

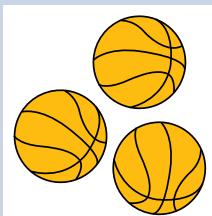
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Halsband, White Installed as Lodge Presidents

By Larry Berman

Scott Halsband and Steven White were installed as presidents of Harmony and Friendship lodges respectively at the annual Installation Dinner at Touro Hall on May 15.

Installed to three-year terms as members of the Board of Directors were Jed Brandes, Andrew Lamchick, Robert Miller, Barry Schiff and Bruce Weisman, all long-time board leaders. Brandes and Miller were past board chairs, while Lamchick and Schiff were previous board vice chairs and Weisman served as the chairman of the Centennial Committee.

Joining Halsband as Harmony Lodge officers are Michael Frank, vice president; Allen Cowett, secretary; and Stuart Solup, treasurer.



(l-r) Steven White, Scott Halsband, lodge presidents

White will be working with fellow Friendship Lodge officers Peter Silverman, vice president; Joshua Jasper, secretary, and David Weisman, treasurer.

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Open House was Tops at Topgolf

By Andy Lamchick, Membership Committee Chairman

After months of planning, Touro's New Member Open House took place on March 28 at the new Topgolf in Cranston and it was a huge success. When the night was finished, we had more than 15 applications for new members.

The goal of the Membership Committee was to find a location that would attract new regular members so that they could connect with current brothers. Additionally, recruiting younger members looking for new and different activities is a primary goal of the organization. The committee hoped to leverage the excitement surrounding the recent opening of Topgolf, and the venue did not disappoint.

Bruce Wasser

Bruce Weisman

Peter Hodosh

TOPGOLF



From the Desk of the Chairman

By Steven Labush, Chairman,
Board of Directors

It was a great honor to be elected by my fellow Board Directors to a fifth one-year term as chairman. Jeffrey Davis, the board vice chairman, and I take this responsibility very seriously and we will continue to work hard to make sure that Touro remains a strong and vibrant fraternal organization.

I also congratulate the five board directors who were re-elected by our membership for three-year terms: Jed Brandes, Andrew Lamchick, Robert Miller, Barry Schiff and Bruce Weisman.

These five extraordinary gentlemen have provided more than 140 years of combined leadership to our Board of Directors. Two of them have served as board chairs, two others have been board vice chairs, and all have been lodge presidents, chairs of multiple committees, and have fulfilled virtually every other duty within our fantastic organization.

I am incredibly fortunate to tap into the vast institutional knowledge and wisdom they continue to offer to our board and officers. Touro has thrived since 1918 and these five leaders make sure we honor our past, while helping us move forward to an even brighter and creative future.

It is also heartening to see that our lodge officers are a great mixture of experienced veterans and newcomers who will ensure we continue to offer exciting social events and promote Harmony, Friendship and Benevolence for our members and our community.

Steven White and Scott Halsband will serve as our new lodge presidents, while Michael Frank and Peter Silverman will lead our Social Committee as the new vice presidents. I welcome Joshua Jasper as a first-time lodge officer who will be working with a dedicated group of leaders.

With an exciting outlook, I encourage all brothers to increase their activity levels within Touro. Please attend Social Committee meetings on the first Wednesday of every month, or drop us an email at info@tourofraternal.org with suggestions for new events or programs. Please contact me at 401-529-2810 with your ideas.

I hope to see you soon at the many wonderful events we have planned this summer and fall!



SOCIAL SCENE

Summer 2024

By Michael Frank,
Vice President, Harmony Lodge



Peter Silverman, the Friendship Lodge Vice President, and I wish to thank the previous Social Committee chairs, David Nicolato and Scott Halsband, for not only creating a process to streamline the Social Committee, but to actually document the process as well. We look forward to carrying on their excellent work.

The Social Committee is open to all Touro brothers and meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Touro Hall to plan the lodge meetings and other events run by Touro. Come join us as we work on interesting and exciting activities.

Here's the upcoming schedule:

- * **Sunday, August 11** – Touro's Family Picnic at Goddard State Park will feature a delicious barbecue lunch and plenty of ice cream. There will be a disc jockey playing games with the kids. The best part of all, your entire immediate family is invited at no cost (there is a small refundable fee).
- * **Saturday, September 14** – Come and enjoy a plentiful buffet dinner at Newport Playhouse, followed by the play, *Run for Your Wife*, and then a fun-filled cabaret show to cap off the event.
- * **Wednesday, September 18** – Join us at the first lodge meeting of the fall featuring Steven Feinberg, our Touro brother who is the dynamic director of the Rhode Island Film and TV Office. Hamburgers and hot dogs, with all the sides, are on the menu at Touro Hall.
- * **Sunday, September 22** – We return to the Providence Performing Arts Center for the Broadway road show of *A Beautiful Noise – The Neil Diamond Musical*. Your deeply discounted tickets are located in the downstairs portion of the theater.
- * **Sunday, October 20** – Just a short time before the election, get set to talk politics from the White House to the State House with WPRI-TV's Political Editor Ted Nesi and enjoy a bountiful brunch at Touro Hall.
- * **Saturday, November 2** – Get ready for the Fall 2-fer at White's of Westport.

Looking even further ahead, we're also planning a Fall Open House in conjunction with the Membership Committee on November 20, the annual Hanukkah Party on December 15, Chinese Dinner & A Movie on December 25, and a few more fun events. Watch for more details on our website, Facebook page and through the old reliable US Mail!



President's Report

By Steven White, President,
Friendship Lodge

I retired from Touro's Board of Directors several years ago to overcome some health concerns. What I found in retirement, though, was I lacked purpose. Having volunteered for different positions in the past, I developed a passion for Touro's activities.

Along the way, I've met many unique brothers at Touro. The debate at meetings has always been lively, and I grew to miss being involved more regularly.

Under the excellent leadership at Touro, I have seen much activity and membership growth. There are more new members, including younger ones, who will bring in new ideas for our organization. I look forward to helping Touro grow.

I am also very excited about reinvigorating the Sunshine Committee. There needs to be a more substantial visiting program in place to brighten the days of our sick and shut-in brothers. When my first wife passed away several years ago, it was the encouraging words I received from Touro brothers during sunshine visits that helped me through difficult times.

In the spirit of Harmony, Friendship and Benevolence, I pledge to do my best in the next year. I look forward to working collaboratively with Harmony Lodge President Scott Halsband to help Touro reach even greater heights.



Topgolf - continued from page 1

room enjoying a full buffet of brisket, chicken and all the sides. The benefits of joining Touro were laid out in full detail to the guests.

Sponsors of new regular members who filled out an application that night will receive a \$20 Panera gift card, and the applicants will have their \$25 application fee refunded upon initiation.



Talking Sports with Channel 12's Taylor Begley

By Howard Wasser



(l-r): Jeffrey Davis, Michael Smith, Taylor Begley



Taylor Begley

Taylor Begley, WPRI Channel 12's sports director/anchor, was our guest speaker at the Friendship Lodge meeting on April 17 at Touro Hall. An excellent deli dinner was served.

Taylor grew up in Milford, Conn. and received a degree in communications and journalism at the University of Connecticut in 2017, where she was a cheerleader. She pursued a master's degree from USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism in 2019. Taylor got the sports bug by covering the USC football team and other sports as an intern at NBC Channel 4 in Los Angeles. She covered the professional sports teams and even had the chance to report on the Rams in their Super Bowl loss to the Patriots in 2019. She worked at Channel 3 KESQ in Los Angeles as a sports reporter, but moved back to New England in August 2021, accepting a job at Channel 12 in Providence.

She didn't always know her future was in sports, but was an avid fan of the Yankees, Patriots, Celtics and Bruins growing up.

Taylor took questions from Touro brothers ranging from sports betting, the college transfer portal, soccer and transgender concerns in women's sports. 



After the presentation and dinner, a hot round of golf took place for experienced and beginning players alike. Three Touro brothers took home prizes for their golfing prowess. Congratulations to Barry Rappoport, who won the first prize of \$100, and second place of \$75 was split between Buddy Trinkle and Mark Steiman.

Get ready for an exciting Fall Open House on Wednesday, November 20. Watch for details to be announced soon. 

2024 Installation



(l-r): Alexander Leach, outgoing Harmony Lodge president, is honored by Stevan Labush, chairman of the Board of Directors



(l-r): Robert Miller, Andrew Lamchick, Jed Brandes, members of the Board of Directors



(l-r): David Weisman, Joshua Jasper, Peter Silverman, Friendship Lodge officers



(l-r): Barry Schiff, Bruce Weisman, members of the Board of Directors



(l-r): Michael Frank, Stuart Solup, Harmony Lodge officers



(l-r): Scott Halsband, Harmony Lodge president, receives jewels of office from Larry Berman, installing officer

Installation - continued from page 1

All the lodge officers serve one-year terms.

Halsband has moved up the lodge leadership ladder after serving as treasurer and vice president.

"I enjoyed planning events as the Social Committee co-chairman, and look forward to working with a new group of officers to continue to be creative in attracting and retaining younger members," said Halsband. "I want to encourage our new members and train them for future leadership roles."

White has been a past member of the board of directors and a lodge president, vice president and secretary. He was a former House Committee chairman.

"Having volunteered for different positions in the past,

I developed a passion for Touro's activities," said White. "I missed having an active role, and I'm really excited to be back and playing a part in making Touro stronger than ever."

The installation ceremony followed a brisket dinner. Larry Berman served as the installing officer and Barry Ackerman was the master of ceremonies.

Tributes were paid to Alexander Leach and Andrew Shuster, who served as lodge presidents for the past year.

At the June 10 board meeting, Stevan Labush and Jeffrey Davis were elected to their fifth one-year terms as chairman and vice chairman respectively. Labush re-appointed the following to association positions: Bruce Wasser, secretary; Ralph Orleck, treasurer; Barry Schiff, chaplain; Ried Redlich, faithful guide, and Mitchell Cohen, inside guard.



Share Your 'Mazels & Mitzvahs'

Touro's website is the place to learn all the latest news about our great organization. Please check www.tourofraternal.org regularly to see information about upcoming events, plentiful photos from all of our recent happenings, and the listings of contest winners, New Brothers, In Memoriam and so much more.

If you have any "Mazels and Mitzvahs" to share, from Bar and Bat Mitzvahs to graduations, engagements and weddings, please send them to info@tourofraternal.org and tidbits will be quickly included on our website.

Committee Brings Sunshine to Brothers

The Sunshine Committee is requesting information on Touro brothers who are either sick, shut-in or in a nursing home. Please provide the information to the Touro office by calling 401-785-0066 or emailing info@tourofraternal.org. Steven White is the new chairman of the Sunshine Committee.

Ian Nicolato Wins March Madness Contest

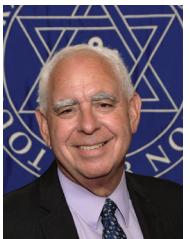
By Larry Berman



Ian Nicolato



Stacey Boisvert



Andy Lamchick

Congratulations to Ian Nicolato, 14-year-old son of David Nicolato, the winner of Touro's March Madness Bracket Contest. Ian beat out more than 100 contestants to capture the \$200 first prize.

Stacey Boisvert, wife of Brett Boisvert and daughter of Bruce Weisman, was the runner-up and earned \$100, while Andy Lamchick was awarded \$50 for third place. All correctly picked the University of Connecticut to repeat as champions, but Ian picked more winners along the way.

Max Guarino again served as the March Madness administrator.

Watch for emails about how to join the Fantasy Football League and Pro Pick 'Em contests which both begin in September. As always, these contests are free to Touro brothers and their immediate family members.



Continuing Our Support for Organizations in Israel

By Jeffrey Davis, Chairman,
Community Involvement Committee

With Israel still very much in the news, the Community Involvement Committee members expressed a strong desire as a Jewish organization for Touro to continue to offer our support.

We donated \$1,800 each to the following organizations: Friends of Israel Defense Forces, Jewish National Fund-USA Israel Resilience Campaign, and American Friends of Magen David Adom. Touro had made a generous donation to these charities after the horrific attack by the Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023.

We also provided \$2,500 to become a sponsor of the Jewish Culture Fest event that was held on June 2 outside the Jewish Community Center in Providence. It was another way of getting Touro's name and our mission prominently in front of the Jewish community.

The committee met with representatives from Best Buddies and decided to donate \$1,000 in support of the Friendship Walk held at Providence College in April. Best Buddies is a great organization supporting inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We renewed our donation of \$5,000 to Adoption Rhode Island in support of foster youth who became tenants of the newly opened Copley Chambers Apartments in Providence, as well as the organization's Forever Siblings Program and Camp Scholarship Program. Part of our donation again this year is targeted for the Healing Arts programming for 15 children in participating groups.

We also provided funding for a new refrigerator at the Renaissance Unit of Tamarisk Senior Living in Warwick, operated by Jewish Collaborative Services.

The Community Involvement Committee is always looking for non-profit organizations to help. Feel free to email me with your ideas at info@tourofraternal.org.

Meet Touro's Newest Brothers

HARVEY LEIB

Harvey Leib and his wife Wendy live year-round near the Narrow River in Narragansett, but he jokes that they run a "bed and breakfast" in the summertime when they are often joined by their three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Harvey, who was sponsored by Ed Gordon, grew up on the East Side of Providence. He was the owner of the Lafayette Radio store in Providence from 1963 to 1980, and then began a second career as an insurance agent from 1980 until his retirement in 2022. Harvey and Wendy, who grew up in Cranston, lived in Worcester for 45 years before deciding to live full time in Narragansett.

STEFAN PRYOR

Stefan recently left for a position with an investment firm after serving as the Rhode Island Secretary of Housing, overseeing an office created last year to tackle the state's housing crisis. He previously served under two governors for 7½ years as the Secretary of Commerce, heading the state's economic development efforts.

Stefan was previously the president of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, which coordinated the rebuilding and revitalization of Lower Manhattan including the World Trade Center site, following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Before coming to Rhode Island, he was the deputy mayor and director of Economic and Housing Development in Newark, N.J. under then-Mayor Cory Booker, and then served as the Education Commissioner for the State of Connecticut. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University. His Touro sponsor is Barry Schiff.





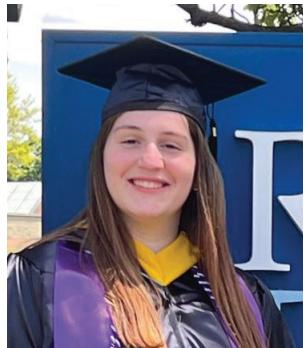
Kailey Murphy



Taylor Rappoport-Murphy



Eric Shaw



Rachel Shaw



Salute to the Class of 2024 Graduates

KAILEY MURPHY, granddaughter of Barry Rappoport, graduated with honors from Classical High School in Providence. She will be attending Johnson & Wales University in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in baking and pastry arts.

TAYLOR RAPPOPORT-MURPHY, granddaughter of Barry Rappoport, graduated from Franklin Pierce University with a bachelor of arts in emergency medical services. She will pursue her second bachelor's degree at Rhode Island College's School of Nursing in the fall.

ERIC SHAW, son of Steven Shaw, has graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor's degree in computer science of engineering, with a minor in business. Eric graduated with cum laude honors and is looking forward to entering a career in his chosen field.

RACHEL SHAW, daughter of Howard and Kelley Shaw and granddaughter of Barry and Gail Shaw, graduated from Roger Williams University. She received a bachelor of science degree in engineering, specializing in mechanical engineering, and minored in mathematics. She has accepted a position as a systems engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat.

ARI STEINBERG, son of Jeremy and Darryle Steinberg, graduated from St. Andrew's High School in Barrington, where he earned academic excellence awards in history and Spanish and was named the Male Athlete of the Year. He was also awarded two scholarships for his community service and academic excellence. He will attend the Desautels School of Management/Business at McGill University in Montreal.

ALEXIS SWEENEY, granddaughter of Joel and Pamela Cohen and daughter of James and Christine Sweeney, graduated from Mason (Ohio) High School with a 4.0 grade point average for four years. She was a member of her high school dance team that placed second at a national tournament in Orlando. She will attend Ohio State University to pursue a career in health sciences.

JASON VANDERHOFF, son of Earl and Sharon Vanderhoff, graduated from Cranston High School West. He will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he will pursue a degree in aerospace engineering with a focus on astronautics. Jason is an Eagle Scout in Troop 55 Riverside and is spending the summer as the director of the Nature Center at the Yawgoog Scout Reservation.

ZACK VANDERHOFF, son of Earl and Sharon Vanderhoff, graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor of science degree in cellular and molecular biology. Zack, who is a Touro brother, has been accepted into a PhD program for aging research at Rochester (NY) University. He is an Eagle Scout from Troop 6, Cranston, and is the current powerlifting champion in the 90-kilo weight class in Rhode Island, holding two state records.



Ari Steinberg



Alexis Sweeney



Jason Vanderhoff



Zack Vanderhoff

Rhode Island's Anchorman Entertains Touro

By Howard Wasser

The Harmony Lodge meeting on February 28 took place at Chelo's in Warwick. After a great buffet of turkey, steak tips and scrod, we were all entertained by Gene Valicenti, the self-titled "Rhode Island's Anchorman."

Gene not only anchors the nightly news on NBC 10, but he's a morning host on WPRO radio. He has a great self-deprecating sense of humor, regaling us with stories about breaking into the news business as a novice.

Gene grew up in New Jersey, where he developed a knack for storytelling. He wrote for his Weehawken High School newspaper called the Indian Ink and moved on to Fairleigh Dickinson University. In college he worked for WPIX Channel 11 in New York.

He said his early career was a bit rocky -- during his first live street interview at a murder trial, he panicked and was not able to continue, so the station cut to previously recorded material. The next day, even his brother Anthony encouraged him to find a new career. He was working for Channel 26 in Connecticut when the owner of the station replaced the news with a Juiceman infomercial to seek greater profits.

Gene decided it was time to switch careers in 1992 and he almost went to work for AT&T. But he received a call from



(l-r) Gene Valicenti and Jed Brandes

Betty-Jo Cugini at Channel 10 in Providence, who had seen his Connecticut broadcasts and thought he would be a good fit. Gene was within seconds of leaving the station since the job interviewer was late, but he's glad he stayed. He has been at Channel 10 for the past 32 years, although the bushy mustache he sported in the early years is long gone.



Gene Valicenti

Gene was one of the first newsmen on the scene in New York when the Twin Towers came down on September 11, 2001 because he arrived aboard

the Providence Fire Department's canteen truck which supplied food to the first responders.

In addition to his great career on TV, he has been featured from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. every day at WPRO since 2012. He enjoys both jobs and has earned numerous awards including Emmys, the National Academy of Television Arts and Science Silver Circle honor, Edward R. Murrow awards and he has been inducted into both the RI Heritage and RI Broadcasting Halls of Fame. He has also won a variety of awards for his work on behalf of charitable organizations.

Gene lives in East Greenwich with his wife Diane, who was his high school sweetheart, and they have three daughters.



Touro Directors & Officers 2024-2025



Front row: (l-r) Ralph Orleck, Association treasurer; Adam Finkelstein, director; Stuart Solup, director/treasurer, Harmony Lodge; Michael Smith, director; Alan Lury, chairman emeritus, Board of Directors; Max Guarino, director; Barry Schiff, director/chaplain.

Second row: (l-r) Bruce Wasser, Association secretary; Reid Redlich, director/faithful guide; Jeffrey Davis, vice chairman, Board of Directors; Stevan Labush, chairman, Board of Directors; Robert Miller, chairman emeritus, Board of Directors; Mitchell Cohen, Association/Lodge inside guard.

Back row: (l-r) Peter Hodosh, administrator; David Weisman, treasurer, Friendship Lodge; Joshua Jasper, secretary, Friendship Lodge; Peter Silverman, vice president, Friendship Lodge; Allen Cowett, secretary, Harmony Lodge; Michael Frank, vice president, Harmony Lodge; Bruce Weisman, director; Andrew Lamchick, director; Scott Halsband, president, Harmony Lodge.

Not Shown: Barry Ackerman, director; Larry Berman, director; Jed Brandes, chairman emeritus, Board of Directors; Steven White, president, Friendship Lodge.



Touro Fraternal Association
P.O. BOX 3562
CRANSTON, RI 02910

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Bruce Weisman, Production Editor
Larry Berman, Content Editor

Columnists:
Bruce Wasser
Howard Wasser

Copy Editor:
Jed Brandes

Staff Photographers:
Jeffrey Davis
Stevan Labush

Touro Fraternal Association
45 Rolfe Square, P.O. Box 3562
Cranston, RI 02910
Phone:
401-785-0066
E-Mail:
info@tourofraternal.org
Website:
www.tourofraternal.org

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HARMONY • FRIENDSHIP • BENEVOLENCE



Summer Gala at
Venus de Milo
Saturday, June 22, 2024

