



March 27, 2020 • 2 Nisan 5780

Shalom Congregants,

This past Shabbat was Shabbat HaHodesh, which literally means "the Sabbath of *The Month*." *The Month* is referring to the month of Nisan – the month in which Pesah (Passover) takes place. In order to direct our attention to the upcoming holiday and to its preparations, we do a special reading on the Shabbat that precedes the first of the month of Nisan, which was this past Shabbat.

The special reading, from the book of Exodus, chapter 12 verses 1-20, focuses on the Israelites' time in Egypt, and in particular on the moments between the ninth and tenth plagues (darkness and the death of the first born, respectively).

It is in those moments that the Israelites are instructed on two matters that remain central to the lives of Jewish people today: first, the establishment of their sacred calendar, and second, the establishment of the holiday of Pesah.

As we discussed in our Torah Study this past Shabbat morning on Zoom, what is striking about these two matters includes the following: with respect to the Jewish calendar, we reflected on the question of why the Jewish calendar is based primarily around the moon rather than the sun. We learned that the Sfat Emet, a 19th century Hasidic rabbi, taught that it is "because the moon, unlike the sun, waxes and wanes, nearly disappears and then grows bright again. So do the Jewish people [and humanity as a whole] go through cycles of prosperity and suffering, knowing that even in darkness, there are brighter days ahead." That is a central part of our understanding of the universe: like the phases of the moon, brighter times forever remain ahead.

And second, with respect to the holiday of Pesah, we learned that our ancestors, as they got ready for the tenth plague and the subsequent exodus from Egypt, sat down with one another to eat a meal, and they included bitter herbs in the meal, in

order to remember. Even in the midst of their oppression – remember that they had not yet been freed – they understood that what they were going through was something to commemorate – that there were lessons to be learned from their experience, tragic as the experience was. That, despite our tendencies to quickly return to our old habits when conditions return to normalcy, there was something we were going through whose lessons were worth preserving. “You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 23:9) is just one such example of the hard fought lessons from their experience.

Sometimes we are in a moment whose effects are so profound that they reshape the way we experience the world, and they lean on us to do better when the dust settles. We don't yet know all of the ramifications of our current moment, but, regardless, it would appear to spur us to reflect on how we might orient ourselves differently to the world, and to each other, when things return to “normal.” To paraphrase the words of one congregant's letter to me, our interconnectedness has rarely, if ever, been more clear.

Wishing you a Shabbat filled with love and peace.

Join us to Welcome in and Reflect on Shabbat and Community with the ease of our New Master Schedule, featuring all of our Zoom links

Society Hill Synagogue - Zoom Links for Services, Jewish Study, Candle Lighting & More

To join any Zoom program listed below, simply click on the bolded link below. Join us!

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
10:00 AM						Sabbath Services Shabbat Services & Kiddush <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom	Shabbat & Morning Study with Rabbi Shalom Broder <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small>
12:00 PM	Virtual Beit Midrash <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 133 407 039</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom			Virtual Beit Midrash <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 133 407 039</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom		Candle Lighting & Kiddush <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 714 133 039</small>	
6:00 PM	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom			
7:30 PM	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom	Evening Minyan (Ma'ariv Service) <small>On Wed (2020) 2:00-4:00 PM, Meeting ID: 764 474 427</small> Click here for the Sabbath Services Zoom			

To make it easy for you to have one central location with all of our Zoom links for SHS Shabbat candle lighting and Kiddush, services, daily minyan, beit midrash study, and more, **we've created this live schedule**. Click on the program(s) in which you'd like to participate, and you'll go right into the Zoom meeting. Add the schedule to your bookmarks or favorites so that you can revisit it and have the variety of engaging SHS programs at your fingertips.

Upcoming Events

Friday
March 27
6:00 PM [Candle Lighting and Kiddush](#)

Monday
March 30
12:00 PM [Virtual Beit Midrash Study](#)

Thursday
April 2
12:00 PM [Virtual Beit Midrash Study](#)

Saturday
March 28

7:30 PM [Evening Minyan Ma'ariv Service](#)

7:30 PM [Evening Minyan Ma'ariv Service](#)

Tuesday

Friday

10:00 AM [Shabbat Morning
Shaharit Service & Study](#)

Sunday
March 29

10:00 AM [Metaphor &
Mystery Torah Study with
Rabbi Marjorie Berman](#)

March 31
7:30 PM [Evening Minyan
Ma'ariv Service](#)

Wednesday
April 1

7:30 PM [Evening Minyan
Ma'ariv Service](#)

April 3
6:00 PM [Candle Lighting and
Kiddush](#)

Saturday
April 4

10:00 AM [Shabbat Morning
Shaharit Service & Study](#)

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