



March 10, 2022

TO: Worshippers at the Touro Synagogue

FROM: Congregation Shearith Israel

Dear friends,

We were truly heartened to see the warm responses to our previous letter from a good number of you who took us up on our offer to join as a “Touro Synagogue Affiliate”. Your friendly reactions are very encouraging. In a few weeks we will be sending Affiliates a welcome package. Actually, we are delaying it a bit so that it will include, among other items, our upcoming Spring/Summer Bulletin, which showcases the Touro Synagogue on the cover and in the content inside.

Based on the feedback we received so far, we are planning on setting our Touro Shabbaton in NYC for the earlier proposed weekend, May 13-15 (rather than the following week). We want to make this as welcoming to you as possible and would plan to offer home hospitality and shabbat meals (at no charge to you). We also want to provide bus transportation or parking vouchers. Do let us know what you think makes most sense for you and your travel companions.

Here is how the Shabbaton program is shaping up so far:

Friday Evening:

- Friday Evening Services with the Shearith Israel Choir
- *Friday Night Lights* - an inspiring talk by Rabbi Soloveichik on the making and meaning of Shabbat
- An “intimate” Shabbat dinner for Touro guests and Shearith Israel folks in our historic Elias Room, which is at the Synagogue at 2 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, at the corner of Central Park West.

Saturday:

- Morning Services with the Shearith Israel Choir
- Keynote Address on the history and meaning of the Touro Synagogue by Rabbi Soloveichik (one installment of his major Spring lecture series on important historic synagogues around the world)
- Community kiddush luncheon (outdoors on Paved Paradise, weather permitting)
- Rabbi Soloveichik's Shabbat afternoon class accompanied by Seudah Shelishit followed by evening services and habdala.
- Evening activity (depends on whether our Touro guests prefer free time in NY or a planned activity at the synagogue)

Sunday:

- A guided tour of Chatham Square Cemetery, Shearith Israel's first cemetery located in Chinatown led by Rev. Zachary Edinger.
- Mets vs. Mariners at CitiField - Shearith Israel members and Touro Affiliates are invited to attend this afternoon Mets game at a highly subsidized price of \$15 ticket (\$40 face value)

If you have not already, do become a "Touro Synagogue Affiliate" by signing up here. Also, please let us know if you are interested in participating in the Shabbaton. Feel free to contact Reverend Zachary Edinger or our Executive Director Barbara Reiss with any questions. And, without wanting to burden any one of you with logistics help, if any one of you wants to help arrange things from the Newport end of things, such as figuring out good times for the bus to leave and return as well as location, please let Barbara Reiss know.

Thank you for helping bring our communities closer together. We are thrilled.

Finally, notwithstanding the turmoil in the world, we wish you joy and levity this Adar II as we gear up for Purim.

Shabbat shalom.