

“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](mailto: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

The museum's special exhibit, "Most Fortunate Unfortunates: The Jewish Orphans' Home of New Orleans" will be available during the evening. Marlene Trestman, author of the book on which the exhibit is based, will be available to answer questions and sign her book.

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