



March 17, 2022
Purim, 5782

Dear friends,

We write on this festive day to wish you a heartfelt Shearith Israel style *Purim Alegre*, and to send you a brief update. In addition to focusing on the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine and raising funds and reciting prayers as the primary ways we can assist, this week we have mostly been consumed with our Purim preparations. Not knowing exactly what the Covid-19 variants and sub-variants might bring, we optimistically organized multiple megillah readings: indoors, outdoors, just for (and by) women, a family-friendly reading for the young (and young at heart), and a lively Purim youth program: “The Story of Purim- As told by YOU!” Last night, we held a spirited community dinner with herring galore (and more). All this togetherness and community (re)building is exciting. Fortunately, two years ago, we elected to cancel our Purim HerringFest dinner. We have not held an indoor community meal since. Three years since the last Purim Dinner, we were now READY! It was wonderful.

It is with that same enthusiasm that we are planning for our Touro Shabbaton. We continue to be delighted by the sign-ups to become *Touro Synagogue Affiliates* and your positive reactions to the Shabbaton planned for May 13-15. If any of you are still thinking about joining us for the Shabbaton, we have some home hospitality left, so please let us know. We also still very much encourage CJI members and worshipers at the Touro Synagogue to become *Touro Synagogue Affiliates* ([sign up here](#)).

More details and registration information will be available before Pesah. It will be a great time and a wonderful opportunity to bring our communities closer together.

With prayers for peace and wishes for a *Purim Alegre* and Shabbat Shalom.