



June 2, 2022

To: Worshippers at the Touro Synagogue
From: Congregation Shearith Israel

Dear Friends,

It occurs to us that it is so apt, especially the way the secular and Jewish calendars align this year, that Memorial Day and Shabuot fall in such close succession. On Shabuot we remember how we, “The Chosen People,” chose to accept the Torah and its commandments at Sinai. And on Memorial Day, all Americans remember those who fought, most literally, to defend our freedoms, and we Jews—not least of all those of us so strongly connected to the Touro Synagogue and its legacy—also remember our predecessors who fought alongside their fellow compatriots to defend an American democracy that protects our rights to freely practice our faith, to fulfill that commitment we made at Sinai, here in the United States.

As we, this past Monday, paid respects to our Jewish war heroes at Chatham Square Cemetery and perhaps you, at the very same time, visited the Touro Cemetery, we deeply feel the powerful links between our two communities.

Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom and a Moadim L’simha as we enter the Shabbat-Shabuot marathon.