



June 9, 2022

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

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoyed your Shabuot services and celebrations. We at Shearith Israel certainly did. In addition to enjoying our “usual” extraordinary Shabuot experience (after 2 years of subdued Shabuot), our Sisterhood again adorned the sanctuary with a breathtaking array of flowers, and our young girls resumed our growing tradition of having them chant the Book of Ruth in the sanctuary (as well as a Zoom recital on the Sunday prior). In addition, on the first day of Shabuot we paid tribute to our choirmaster of 66 years (yes, you read that right), Maestro Leon Hyman, who retired after this past High Holidays season. After morning services we were treated to a choir performance of several of Maestro Hyman’s liturgical pieces, presented him with words of tribute and a gift, and then enjoyed a congregational collation outdoors on Paved Paradise. And clearly the Almighty was smiling on us to arrange for flawless weather throughout the weekend.



And now we transition into the summer season. This is when we give our choir time to relax and recharge and we congregants “hold our own” with somewhat less formal services, mostly held under the tent on Paved Paradise. Not too bad, even if not the uptick in activity that you may experience in Newport.

We continue to encourage our Shearith Israel Affiliates and friends to visit us; do let us know if you plan on being in the area. We also intend on maintaining regular contact, even during the more languorous summer months, even if not as frequently. Plus, we encourage all of you to read our weekly congregational emails, which should keep you well abreast of the goings on at Shearith Israel. Soon, frankly, we hope that you will all be sufficiently inculcated into our general congregational base that separate emails will no longer be necessary.

Wishing you all a Shabbat Shalom and a wonderful summer.