

“New Orleans: Tradition, Resilience, and Reinvention”
SJHS 49th Annual Conference, October 16-19, 2025, New Orleans
(**Note:** Changes may be made to accommodate speakers, venues)

Conference hotel: Renaissance New Orleans Arts Warehouse District, 700 Tchoupitoulas St.

Conference location:

- **Friday, Sunday:** Touro Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Ave.
- **Saturday:** Temple Sinai, 6227 St. Charles Ave.

Thursday, October 16: Day-trip to the Historic New Orleans Collection/French Quarter

8:30 a.m. - Bus Pickup from Hotel

9:00 – 11:45 am - Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street

11:45 – 1:30 pm - Lunch on own

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 pm - Tour of historic Jewish sites in the French Quarter

Friday, October 17: Touro Synagogue

- **Bus 1 will begin loading at 7:30 am, departing at 8:00am**
- **Bus 2 will begin loading at 8:00 am, departing at 8:30am**

8:30 - 9:30 am: Registration and Breakfast

9:40 -10:15 am: Welcome remarks

10:15 -11:30 am: Panel: “Tragedy and Survival: Perspectives of Jewish New Orleanians”

- ❖ **Bailey Romano** (Brooklyn Heights Synagogue), “Weathering the Storm: One Rabbi’s Response to Hurricane Katrina”
- ❖ **Cailee Davis** (Oxford University), “Assimilation in the Big Easy: Holocaust Survivors in New Orleans”
- ❖ **Sean Scanlon** (National WWII Museum), “We Shall Render All That is Asked and More: New Orleans Jewry and the Second World War”
- ❖ Chair: **Chad Gibbs** (College of Charleston)

11:45 -1:15 pm: Lunch

- ❖ **Adam Mendelsohn** (University of Cape Town), “Was it Good for the Jews? Reassessing the Confederate Homefront” (Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Keynote Lecture)

1:45 - 3:15 pm: Roundtable: “Perspectives from the National WWII Museum: Jewish New Orleans Service Members in World War II”

- ❖ **Stephen Bateman**
- ❖ **Haley Guepet**
- ❖ **Sean Scanlon**
- ❖ **Marissa Primeux**
- ❖ Respondent: **Bradley W. Hart**

Panel: “Margins and Migrations: Reimagining Southern Jewish Identity”

- ❖ **Stephen Whitfield** (Brandeis University), “David L. Cohn: Defender of the Delta”
- ❖ **Mimi Wooten** (University of Michigan), “A Sephardi South? Ottoman Sephardi Views of the South in the Early 20th Century”
- ❖ **James Seabrooke** (University of West Florida), “Stars and Scrapbooks: A Spotlight on Women’s Zionism in the Gulf South”
- ❖ Chair: **Ashley Walters** (College of Charleston)

3:30 - 4:45 pm: Panel: “Public History and Memorialization in Southern Jewish Life”

- ❖ **Ellen Kowitt** (JewishGen USA Research Division), “Linking Synagogue Record Collections to Genealogists and Scholars”
- ❖ **Samuel Gruber** (International Survey of Jewish Monuments), “Holocaust Memorials Across the South: An Introductory History and Analysis”
- ❖ **Ashley LaRue Low** (UNC Greensboro), “Of Silk and Silver: The Judaic Gallery at the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Centrality of Southern Jewish Identity”
- ❖ Chair: **Margaret Norman** (Jewish Community Relations Council of Birmingham)

4:45 - 5:45 pm: Break / optional tour of Touro Synagogue

6:00 - 6:50 pm: Shabbat Services

7:00 - 7:45 pm: Dinner

8:00 - 9:00 pm: **Karla Goldman** (University of Michigan), “Jewish Stories of Katrina: Why They Matter 20 Years Later” (sponsored by the Tulane Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience)

9:00 - 9:30 pm: Buses back to hotel

Saturday, October 18: Temple Sinai

- **Bus 1 will begin loading at 7:30am, departing at 8:00am**
- **Bus 2 will begin loading at 8:00am, departing at 8:30am**

8:00 - 9:00 am: If you are interested in attending a Torah study, please contact Jay Silverberg at jbsilverberg@gmail.com.

8:30 - 9:30 am: Breakfast

9:00 - 9:30 am: The story of Temple Sinai's historic stained glass windows; Cliff Kern, PhD, Temple Sinai Historian and Executive Secretary, Hebrew Rest and Dispersed of Judah Cemeteries

9:45 - 10:00 am: Welcome remarks

10:00 - 11:15 am: Panel: "From Kreplach to Carnival: Performing Jewish Culture in New Orleans and Beyond"

- ❖ **Madelon Rosen-Solomon** (Independent Scholar), "Kreplach with Fried Pickles? The Negotiated Identity of Southern Jews Focusing on the New Orleans Jewish Community"
- ❖ **Golan Moskowitz** (Tulane University), "Mickey Gil (1937-2010), the Jewish Queen of Gay Mardi Gras"
- ❖ **Leonard Stein** (Bar-Ilan University), "From N'awlins to the Negev: Jazz, Jews, and the Southern Imaginary"
- ❖ Chair: **Sarah Imhoff** (University of Indiana)

11:30 - 1:00 pm: Lunch

- ❖ **Nicholas Lemann** (Columbia University), "The Irony of Southern Jewish History" (Janice Rothschild Blumberg Keynote Lecture)

1:15 - 2:30 pm: Panel: "Jews, Race, and the Urban South"

- ❖ **Max Modiano Daniel** (College of Charleston), "Jews, Arabs, and Race in the American South"
- ❖ **Marilyn G. Miller** (Tulane University), "Jews in the *Treifene Medine*: Judah Touro and the Creolization of Jewish Experience in New Orleans, 1760 to the Present"
- ❖ **Marni Davis** (Georgia State), "Real Estate Speculation and the Making of a Southern Jewish Neighborhood"
- ❖ Chair: **Eric Goldstein** (Emory University)

Roundtable: "Discoveries from the Shapell Roster: New Orleans"

- ❖ **Adrienne DeArmas**
- ❖ **Alexandra Apito**
- ❖ **Caitlin J. Winkler**

2:45 - 4:15 pm: Roundtable: “The Judah P. Benjamin Marker in Charlotte, 1948 to 2020: A Roundtable on Confederate Monuments, Southern Jews and America’s Racial Reckoning”

- ❖ **Kenneth Hoffman** (Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience)
- ❖ **David Weinfeld** (Rowan College)
- ❖ **David Goldfield** (UNC-Charlotte)
- ❖ **Hilary Green** (Davidson College)
- ❖ Moderator: **Shari Rabin** (Oberlin College)

4:30 pm: Buses depart to the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (MSJE), 818 Howard Ave.

4:45 - 7:00 pm:

- ❖ Beeber Family/Stern Cultural Program
 - Tour MSJE
 - Matt Haines, author of *The Big Book of King Cakes*
 - Challah King Cake decorating

7:00 pm: “Laissez les bons temps roulez” (Let the good times roll!) in New Orleans (Dinner on your own! Make reservations!)

- NOTE: Attendees also invited to Tulane Grant Center’s Culture & Heritage Series program with Chef Nathaniel Zimet (pre-registration required on conference website; attendees responsible for transportation to and from the event)

Sunday: October 19: Touro Synagogue

- **Bus 1 will begin loading at 7:30am, departing at 8:00am**
- **Bus 2 will begin loading at 9:00am, departing at 9:30am**

8:30 - 9:00 am: Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 am: SJHS Membership Meeting

10:15 - 11:45 pm: Roundtable: Shari Rabin’s *The Jewish South: An American History* (2025)

- ❖ **Marcie Cohen Ferris** (UNC)
- ❖ **Adam Domby** (Auburn University)

- ❖ **Jacob Morrow-Spitzer** (Yale University)
- ❖ **Michael Cohen** (Tulane University)
- ❖ Respondent: **Shari Rabin** (Oberlin College)

11:45 - 12:00 pm: Closing remarks

12:15 pm: Buses back to hotel