

# TOUROGRAM

2003 FALL 5764



## Sunday Brunch

by Gerald Tebrow

On Sunday, November 23, 2003 the Association held its monthly meeting at Touro Hall. This Sunday brunch meeting was held in lieu of the usual Wednesday night meeting. The advertised speaker was Major General Reginald Centracchio, the Adjutant General and Commanding General of the Rhode Island National Guard. On the Thursday prior to the meeting it was announced in the news media that MG Centracchio would be going to Afghanistan and other locations to visit Rhode Island National Guard troops. MG Centracchio sent Brigadier General Jared Kennish (shown above), the Assistant Adjutant General, Rhode Island Air National Guard, to represent him. BG Kennish gave an excellent presentation detailing the deployment of National Guard troops around the world. He detailed his recent assignment as commander of a multinational Air Force unit supporting the troops on the ground in Afghanistan. He pointed out that National Guard and Reserve forces are playing an ever-increasing active role in the war on terrorism. After his planned remarks, BG Kennish answered questions from the membership.

## Your Name-badge Awaits!!

By Andy Lamchick

You know who you are, many of your friends know who you are, and now, all of your Touro Brothers will know you. That's because Touro's brand new name badges are here!

The Membership Committee decided it was time to invest in permanent name badges that add dignity and prestige to your image when you attend Touro meetings. Therefore, you will receive your new name badge the next time you attend a Touro meeting.

We have also taken into consideration those members with pacemakers by ordering some with pin backs instead of magnetic backings. We ask those of you who prefer pin backs to phone the office in advance.

We hope you will wear your name badge with pride, and use it as an opportunity to get to know your Touro Brothers.

As Chairman of the Membership Committee, I am asking for your best ef-

fort to help our association continue to be a vital organization. The future of our association depends on all members to help it grow. At the last membership analysis, more than 50 percent of Touro's membership was over 70 years old. As much as we love all our members, it is crucial for us to continue to bring in new "Regular" members. Touro's future generations depend on it.

What can you do? Dig deep into your address books, and bring your qualified friends and neighbors into Touro. If you have children or relatives in their 20s, 30s, or 40s, bring them in as members of Touro. You'll be rewarded with Bagel Bucks, and movie passes, while helping our Association at the same time.

It is not necessary to wait until the next New Member Open House; please bring in new members today. Again, Touro's future depends on it!



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**Who can make the sunshine...**

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## From the Chairman

Robert Miller

### My Brothers;

Once again, in my normal course of exploring for ways to come up with a suitable submissions for the *Tourogram*, I have

stumbled across a great story written by a grandson talking about how his grandfather tried to get him involved in his version of Touro. Read and enjoy.

### Fraternal Organizations and Their Role in a Voluntary Society

by Caleob King

My grandfather is quite a man. A Navy man during WWII, a lifelong Democrat, and a fierce advocate of zoning laws in our small rural county. I agree with just about none of his politics. In fact, not a Christmas or Thanksgiving goes by that I don't hear that there ought to be a law about something or another. I'd probably say something if my mouth weren't full of pie.

But one or two times a month he straps on a strange uniform, picks up his sword (that's right a sword) and goes to participate in a wonderful hold over from a by-gone era of social responsibility. He goes to his lodge meeting.

Years ago Grandpa tried hustling me into this mysterious organization. "It'll be good for your career!" he said and I was horrified. I didn't want nepotism and special treatment - I wanted to rise on my own merits. "We take care of each other, and you

never know when something might happen." Come on, Gramps, isn't that what the government is for? So I left it at that.

So years went by. I registered as a Democrat just like dad, grandpa, and granddad-absurdum. I read a little, learned a lot, and followed that winding and personal path that leads rational individuals to a profound faith in voluntary association. And now that I'm here, I can't help but wonder if the old dog accidentally got something right.

I've seen several stories lately about resume fraud. You've probably seen them too - bold outright lies about a person's skills and experiences. How is an employer to guard against these types of incidents? It is now nearly impossible to get reliable information from references due to the litigious environment we live in, and even if they could give a negative report there is no reason to suspect that the truth is any more important to them than to the prospective employee. The crux of the problem is, and always has been, a question of character. What was being promised me was not special treatment as I had thought. I was being offered a reputation by a group that had an established reputation of its own.

What implications might this have for a free society? As pointed out by many other excellent columnists on this site, one of the prime methods to maintain order non-coercively is through ostracism of one sort or another. This has been accomplished in the past in various ways but in a modern society there are special problems to address. We today involve ourselves in so many dealings

that the medieval traders, who used this system to enforce arbitration agreements, would be put to shame. This would be even truer in free society where more services would be purchased. What is needed when dealing with strangers, and what would be a very valuable service, would be a group willing to vouch for the character of its members.

This is precisely the role fraternal organizations have played in the past. The charity work they are usually involved in is a natural outgrowth of this function. It enhanced the reputation of the organization in the community and through it the reputation of its members. What I at first regarded as special treatment was, in fact, the treatment anyone would be given once his good character was known.

In such a system no one could run from his or her past. If a mistake were made of such severity to warrant expulsion from an organization, no other group would risk its good name by vouching for the criminal. This might not necessarily mean total business ostracism but it would certainly make life more difficult for the offender. On the other hand, someone pushed out by politics or on a trumped up charge would find his dues welcomed by other organizations within the community.

Finally, anyone who did make a mistake, but took the necessary steps to atone (as defined by the rules of the organization) would once again be able to proudly regain the status of "member in good standing." With such a prestigious history and bright future, I might take Grandpa up on his offer. After all, I always wanted a sword.



Your Social Committee has a busy fall/winter season planned for you. After our successful October meeting with Dr. Stanley Aronson, and November 1st Two-Fer with The Ocean State Follies at Lombardi's, Harmony Lodge hosted a brunch on November 23rd highlighted by Brigadier General Jared Kennish of the R.I. National Guard.

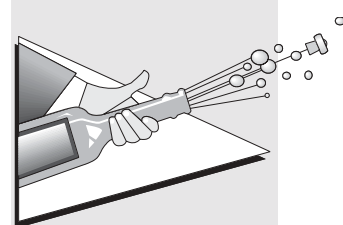
December 17, Friendship Lodge hosted comedian Frank O'Donnell .

### Upcoming events include:

- Our annual **Chanukah Party** will take place Sunday, **December 21** with Revlak the Wizard entertaining the kids.
- **December 25** is Touro's crowd pleasing **Chinese Dinner and a Movie.**
- The New Year brings in **Trivia Night**, hosted by Harmony Lodge on **January 28**, featuring Master of Trivia, brother Jerry Tebrow.
- Friendship Lodge will host the **February 25** meeting at **Chelo's** in Warwick.

All in all an exciting couple of months awaits us!

*Want to be part of the action? The Social Committee generally meets the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, check Touro's website at [www.tourofraternal.org](http://www.tourofraternal.org)*



### Mazels, Mitzvahs & Milestones...

..to Brother Seymour and Shirley Ladd on their 50th anniversary, October 18, 2003.

## ...the Candy Man can!

Community service is something to which many pay lip service. But, for Robert J. (Bob) Hodosh, it comes as second nature.

As a relatively new member of Touro, I had occasion to spend a few minutes getting to know Bob, in preparation for this profile. Tales of his accomplishments rolled off his tongue with an ease and matter-of-fact-ness that was astonishing. But these were not the stories of a braggart. Bob was simply accommodating a novice journalist. Supporting others is the thread that weaved itself throughout his tale.

A devoted family man, Bob has been married for 54 years to his wife, Sylvia, and they have one daughter, Helene. He served his country as an Army Tech Sergeant in the Aleutian Islands during World War II. Professionally, Bob worked with his brother, Jerry, at Hodosh Dental Supplies, and later worked as a payroll auditor for Equifax.

It was at Jerry's behest that Bob joined Touro in 1962.

Since then, Bob has served Touro in almost every conceivable capacity. The list of committees on which he has served is staggering: Long Range Planning, Constitution



## Bob Hodosh: A Real Mensch

*By Jed R. Brandes*

and By-laws, Social, Initiation, to name but a few. He also co-chaired Touro's Diamond Jubilee Celebration. The night of our meeting, Bob was at Touro Hall for (what else?) a Community Involvement Committee meeting.

Bob was Touro's President from January 1974 to June 1975. While his contributions during that tenure were numerous, the one that stood out most in his mind was the implementation (with the help of Nate Lury)

of the "Two-fers", now a long-standing and greatly appreciated Touro tradition.

Nowadays, Bob is best known for his work as the chairman of the Sunshine committee. He has been chair of this committee for 5 years, visiting sick members in hospitals or nursing homes, always bringing his famous sugar-free candies.

I asked him how he could do this for so long. Doesn't it get to him, always being around the sick and infirm? Bob replied that it was important to him because it "puts a good face on Touro. We think of our members. "That couldn't be the whole truth. He must get some kind of personal satisfaction out of the visits. Bob demurred: "I'm not basically a do-gooder." "Really?" I pressed. Begrudgingly, Bob related the story of a visit to a Past-President in a nursing home who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. The man went to his bedstand and produced his President's gavel to show Bob that he was recognized and appreciated. A big smile crossed Bob's face as he finished his story.

Apparently, there is some naches to go along with the job. And as long as Touro has Bob to chair its Sunshine committee, there will be plenty of naches to go around.

## Student Financial Aid Committee Presents Educational Grants



Pictured above: Alan Lury, Chair, Financial Aid Committee along with Robert Miller, Chairman of the Board presents Alison Rappoport and Jeffrey Horowitz each with a \$2,500 educational grant to be used for the upcoming academic year.

## Kibitzing with the President

*By Steven Dinerman, President, Friendship Lodge*

I'd like to welcome everyone back from summer. While some members were enjoying their vacations, Touro was having its first annual But-tonwoods Family Picnic. Members of all ages enjoyed eating, talking and swimming. This summer, we also had our yearly Pawsox baseball game and pre-game barbecue.

This fall, our special guest speakers, Mayor Laffey and Dr. Stanley Aronson, were enjoyed by all. The Ocean State Follies entertained us at a Two-Fer held on November 1.

Clearly, the Social Committee continues working hard to bring us many wonderful events. Looking ahead, I can assure you that we will continue to provide a variety of fun-filled events that will please members

regardless of their interests. Please contact either of your Social Committee chairs, Barry Schiff or Ed Deluty, if you would like to assist in any way.



You can be proud knowing that you belong to such a great organization with a long tradition of providing great benefits to its members and having a positive impact on our community. Membership in Touro not only has privileges, but benefits. Help us spread the word about Touro by telling someone you know about us or by bringing someone new to an open house. We are excited to welcome new members into our Touro family.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a Shana Tova, a happy and healthy new year. May this be a year of peace.

# An Evening of Pastrami and Penicillin

By Lester Nathan

October's lodge meeting featured the unusual combination of a deli dinner and a lecture on the history of human pathology. Our guest speaker, Dr. Stanley Aronson, presented *The Eradication of Pestilence: Myths and Realities*, which included various stories about disease and medical treatment over the last two millennia.

For over 30 years, Dr. Aronson taught pathology (the origin, nature and course of diseases) at Columbia, SUNY and Brown, before serving as Dean of Brown's School of Medicine beginning in 1972. Since retiring in 1981, he has published many articles and books and served as a columnist for the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* and *The Jewish Voice & Herald*.



Dr. Stanley Aronson

One story of local interest was the Providence cholera epidemic of 1831. Because no one, at the time, really understood that the disease was spread via contaminated water, many thought the disease was a divine punishment to the sailors, prostitutes and saloonkeepers who lived along Eddy Street near the harbor.

Dr. Aronson gave us a medical view of the Franco - Prussian War. Although Germany had the smaller army, it could field greater numbers of effective soldiers than the French due to its medical corps and better health practices. This helped von Bis-

marck defeat the French rather quickly.

Professor Aronson urged the audience to revisit the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, which contain references to venereal disease, leprosy and trachoma, all spread by human contact.

Later in history, as western civilization changed, so did the nature of disease. More people were living in cities, so new diseases,

such as bubonic plague and typhus, began to spread due to the bad sanitation. Yellow fever would appear in the 17th century, cholera and tuberculosis, due to mining and industrialization, in the 19th. With the birth of the drug industry, and better understanding of pathology, the tide was turned against infectious diseases in the

20th century. Penicillin and streptomycin, the first antibiotics, were key discoveries and saved millions of lives. A notable achievement in 1977 was the eradication of small pox.

Dr. Aronson believes that the AIDS epidemic can be eliminated, but only through a broad consensus to do it. Presently, 90 million people suffer with it. In conclusion, the lessons of the past tell us to be watchful in the future. Many diseases cannot feasibly be eliminated, while new ones like the Ebola and SARS viruses, can emerge from anywhere in the world.

# Touro Welcomes Mayor Laffey

by Barry Jay Schiff



Mayor Laffey (r) chats with Touro members after the meeting.

President Jeff Davis and Harmony Lodge played host to a capacity crowd of 140 Wednesday, September 24. Following the initiation of our six new brothers, Chef Chairman Miller's cooking crew saw to it that each member enjoyed a fine meal of hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixins'.

Our speaker for the evening was Cranston Mayor Stephen Laffey. The Mayor began his talk with an outline of his extensive financial investments background. He amused us with tales of his frequent heated meetings with School Committee Chairwoman Catherine Ciarlo. He also enlightened us on the state of financial and legal disrepair in which he found City Hall on Day One of his administration.

Many of our brothers asked specific questions of the Mayor, which he answered in a clear and well thought-out manner. All in all, it was a "no-holds barred" evening which was well received by the membership, Cranston residents and non-residents alike.

## September Initiates

On September 24, six new brothers were initiated. Surrounding Harmony Lodge President Jeffrey Davis, from left to right are: Mark Lake, Joshua Bell, Barry Forman, Milton Nachbar, Alan Axelrod and Richard Saltzman.



## November Initiates



On November 23, two new brothers were initiated. They are: Joel Bernstein and Stephen Spindell.

**Community Involvement Committee  
Presents Award to Cranston/Warwick USY**



*Michael Smith, Chairman of Community Involvement, and Touro Chairman Robert Miller present a check to Cranston/Warwick USY members Stacey Weisman and Andrea Cohen. The \$1000 donation will help defer some of the organization's expenditures pertaining to leadership training and member retention.*

**Touro Events on the Web**

*by Gerald Tebrow*

**K**now what's going on before the flyer arrives! Yes, Touro will notify you when the new flyers are posted to the web site. This is usually weeks before they arrive by US Mail. All you have to do is to put your e-mail address on the return portion of the flyer when you respond. Touro will then send you a simple message (no more than once a month) directing you to the web site. Once connected to the web site you can just read the flyer or download it and use it as your response form.

[www.tourofraternal.org](http://www.tourofraternal.org)



Candids from the PawSox event in August.



Raffle winners at the November Two-fer held at Lombardi's 1025 Club.



Ocean State Follies: where no state happenings are off limits.

TOURO FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION  
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## TOUROGRAM

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Editor: Bruce Weisman  
Columnists: Jed Brandes  
Edward Deluty  
Richard Glucksman  
Andrew Lamchick  
Richard Levenson  
Lester Nathan  
Arthur Poulten  
Barry Schiff  
Gerald Tebrow

**Touro Fraternal Association**  
45 Rolfe Square, P.O. Box 3562,  
Cranston, RI 02910  
Phone: 401-785-0066  
Fax: 401-941-8781  
E-Mail: [tourofratl@aol.com](mailto:tourofratl@aol.com)  
Website: [www.tourofraternal.org](http://www.tourofraternal.org)

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