

TOUROGRAM

2002 WINTER 5762

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Touro Wraps Up the Year with Gifts to the Community

By Andy Lamchick

We are fortunate as Touro members, not just for the amount of activities that our organization provides *to us*, but for the finances available to the community *from us*. That was the situation when the Community Involvement Committee met on December 19th to complete our donations for the year.

Having heard about the huge shortage that the Rhode Island Community Food Bank faced in light of September 11th attacks, our first decision was to continue our tradition of helping the needy with a donation of one thousand dollars to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. That decision proved to be a good one, as we promptly received a phone call from the Food Bank thanking us for our donation, and telling us that our donation couldn't have

come at a better time.

Speaking of tradition and giving to community, the committee quickly decided once again to donate five hundred dollars to

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Rochelle Cotton, founder and driving force behind the Rhode Island Student Alliance, accepts the Touro grant from Andrew Lamchick (left) chairman of the Association's Community Involvement Committee, and Robert Miller, chairman of the Touro Board of Directors.

Coach Stowers to Headline Spring Open House

by Arthur Poulten

The football season may be over but that doesn't mean the conversation is. And this year there's a lot of subject matter to heat up the cold winter days and nights. There's the Patriots fantastic season, of course, but there also is the outstanding performance of the University of Rhode Island Rams.

And who better to lead the discussion than Tim Stowers, the man who coached the Rams to their great 2001 season that fell just short of being spectacular.

Stowers will be guest of honor at Touro's annual Open House meeting Wednesday, March 20, at Touro Hall.

The meeting is sponsored by the Association's membership committee and is

designed to give prospective members some idea of what Touro is all about. Steve Labush, committee chair, said this year's edition is patterned after the previous Open House meetings that have attracted large crowds of members and prospective members and have resulted in substantial increases in Touro's membership ranks.

"We're adding one wrinkle this year," Steve said. "We will waive the initiation fee for all prospective regular members signing applications that night."

It's a great chance for you to see and hear Tim Stowers and to show off Touro to your friends and relatives whom you think would make good brothers.

The evening is open to all Touro current and prospective members and begins at 6:30 p.m. It includes a deli dinner. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Touro at 785-0066.

Call early because reservations are limited and you won't want to miss this one!

From the Chairman

This issue of the Tourogram comes at a time of year when mostly all folks are still feeling good about themselves and still keeping the resolutions they made for the New Year. People who make and keep these resolutions are the leaders in our society today.

"Leadership is learning to live. Leadership is an obligation and a privilege of every person, young and old, because it is based simply on what we do. Everyone is responsible for something that he alone must do. If we enjoy this privilege and discharge our obligation, we grow; if we ignore our opportunity, we join the shrinking violets of humanity. The most tremendous experience of life is the learning process. The saddest time is when a person thinks that he has learned enough."

Quoted from "Life is Tremendous" by Charlie "Tremendous" Jones

I have attended many seminars in my life on all types of subjects: Motivation, Sales, Financial and many many more. However, only a few really stand out that are memorable to me. Charlie Jones is one of those. This guy was so quirky you had to love



Robert Miller

him. What he said made perfect sense and it was so simple.

So, I want to bring up leadership in Touro. We have been fortunate over our 80 plus years of existence to be blessed with leadership. We have had leaders from all walks of life in our community. (The first 2 members to contact me at 737-7317 can attend the Venus this year with your spouse on the Chairman) Backgrounds aside, at

Touro you have an opportunity to be you. You have an opportunity to participate in today's current affairs. You have an opportunity to plot the course for the future direction of Touro. You can be a part of Touro, not an organization, but a living organism, constantly changing and moving forward.

Where Touro will be in twenty years is hard to say. As a member, wouldn't you like to take part in the process? What mark can you leave on Touro?

This past year Touro will show an increase in membership. Most other organizations are losing members. TOURO IS NOT. Sure, we lose members each year because of death, moving or lack of interest. Not in 2001. We took in more members than we lost and this year looks like it will produce the same results.

Good things are happening at Touro. Come and take part. Whatever your pleasure maybe, a monthly meeting, a Two-Fer dinner, the Venus DeMilo, Pawsox, PPAC, Bruins and much much more. Touro is here for you. Where do you fit in?

See you at next month's meeting.

Social Scene

Mark your calendar and plan ahead for these upcoming events:

March 20, 2002

Membership Open House with
guest speaker URI Football
Coach Tim Stowers

March 23, 2002

"Cabaret Night" Two-Fer at the
West Valley Inn

April 24, 2002

Regular meeting TBA

May 22, 2002

Installation Dinner

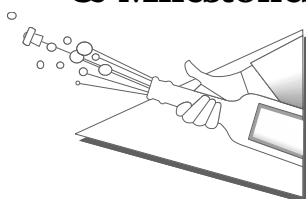
June 15, 2002

Two-Fer at the Venus DiMilo
Restaurant

June 26, 2002

Touro's Annual Steak Fry

Mazels, Mitzvahs & Milestones...



...to Brother Morris & Ida Bernstein
on their 55th anniversary,
February 23, 2001

*Remember to submit you mazel, mitvahs and
milestones to the Tourogram.*

News from the Student Financial Aid Committee

By Alan Lury

The Student Financial Aid Committee is extremely pleased to announce a significant improvement in Touro's Scholarship/Grant Program. Commencing with this year's applicants, Touro's Board of Directors has unanimously voted to increase the funding level for our Scholarship/Grant Program. The Student Financial Aid Committee this spring will award up to two \$2,500 grants to the children of Touro members. This is an increase from our previous funding levels of up to two \$1,000 grants. In addition, Touro will continue to award up to ten \$2,000 interest free loans. Information on how to apply for these college-funding opportunities will be mailed to Touro members in early March. The Committee looks forward to a very productive spring in assisting our Brothers and Sisters with the cost of their children's college tuition.

Shaw - the name means a lot to the Touro Family. Of course, everyone who has attended a meeting in the last 10 years knows Barry as the Touro Sergeant at Arms. He's always ready to examine every brother's membership card, but he'd rather test our knowledge of Touro's history.

But what do we know of Barry's history? Let's jump into the "way-back machine" and take a stroll down memory lane, or should I say Gallatin Street, the famous promenade in the heart of South Providence's Golden Ghetto during the 1950s and 60s. There Barry made an honest shekel as a kid by mixing and selling bleach door-to-door. With his earnings he went to the South Providence Jewish Community Center and impressed a cutie from Cranston - Gail. They stayed together as he went off to college, playing basketball, and lots of cards, at Bentley. She especially loved riding on his motorcycle. While I'm sworn to secrecy on how much younger she is than Barry, they've happily passed the 36th anniversary milestone.

The life-blood of Touro is its members and Barry knows the easiest way to get new members - give birth to them. He's recruited his oldest and youngest sons, Howard and Steven. The second-best way is to talk about Touro to friends; it's how he got me to join,

Gifts - Continued from page 1
the Providence Journal Santa Claus Fund.

Weeks before, we had been notified by Hannukah Joy that it had disbanded. We quickly contacted Jewish Family Services, which had previously helped distribute Hannukah Joy's gifts to needy Jewish children and elderly. Jewish Family Services happily agreed to take over the tasks formerly provided by Hannukah Joy. The one thousand dollars previously allocated to Hannukah Joy was successfully used to distribute Hannukah gifts to needy Jewish children and seniors.

One other donation we made was to Rhode Island Seniors, through the Seniors Agency of Rhode Island. A state-run agency dedicated to assisting needy seniors.

Next, we were visited by a spokesperson from a youth group called the Rhode Island Student Alliance. This student-run organization exists to help high school students cope with the problems that face them such as peer pressure, socialization problems, drugs, and dealing with cliques. The Rhode Island Student Alliance surveyed students from all over the state on

"Inside" Barry Shaw

by Richard Glucksman



and it's how Art Poulten got Barry to join nearly 15 years ago. Ironically, the two had grown up just streets apart, but didn't know each other then since Barry was *so much* younger.

Barry enjoys a distinguished record of service to Touro. He sits on the Board, chairs the committees on Long Range Planning and Budget & Finance, as well as performing his Sergeant at Arms function. Pictures from

how to deal with these problems, and then printed their responses in a handbook that is distributed to all high schools. The committee felt that this is a very worthy organization, and donated one thousand dollars to assist the organization, and reprint



On hand for the presentation of the BBYO check were (seated, from left) Evan Matzner of Cranston, regional membership chairman; Suesan Ziegler, North Kingstown, regional sisterhood chair, and Drew Hochman, Cranston, regional treasurer, and (standing, from left) Andrew Lamchick, Touro Fraternal Association; David Hochman, BBYO Rhode Island state coordinator, and Robert Miller, Touro Board Chairman

the 75th Anniversary Party Barry and Bob Hodosh co-chaired still adorn the walls of the foyer. His other social planning experiment for the 75th is legendary - Safam. The event as conceived was brilliant: bring together the entire RI Jewish community for a wonderful night of music and dance at the newly restored Veterans Memorial Auditorium. Unfortunately, the other groups sold few tickets. But the 300 or so Touro folks there enjoyed a wonderful concert.

For fun, Barry enjoys a friendly game of cards. He taught his sons and their friends, including me. He also plays with a few of his Touro brothers - Art, Bob Silverman, Mike Smith, Paul Botvin, Harry Katzman and until recently Phil Geffin. They've only been playing for a while - about 20 years or so. There's absolutely no truth to the rumor that Barry is planning to retire based on his winnings. But he finds real naches playing a relaxing game of golf with sons Howie and Steve, and brother-in-law Abe Strashnick. He replies with a chuckle when asked who's the best player, "Technically Abe, but I can always beat him."

He also has a keen sense for members with leadership potential, so if you ever get a call from him in the middle of the night, making an offer you can't refuse, you should listen very carefully - trust me on that one.

the handbook with Touro's name held high.

Our last visit was from some representatives of BBYO, formerly the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. I say formerly, because B'nai B'rith had withdrawn its funding to run this youth group. They came to us for assistance in running their organization. Let's see, a Jewish youth group who was in need of money to support Jewish youth activities. Need I say more? Touro committed one thousand dollars to sponsor a youth basketball tournament, and an endowment for new members who need financial assistance to pay the initiation fee.

Everyone was extremely pleased with the amount of money we were able to funnel to the community. Even better was the opportunity to double those donations by Alan Shawn Feinstein's Organization. He offered to match all charitable donations in the state in the month of December up to one hundred thousand dollars. We have provided the paperwork for each of these organizations to take advantage of the offer.

On to next year!!!

Ha Ha Ha!



Ho,
Hum!



Hee Haw



Touro Joke-Off Reaches

By Lester

What began as a modest fun event during the winter has reached its tenth birthday. The annual Joke-Off played to over 100 members December 5th at Touro Hall. After the lodge meeting and traditional KFC dinner, Burt Fischman, the master of ceremonies, opened the festivities with an updated collection of jokes.



Friendship Lodge

Chairman Bob Miller and Lodge Presidents Jeff Goldberg and Rich Glucksman made up the judging panel.

It was then the members' turn to entertain. Twenty brothers stepped up to the microphone to compete for prizes and glory. Most of their jokes were in the "mature" category and pretty funny.

I noticed a good mix of veteran and newcomers among the contestants who included: Harold Winthrop, Larry Alkins, Sam Gorman, Harry Finklestein, Ross Feinberg, George Iddis, Sandy



Yuck, Yuck!



Nice try Judah!



Best "Mature" Joke - John Ricci.



Ho, Ho!



Hardy , ha, ha!



es Milestone Birthday

r Nathan



re takes the title.

Shaw, Barry Levin, Jack Kirsch, Joel Pressman, Saul Spitz, Barry Shaw, Aaron Sherman, Judah Rosen, Irving Datz, Sam Buckner, Steve Goldman, John Ricci and Robert Stern.

The judges returned the following verdicts: **Best Clean Joke** - Steve Goldman (nice use of props, Steve!), **Best Mature Joke** - John Ricci (two good jokes), **Nice Try** - Judah Rosen (animals in heaven), and **Booby Prize** - Larry Alkins. Steven and John received gift certificates, Judah a comedy CD,

and as for Larry's, it was a clever use of candle wax. Two Runners Up, Mike Weston and Sam Gorman, also received prizes. Friendship Lodge recaptured the Joke-Off Lodge Trophy, and if form continues, is favored to win again next year. We're looking forward to the next KFC dinner and everyone's new material at the next comedy face-off.

Ho, Ho!



Yuck,
Yuck!



Yee ha!



Best "Clean" Joke - Steve Goldman



Booby Prize - Larry Alkins

The Club

By Arthur Poulten

Were you aware that there is another organization within the structure of Touro Fraternal Association?

It's a very important part of Touro because it encompasses many of the attributes we admire in our membership, particularly loyalty to the Association, its goals and what it stands for.

It's a special club that not everyone can join at any time. You have to **earn** an invitation to become a member. You have to "graduate", if you will, to this level.

This special club, counting 131 regular members on its roster, is made up of brothers who have been regular members for at least 50 years or who have reached their 80th birthday. Included in those 131 are 12 who qualified for membership this year.

Membership in a select group such as this perhaps should carry a special dues assessment. In this case, just the opposite is true. Those who qualify pay no dues at all and still enjoy all their regular benefits.

Several years ago, when the Board established this level of membership, it felt those who qualified have paid their dues in many ways - by serving as officers and Board members, as members of committees or just as loyal members - and they should be rewarded for supporting the Association and contributing to its growth.

We hope membership in this exclusive club continues to grow and congratulate them for reaching this important milestone and for their support of Touro.

One thing: the club doesn't have a name. If you can think of something appropriate, send it to Touro by mail or e-mail at TOUROFRATL@AOL.COM. We'll review them and perhaps we can come up with a winner **and a prize**.

Patrick Kennedy, A Crowning Experience

by Jeffery Goldberg



(l-r) Congressman Patrick Kennedy with Touro Brother Milton Bronstein.

On Saturday evening, October 20, 2001 Touro had the pleasure of inviting Congressman Patrick Kennedy as our guest speaker to the annual fall two-fer event. The event this year was held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks and dinner complemented an evening that saw many new and familiar faces.

Congressman Kennedy entertained the membership with his candor and made himself available to field many questions from the audience. Questions ranged from his views about the September 11th attack on America to some of his well publicized events during the last year.

Brother Milton Bronstein provided the introduction by offering a brief history of the congressman's accomplishments in office. In return, Kennedy offered some warm and gracious remarks directed toward Brother Bronstein.

Touro Experiences "Independence"

By Andy Lamchick

Last November 14th Touro was exposed to "Talk Radio Live", as WHJJ's "Independent Man" John DePetro entered our hallowed hall. John spoke with delight to our full house about the fun and challenges of conducting a daily talk show. John spoke about the research that he puts into his program, reading many publications a day starting at 5AM daily. John also explained that his show is a balance of hard issues, and light comedic topics.



John DePetro with (l-r) Vice President Steven Dinerman, and President Jeffrey Goldberg, both of the Friendship Lodge.

After his comments, John answered questions from the audience, and asked that any donations in his name be made to Advent House. We gladly honored his request.



Pictured above: Touro member digs in to the buffet at this past January's meeting at the Islander Restaurant.

Pictured left are scenes from Touro's Annual Chanukah Party held this past December at Touro Hall.

Pazmanian Devil Scores a Knock-Out at Touro

By Gerald Tebrow



Kosher meatballs, spaghetti and Vinny Paz. Quite a combination! Not a combination that you will see too often. But what a combination it was! Another full house at the Touro October 24th 2001 meeting was well fed and entertained.

Professional boxer Vinny Paz with an entourage of Charlie Birchfield of the Classic Restaurant fame and Al Cerone of the "You'll be glad you did!" fame were our guests for the night. Vinny, looking very sharp in a 3-button suit and a black sweater, delighted the members with his short introductory remarks and very long question and answer session. At the time, Vinny was preparing for a bout that would produce his 49th career victory and another title fight. Although not always politically correct in some of his answers, Vinny was totally honest. Knowing he was speaking to a Jewish group, on several occasions he turned the conversation to his fights with Robbie Rosenblatt, a Jewish fighter from nearby Massachusetts. Vinny related that early in their association, he had even been invited to the Rosenblatt home for a meal, but shortly thereafter their relationship turned to hate. Vinny related that their verbal battles were much more than just publicity for the fights.

Near the end of the session, Mitchell Sugarman asked Vinny how many people he had boxed. Vinny thought for a while and answered that he had boxed about 250. Mitchell replied that he had Vinny beat. Mitchell had "boxed" 2,500.

7 New Brothers are Initiated at November Lodge Meeting



November 14, 2001 Initiates (listed alphabetically): Eric D. Bazzle, Michael B. Fixman, Sidney Goldstein, Steven Horowitz, Stephen Lehrer, David Resnick and Steven Rodyn.



Touro Logo Contest

Attention: Are you artistically inclined? If you are, you might win one of the three cash prizes being offered for the best creative efforts to design a new Touro logo.

Although our current logo has served us well these many years, it may be time to take on the look that a freshly designed logo gives an organization. A graphic with an appropriate new look may capture Touro's diversity in programming and community service in the new millennium. However, we may conclude that retaining our traditional logo is a better option. Right now we are not sure. This contest will help us make this decision.

Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to all Touro members, their spouses and children.
2. Entries must be received by June 1, 2002.
3. Finalists will be chosen by the Ways and Means Committee and the decision will be announced at the June Association meeting.
4. There will be three prizes:
First prize: \$100
Second prize: \$75
Third prize: \$50
5. Final approval or rejection of a new logo is reserved for the Board of Directors of the Association. However, prizes will be awarded regardless of whether the new design is adopted. The contest winners will be featured in the Tourogram.
6. If adopted the new logo will appear on all future publications of the organization.
7. Entries will not be returned, please keep copies of your logo design.
8. Each entry must consist of one black-and-white image and/or a two-color image.
9. Entries should be submitted on paper.
10. Entries should be sent to:

Logo Contest

Touro Fraternal Association, P.O. Box 3562
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

In Memoriam

Brothers and Sisters we lost during the year 2001

<i>Morris Abrahams</i>	<i>Myron Gorodetsky</i>	<i>Fred Pulner</i>
<i>Emma J. Block</i>	<i>Dr. Harold Hanzel</i>	<i>Israel Resnick</i>
<i>Samuel Bochner</i>	<i>Gabriel Levine</i>	<i>Mildred K. Res</i>
<i>Jacob Chaiken</i>	<i>Benjamin Luftman</i>	<i>Benjamin Rosenstein</i>
<i>Louis Feldman</i>	<i>Benjamin H. Millman</i>	<i>Abraham Rubinstein</i>
<i>Harold I. Fink</i>	<i>Rae Pickar</i>	<i>Samuel H. Wilk</i>

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HARMONY • FRIENDSHIP • BENEVOLENCE
TOUROGRAM

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Good company, a little candlelight,
soft music...
...where are our wives?