

Crescent City Jewish News™

SOURCE

2016-2017 / 5777



*celebrating
our earliest
matriarchs!*

Arts & Culture • Business & Professional
Community Resources • Education
Entertainment • Goods & Services
Health & Fitness • Jewish Holidays
Lifecycles • Religious Life

Annual Guide to Jewish Living
in New Orleans and North Shore

10 YEARS

2016/17 SEASON

PIPPIN

Book by Roger O. Hirson
Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Schwartz
SEPT 16 – OCT 2

JELLY'S LAST JAM

Book by George C. Wolfe
Lyrics by Susan Birkenhead
Music by Jelly Roll Morton
and Luther Henderson
JAN 27 – FEB 12

IT'S ONLY A PLAY

A Co-Production with
The NOLA Project
By Terrence McNally
JUN 9 – JUN 25

FREUD'S LAST SESSION

By Mark St. Germain
NOV 4 – NOV 20

DIVIDING THE ESTATE

By Horton Foote
MAR 24 – APR 9

CURTAIN CALL BALL

September 9, 2016 at LPT and Tableau

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On Streamlining and Matriarchs

What you hold in your hands – **SOURCE 5777** – is the latest installment of the ongoing mission of the Crescent City Jewish News (www.crescentcityjewishnews.com) to publish an accurate and convenient resource guide for the New Orleans Jewish community. When we first set out to make this a reality four years ago, we did so with the encouragement of many others who spoke of a void needing to be filled. What we didn't expect was how quickly we would be embraced by so many outside of New Orleans or that we would receive several first place awards for our journalistic excellence and design work from the Press Club of New Orleans. We have been gratified to know that our entry into the print journalism market has been rewarded and that our dedication and diligence have generated respect among our colleagues and peers.

In addition to **SOURCE**, we have also published our semi-annual editions of **The Best of the Crescent City Jewish News**. These were created to increase our visibility in the community and to encourage others to check out our website for the latest in news and updates of interest to the New Orleans Jewish community. We first published **The Best of the Crescent City Jewish News** as an annual publication, but decided to expand to its present semi-annual publication schedule after encouragement from advertisers and community members.

Unfortunately, after subsidizing these publications for the past four years, we have come to understand that despite our continued commitment, we are not receiving a sufficient amount of advertising revenue to offset our costs nor to compensate our staff for the many volunteer hours they give each year.

Therefore, we have decided to go back to our previous model of an annual yearbook for the New Orleans Jewish community, commencing in January. We will continue to publish **SOURCE**, but will publish one additional edition including obituaries and other stories of local



Our family's business savvy matriarchs (from left) Annette Smith Smason, record store proprietor, and Rosa Breen Smith, drugstore owner and licensed pharmacist.

interest. We are hoping that with sufficient advertising revenue throughout the year, a return to the semi-annual publication schedule could occur.

When we began to plan this year's **SOURCE**, we knew we wanted to spotlight the many accomplishments of our local matriarchs. We did the research and have come up with a list of nine amazing Jewish women, all born before the advent of the right to vote, who we believe are indicative of the highest ideals of leadership in civic activities or were true pioneers in their own fields of endeavors or the arts. These women dared to succeed in an era when the "good ole boys" reigned. We hope you enjoy reading about their tremendous accomplishments and take pride in the legacy they have left for we who follow.

In our own family, we are especially proud of our own matriarchs – **Rosa Breen Smith**, of blessed memory and **Annette Smith Smason**. Both these women were trailblazers in creating their own local retail businesses. A graduate from the first class at Loyola University in 1916, our grandmother was one of the first licensed female pharmacists in the state, while our mother turned her passion for music into a thriving center for pop, classical, opera and show tunes. She was also a partner in S&S Productions, which promoted many of the top-ranked performers who appeared live in New Orleans concerts during the 1960s and early 1970s.

Alan Smason, Editor

Arlene S. Wieder, Advertising and Marketing Director



SOUTHERN JEWISH
Historical Society

A Historical Account of the New Orleans Jewish Community

As we prepare to celebrate the upcoming tri-centennial of New Orleans, we should recall that our beloved founder, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville, selected the site of the modern city of New Orleans because it was the highest and driest land in the area. Ignoring his chief engineer's advice in 1718, Bienville picked an area that was well known as predisposed to periodic flooding due to frequent and heavy rainfalls and, occasionally, major storms. As a matter of fact, less than four years after its founding, the first recorded hurricane struck New Orleans, significantly crippling the area because of high water and slow drainage. Sadly, these issues still remain today, often a constant torment to local residents.

As the port grew under French rule in the 18th century there were six Jewish residents listed as dwelling in the French colony. Although the French "Le Code Noir" (or "black code") forbade permanent Jewish residents, it was never enforced. The few secular Jewish traders and merchants who were allowed to live in the colony developed into prosperous businessmen.

Unfortunately, once France signed the Treaty of Fontainebleau with Spain in 1762, life changed for the Jewish residents living in the Louisiana colony. Within two years of the signing, the local Spanish government banished Jews from living in the colony and the government confiscated all Jewish assets. Monetary acquisition seemed to be the primary motivation, rather than anti-Semitism. By enforcing the code, the local government was able to expropriate acquisitions that were held by the wealthy Jewish residents.

The first notable affluent Jewish family was the Monsantos. Because they were Jewish, they were expelled in 1769 and all their possessions were confiscated. The family fled to Pensacola, which at the time was under British rule. Within one year the family was allowed to return, yet their property was never returned to them.

After the expulsion, the return of Jewish citizens continued, but at a very slow pace. It took several decades before the Jewish community finally chartered its first synagogue, called Congregation Gates of Mercy. The



Torah scrolls procession at the 2012 dedication of Beth Israel. Rabbis David Posternock of Beth Israel and Robert Loewy of Gates of Prayer with local benefactor Morris Bart, center.

credit behind the establishment of this institution is given to a New York merchant, who had moved to New Orleans named Jacob Solis.

Solis was appalled by the lack of "Jewishness" in the city. More specifically, he was frustrated there was no available matzoh supply during the period of Passover. Another historical account suggested Solis was also irritated because there was no place to worship in New Orleans for the Jewish High Holidays. Regardless of his motivation, all sources concur that Jacob Solis spearheaded the movement that successfully established the Gates of Mercy, which was chartered in 1828.

Most of the earliest Jewish families in New Orleans were interfaith unions. The predominantly Jewish males found themselves lacking sufficient numbers of Jewish ladies. Traditional Jewish laws were largely ignored in order that their spouses and progeny would gain acceptance and be considered part of an extended Jewish community. These early compromises seemed a necessity for the survival of the first New Orleans Jew-

ish families. Acceptance was crucial for these families so they could attend services together and be buried in the Jewish cemetery. These early families were culturally Jewish, but not very religious.

Judah Touro, who was gravely wounded while fighting the British in one of the early skirmishes just before the famous Battle of New Orleans, is credited with making the most impact on the New Orleans community in the 19th century. Commonly referred to as the first significant Jewish philanthropist in the United States, Touro purchased an Episcopal church and paid to remodel and convert the church into a synagogue. A few years later he established Touro Infirmary, a charity hospital supported by the local Hebrew Benevolent Association. When Touro died in 1854, his will directed money to numerous New Orleans causes and other Jewish institutions around the country. Touro's funding helped Sir Moses Montefiore establish Mishkenot Sha'Ananim, the first Jewish settlement outside of the Old City walls in Jerusalem.

Congregation Gates of Prayer organized

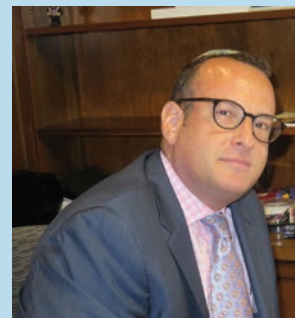
in 1850 as Shaarei Tefilah. The first members of this congregation were Jews escaping from European unrest. The members of Gates of Prayer began as a traditionally Orthodox synagogue. As the congregation grew in size, strict observance was emphasized less. By 1905, the Gates of Prayer congregation formally acknowledged their alliance with the Reform movement. Presently, Congregation Gates of Prayer has the distinction of being the only Reform congregation located in Metairie. Its spiritual leader is Rabbi Robert Loewy while Rabbi Alexis Pinsky holds the post of assistant rabbi.

Temple Sinai was founded in 1870 and was the first congregation to declare its Reform affiliation. It has the largest congregational membership of any Jewish institution in the State of Louisiana. Originally situated in what is today the Central Business District, Temple Sinai relocated in 1926 to its current campus in the University area near Tulane and Loyola Universities. Rabbi Matthew Reimer leads the congregation as senior rabbi in his first year, while Emeritus Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn and Cantor Joel Colman continue in their roles.

The current Touro Synagogue was formed in 1881. This congregation was the result of a merger between the earliest New Orleans synagogues, Gates of Mercy and Dispersed of Judah. Its unique domed sanctuary on St. Charles Avenue was built by famed architect Emile Weil in 1909 and the congregation is currently led by the first woman senior rabbi of a major New Orleans synagogue, Rabbi Alexis Berk. In 2015, Touro hired Rabbi Todd Silverman to serve as the rabbinic director of Lifelong Learning for the synagogue. Cantor David Mintz rounds out the Touro clergy.

Between the last quarter of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, many small and unpretentious prayer societies were formed from the newly-arrived Eastern European immigrants. Many of these Jews settling in New Orleans were escaping persecution and were largely of Ashkenazic background.

Founded in 1904, Congregation Beth Israel emerged from some of these early groups. Also featuring a magnificent design by Emile Weil, the synagogue was built on the site of former Mayor Shakespeare's private residence located on Carondelet Street near the heavily-Jewish corridor along Dryades Street, and at one time was the largest Orthodox congregation in the South. The congregation



Left: Anshe Sfard interim Rabbi Yochanan Rivkin. Center: Shir Chadash Rabbi Deborah Silver. Right: Rabbi Matthew Remer, Temple Sinai's senior rabbi.

moved to a new location in Lakeview in 1970, which was destroyed by floodwaters associated with Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Congregation Beth Israel relocated in 2012 next to Gates of Prayer in Metairie, where it met in a rear chapel room for several years. Rabbi Gabriel Greenberg is the rabbi for the newest house of worship in the area and is assisted by Rabbi David Posternock, who acts as the administrative director.

Congregation Anshe Sfard is the only non-Chabad Orthodox synagogue in Orleans Parish. Founded by Chasidic Lithuanian Jews the congregation is located in its 1925 historic building on Carondelet Street. The interim spiritual leader is Rabbi Yochanan Rivkin.

The Conservative movement did not appear in the community until the middle of the 20th century. Congregation Tikvat Shalom, initially the first Conservative Congregation of New Orleans, emerged from a splinter group of the Orthodox Congregation Chevra Thilim that wanted mixed seating. The controversial concept at that time became a nationally-watched court case of Katz vs. Singerman. The case eventually was heard by the Louisiana Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of mixed seating for the Orthodox congregation. Chevra Thilim fell victim to the Jewish flight to Jefferson Parish in the 1970s. As the congregation grew older, it found its members were becoming less observant. Eventually, the Orthodox synagogue affiliated with the Conservative movement. More than 40 years after the initial split, the two congregations merged in 1999 and formed Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation in Metairie. Spiritual leader Rabbi Deborah Silver is now the second female senior rabbi in the Greater New Orleans area.

The last Jewish movement to arrive in the Greater New Orleans area is Chabad-Lubavitch of Louisiana. Dispatched by the

venerated Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of blessed memory, the first shluchim (emissaries), Rabbi Zelig and Bluma Rivkin, arrived in 1975. The mission of Chabad is to bring the spiritual and material needs to different communities with the hope of preserving Judaic life for the future generations.

Today, the movement has grown to eight shluchim couples, many of whom are the Rivkins' own offspring and their spouses. The organization provides many educational, social and religious programs and activities for the community. The Btsh Family Chabad Center, run by Rabbi Mendel Rivkin, and the Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at Tulane University, administered by Rabbi Yochanan Rivkin, are located next door to one another on Freret Street in the Tulane University section. The Gerson Katz Chabad Center was built in 1990 and dedicated to serve the needs of the Jewish community of Metairie. Its spiritual leader is Rabbi Yossie Nemes and he is joined by his son-in-law Rabbi Mendel Ceitlin.

In 1996, the Northshore Jewish Congregation (NJC) was chartered with 40 original members from the Mandeville area. In less than ten years they had purchased a 10,000 square foot building and had grown to become a congregation of almost 100 family units. They offer weekly lay-led services and have renewed the contract of Rabbi Deborah Zecher to lead the congregation during the High Holidays and to continue to perform monthly services over the course of the next year. Additionally, NJC offers a religious school and follows the Union of Reform Judaism's "Chai" curriculum.

After almost 300 years of significant philanthropic and civic contributions, the local Jewish community remains committed to our beloved city as we welcome 5777.

SEPTEMBER

2 Starts 7:03 p.m. • 3 Ends 7:56 p.m.
 9 Starts 6:54 p.m. • 10 Ends 7:47 p.m.
 16 Starts 6:46 p.m. • 17 Ends 7:38 p.m.
 23 Starts 6:37 p.m. • 24 Ends 7:29 p.m.
 30 Starts 6:28 p.m. • 1 (Oct.) Ends 7:20 p.m.

OCTOBER

Rosh Hashanah:

2 Starts 6:26 p.m. • 4 Ends 7:17 p.m.
 7 Starts 6:20 p.m. • 8 Ends 7:12 p.m.
 11 Starts 6:16 p.m. • 12 Ends 7:08 p.m.

Yom Kippur:

14 Starts 6:12 p.m. • 15 Ends 7:05 p.m.
 21 Starts 6:05 p.m. • 22 Ends 6:58 p.m.
 28 Starts 5:58 p.m. • 29 Ends 6:52 p.m.

NOVEMBER

4 Starts 5:52 p.m. • 5 Ends 6:47 p.m.
 11 Starts 4:48 p.m. • 12 Ends 5:43 p.m.
 18 Starts 4:45 p.m. • 19 Ends 5:40 p.m.
 25 Starts 4:43 p.m. • 26 Ends 5:39 p.m.

DECEMBER

2 Starts 4:42 p.m. • 3 Ends 5:39 p.m.
 9 Starts 4:43 p.m. • 10 Ends 5:40 p.m.
 16 Starts 4:45 p.m. • 17 Ends 5:42 p.m.
 23 Starts 4:48 p.m. • 24 Ends 5:46 p.m.
 30 Starts 4:53 p.m. • 31 Ends 5:50 p.m.

JANUARY

6 Starts 4:58 p.m. • 7 Ends 5:55 p.m.
 13 Starts 5:03 p.m. • 14 Ends 6:00 p.m.
 20 Starts 5:09 p.m. • 21 Ends 6:06 p.m.
 27 Starts 5:16 p.m. • 28 Ends 6:12 p.m.

FEBRUARY

3 Starts 5:22 p.m. • 4 Ends 6:17 p.m.
 10 Starts 5:27 p.m. • 11 Ends 6:23 p.m.
 17 Starts 5:33 p.m. • 18 Ends 6:28 p.m.
 24 Starts 5:38 p.m. • 25 Ends 6:33 p.m.

MARCH

3 Starts 5:43 p.m. • 4 Ends 6:37 p.m.
 10 Starts 5:48 p.m. • 11 Ends 6:42 p.m.
 17 Starts 6:52 p.m. • 18 Ends 7:46 p.m.
 24 Starts 6:56 p.m. • 25 Ends 7:51 p.m.
 31 Starts 7:01 p.m. • 1 (Apr.) Ends 7:55 p.m.

APRIL

7 Starts 7:05 p.m. • 8 Ends 8:00 p.m.
 14 Starts 7:09 p.m. • 15 Ends 8:04 p.m.
 21 Starts 7:13 p.m. • 22 Ends 8:09 p.m.
 28 Starts 7:18 p.m. • 29 Ends 8:14 p.m.

MAY

5 Starts 7:22 p.m. • 6 Ends 8:19 p.m.
 12 Starts 7:27 p.m. • 13 Ends 8:25 p.m.
 19 Starts 7:31 p.m. • 20 Ends 8:30 p.m.
 26 Starts 7:36 p.m. • 27 Ends 8:34 p.m.

JUNE

2 Starts 7:39 p.m. • 3 Ends 8:39 p.m.
 9 Starts 7:43 p.m. • 10 Ends 8:42 p.m.
 16 Starts 7:45 p.m. • 17 Ends 8:45 p.m.
 23 Starts 7:47 p.m. • 24 Ends 8:46 p.m.
 30 Starts 7:47 p.m. • 1 (July) Ends 8:46 p.m.

JULY

7 Starts 7:47 p.m. • 8 Ends 8:45 p.m.
 14 Starts 7:45 p.m. • 15 Ends 8:43 p.m.
 21 Starts 7:42 p.m. • 22 Ends 8:39 p.m.
 28 Starts 7:38 p.m. • 29 Ends 8:34 p.m.

AUGUST

4 Starts 7:33 p.m. • 5 Ends 8:28 p.m.
 11 Starts 7:27 p.m. • 12 Ends 8:22 p.m.
 18 Starts 7:20 p.m. • 19 Ends 8:14 p.m.
 25 Starts 7:12 p.m. • 26 Ends 8:06 p.m.

Shabbat

Celebrated Fridays at sundown to commemorate G-d's day of rest after six days of creation. Traditions include lighting candles, drinking wine and eating challah (braided bread). Havdallah, the farewell ceremony to Shabbat, takes place upon the appearance of three stars in the Saturday night sky and is celebrated by lighting a braided candle.

Rosh Hashanah

Jewish New Year

Festive celebration during which individuals contemplate past, present and future actions. Traditional foods include round challah and apples with honey, symbolizing wholeness and sweetness for the new year. Commences the Ten Days of Awe, which culminate on Yom Kippur. 1-2 Tishrei

Yom Kippur

Day of Atonement

Holiest day of the Jewish year. Through fasting and prayer, Jews reflect upon their relationships with other people and with G-d. Atoning for wrongdoings and failures to take the right actions. The sounding of the shofar (ram's horn) signals the end of the holiday. 10 Tishrei

Succot

Festival of Booths

Commemorates the fulfillment of G-d's promise to bring the Israelites to the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering. Many people build a succah (booth), a temporary structure with a roof made of branches, modeled after the huts constructed in the desert. Also celebrated with shaking of the lulav (assemblage of palm, willow and myrtle branches) and etrog (a lemon-like fruit). 15-21 Tishrei

Shemini Atzeret

Eighth Day of Assembly

Celebrated the day after Sukkot and thus sometimes considered an extension of that holiday. Marks the first time tefillat geshem (prayer for rain) is recited during services, a practice that continues until Pesach. 22 Tishrei

Simchat Torah

Rejoicing for the Torah

Celebrates the completion of the annual Torah-reading cycle. After finishing the last sentence of the chapter Devarim (Deuteronomy), the Torah is joyously paraded seven times around the synagogue. The new cycle begins immediately with a reading from Bereshit (Genesis). 23 Tishrei

Chanukah

Festival of Lights

Eight-day holiday commemorating the Jewish victory over the Syrians and the miracle of the rededication of the Temple, when oil meant to last for one day burned for eight. Celebrated by lighting candles in a chanukiah (a nine-branched candelabrum), eating potato latkes, playing with dreidels (spinning tops) and giving money or gifts. 25 Kislev- 2 Tevet

Tu B'Shevat

New Year of Trees

Biblical in origin, a holiday that celebrates springtime renewal and growth. Traditions include eating fruit and planting trees. 15 Shevat

Purim

Feast of Lots

Joyous holiday commemorating the rescue of the Jews by Queen Esther and her uncle Mordecai from the evil Haman. Traditions include parties, dances, gift-giving and eating hamantaschen (3-cornered fruit filled pastries). Some also fast before Purim to remember the three-day fast Esther requested of the Jews of Persia. 14 Adar

Passover

Celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. At the seder (service and festive meal), the Haggadah (collection of texts and commentaries on the Exodus) is read and symbolic foods are eaten. In remembrance of the departure of the Israelites, who could not wait for their bread to rise before fleeing, matzoh (unleavened bread) is eaten for the eight days of Passover. 15-22 Nissan

Sefirat HaOmer

Counting of the Omer

Seven-week period that begins the second night of Pesach and ends at Shavuot. The 32 mourning days during this time commemorate the deaths of Rabbi Akiva's students. Traditionally weddings, festivities and haircuts are prohibited during this time. 16 Nissan - 5 Sivan

Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Day chosen by the Israeli Knesset in 1951 to mourn the millions killed in the Holocaust. Often commemorated with speeches by survivors and the reading of names. In Israel, a siren's blast allows collective remembrance in a moment of silence. 27 Nissan

Yom HaZikaron

Martyr and Heroes' Memorial Day

Day of remembrance for all who sacrificed themselves for the state of Israel. Public observances include the lighting of yahrzeit (memorial) candles, visiting graves and reciting psalms. In Israel, sirens blast once in the morning and then in the evening to begin Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day. 4 Iyar

Yom HaAtzmaut

Israel Independence Day

On May 14, 1948, Israel was declared an independent state. Many Jews worldwide celebrate with parades, festivals and donations to Jewish charities. 5 Iyar

Lag B'Omer

Thirty-Third Day of Omer

One-day suspension of the traditional mourning period during Sefirat HaOmer. On this day, a plague afflicting Rabbi Akiva's students ceased. Also commemorates Bar Kochba's recapture of Jerusalem from the Romans. Celebrated with picnics and nature outings. 18 Iyar

Shavuot

Festival of Weeks

Celebrated the day after Sefirat HaOmer ends to commemorate the giving of the Torah at Sinai and the spring harvest. Traditionally, Jews read the Ten Commandments and the Book of Ruth and eat dairy products. Religious school confirmation often takes place at this time. 6-7 Sivan

Fast of Tammuz

Fast from dawn until nightfall commemorating the day Moses broke the first Tablets of the Covenant because the Israelites made the Golden Calf. Also marks the beginning of the siege on Jerusalem before its destruction. Begins the Three Weeks, a mourning period ending at Tisha B'Av. 17 Tammuz.

Tisha B'Av

Ninth Day of Av

Day of fasting and mourning commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples, both of which took place on the ninth of Av. The Book of Lamentations is read, and some conduct services sitting on the floor. 9 Av

Tu B'Av

Coming after three weeks of sadness, Tu B'Av marks one of the happiest days on the Jewish calendar. In modern times it has become a day dedicated to love and in many ways a Jewish version of Valentine's Day. It is a day highly coveted for weddings. 15 Av

JEWISH HOLIDAYS • 5777 • 2016-2017

Rosh Hashanah	October 3-4, 2016	Yom HaShoah	April 24, 2017
Yom Kippur	October 12, 2016	Yom HaZikaron	May 1, 2017
Succot	October 17-18, 2016	Yom HaAtzmaut	May 2, 2017
Shemini Atzeret	October 24, 2016	Lag B'Omer	May 14, 2017
Simchat Torah	October 25, 2016	Yom Yerushalayim	May 24, 2017
Chanukah	December 25, 2016	Shavuot	May 31 - June 1, 2017
Tu BiShvat	February 11, 2017	Fast of Tammuz	July 11, 2017
Purim	March 12, 2017	Tisha B'Av	August 1, 2017
Passover	April 11-18, 2017	Tu B'Av	August 7, 2017

*Holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the day indicated.

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Spring 2018

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Website: neworleansopera.org

New Orleans Opera Association is the only fully professional presenter and producer of opera in New Orleans and one of the largest opera companies in the Gulf South. Since 1943, we have carried on the operatic tradition of "America's First City of Opera," where operas have been part of the musical lifeblood of the city since the 18th century. This season we are presenting Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Verdi's *Macbeth*, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, and Gounod's *Faust*. For more information and tickets, call 504-529-3000 or visit neworleansopera.org.

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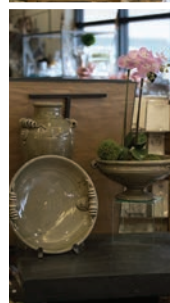
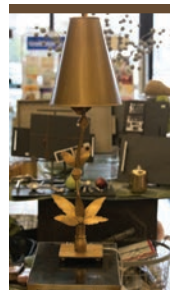
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Email: feedback@dickiebrennansteakhouse.com

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Email: feedback@tableaufrenchquarter.com

Website: www.tableaufrenchquarter.com

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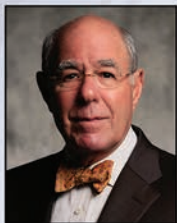
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Phone: 504-482-9179
Website: www.mandinarestaurant.com
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Website: www.palacecafe.com
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Reservations: opentable.com

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Email: info@shayarestaurant.com
Website: www.shayarestaurant.com

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Website: <http://ordertalsonline.com/#/>
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Website: <http://neworleans.adl.org>
Allison Padilla-Goodman, Director

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Contact: Charisse Sands, President

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Uptown: 1426 Amelia St.
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504-831-8475
North Shore: 1403 N. Causeway Blvd.
Mandeville, LA 70471
Email: roselle@jnsneworleans.org
Website: www.jfsneworleans.org
Director: Roselle Ungar, CFRE

Founded in 1948, Jewish Family Service has provided skilled counseling services, support groups, prevention programs and senior services. JFS is the exclusive representative for Phillips' Lifeline service, a monitored medical alert system.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS

3747 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-780-5600
Website: www.jewishnola.com
Executive Director: Michael Weil
President: Dr. Edward Soll

Since 1913, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans has served as the central Sico-ordinating body for the Jewish community. Its mission is to build and sustain a vibrant Greater New Orleans Jewish community and to assure the continuity of the Jewish people in America, Israel and the Diaspora.

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Fri: 8-3pm
Sat: Closed

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JEWISH WAR VERERANS, JULES LAZARD POST 580

3663 Behrman Pl.
New Orleans, LA 70114
Phone: 504-887-3570
Email: judgetsol@cox.net
Contact: Judge Sol Gothard, Commander
FB: <https://m.facebook.com/JewishWarVeteransofAmericaNewOrleansPost?v=info>

Our post is dedicated to continue the connection between the military, local Veterans, New Orleans and our Jewish community. Annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day events honor our brethren of blessed memory and those living. We participate annually in the Community Holocaust Memorial program held at the Jewish Community Center.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN (NCJW)

New Orleans Section
6221 S. Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
Phone: 504-861-7788
Fax: 504-861-0044
Email: ncjw@bellsouth.net
Website: www.ncjwneworleans.org
President: Susan Kierr

For over one century, NCJW has been at the forefront of social change. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW courageously takes a Progressive stance on issues as child welfare, women's rights and reproductive freedom. Numerous volunteer and advocacy opportunities available.

TOURO INFIRMARY FOUNDATION

1401 Foucher Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504.897-8435
Website: www.touro.com/foundation

Tickets are now available for the annual Touro Infirmary Foundation Gala, scheduled for November 5, 2016 at Mardi Gras World. The Foundation and The Judah Touro Society will honor STEPHEN H. KUPPERMAN for his service to Touro Infirmary and the New Orleans community.

EDUCATION PRESCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL *(JEWISH)

AUDUBON CHARTER SCHOOL

428 Broadway St
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: 504-324-7100
Principal: Ms. LaToya Brown
Admissions: <http://www.auduboncharter.com/Admissions.aspx>
Website: <http://www.auduboncharter.org>

The Audubon Charter School located in Uptown New Orleans offers either Montessori or French immersion tracts for our students. We are an A+ rated public charter school for grades pK-8th. DON'T MISS OUR FALL FETE ON OCTOBER 22 from 11- 6 PM at Daneel Park on the corner of St. Charles & Octavia St. (Open to the whole community!)



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

2001 Leon C. Simon Drive
New Orleans, LA 70122
Phone: 504-286-2600
Email: ljenkins@bfhsla.org
Website: www.bfhsla.org
Admissions Director: Lynn Jenkins

Since its founding in 1957, Benjamin Franklin High School has remained the most outstanding school in the area attracting the best and the brightest students. Consistently ranked as a top public high school in the nation" by U.S News and World Report, Newsweek and Business Week, Franklin has received the highest School Performance Score in Louisiana, making it the #1 public school in the state, year after year. Franklin is repeatedly named a National Blue Ribbon School, producing Presidential and National Merit Scholars annually.

*JCC NURSERY SCHOOL

5342 St Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504-897-0143
Email: Adrienne@nojcc.org
Director: Adrienne Shulman

The JCC Nursery School keeps its teacher to student ratios small, with tailored classroom activities to meet the social, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of each child. These scheduled preschool classes met either three or five days each week during the school year. The school has limited spaces with an annual waiting list.

*JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL (JCDS)

3747 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-887-4091
Email: office@jcdsnola.org
Website: www.jcdsnola.org
Head of School: Sharon Pollin, M.Ed.

Jewish Community Day School is the Jewish Day School of Greater New Orleans. The JCDS mission is to instill a lifetime love of learning, invigorated by academic excellence. Children are prepared to be engaged, compassionate leaders of their communities in the US, Israel, and the world. Strong teacher/student ratios and academic curriculum, an amazing, fully equipped campus, and kosher kitchen are just a few reasons JCDS families love their school. Lots of events and community outreach are scheduled for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. JCDS has both a Young Baby Program (6 weeks to 18 months) and Day School (Pre-K to 5th Grade).

*LOUISE HAYEM MANHEIM NURSERY SCHOOL OF GATES OF PRAYER

4000 W. Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-885-4339
Email: nursery@gatesofprayer.org
Director: Melainie Blitz

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saturday • 7am-6pm
sunday • 7am-3pm



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LUSHER CHARTER SCHOOL (K-12)

Lower School Campus:
7315 Willow Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: 504-862-5110
Upper School/Alcee Fortier Campus:
5624 Freret Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504-304-3960

Lusher is a K-12 school chartered by Advocates for Arts Based Education, which govern the school. The curriculum implements cutting-edge reforms in arts-based education while integrating the latest developments in brain research. Lusher incorporates a research based systematic approach to literacy and numeracy instruction. The school is in partnership with Tulane University.

*TORAH ACADEMY

5210 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70006
Phone: 504-456-6429
Email: admin@torahacademynola.com
Website: www.torahacademynola.com
President: Rabbi Yochanan Rivkin

Torah Academy offers programs for children from 5 weeks through 8th grade. In accordance with Jewish tradition and through nurturing learning environments, our students are encouraged to develop a lifelong passion for learning. Appealing to the multiple intelligences of every child, we employ various media, technology and pedagogy into the Torah Academy teaching methodology. By following Common Core Standards in our dual curriculum, we ensure our graduates the skills necessary for continued lifelong success. Call us (504-456-6429) to schedule a school tour and come see what we're all about!

GOODS & SERVICES

BRYAN SUBARU SERVICE DEPARTMENT

8305 Airline Drive
Metairie, LA 70003
Phone: 888-317-6194
Website: www.bryansubaru.com
Hours: Mon - Fri (7:30 am - 6 pm)
Sat (8 am - 5 pm)
Closed Sundays

Our New Orleans area Subaru service center in Metairie is proud to serve customers from all over Louisiana. Our knowledgeable and experienced mechanics at our dealership will maximize your Subaru vehicle's performance. Additionally, our mechanics can identify developing problems to help you avoid future breakdowns. All services includes a multi-point vehicle inspection.

CHATEAU DRUGS & GIFTS

3544 West Esplanade Avenue S
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-889-2300
Fax: 504-887-7661
Website: www.chateaudrugsrx.com
Hours: Mon - Fri (9 am - 7 pm)
Sat (9 am - 5 pm)
Closed Sundays

Chateau Drugs believes and offers the best pharmaceutical service in the area. Additionally they also have a large upscale gift department featuring lines as Elaine Gleason, Michael Aram, Michael Wainwright, Alex & Manhattan Toys to name a few PERSONALIZED SERVICE WITH FREE GIFT WRAP! Browse around while you fill your prescriptions! Most insurance and Medicare Part D Plans are accepted.



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TOURO.COM/FINDADOC

HAASE'S SHOES AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

8119 Oak Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: 504-866-9944
Website: www.haases.com
Hours: Mon - Fri (10 am - 5:30 pm)
Sat (10 am - 4 pm)
Closed Sundays

Founded in 1921, Haase's maintains a Reputation for retaining the most experienced footwear "fitters" in the city. The store offers the most popular shoe brands for children and men's footwear. Additionally Haase's offers gorgeous newborn to size 14 clothes for boys and girls, and a variety of assorted accessories. MONOGRAMMING SERVICES AVAILABLE.

*KOSHER CAJUN NEW YORK DELI & GROCERY

3519 Severn Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-888-2010
Website: www.koshercajun.com
Hours: Mon - Thur (10 am - 7 pm)
Fri & Sun (10 am - 3 pm)
Kosher Supervision by LA. Kashrut Committee

Kosher Cajun Is your one stop for all your Kosher shopping! Full service grocery store with a huge selection of Wines and Liquors. Gift baskets, Judaica and more! Enjoy our dine-in restaurant, or order Your meat to carry out. CATERING AVAILABLE.

OCTAVIA BOOKS

513 Octavia Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504-899-7323
Website: www.octaviabooks.com
Hours: Mon - Sat (10 am - 6 pm)
Sun (10 am - 5 pm)

MARDI GRAS ZONE

2706 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 70117
Phone: 504-947-8787
Websites: www.mardigraszonesupermarket.net
www.mardigraszone.com
Hours: Always Open (24/7)

Mardi Gras Zone offers a great selection and inventory of grocery items including KOSHER, International Foods, Dairy, Vegetarian, Gluten-Free, and Organic. MGZ carries 100% Cajun (trademark) local produce and farm fresh eggs are available daily. A complete line of pet and green cleaning products are stocked. The in-house café offers homemade salads, fresh and delicious home-baked breads, hand tossed 20" brick oven pizza, and classic New Orleans deli food and po-boys.

MIGNON FAGET

Uptown
3801 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504-891-2005
Hours: Mon - Sat (10 am - 6 pm)
Website: www.mignonfaget.com
Email: customerservice@mignonfaget.com
Other locations: Lakeside Shopping Center and The Shops at Canal Place

A fifth generation New Orleanian, Mignon Faget has flourished in the culture and traditions of her birthplace. Her designs and collections reflect this. Numerous collections in jewelry, clothing and glassware.

NAGHI'S

633 Royal St.
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: 504-586-8373

We specialize in various one of a kind estate jewelry in precious stones and cuts. We offer a large assortment of many antique European and rose cut diamonds. Additionally, we showcase a large selection of Judaica.

OOH LA LA CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

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524 Saint Peter
New Orleans, LA 70116
Phone: 504-522-7554
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Come explore our exclusive store on Jackson Square, filled with stunning designer European jewelry, gorgeous glasswork and a unique selection of Judaica.

HEALTH & FITNESS & MIND

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Uptown Campus—
5342 St. Charles Ave.
Phone: 504-897-0143
Metairie Campus
3747 W. Esplanade Ave.
Phone: 504-887-5158
Website: www.nojcc.org

The JCC Fitness Centers are committed to helping members achieve positive lifestyle changes. The facilities are well-maintained and offer state-of-the-art equipment, professionally taught classes and a friendly and accessible staff.

JFS PHILLIPS LIFELINE MEDICAL MONITORING ALERT SYSTEM

3300 W. Esplanade Ave.
Suite 600
Metairie, LA 70002
Email: jane@jfsneworleans.org
Phone: 504-831-8475 ext: 128
Contact: Jane Levine

Jewish Family service is the exclusive representative for Phillips Lifeline service, a monitored medical alert system. JFS provides installation, product servicing and courtesy visitations. The AutoAlert button is 100% waterproof. No long term contracts are required. System is maintained and tested monthly.

TOURO INFIRMARY

1401 Foucher Street
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504-897-7011
Website: www.touro.com

Touro Infirmary was founded in 1852. Touro is New Orleans' only community based, not-for-profit, faith-based hospital. Touro continues to make a difference in the lives of people in the New Orleans community, ensuring their health needs are met with access to quality attention and care.

WOLDENBERG VILLAGE

3701 Behrman Place
New Orleans, LA 70114
Phone: 504-367-5640
Website: www.liveatwv.com

Woldenberg Village serves as one of the region's premiere retirement and healthcare facilities. The community consists of 60 independent living garden apartment homes, 60 assisted living apartments and 120 bed skilled nursing facility. Shabbat services are held every Saturday on site.

MARDI GRAS GROUPS (KREWES)

KREWE DU JIEUX

www.krewedujieux.com

KREWE DU JIEUX was founded as the first satirical Jewish sub-krewe, now part of the Krewe Delusion's unique walking parade.

KREWE DU MISHIGAS

www.krewedumishigas.com

Krewe du Mishigas is another Jewish satirical parading organization founded in 1996 and a sub-krewe of the Krewe du Vieux, which is known for wild satire, adult themes, and political comedy, as well as for showcasing some of the best brass and jazz bands in New Orleans.

MARDI GRAS MITZVA MAKERS

Chariman: Dr. Hilton Title
Phone: 504-957-5310.

Indoor parade of "merry makers" who bring annual Mardi Gras cheer to designated Touro Infirmary patients and seniors residing at the Malta House.

MUSIC

LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

1010 Common Street, Suite 2120
New Orleans, LA 70112
Phone/Fax: 504-523-6530
Email: tickets@lpomusic.com
Website: www.lpomusic.com
Music Director: Carlos Miguel Prieto

Formed in 1991, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra is the oldest full-time musician-governed and collaboratively operated orchestra in the United States. The LPO offers a full 36-week season with more than 120 performances, including classics, light classics, pops, education, family, park and community engagement concerts in New Orleans and across multi-parish areas.

NEW ORLEANS OPERA ASSOCIATION

935 Gravier St., Suite 1940
New Orleans, LA 70112
Phone: 504.529.2278
Box Office: 504.529.3000
Website: neworleansopera.org

New Orleans Opera Association is the only fully professional presenter and producer of opera in New Orleans and one of the largest opera companies in the Gulf South. Since 1943, we have carried on the operatic tradition of "America's First City of Opera," where operas have been part of the musical lifeblood of the city since the 18th century. This season we are presenting Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Verdi's *Macbeth*, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, and Gounod's *Faust*. For more information and tickets, call 504-529-3000 or visit neworleansopera.org.



PANORAMA JAZZ BAND

Email: panoramanola@gmail.com
Website: www.panoramajazzband.com
Contact: Ben Schenck

New Orleans Jazz, Brass and KLEZMER BAND.
2015 marks our 20th year serving greater New Orleans and the Jewish community.

RELIGIOUS LIFE CEMETERIES

Historic Note: The first Jewish cemetery in the greater New Orleans area was located at 2400 Saratoga Street (corner of Saratoga and Jackson Avenue) It was used from 1828 - 1872. In 1957 under the supervision of the rabbinic council the remains of these first Jewish settlers were removed and reinterred at Hebrew Rest Cemetery.

AHAVAS SHALOM (ORTHODOX)

4400 Elysian Fields Avenue
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-837-0770
504-905-4992
Contact: Ken Paillet

ANSHE SFARD SYNAGOGUE (ORTHODOX)

4400 Elysian Fields Avenue
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-782-7218
Contact: Sandy Lassen

CHEVRA THILIM CEMETERY ASSOCIATION (CONSERVATIVE)

4824 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-782-7218
Contact: Sandy Lassen

CHEVRA THILIM MEMORIAL PARK

5000 Iberville Street
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-782-7218
Contact: Sandy Lassen

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL NEW CEMETERY (ORTHODOX)

4444 Elysian Fields Avenue
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-283-4469
Contact: Marshall Gerson

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL OLD CEMETERY (ORTHODOX)

4321 Frenchman Street
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-283-4469
Contact: Marshall Gerson

CONGREGATION GATES OF PRAYER (REFORM)

1412 Joseph Street
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-885-2600

HEBREW REST CEMETERIES 1, 2, 3

2100 Pelopidas at Frenchman
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-288-7922
504-895-4853
Contact: Herb Barton

JEWISH BURIAL RITES

4321 Frenchman Street
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-782-7218
Contact: Sandy Lassen

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NORTHSHORE JEWISH CONGREGATION (REFORM)

2260 West 21st Street
Covington, LA
Phone: 985-951-7976
Contact: NJC Office

SHIR CHADASH/TIKVAT SHALOM CEMETERY (CONSERVATIVE)

Jefferson Memorial Gardens
11316 River Rd.
Rose, LA
Phone: 504-782-7218
Contact: Sandy Lassen

TOURO SYNAGOGUE AND TEMPLE SINAI (REFORM)

4737 Canal Street (corner- N. Anthony St.)
New Orleans, LA
Phone: 504-288-7922
504-895-4853
Contact: Herb Barton

CLERGY & RITUAL SERVICES



CANTOR SAMUEL KRUSH

Phone: 504-391-8292
Cell: 504-228-5071
Email: neworleanscantor@yahoo.com

Serving as High Holiday Cantor at Woldenberg Living Centre. Cantor Krush is LOUISIANA LICENSED to officiate local and destination weddings. Will design the ceremony that you desire!

JEWISH CLERGY COUNCIL OF NEW ORLEANS

Email: cantorcolman@templesinaino.org
President: Cantor Joel Colman

KITCHEN KASHERING SERVICE

Phone: 504-302-1830
Contact: Rabbi Mendel Rivkin

MIKVEH (MIKVAH CHAYA MUSHKA AT RINGGER WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT CENTER)

7033 Freret Street
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: 347-564-6525
Email: mikvah@chabadneworleans.com
Contact: Bluma Rivkin

MOHEL

Phone: 347-351-6476
Email: mohelnola@gmail.com
Contact: Rabbi Mendel Ceitlin

GENERATIONS

JEWCCY (JEWISH CRESCENT CITY YOUTH)

c/o Touro Synagogue
4238 Saint Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
Phone: 504-912-5515
Email: jewccy@gmail.com
Contact: Ivy Cohen

JewCCy (Jewish Crescent City Youth) is the Reform Jewish youth group for New Orleans and Metairie and the local chapter of NFTY, or the National Federation of Temple Youth. Teen-led and open to all members of Reform synagogues. JewCCY participants socialize, worship, and volunteer together.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

(Senior Adult Programming)
5342 St Charles Ave.
Phone: 504-897-0143
Email: Rachel@nojcc.org
Website: www.nojcc.org
Director: Rachel Ruth

The Jewish Community Center offers a variety of programs and activities that address the social, cultural and physical needs of community members 65 and older. Interesting day excursions, Morris Bart Sr. Lecture Series and game clubs are some of the specific programming available. Additional fees for participants that are not JCC members.

JNOLA

3747 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Tana Velen, Newcomers/Next Gen Coordinator
Phone: 504-780-5628
Email: tana@jewishnola.com
Website: www.jnola.com

JNOLA serves the Jewish Next Gen community in New Orleans (ages 21-45) through a variety of programming including social engagement, professional networking, enriching and educational opportunities, leadership development, and tikkun olam (repairing the world/social action).

MOISHE HOUSE

(Located in the Marigny district of New Orleans)
Email: moish.house.nola@gmail.com
Regional Director: Jaycee Greenblatt
Email: jaycee@moishouse.org
Website: www.moishouse.org
FB: www.facebook.com/mhnola

Moishe House New Orleans is a welcoming, inclusive home-based community. The purpose of the group is to provide a meaningful space for young Jewish adults in their 20's to share, explore and engage in social justice, community involvement and Jewish leadership.

FUNERAL HOMES & BURIAL SERVICES

JEWISH BURIAL SOCIETY OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS (CHEVRA KADISHA)

Contact: Sandy Lassen (CHAIR)
Email: sandy@shirchadash.org

Volunteers from several congregations are trained to properly prepare the body for traditional Jewish burials.

LAKE LAWN METAIRIE FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERIES

5100 Pontchartrain Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70124
Phone: 504-486-6331
Website: www.dignitymemorial.com/
lake-lawn-met-funeral-home

Lake Lawn Metairie is dedicated to provide a wide range of options, traditional or nontraditional funeral services, ground burial, community mausoleum spaces, private family tombs, family copings, and cremation and columbarium niches. Our focus is on providing each family with personalized attention and a meaningful memorialization of their loved one. We are proud members of the Dignity Memorial® network of funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers, offering quality, compassionate care and service you can trust.



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THARP-SONTHEIMER-THARP FUNERAL HOME

1600 N. Causeway Boulevard
Metairie, LA 70001
Phone: 504-835-2341
Email: WeCare@tharpsontheimerfh.com
Website: www.tharpsontheimerfh.com
Contact: Billy Henry, Funeral Director

For 100 years we have served the needs of the Jewish community of New Orleans. We have the experience, knowledge and longevity to respectfully work with all local Rabbis and the Cheva Kadisha committee. We are available to assist your family through this entire life cycle process. Funerals & cremations available.

JUDAICA

ART BY ANNA GIL

Phone: 504-233-4818
Email: algilart@gmail.com
Website: www.annagil.com
Winner of the Golden Ghetto Award on Facebook in February, 2013.

Anna Gil expresses her creativity through oil paint. She uses lines, patterns, sharp edges and large fields of color in her work. She is able to express her influences and inspirations through Hebrew words and the many layers of meaning in each letter.

DASHKA ROTH CONTEMPORARY JEWELRY & JUDAICA

332 Chartres Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: 504-523-0805
Website: dashkaroth.com

GATES OF PRAYER JUDAICA SHOP

4000 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-885-2600
Website: www.gatesofprayer.org

Congregation Gates of Prayer Sisterhood Gift Shop carrying a full line of Judaica gift items for all occasions. Look for our annual CHANUKAH GIFT SHOW!

OOH LA LA CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

524 Saint Peter
(Upper Pontalba Shops at Jackson Square)
New Orleans, LA 70116
Phone: 504-522-7554
Hours: Daily (10 am - 6 pm)

Come explore our exclusive store on Jackson Square, filled with stunning designer European jewelry, gorgeous glasswork and a unique selection of Judaica.

NAGHI'S

633 Royal St.
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: 504-586-8373

Naghi's has an extensive and Unique assortment of traditional to contemporary menorahs, mezuzahs, Kiddush cups and Shabbat candlesticks. Internationally recognized artist Anna Gil has numerous pieces of her artwork for sale. Additionally, the store offers a large assortment of antique jewelry from their estate collection.

TOURO SISTERHOOD BOOK AND JUDAICA SHOP

4328 ST. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70115
Phone: 504-895-4843

The Touro Judaica Shop carries a large selection of Ahava products, books, music and many Judaica selections for all special occasions. The shop is open when religious school is in session and by appointment. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

YVONNE YUSPEH STRUG SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP IN TEMPLE SINAI

6227 ST. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Great selection of gifts for all occasions! Open Sundays during Religious School 9 am - 11:30 am and Wednesdays during mid-week Hebrew classes.

SYNAGOGUES ORTHODOX

ANSHE SFARD SYNAGOGUE

2230 Carondelet Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: 504-522-4714
Interim Rabbi: Yochanan Rivkin
Email: rabbi@anshesfard.org
Executive Director: Sandy Lassen
Email: info@anshesfard.org
slassen@cox.net
Website: www.anshesfard.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Congregation-Anshe-Sfard-of-New-Orleans/190270014373125>
Twitter: @AnsheSfard
Congregation President: Dr. Gary Remer

Anshe Sfard is an orthodox congregation in the heart of New Orleans that welcomes all who attend. It's beautiful and historic synagogue, built in 1926, is the last vestige of a time when its surrounding neighborhood was the center of Jewish life in New Orleans. Anshe Sfard, as the closest synagogue to downtown New Orleans, also serves the religious needs of countless tourists, conventioners, and volunteer groups.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

4004 W. Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-454-5080
Fax: 504-883-8010
Website: www.bethisraelnola.com
Rabbi: Gabe Greenberg
Email: rabbi@bethisraelnola.com
Administrator: Rabbi David Posternock
Email: office@bethisraelnola.com
President: Bradley D. Bain

Congregation Beth Israel is a Modern Orthodox Synagogue. We are proud of our multi-generational heritage and over 100 year presence in the Greater New Orleans area. Our mission is to create an accessible spiritual home, where all Jews, regardless of affiliation or background, are warmly embraced and welcomed into our greater family.

SYNAGOGUES CONSERVATIVE

SHIR CHADASH CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION

3737 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-889-1144
Email: shirchadash@shirchadash.org
Website: www.shirchadash.org
Rabbi: Deborah Silver
Executive Director: Bruce Yeillen
President: Lisa Finkelstein

As a traditional egalitarian synagogue, we are committed to giving all Jews an equal role in Jewish prayer. Shir Chadash was formed in 1999 by the union of Tikvat Shalom and Chevra Thilim. We are excited about the growth in our synagogue, and in the Jewish community of Greater New Orleans. Our community is committed to learning, to supporting each other, and to being a warm and welcoming place for all who join with us.

SYNAGOGUES REFORM

CONGREGATION GATES OF PRAYER

4000 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: 504-885-2600
Email: office@gatesofprayer.org
Website: www.gatesofprayer.org
Rabbi: Robert Loewy
Assistant Rabbi: Alexis Pinsky
Cantorial Soloist: Victoria May
President: Rick Levine

As the only Reform Jewish congregation in Metairie, Gates of Prayer is dedicated to provide members with opportunities to find Kedusha through participation in worship services, life-cycle events, educational activities and social action programs that reflect our enduring commitment to Torah, Avodah and Gemilut.

NORTHSHORE JEWISH CONGREGATION

1403 North Causeway Blvd
Mandeville, LA 70471
Phone: 985-951-7976
Email: admin@northshorejewish.org
Website: www.northshorejewish.org
President: Bonnie Bernstein
Email: president@northshorejewish.org
Rabbi: Deborah Zecher (monthly)

The Northshore Jewish Congregation (NJJC) is a member of the Union of Reform Judaism. NJJC is located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain about 30 miles from downtown New Orleans in Mandeville. It is a warm and inviting community built on the fundamental and enduring principals of Reform Judaism.

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6227 St. Charles Avenue
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Phone: 504-861-3693
Email: Sinai@usa.net
Website: www.templestinaino.org
Rabbi: Matthew A. Reimer
Rabbi Emeritus: Edward P. Cohn
Cantor: Joel Colman
Executive Director: Ellen Rae Shalett
President: Robert Brickman

Congregation Temple Sinai of the City of New Orleans, established in 1870, supports, promotes and reinforces the ideals of Reform Judaism and Jewish values through its dedication to worship, education, social action, outreach, and K'al Yisrael. We endeavor to build a sense of community within our Congregation by striving to meet the spiritual, intellectual, and cultural needs of each of our members while strengthening the bond of loyalty with Jewish people everywhere.

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Fax: 504-897-0237

Website: www.tourosynagogue.com

Rabbi: Alexis D. Berk

Rabbi of Lifelong Learning: Todd Silverman

Rabbi Emeritus: David Goldstein

Cantor: David Mintz

Executive Director: Kerry Tapia

Email: execdir@tourosynagogue.com

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Website: tulanehillel.org
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Email: jewishstudies@tulane.edu
Dept. Chair: Dr. Brian Horowitz

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2016

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OCTOBER

Ponderosa Stomp (returns 2017)
Art for Arts' Sake (10/1)
Oktoberfest (10/7-8, 10/14-15, 10/21-22)
Beignet Fest (NEW! 10/8)
New Orleans Film Festival (10/12-20)
Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival (10/14-16)
Krewe of Boo Parade (10/22)
Oak Street Po-Boy Festival (10/23)
Mirliton Festival (TBA)
Voodoo Music & Arts Experience (10/28-30)

NOVEMBER

Words and Music Festival (11/9-13)
Treme Creole Gumbo Festival (11/12-13)
Thanksgiving Day (11/24)
Celebration in the Oaks (11/25-1/1/17)
Bayou Classic (11/25)

DECEMBER

Celebration in the Oaks
Run/Walk (12/10)
New Orleans Bowl (12/17)
Crescent City Countdown at Jackson Square (12/31-1/1/17)

2017

JANUARY

Allstate Sugar Bowl (1/2)
Twelfth Night Celebration (1/6)
Mardi Gras Season Starts (1/6)

FEBRUARY

Rock 'n' Roll Marathon (2/5)
Lundi Gras (2/27)
Mardi Gras (2/28)

MARCH

Soul Fest (TBA)
Buku Music and Art Project (TBA)
Fashion Week Nola (TBA)
Congo Square New Rhythms Festival (3/18-19)
Spring Fiesta (3/13 and 3/20)
Tennessee Williams Festival (3/22-26)

APRIL

Hogs for the Cause (3/30-4/1)
Food Fest (4/1-2)
Freret Street Fest (4/2)
Crescent City Classic (4/2)
French Quarter Festival (4/6-9)
Zurich Classic (4/14)
New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival Weekend I (4/28-30)
MAY
New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival Weekend II (5/5-7)
Zoo-To-Do (5/5)
Mid-City Bayou Boogaloo (5/20-22)

JUNE

New Orleans Wine and Food Experience (6/8-12)
Creole Tomato Festival (6/11-12)
Cajun Zydeco Festival (6/18-19)
Festigals (6/28-31)

JULY

Essence Festival (6/30-7/3)
Running of the Bulls (7/7-10)
Tales of the Cocktail (7/19-24)

AUGUST

Satchmo SummerFest (8/4-7)
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COOLinary New Orleans (8/1-31)
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FEBRUARY 19, 2017

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FEBRUARY 22, 2017

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FEBRUARY 23, 2017

KNIGHTS OF BABYLON
KREWE OF MUSES
KNIGHTS OF CHAOS

FEBRUARY 24, 2017

KREWE OF HERMES
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FEBRUARY 25, 2017

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FEBRUARY 26, 2017

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FEBRUARY 27, 2017

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MARDI GRAS 2017-FEBRUARY 28

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Women of Valor: New Orleans Ladies

By ALAN SMASON

With Creole culture rampant in the early days of New Orleans and the European model of a prevailing male-dominated society, it is understandable that women enjoyed little in the way of political strength, financial clout or professional opportunities. The right to vote was denied them until 1920 and only a handful of concessions were given to women of property prior to its passage.

But despite being born into a time and place when women were looked upon by adoring fathers, husbands, brothers and suitors as lacking in the acumen of politics and business, there were several exceptions who broke the yoke of inferiority and established themselves as true women of valor in the grandest of Jewish traditions.

We have selected nine New Orleans ladies, all born before the advent of women's suffrage, who represent the nine decades of progress made since 1920 and who established themselves as leaders in politics, social action, the arts or as pioneers in their own professional fields.

Nationwide there were women like Henrietta Szold and Hannah Solomon, who established major organizations for women like Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women. But we in New Orleans can point with pride to these local leaders who also made a significant impact on the national and international scenes.

Every Shabbat we read from Proverbs 31:10-31 of the many attributes of *eshet chayil* ("a woman of valor"). These nine ladies most certainly proved their worth in their own lifetimes and laid the foundations for the achievements of the lives of today's modern women.

DR. ELIZABETH COHEN

Dr. Elizabeth D. A. Magnus Cohen was a pioneer in the strongest sense and a New Orleanian by choice. Born in New York City to shipbuilder David Cohen and his wife Phoebe, Elizabeth enjoyed a proper education and married Dr. Aaron Cohen. Of the five children she bore, only one lived to adulthood. It was the death of her youngest son from measles that inspired her to become a physician.

When her husband departed New York to become a surgeon in New Orleans, she applied to the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1854. She graduated three years later, fifth in her class of 36. She was the 14th woman to earn the title of medical doctor in the United States and the first licensed female to practice medicine in Louisiana.

According to interviews conducted later in her life, Cohen claimed there was little in the way of bias toward women doctors at the time she received her training in Pennsylvania. Attitudes were different in New Orleans. An editorial in the *New Orleans Bee* in 1853 railed against women physicians examining male patients.

After rejoining her husband in New Orleans, Cohen found it difficult to gain acceptance as a physician. She was listed in the *City Directory* first as a midwife and for 12 years later was listed as a "doctress." However, by 1876 she began to list her name as "Mrs. Elizabeth Cohen, physician."

During Reconstruction, Dr. Cohen treated hundreds of patients during the outbreaks of yellow fever that killed thousands. She also saw to the needs of victims suffering from typhoid and smallpox.

Pushback against women physicians continued to mount in the intervening years. An editorial in the *Journal*



Dr. Elizabeth Cohen, the first licensed female physician to practice in Louisiana. (Photo courtesy National Institutes of Health).

of American Medical Association suggested that women doctors were to blame for a loss in prestige and earning capacity within the profession. Medical schools routinely refused to admit women and decades of prejudice ensued.

Following her retirement in 1887, Cohen moved into Touro Infirmary's Department of the Aged and Infirm (later the Julius Weis Home for the Aged) and ran the hospital's sewing and linen room. She had no living relatives at the time of her death on May 28, 1921. She was 101.

Cohen had been interviewed the year before as the fight for women's suffrage neared its endpoint. "I'm glad to see girls of today getting an education," she stated. "In my youth you had to fight for it. And I believe in suffrage, too – things will be better when women can vote and can protect their own property and their children."

JEANNE FRANKO

The second eldest of Hamman and Helene Franko's children, native New Orleanian

Jeanne Franko was part of one of the

Continue to Page 31

most talented musical families of the period. When Union Forces captured New Orleans in 1862, the Franko family, who were noted Confederate sympathizers, was forced to flee to Breslau, Germany. Years later, Hamman Franko, a successful jeweler in New Orleans, stated in interviews that he had been “robbed” by General Benjamin “Beast” Butler, who acted as the military governor during the occupation. In their book “Lincoln and the Jews,” historians Jonathan Sarna and Benjamin Shapnell confirmed Butler’s blatant anti-Semitism and contempt for Jews he described as privateers.

While living on the Continent, Jeanne Franko studied violin with two of the foremost instructors of the day, Henri Vieuxtemps and Heinrich De Ahna, according to retired Tulane University music professor John Baron. She made her debut in Paris at 13 and returned to the United States in 1869 in a series of concerts in which she was joined on stage with her four other siblings – Rachel, Naham, Selma and Sam – the latter two of whom, like her, also played the piano.

As a pianist, Jeanne Franko (sometimes billed as Jeannette) would often accompany her sister Rachel, a soprano vocalist. During this extended tour, she and her siblings made a triumphant return to New Orleans in February of 1870 with two concerts at Odd Fellow’s Hall.

The series of concerts continued over the next 17 years and captured the hearts of music lovers in major cities like New York and Washington, D.C. John Philip Sousa, who had first seen the Frankos as a mere lad of five, grew into manhood and became a band and orchestra leader who led several ensembles featuring Franko.

She married Hugo Kraemer in New York and began a second career as “an important teacher of music,” according to Baron. Then, after 1886, she began



Native New Orleanian violin virtuosa Jeanne Franko. (Photo courtesy St. Louis Post-Dispatch).

to concentrate on her career as a violinist and rarely appeared with other family members, all who had established their own musical careers.

She founded the Jeanne Franko Trio with pianist Celia Schiller and cellist Hans Kronold and they toured for many years. She also played as a member of the Woman’s String Orchestra of New York and the all-female Women’s Philharmonic Society of New York. Franko became known as the foremost violin virtuosa of her day and continued to perform in concerts as well as in private recitals at homes, often raising funds for Jewish causes. She toured New Orleans on a fairly regular basis, but failed to appear past 1906.

She died in New York City on December 3, 1940.

IDA WEIS FRIEND

Arriving in New Orleans when she was just 6 weeks old, Ida Weis Friend lived most of her life in the city she loved, but had an influence that spread well past city boundaries. She was the third child born to cotton broker Julius Weis and his wife Caroline, who helped to found Temple Sinai. As a student, she attended a private school run by Flora Gayle in the city. In 1882 the family moved to Europe in order

to finish her schooling in Neuilly, France and Frankfurt, Germany. She worked on what we would today term a mitzvah project to raise money for a fountain at Touro Infirmary, the hospital with strong Jewish ties and on whose board her father served.

She later married Joseph Friend, a Milwaukee native and Yale graduate in 1890. After a brief residency in Chicago, the couple returned to New Orleans, where he became an associate with his father-in-law’s firm.

Friend was active in civic and social affairs during the first half of the 20th century in the Crescent City. She was the founder and first president of the local chapter of Hadassah in 1917. Friend served as president of the New Orleans Consumers League, the Tulane Lyceum Association, the Voter’s Registration League, New Orleans Traveler’s Aid, the Urban League, the Dilbert Memorial Hospital and served as the life president for the Home of the Incurables (now the New Orleans Home and Rehabilitation Center), which she also founded.

As a member of the Era Club, she worked tirelessly to get the 19th Amendment ratified in Louisiana and later was a champion for children, helping to raise the state’s child labor law minimum age from 14 to 16. A pacifist, she actively campaigned for the U.S. to become a member of the League of Nations and served as a local member of both the Women’s Committee for Lasting Peace and the League of Peace.

Friend was a patron of the arts and was a founder of the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra society, a member of the board of directors for Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré and served as president of the Louisiana Council for Motion Pictures.

Active as a member in Temple Sinai, Friend was dedicated to many Jewish

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organizations and causes. In addition to her work with Touro Infirmary and Hadassah, she was the president of the women's chapter of B'nai B'rith, which was named in her honor.

In 1926 Friend assumed the national presidency of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), an organization she proudly served for an impressive six years and was just the seventh person to hold that title.

After a half century of service, Friend was named 1946 Woman of the Year by the Quota Club, which noted her lifetime of humanitarian and benevolent work. In awarding her the prestigious Times-Picayune Loving Cup that same year, the nomination committee cited her lifetime of community involvement and advocacy for the betterment of the city's citizens.

One sad note to Friend's life was the loss of her oldest son Henry, whose nickname was Bunny. Henry died from complications of pneumonia following surgery to remove a ball bearing he had mistakenly swallowed as a young adult of 18. Filled with remorse, she donated land to the City of New Orleans as a playground in his memory in the Ninth Ward. The Bunny Friend Park was the scene of a mass shooting of 17 people in December of 2015.

Predeceased by her husband, Ida Weis Friend died on September 22, 1963, recalled as one of the most selfless and productive ladies of her generation.

MIRIAM DOROTHY "ISADORA" NEWMAN NEUGASS

What began as a conventional life for Miriam Newman became one associated with the arts in her later years. Born the daughter of banker and philanthropist Isidore Newman and Rebecca (née Kiefer), the young girl was frail in health. It was decided that



Ida Weis Friend speaks from the stage of the NORD Traveling Theater at the dedication of outdoor lights at Bunny Friend Park in 1948 as Mayor Chep Morrison looks on. (Photo courtesy Louisiana Division/City Archives, New Orleans Public Library)

she should be schooled at home under the guidance of a governess.

She was married at 23 to Edwin A. Neugass, who held a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. The couple lived in New York, raising their three children under the hand of a governess and sending at least one, Edwin II, to a boarding school when he grew older.

Neugass enrolled at Columbia University after her children were grown and began to work creatively by writing folk tales inspired by the Creole and black cultures she was exposed to as a young lady living in New Orleans. As she began to explore her life as an artist, the nom de plume Isidora Newman emerged.

Her first book titled *Fairy Flowers* was published in 1926 and Isidora

Newman received critical praise. The book was published in several languages both in America and internationally.

Based on her initial success, she followed with a collection of her poetry, *Shades of Blue*, the following year. That led to two books of folk tales in German released in 1930 and a play, *Granny's Garden* in 1931.

The restless soul of an artist continued to emerge as she found delight in painting watercolors signed with the alias of Isidora Newman. She trained as a sculptor in France and much of her work was exhibited in galleries in New York, New Orleans and in Europe.

A bust she created of her late father,

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the founder of the Maison Blanche department store chain, is on display at Isidore Newman School, the private school initially founded as the Isidore Newman Manual Training School in 1903.

She returned to New Orleans occasionally, but became known as a storyteller in New York, often entertaining as many as 200 schoolchildren ranging in age from 5 to 10 at the Hotel Astor. Her specialty was telling stories and singing while dressed as an antebellum Negro slave.

The artist displayed an amazing dedication to making the world a better place for children. In 1926 she was recognized by the Serbian government for her relief work with war orphans.

Whether inspired by Creole or African-American cultures, Isidora Newman's artistic achievements worked hand in hand with Miriam Dorothy Newman Neugass's philanthropy and charitable work.

She died in New York in 1955.

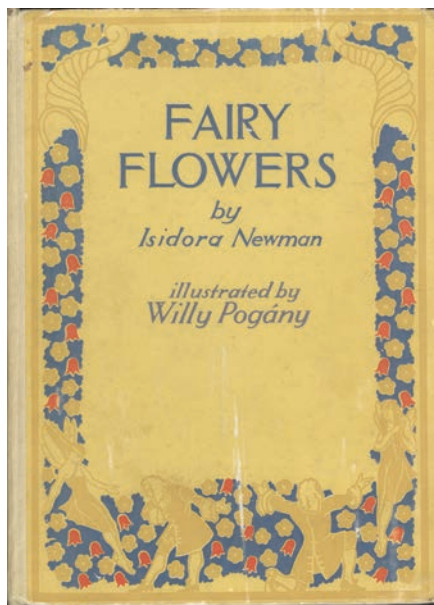
EDITH ROSENWALD STERN

Born the daughter of Chicago industrialist and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and wife Augusta (née Nusbaum), Edith Rosenwald lived a privileged life that few in America enjoyed. A cardinal precept both she and her father employed was to use their vast wealth to improve the local community. Thus she encouraged others in similar financial positions to contribute by issuing challenge grants to match her own donations. She was always in favor of granting civil rights to the impoverished and disenfranchised, a byproduct of her father's legacy in building schools and recreational centers for African-Americans.

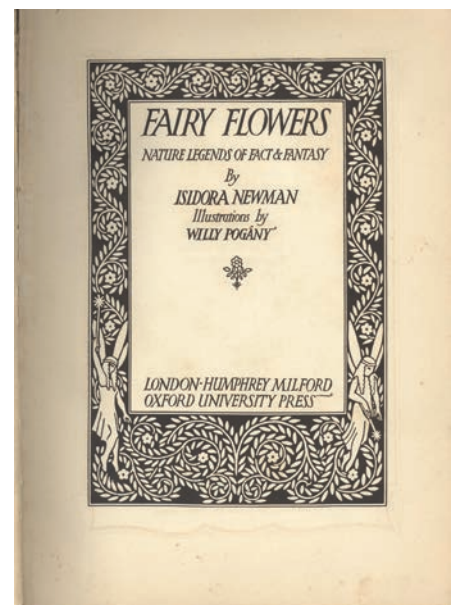
Following her marriage to cotton broker Edgar Stern in 1921, she moved to New Orleans and the two began their work as dynamos for civic action and improvement of the local



Isidora Newman, right, beneath a portrait of her father in 1955 at Newman School. Below: The cover and title page from Isidora's seminal work "Fairy Flowers." (Photos courtesy Isidore Newman School Archive)



economy. She was a juggernaut for progressive education and helped fund both the Newcomb and Metairie Park



Country Day Schools. Edith Stern was instrumental in helping build Dillard

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University into one of the region's most respected traditional black colleges and did so in partnership with the African-American community.

While education was clearly of deep value to her, she was also a promoter of culture and the arts. She was a charter member and the vice-president of the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Society, a board member of the Delgado Museum of Art (now the New Orleans Museum of Art) and had been president of the Cultural Attraction Fund of Greater New Orleans. President John F. Kennedy appointed her to serve the National Cultural Center Advisory Committee of the Arts.

Within the Jewish community, the Sterns were among the biggest champions for civil rights causes. They were deeply involved in the development of Pontchartrain Park as a neighborhood intended to attract African-American professionals. Edith Stern in particular fought for social justice by increasing voter registration, pushed for auditing of voter rolls and generally sought to clean up voting rights in New Orleans. After hearing her cook speak of a gifted singer appearing at her church, Stern had her installed as the guest of honor at a lofty society dinner party. It helped catapult opera singer Marian Anderson into the public spotlight and made her the toast of New Orleans.

A leading figure of Jewish philanthropy, Edith Stern encouraged all the members of her family to pursue their own charitable interests. She was a major supporter of the State of Israel and attributed her attitude towards giving as directly coming from her Jewish heritage. "One is permitted to glean one's field only once," she recalled. "Thereafter, others can partake...One has to tithe."

A member of many civic boards, she naturally served as a board member of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, but also



Heiress Edith Rosenwald Stern as a young woman and receiving the 1972 Times-Picayune Loving Cup. (Photos courtesy Longue Vue House and Gardens, Archives)



found time to be a president of the Garden Study Club. The members of the Orleans club made her an honorary life member and she was honored with a number of awards for her humanitarian and civic efforts including the 1971 Hannah G. Solomon Award from the NCJW.

She was the 1964 recipient of the Times-Picayune Loving Cup, an award her husband had won in 1930, making them the only husband and wife team to have been selected to receive this high honor separately for their own endeavors.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of the Sterns was the gift of their historical and artistic legacy of the Longue Vue House and Gardens, which is now open to the public and administered by a board and professional staff.

Predeceased by her husband, she died in New Orleans on September 11, 1980. Twin large sized replicas of the Times-Picayune Loving Cups made from granite grace the two front corners of their resting place in Metairie Cemetery.

GLADYS DENA FREEMAN CAHN

If the term social activist ever needed a poster child, it would most appropriately bear the image of Gladys Free-

man Cahn, a true clubwoman, who advocated for social welfare and civil rights both locally and nationally.

Born in Chicago in 1901, she moved to New Orleans in 1922, where she was married to Moise S. Cahn, the director of the brokerage firm of Steiner, Rose and Co.

A tireless crusader for the civil rights movement, Cahn was the president of the New Orleans Urban League and also served for three years as a member of the National Urban League. Cahn received an award in 1953 from the Louisiana chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for "courageous and untiring efforts in the field of human relations."

She was president of the Louisiana Conference on Social Welfare, the secretary of the Louisiana Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, a member of the Louisiana Civil Liberties Union and a board member of Save Our Schools, Inc.

During World War II, she was the Civil Defense volunteer director with over 7,000 block leaders under her direct administration. She was on the national executive committee of the Women's Division of the United

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Jewish Appeal and an executive board member of the U.S. Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Cahn served as the local president of the NCJW and followed in the footsteps of Ida Weis Friend when she, too, was elevated to the national presidency of the NCJW from 1949-55.

Chairman of the women's division of the Community Chest, Cahn was interested in obtaining charitable aid to those in distress, but she never forgot her local Jewish community as well. She was a member of the National Executive Committee of the women's division of the United Jewish Appeal and also toured several displaced persons camps in Germany after World War II had ended, but before the Stratton bill passed that permitted them to emigrate to the U.S. She made contact with many of these Holocaust victims, whom she described as the backbone of resistance to the Nazis and was crucial in advocating for the partition of Palestine.

Cahn died at her summer home in Mandeville on April 13, 1964 at the remarkably young age of 63.

ROSALIE PALTER COHEN

An intellectual and original thinker, Rosalie Palter Cohen was a stalwart and pivotal leader for New Orleans' Jewish community at a time when Zionism and the survival of the State of Israel were most severely tested.

A native of New Orleans, she was born into a family of Jewish immigrants Fanny (née Brener) and Leon Palter, who hailed from Bialystok, Russia. Palter was a peddler at first, but after a decade in the city, he opened a furniture store called Universal Furniture that eventually became one of the city's largest firms.

The influence of her parents meant Rosalie, who was born in 1910, was



Former NCJW president and civil rights activist Glady Freeman Cahn. (Photo courtesy Xavier University of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections)

reared under an Orthodox household and informed of the necessity for a Jewish homeland at a very early age. Her parents encouraged her to attend meetings of Zionists and arranged for her to learn Hebrew and to study Torah on a daily basis from the time she was just a young girl into her teens. The Palters arranged for esteemed Russian Hebrew poet Ephraim Lisitzky to come to New Orleans in 1918 from Milwaukee, where he had personally instructed a young Golda Meir. Lisitzky instituted the Communal Hebrew School soon after his arrival.

Only a few years after finishing her immersive study of Hebrew and Jewish history, Rosalie met and married Dr. Joseph Cohen, a New York surgeon, who shared her zeal for Zionism. On their honeymoon in 1929, the couple attended the World Zionist Congress in Zurich, Switzerland along with luminaries like Albert Einstein and David Ben-Gurion. They also visited Palestine, the first of many trips to the

area.

After they returned to live in New Orleans, Rosalie continued her studies in journalism at Tulane University and soon graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She became a visible member of the Women's Zionist Organization of America. During World War II, her mastery of Hebrew got her a wartime job as a translator at the U.S. Department of Censorship. Her interest in providing support to the State of Israel led her to become the first chairperson for Israel Bonds as well as her election to the presidency of the New Orleans Chapter of Hadassah on three occasions.

Cohen was the first female president of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans from 1959-61, but was also instrumental in the foundation of the Willow Wood Home for the Jewish Aged (now Woldenberg Village) and the Jewish Community Senior Citizens Club. Believing education

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was the cornerstone of a proper Jewish education, she co-founded the Lemann-Stern Young Leadership Group (now rebranded as the Katz-Phillips Leadership Development Program) that sought to engage young Jewish professionals in education, enhance their leadership skills and spark interest in philanthropic endeavors. Through missions to Israel and the interaction with national leaders, Lemann Stern members developed into future, responsive Jewish community leaders.

Cohen's contributions included providing for the establishment of Tulane University's Hillel Foundation and the integration of a Jewish Studies program, which has since developed into a full-fledged department. Her many passions for Jewish literature helped establish a fund in her name at Tulane for the express purpose of adding volumes of Jewish writing for studies there.

As a member of many national and international boards, Cohen saw to it that hundreds of Jewish writers, musicians and artists received the kind of financial support that would ensure their continued creativity and connection to Am Yisroel ("the people of Israel"). One of the most important of these was the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, on which she was a founding member.

"I have had a vision of what a Jewish community ought to be, and I felt I had a responsibility," she once proclaimed. She was the 1979 recipient of the Hannah G. Solomon Award presented by the NCJW.

Predeceased by her husband and following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Cohen was forced to relocate in Cincinnati. When she died on April 7, 2010, just one month before her 100th birthday, the entire Jewish community felt the loss of this graceful and determined lover of Jewish philosophy and culture.



Jewish community leader and education proponent Rosalie Palter Cohen. (Photo courtesy Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans)

BESSIE MARGOLIN

A perfectionist and a formidable attorney whose spectacular record in arguing and winning cases before the Supreme Court might have been enough to propel her into history, Bessie Margolin also had a hand in prosecuting Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg and was largely responsible for the legal language that established individual protections both for the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Equal Pay Act.

The subject of a recent release by LSU Press and written over the course of a decade by Marlene Trestman, *"Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin,"* tells much more than the struggle of a woman vying to find her place in history in a legal world defined and populated almost entirely by men.

Margolin began life as most youngsters do with a loving set of parents who wanted to provide the best for their child. They immigrated to America to escape oppression in Russia just before Bessie was born in Brooklyn. Her father Harry moved the family to

Memphis in search of a new job when his wife became ill with Hodgkin's Disease. When Bessie was just 4, her mother died and Harry was unable to provide care for his family.

While in Memphis, he learned of the Jewish Orphans Home in New Orleans, which took Bessie in as a "half" orphan. Margolin received a scholarship through the home and as a result received a stellar education from Isidore Newman School. Bearing the school motto *Discimus Agere Agendo*, ("We learn to do by doing") in mind, Margolin enrolled at Newcomb College and might have gravitated towards a conventional scholastic life. But there was a drive within her to accomplish more. It turned out Margolin accepted the scholarship to Newcomb, but deduced Tulane University was the place she wanted to be if she were to pursue a law degree. She transferred to the school and received both her undergraduate and law degrees.

Margolin was the only woman in her class and the first woman to receive the Order of the Coif membership when she graduated. She was hired as a research assistant to prominent Yale Law School professor Ernst Lorenzen and received a Sterling Fellowship there, another first for a woman. She received her doctorate in law at Yale.

Initially considering a career as a professor, she was disheartened to determine that the opportunities for women within the halls of academia would be very limited due to ongoing discrimination.

Drawn to public service, she became the first woman attorney working at the Tennessee Valley Authority in the Roosevelt administration. One of her major tasks was to fight legal challenges to the federal legislation, which created the series of dams and levees providing hydroelectric power to a vast area there.

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Bessie Margolin at work in the Labor Department and about to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court. (U.S. Department of Labor photos, courtesy of Malcolm Trifon.)

The assured attorney soon found her way to the Department of Labor. Her work on the Fair Labor Standards Act in the 1940s as a young woman and her work on the Equal Pay Act in the 1960s as a middle-aged lady are both considered some of the most important legal work ever conducted on the subject.

Following the cessation of hostilities in World War II, Margolin was loaned from the Department of Labor to assist the Nuremberg Military Tribunals in preparations for prosecuting captured Nazi war criminals. She was posted there from 1946 to 1947, but returned to Washington shortly before the trials of these lesser-known criminals by military tribunals began in earnest.

When she retired in 1972 as assistant solicitor, several Supreme Court justices including Chief Justice Earl Warren were in attendance. She had amassed an amazing 21 wins of the 24 cases she had argued before the Supreme Court, according to the count of her biographer Trestman.

Throughout her career, she was im-

maculately dressed and coifed whenever she appeared in public or in court. Though she spent the majority of her life living in the shadow of the Capitol, she always considered herself a New Orleanian and a Southern lady. Margolin, delighted in entertaining others, but was both resolute and charming in a courtroom setting.

She was a co-founder of the National Organization of Women and pushed for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, legislation that ultimately failed to be ratified on the state level. It was a rare loss for this determined lady.

Though she never married, Trestman claims there were many suitors who beat paths to her door. She occasionally would return to teach or give lectures in Washington, D.C. law schools.

Her health began to fail in her later years as Margolin suffered a stroke, which left her largely incapacitated. She died in 1996 at the age of 87.

IDA RITTENBERG KOHLMAYER

One of the most revered of New Orleans expressionist artists, Ida Rittenberg was born in the Crescent City to Polish immigrants Joseph and Rebecca Rittenberg in 1912. Her rather expected education resulted in her studying English literature at Tulane University, where she received her B.A. degree in 1933.

She married her husband, Hugh Kohlmeier, the following year and resigned herself to a happy, if not conventional life as a mother and wife. On her honeymoon in Mexico, though, she was mesmerized by the work of local artists and other Central and South American art that she saw.

It bred in her a desire to paint. In 1947 she began to take classes at the John McCrady Art School on Bourbon Street. She became one of his prize students and she elected to take additional instruction at Newcomb College, where she earned her Masters in Fine Arts degree in 1956.

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Her interest in Abstract Expressionism was solidified with further studies under the eye of Hans Hoffman, considered one of the most important post-war painters in American art.

Solo exhibitions followed in New York as well as in New Orleans, where she was appointed as an assistant professor of Art at the University of New Orleans in 1973.

Kohlmeyer's work was said to be strongly influenced by Mark Rothko, the controversial New York abstract expressionist painter, who was always evolving as an artist. She worked with him in New Orleans and he attended that first solo New York opening.

It was during this period that she developed a personal style that was largely consisting of various abstract geometric progressions. Her so-called pictographs were marked by vibrant colors that some critics and students claimed to be able to read.

Kohlmeyer was also noted for her sculpture pieces, many of which featured the same bright colors and fluid lines found in her paintings and associated with biomorphic designs inspired from nature. The sculpture media at first consisted largely of Plexiglass, cloth and wood.

Her media changed to painted steel when she received a commission to erect and paint several large structures opposite the Louisiana Superdome on Poydras. The five 40- to 45-foot tall structures were collectively titled "The Krewe of Poydras." Today it is considered a downtown landmark.

Among her many awards, Kohlmeyer treasured her installation as an honorary life member of the National Women's Caucus for Art in 1982.

Kohlmeyer's work is on display throughout New Orleans. It graces the offices of Tulane University president Michael Fitts and is featured in an outstanding stained glass window at the Forgotson Chapel at Touro Synagogue.



"Synthesis" by artist Ida Kohlmeyer at a signing (above right). Below: "Circus Series" by Kohlmeyer. (Images courtesy Arthur Roger Gallery)



Visitors to the Aquarium of the Americas will note the appealing Aquatic Colonnade as a Kohlmeyer work.

Nationally and internationally, she is featured at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Societe Generale de Banque in Belgium and throughout many of the world's top museums. Ida Kohlmeyer's art is highly

desired among private collectors.

Ida Kohlmeyer may have died on January 29, 1997 at the age of 85, but her art will certainly live on for generations to come.

(Arlene S. Wieder contributed substantial research to this story)

The Fight for Gender Equality

By Arlene S. Wieder

The flapper decade unveiled a new contemporary woman in America. In this Jazz Age with new fashion and independent style, there was hope among the majority of new voting women that being enfranchised would finally empower women and give them equal rights with men. Unfortunately, even after the passage of the 19th Amendment, gender inequalities still existed in the United States.

The road to true equality has been a slow and gradual ascent for women. The genesis of the women's movement took place in 1848, when 300 female activists attended a suffrage convention in Seneca Falls, NY. It took another 26 years for the United States Supreme Court to finally hear a case on women's suffrage. The Missouri civil case *Minor v. Happersett* made its way to the docket of the highest court in 1875. The plaintiff, Virginia Minor, was denied a state of Missouri voting registration application by the registrar, Reese Happersett. The decision by the court was to uphold the Missouri law, which placed women in a "special category" as non-voting citizens. The court concurred that the Constitution did not explicitly grant women the right to vote.

Due to that interpretation by the Supreme Court, the women's suffrage movement shifted its focus to amend the United States Constitution. The 19th Amendment was officially ratified in 1920 with the necessary passage by two-thirds of the states. Surprisingly, Tennessee, the scene of the Scopes Monkey Trial that debunked evolution five years later, was the 36th state to ratify the amendment on August 20 of that year. It was somewhat unexpected, because most of the Southern states had banned together, refusing to pass such legislation. Southerners were largely fearful that giving women the right to vote might trigger larger civil rights issues. Most of these states, including Louisiana, were hardly



Women suffragists parade in New York City in 1917 demanding the right to vote. (Courtesy Wikimedia)

ready to give up the so-called Jim Crow laws that maintained racial inequality between whites and blacks.

The state of Louisiana had its first vote for women's suffrage presented at its Constitutional Convention in 1898. It did not pass. In fact, the state failed to pass any legislation related to the voting rights of women, including the 19th Amendment, before it became the law of the land. In 1970, on the 50th anniversary of its ratification, the Louisiana Legislature as a purely symbolic gesture, addressed the issue and voted and passed the 19th amendment.

The state did have one notable exception to the non-voting rights associated with women. All tax-paying women were allowed to vote on referendums involving taxes. It is reputed that in 1899, the eligible voting block of New Orleans women was responsible for the passage of a special bond issue for sewage and drainage.

Throughout the years as discriminatory practices continued to exist for women, the government created specific legislation to increase the opportunities and services that were not extended to women. The first policy change was with Lyndon Johnson's Executive Order 11375, more commonly referred to as the Equal Employment Opportunity Order. This order amended the affirmative action policies of 1965 to include discrimination based on sex. Under threat of losing federal funding for non-compliance, the order was responsible



New York's female Jewish voters instructed in the voting process in 1928.

for requiring specific rules and laws for the government and the private sector to follow, ensuring equal opportunities in employment and education for women.

The Education Amendments of 1972, included the creation of the Title IX provision. After numerous court challenges were exhausted, Title IX finally took effect in 1976. This statute required equal opportunities offered to both sexes in federally funded educational programs and activities. Title IX is responsible for the growth of women's sports, particularly on the high school, collegiate and professional levels.

Although opportunities have substantially increased for women, discrimination still continues in the work environment. Today more women than ever are visible in positions that were once exclusively male. While steady advances in the work force have increased for women such as those afforded for pregnancy leave, there still remain many issues of salary disparities for similar jobs and work in addition to continuing charges dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace.

Nevertheless, a major political barrier was crossed this summer at the Democratic National Convention with the nomination of Hillary Clinton as the first woman nominee of a major party for president of the United States. Our flapper grandmothers might see this as genuine progress.

CCAR's 'Sacred Calling' details 40 years of women rabbis

By ALAN SMASON

While the subject of ordaining women as rabbis still resonates very strongly today within the Orthodox community, the Reform movement has, with the ordination of Rabbi Sally Priesand in 1972, accepted women as rabbis. That is a historical fact. The story of her own struggle for personal acceptance and the path of those who followed her at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and, later, at the Jewish Theological Seminary of the Conservative movement as rabbis, is detailed in "The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate."

As part of its "Challenge and Change Series" of books, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) has produced a massive collection of essays on a variety of subjects of interest to both Jewish women and men.

With a foreword by Priesand, the 776-page volume is edited by Rabbis Rebecca Einstein Shorr and Alysa Mendelson Graf and lists Rabbi Renee Edelman as a consulting editor.

There is much to be celebrated within these pages. Priesand stoically removes the title of pioneer from her mantle, insisting that her dream of becoming a rabbi was the path she chose and she just happened to be first. Becoming the first woman of any American Jewish movement to bear the title of rabbi in an environment where all the faculty and classmates were men was daunting to her and she came to find out that without the interdiction of several mentors and friends, her journey might never have brought fruit.

Priesand credits HUC-JIR president Rabbi Nelson Gleuck with encouraging her in her determination to become the first American woman rabbi, but when he died a year short of that goal, it was up to his successor, Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk, to realize that dream.

Priesand learned later that his was not an easy battle to wage.

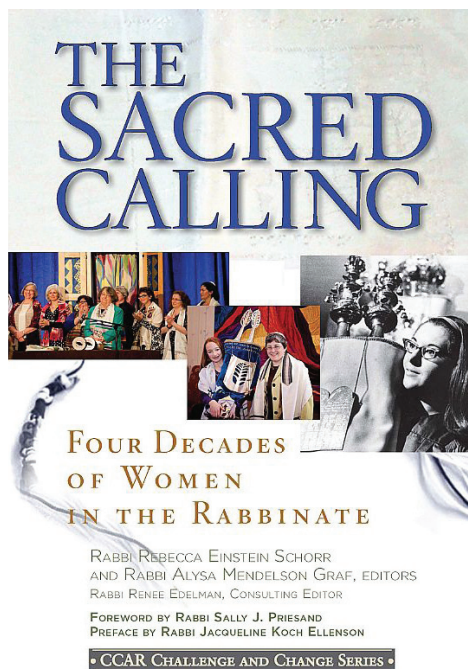
Rabbi Elka Abrahamson interviewed Priesand at a Women's Rabbinic Network biennial conference in 2007. Priesand had agreed to grant the interview on the occasion of her recent retirement from the pulpit at

Monmouth Reform Temple, where she had served for 25 years as senior rabbi. The transcript of that conversation is quite revealing and gives a reader much insight into the travails Priesand had to endure as a reluctant trailblazer.

It is through the efforts of other scholars that historic persons like Regina Jonas, the first woman ever ordained in history, became known. Jonas, a victim of Nazi persecution during the Holocaust had been ordained in 1935 in Germany and had donated her papers and only known photographs for safe-keeping just before she was sent to Theresinstadt concentration camp, where she performed rabbinic du-

ties and delivered lectures to inmates from 1942-44.

The struggle of openly gay rabbinic students and the fight for LGBT equality is also detailed in the work, which is subdivided into seven different sections including Women Rabbis and Feminism, Congregational Culture and Community Life, Image, Jewish Life and Ripple Effects: The Impact of Ordaining Jewish Women. Aside from the most respected of Reform rabbis, articles and remembrances are from noted and established historians of Jewish life such as Rabbi Gary Zola may be found represented in this volume as well as contemporary bloggers such as Rabbi Jordie Gerson.



"The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate" – ©2016 CCAR Press (Challenge and Change Series) – New York, NY – Edited by Rebecca Einstein Shorr and Rabbi Alysa Mendelson Graf with Rabbi Renee Edelman – 776 p.

Fresh hummus, Israeli salad, shakshuka and fresh pita bread with tahini and special sauce for hummus dipping, (Photo by Alan Smason)



Tal's Hummus on Magazine Street. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Tal's Hummus

doubles number of Israeli restaurants here

By ALAN SMASON, Exclusive to the CCJN

While Shaya has received a 2016 James Beard Award and a citation from *Esquire Magazine* as the Best New Restaurant in America, Tal's Hummus has quietly opened giving Magazine Street its second and, arguably, most genuine Israeli restaurant in New Orleans.

Tal Sharon, the Israeli owner and chef behind the restaurant at 4800 Magazine Street, has had considerable experience running several other restaurants in a career that started in Israel, blossomed in Costa Rica and has now brought him to the Crescent City. But his latest restaurant venture wouldn't have happened if it weren't for his love of hummus and a happenstance trip to chef Alon Shaya's self-named restaurant back in the winter.

As the friendly and starkly bald Israeli with the heavy growth of beard and thick accent will attest, he was minding his own business when two fellow patrons of Shaya came in and started talking about the restaurant business. He overheard them remark that a new space was available at the site of the former McLeary's Barbeque. He

approached the owner of the property who on the spot gave him a tour of the facility.

"A week later we signed a contract," he confided. "Basically, we found the place because of Shaya."

Sharon, who had previously worked for several months as the bread baker and chef at Doris Metropolitan Restaurant, had been idled for a while. He had hoped to move from the top chef position there to a new New York City restaurant Dori's had been planning. At the last minute, the numbers were crunched and they elected to back out of the deal, leaving Sharon



Tal's Hummus owner Tal Sharon has doubled the number of Israeli restaurants on Magazine Street with his location on the corner of Bordeaux. (Photo by Alan Smason)

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looking for new options. Tal's Hummus, designed and planned over a three-month period is his answer.

The restaurant opened on April 19 with little fanfare, but the style of fresh Israeli food items has brought a steady stream of customers into the welcoming and bright institution.

The entrepreneur began his restaurant career shortly after leaving his two years of required service in the Israel Defense Force (IDF). He attended classes at the very exclusive Tadmor Culinary Institute and years of studies ventured out into the competitive world of Tel Aviv restaurant life. He worked and studied over the next decade. Finally, when he was in his early thirties he opened his first restaurant Pastaria, an Italian kitchen specializing in fresh, homemade pasta.

Boredom set in and the adventurous chef sold his restaurant and with the proceeds headed to visit a friend and fellow surfer in Costa Rica. "In the beginning I just moved just to visit a friend at a very small beach where even the locals don't know where it is," he continued. "I loved surfing."

But it would seem he loved Costa Rica and the restaurant business too, because the short vacation became an opportunity to open what would be eventually four restaurants on the shore there with a number of the 100 expatriate Israelis who live there among his best customers.

"In the end I had four restaurants on that beach. One of them was seafood (Panga Blanca). One of them was pizza and pasta (Pasta Basta). One of them was like this, but with burgers (Tal's Burgers and Burger Rancho)," he said. The short trip lasted 12 years and he built a mansion on the edge of the jungle overlooking the ocean. "It was amazing," Sharon recalled.

But eventually boredom set in again. He knew restaurateur Dori and came to New Orleans at his urging. Sharon sold his home and all four restaurants at a tidy profit before he arrived in the Crescent City.

The restaurant's bill of fare has all manner of fresh Israeli-style food. The centerpiece is the hummus, which he makes daily and with which he offers several different side items to enhance the taste. The creaminess of the concoction is giving Shaya's roasted cauliflower and mint variation a run as best hummus in the city.

Most of the items are vegetarian, although he does stock non-kosher beef and chicken for several of his dishes. Shakshuka, the Israeli meal with eggs and fresh tomatoes, is a big favorite. Falafels are also quite popu-



The interior of Tal's Hummus with menu. (Photo by Alan Smason)

lar.

The pita bread along with 40 percent of the items in the kitchen pantry are imported from Israel. That includes the baklava he sells for dessert.

Although he keeps kosher himself, Sharon ultimately rejected making the restaurant conform to kosher status because he would have had to close for a minimum of 100 days out of the year, he contended. These include Shabbats with a half day on Friday and a full day on Saturday, plus other observant holidays where he would have been closed.

"I tried to do it, but in the end after I talked to the rabbi, I realized it was a big story," he related.

Even though the kitchen is open on Shabbat, Sharon says most of what he serves would be considered very kosher by a number of people. He does not serve any seafood or pork of any kind. He doesn't mix milk and meat dishes.

The restaurant has a 50-seat capacity and Sharon looks to begin using the facility for catering outside events. He already has a Bat Mitzvah lined up.

"One of the biggest challenges I have here is to teach the local workers how to cook Mediterranean food," he explained. "What was basic for me was something totally new for them."

Now, after months of work and training, Sharon contended he has amassed "the perfect team. They are very, very good."

Tal's Hummus at 4800 Magazine Street is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

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OT Saturday, Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Carlos Miguel Prieto, conductor
Lilya Zilberstein, piano
ADAMS: *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*
SAINT-SAËNS: Piano Concerto No. 5,
"Egyptian"
BERLIOZ: *Symphonie Fantastique*

THE PLANETS

OT Thursday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.

OT Saturday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Fawzi Haimor, conductor
Stefan Jackiw, violin
BATES: *Mothership*
MOZART: Violin Concerto No. 4
HOLST: *The Planets*

EDGAR MEYER AND 'AN AMERICAN IN PARIS'

OT Saturday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Carlos Miguel Prieto, conductor
Edgar Meyer, double bass
ADAM SCHOENBERG: *Stars*
MEYER: Double Bass Concerto No. 3
BERNSTEIN: *On the Waterfront Suite*
GERSHWIN: *An American in Paris*

MENDELSSOHN 'SCOTTISH' SYMPHONY

OT Thursday, Apr. 20, 7:30 p.m.

OT Saturday, Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Carlos Miguel Prieto, conductor
Heather Zinninger Yarmel, flute
JACOBSEN: *Ascending Bird*
ROUSE: Flute Concerto
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