



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

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TOUROGRAM

2019
 APRIL
 5779

SPECIAL 2019 ELECTION EDITION

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The five candidates with the largest vote count will receive three-year terms.

TOURO'S ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ATTENTION ALL **REGULAR**
 TOURO MEMBERS

In compliance with the Constitution of
 Touro Fraternal Association and the By-Laws of
 Harmony and Friendship Lodges, the Annual
 Association and Lodge elections will be held

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

At Touro Hall

45 Rolfe Square – Cranston, Rhode Island

The Election Committee is comprised of Jeffrey Davis,
 Jed Brandes, Andy Lamchick, and Bruce Weisman.

Since no candidate for offices in Harmony and Friendship
 Lodges are opposed as well as the remaining one year
 term of two vacated board seats, at the time of the
 election, the secretaries of those lodges and the secretary
 of the Association will cast unanimous ballots for these
 candidates:

HARMONY LODGE: **President,** Larry Berman; **Vice**
President, TBD; **Secretary,** David Altman; **Treasurer,**
 Jonathan Finkle.

FRIENDSHIP LODGE: **President,** Jeffrey Stoloff; **Vice**
President, Adam Halpern; **Secretary,** TBD;
Treasurer, Peter Silverman.

Two Vacated Board Positions will be filled for their
 remaining terms of one year. They are: Richard
 Glucksman and James Sinman.

AN ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THREE
YEAR TERMS. REGULAR MEMBERS OF
BOTH LODGES ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

To the right is the **SAMPLE BALLOT.**
 Remember, even though there are no contests for
 lodge officers, you are encouraged to vote in the
 election of the Board of Directors.

ONLY REGULAR MEMBERS IN GOOD
STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS
FOR WRITE-IN VOTES

*****SAMPLE BALLOT*****

Touro Fraternal Association
ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS
May 1, 2019

Board of Directors
Five Open Positions

Place your mark opposite the name of the
 candidate(s) of your choice.

Vote for no more than five (5)
Only one (1) vote per candidate

Barry Ackerman []
Max Guarino []
Stevan Labush []
Richard Levenson []
Ried Redlich []
Steven Waldman []

PLEASE NOTE: Ballots with more than five (5)
 votes cast will be declared invalid and disqualified.

In the event of a tie for the five positions, a run-off
 election will be held among those involved in the tie.

PLEASE VOTE
WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2019

6:00 - 8:00 pm
at
Touro Hall
45 Rolfe Square
Cranston, RI 02910

(See sample ballot
on first page)



MEET THE CANDIDATES for BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The five candidates with the largest vote count will receive three-year terms.



BARRY ACKERMAN

Previous Office(s)/Board positions held:
Current: board member.
Previous: Vice President, Lodge, 2 terms.

Committees on which you have served:
Current: chair/co-chair of Membership;
served as chair for 3 years; chair of
Cemetery Committee; Investments. Previous:
Welfare, Community Involvement, Investigations, Communications.

How has your professional and/or personal life prepared you to assume a board position?

Besides Touro Fraternal, I am also on the Board for Congregation B'nai Israel and Greater Providence Hebrew Free Loan. As for the latter, I was instrumental in the merger of Providence Hebrew Free Loan and South Providence Hebrew Free Loan; lead writer/organizer of the new By-Laws and wrote the Operational Manual. I also previously held leadership and coaching roles for my children's baseball and softball leagues and travel clubs. For my professional life, I am a sales manager of a software company directing five people; responsible for developing/ensuring adherence to forecasts and budgets; making presentations to prospects and trade associations; and a member of the leadership team that sets corporate direction.

What issues would you like to address as a board member?

First of all, how many organizations last for 100+ years? Our predecessors and current leadership have been outstanding, not just based on longevity but also what we have provided for a social and community perspective. With that said, there is always a need to improve and evolve. The two key issues are membership and communications (not specific Touro committees). Membership is two-fold – keeping our current members engaged involved, content, pro-active and being an advocate for Touro Fraternal. And, drawing new members that will provide fresh ideas, energy, and hopefully for regular members, the next generation of Touro leaders.

Communication is making Touro relevant to how our members and perspective members of all ages want to consume information. We must adapt to items such as social media, interactive website, and texting as this is the way younger people operate. It does not mean Tourogram and notices do not use the postal service, instead have mailings be a part of an Omni channel approach to communications.

What changes would you make within Touro today to make the organization more relevant and attractive to younger potential members?

It is important to define younger member. Membership Committee has tackled this question the last few years. Our conclusion is core young members are aged 32 to 45. This does not mean Touro will discourage younger people. Instead this is where we need to focus our message and social events to draw this age group. The first item to improve is changes to the communication channels as mentioned above. In addition, some other ideas: have more member-only events away from the Touro Hall; add social events that younger members are attracted to such as URI or PC basketball, whiskey or craft beer gathering, etc.; hold a young member only event; start a chapter in Boston – as more younger people flock to a major city after college, have a reason to join during the college years and stay within the Touro family; possibly allow in men that identify as Jewish (most instances: father is and mother is not, and have not converted) into Touro. This requires a larger discussion but something to ponder considering the percent of mixed marriages.



MAX GUARINO

Previous Office(s)/Board positions held:
Inside Guard, Vice President and President in
Friendship Lodge/Board of Directors.

Committees on which you have served:
Social Committee, co-chairman; Communications
Committee, Community Involvement, House
Committee, Membership Committee, Sunshine
Committee, Digital Media Committee, Ritual Committee.

How has your professional and/or personal life prepared you to assume a board position?

I have had a lot of experience over the years with the board of the Brotherhood at Temple Beth El. It has given me a lot of insight on how boards in general work. The last five years as a lodge officer, vice president and president have given me a lot of experience on how Touro itself works.

What issues would you like to address as a board member?

There are changes that are needed to bring the Touro board of directors up to the "modern" day. Specifically, there is a disconnection between board members and lodge officers that I have seen over my tenure as vice president and president which has opened my eyes. We need to work on bringing them together so that we are all on the same page. There are definite problems with the way social membership works now too.

What changes would you make within Touro today to make the organization more relevant and attractive to younger potential members?

How Touro treats its members and its officers will go a long way to attracting younger potential members. Membership has been asking its younger members to give their opinions as to what Touro can do to interest younger members, and making some of these changes will help garner interest from our younger generations as well. In addition, we will need to sit down and discuss other ideas of how to bring new members to the organization and keep them.



STEVAN LABUSH

Previous Office(s)/Board positions held:
Previous: Treasurer, Friendship Lodge, 2 years; Vice
President, 2 years; President, 2 years; Current: Board
of Directors, 18 years; Vice Chairman of Board, 1 year.

Committees on which you have served:
Budget, Social, Membership, Investments, Community
Involvement, Assistance, Welfare, Communications and
Centennial. I currently serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

How has your professional and/or personal life prepared you to assume a board position?

I have been involved with organization since I have been 8 years old. I have learned a lot over all my jobs on how to run meetings and deal with all types of people. I have plenty of experience of networking that I think has helped me be involved in the best organization. At one time, I was on seven boards and I have been on, and still serve on, many committees.

What issues would you like to address as a board member?

Try to get more members and keep this organization going for another 100 years. Also try to make meetings be shorter so we can have two committees meet in one night.

What changes would you make within Touro today to make the organization more relevant and attractive to younger potential members?

1) Let people use credit cards to pay. 2) Use texting, e-mails and social media to get the word out. 3) Do events geared toward the younger members' interests such as beer tastings, paintball and sporting events.



RICHARD LEVENSON

Previous Office(s)/Board positions held:
Vice President and President, Harmony Lodge.

Committees on which you have served:
Membership, House, Social, Sunshine.

How has your professional and/or personal life prepared you to assume a board position?
Past experiences within and out of Touro. Active
member for over ten years.

What issues would you like to address as a board member?

Meeting virtualization, refinement of social events (higher quality, lower frequency). Improved interaction between board members (civility, respect). More aggressive membership drives (i.e. marketing, advertising, branding).

What changes would you make within Touro today to make the organization more relevant and attractive to younger potential members?

Improved digital communication via text, and social media. More progressive, relevant events outside of Touro hall.



RIED REDLICH

Previous Office(s)/Board positions held:

Previous: Friendship Lodge President, 3 years; Vice
President and Secretary; Chairman of Investigations
Committee for 4 years; Chairman of Ways and Means
for 3 years. Current: Chairman of Student Financial Aid
Committee, 1 year;

Faithful Guide for both Friendship and Harmony Lodge,
7 years; Touro Representative on the Lincoln Park Cemetery Board, 6 years;
board member, many years.

Committees on which you have served:

Budget and Finance, Cemetery, Communications, Community
Involvement, House, Investigations, Investment, Membership, Orientation,
Ritual, Social, Student Financial Aid and Ways and Means.

How has your professional and/or personal life prepared you to assume a board position?

Over the years I have become very familiar with Touro culture and the way Touro needs to operate to maintain a high level of achievement and brotherly camaraderie for the entire membership. I have the skills from my 40-year entrepreneurial business career, significant educational background, financial analysis and investing experience to help our organization move forward. I would like to be part of the future success of Touro.

What issues would you like to address as a board member?

The most significant issue facing the board and our membership as a whole is "where do we go from here?" With regular membership declining and the population of Jewish men in RI also in decline, what do we have to do as an organization to ensure that Touro Fraternal Association will be a viable Jewish Fraternal organization in the future. With this in mind, we must also ensure that our financial strength will be maintained to continue our member benefits and charitable endeavors long into the future.

What changes would you make within Touro today to make the organization more relevant and attractive to younger potential members?

I am a firm believer in the Touro motto of Harmony, Friendship, and Benevolence and hope to find new and more appealing ways to incorporate and enhance these principles of our organization. Membership will be of utmost importance in the decades to follow. We must change and adapt to a new reality of Jewish young men not wanting to join mainstream Jewish organizations. Our focus in the future will need to deal with the difficult issue of membership. If we can find solutions to this problem, we will help make the organization more meaningful for all our members. That being said, we need to approach this problem just like you would in business: find out what is important to Jewish young men and try to provide that. What was important to an older generation of Touro members may not be important to younger prospects. Perhaps providing what is important to them will entice them to join.



STEVEN WALDMAN

Previous Office(s)/Board positions held:
Board of Directors, current; Association Treasurer,
current; Lodge Secretary; Lodge Treasurer.

Committees on which you have served:
Currently serving as Ways and Means Chairman;
Investment; Community Involvement/Welfare;
and Constitution and Bylaws. Previously served
on Student Financial Aid as Chairman; Membership; House; Budget and
Finance; Centennial and Nomination committees.

How has your professional and/or personal life prepared you to assume a board position?

I have learned the importance of compromise over the years as a means of getting things done, which is very important when dealing within a group or organization. Touro is not my organization, it belongs to many, and so you must evaluate situations in the overall group sense instead of just personal feelings. I have also worked since a young age and taught myself fiscal discipline and responsibility which serves me well while sitting on the Investment Committee. It has allowed me to easily adapt to the conservative philosophy Touro has used to grow our endowment to its current status.

What issues would you like to address as a board member?

The biggest issues that Touro needs to address are how to bring in new regular members and how to get existing regular members to become active in leadership roles such as lodge officers and board members.

What changes would you make within Touro today to make the organization more relevant and attractive to younger potential members?

As a current board member I can tell you that we have spent many hours discussing this issue and it is a problem that all organizations face, not just Touro. The most honest answer I can give to this question is that I don't have an answer and if that problem is to be solved, I think the answer will have to come from the younger members as to why they joined and what would attract more of their age demographic. Unfortunately, due to a lack of opportunity, many younger Jewish men are forced to move out of state and the ones that stay have other commitments or interests that they pursue instead of joining organizations.