



October 27, 2022

To: Shearith Israel Touro Affiliates and All Worshippers at the Touro Synagogue
From: Congregation Shearith Israel

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoyed an uplifting holiday season. The holidays and Fall celebrations at Shearith Israel have been wonderful. They were punctuated by some extraordinary communal moments including, most recently, our Shabbat Bereshit celebration where we honored our two *hatanim*, Rabbi Ira Rohde and Laurent Nahon, as well as the birthdays (100th, 101st, and upcoming 102nd), of our longstanding, multi-generational member, whom many of you know, Col. Jonathan de Sola Mendes.

We are writing now, in addition, to make sure that you hear from us directly what Shearith Israel's plans are with respect to Touro Synagogue. As you may recall, last year, CJI rebuffed Shearith Israel's efforts to implement appropriate mechanisms for us to carry out our oversight duties with respect to Touro Synagogue. Because of that, Shearith Israel was left with no choice but to send a lease termination notice to the leadership of CJI for Touro Synagogue, which we did about a year ago. In the court proceeding that ensued, the Court found Shearith Israel's eviction notice technically flawed. Whether or not we agree with that ruling, we respect the Court's ruling. As a result, we have issued another termination notice, this one to take effect after February 1, 2023.

We hope that, this time around, CJI's leadership will not make yet more litigation necessary. Even in the litigation the Court "cautioned" CJI not to rely on the technical victory. For CJI to delay removal from premises, which it has no legal right to do, would disserve worshippers at Touro Synagogue as well as the Synagogue building, which needs attention that it is not being given. More generally, the Jewish world will benefit from a rebuilt and revitalized Touro Synagogue, which Shearith Israel is committed to accomplishing. If CJI leadership continues to resist Shearith Israel's lawful exercise of its rights, we intend to see this through.

We wish to reiterate that all worshippers at the Touro Synagogue will continue to be welcome to worship there, that Shearith Israel embraces all of you and welcomes you to join us at Shearith Israel and Touro Synagogue. We had a wonderful Shabbaton this past Spring, and we can't wait to see you again, in New York and in Newport. You are family.

Shabbat shalom.