
Marion E. Hochstein*
Dotty* & Buddy* Jacobs

Betty* & Ira* Kohn
Ruth & Larry Kullman
Laura & Walter Levy
Oscar Zachary Levy, Jr.*
Julie Grant Meyer

Rosalie Newman*
Ruth Young*
Helen Young*

**Of blessed memory*

Community

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 handwritten note to all member families in celebration of new babies.

Funeral and Shiva Support

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

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, Ellen Kempner and Alix Paige Loomis by visiting touro synagogue.com/contact.



A Message from the Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association

Since 1881, Touro Synagogue and Temple Sinai have cooperated to meet the burial needs of congregants and others in the New Orleans Jewish community. The two synagogues own Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association, which operates the three Hebrew Rest Cemeteries in Gentilly and Dispersed of Judah Cemetery on Canal Street.

The cemeteries are sacred places of remembrance, honoring our loved ones and preserving our community's history. To fulfill our mission to care for these cemeteries in perpetuity, we need your support. Many of you and your families have purchased perpetual care for the grounds of individual burial spaces. Beyond our perpetual care obligations, we must maintain and repair all of the property, including lawns, shrubbery, sidewalks, and fences. We also have many graves of indigents and persons who were buried before perpetual care was offered. We are fortunate to have land for expansion, which requires investment to develop.

Please consider making a gift to sustain this meaningful legacy. Your kindness helps us honor the past and safeguard the future. Gifts may be made by check to Hebrew Rest (6227 St. Charles Avenue, 70118) or through our website at www.HebrewRest.org.

The cemeteries are open for visitation every day except Saturday from 8:30am until approximately 5:00pm. Security is provided at Hebrew Rest from 10:00am until 2:00pm every Sunday. The cemeteries are closed on major Jewish holidays.

Sincerely,
Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association, Inc.
(504) 615-7207
hrcanola@gmail.com

Supporting Our Vision & Values

Touro Synagogue Committees & Task Forces

The engagement of our congregation is the beating heart of Touro Synagogue. We have a diverse and talented congregation filled with people who want to make a difference in our community—and there are many ways to do so at Touro. Detailed below are the committees and task forces whose work is critical to the building of our culture and to supporting the vision and values of our organization. Committees are ongoing groups with sustained responsibilities essential to managing the organization, whereas task forces address a specific issue or project with a clear endpoint. **If you are interested in learning more or possibly supporting this work, please reach out to our CoChairs at tourosynagogue.com/contact or call the Touro office at 504-895-4843. Thank you for everything you do to make Touro who we are and who we hope to be!**

Our Committees

Open to All Members Unless Otherwise Noted

Building and Grounds

Maintains Touro's building and property and establishes guidelines for facility use
Chair: Anna Labadie; Vice-Chair: Jill Israel

Caring and Mitzvah

Supports Touro members during lifecycle moments and times of need
CoChairs: Ellen Kempner and Alix Loomis

Financial Sustainability

Focuses strategic finance, reserve planning, and fiscal policy
CoChairs: Gary Sernovitz and Kendall Scales Glade

Fundraiser – Special Events

Plans Touro's major annual fundraiser
CoChairs: Trey Pratt, Lauren Greenberg, and Megan Yellin

Governance

Monitors compliance with the bylaws, policies, and procedures of Touro Synagogue
Chair: Ally Lestelle

Interiors & Art

Maintains and elevates the warmth and welcoming atmosphere of Touro's facilities
Chair: Jenny Zurik

Jazz Fest Shabbat

Plans and executes one of Touro's largest flagship events
CoChairs: Ann Kaufman and Dodd Loomis

Membership

Welcomes new members and fosters membership engagement through orientation, integration, and meaningful programming
Chair: Julie Koppman

Nominating

Identifies and nominates Touro congregants to serve on the Board of Trustees
Chair: Laura Levy

Philanthropy

Encourages and facilitates philanthropic support and identifies diversified revenue streams for the benefit of Touro Synagogue
Chair: Beth Lavin

Security

Ensures Touro is a safe space for all congregants, staff and guests
CoChairs: Lawrence Haber and Sara Gershen

Tikkun Olam

Builds programming to support social justice initiatives
CoChairs: Chris Lorenzen and Sara Gershen; Advisor: Erika Zucker

Youth Education and Lifelong Learning

Assists and supports Touro Synagogue's youth educational programming and lifelong learning opportunities
CoChairs: Liz Gottfried and Jeffrey Fingerman

Finance (Board Members Only)

Oversees Touro's budgeting process and monitors financial health
Chair: Kendall Scales Glade

Our Task Forces

Open to All Members Unless Otherwise Noted

Annual Commitment Assessment and Restructure

Ensures that the congregational revenue adequately supports all of Touro's offerings
CoChairs: Jeffrey Fingerman and Kathy Shepard

Bicentennial Planning

Oversees the planning of Touro's 200th anniversary celebration
CoChairs: Kathy Shepard and Gary Sernovitz

Organizational Effectiveness

Ensures that all processes and systems are as effective and efficient as possible
Chair: Kendall Scales Glade

Tikkun Olam Strategic Planning Task Force

To assess how to expand Touro's Tikkun Olam Work
CoChairs: Ann Kaufman and Ben Horwitz



Touro Synagogue

4238 St. Charles Avenue | New Orleans, LA 70115

504-895-4843

www.TouroSynagogue.com