



March 6, 2020 • 10 Adar 5780

Dear Congregants,

Our community's health and safety is our highest priority. We want to let you know that we are prepared for the continuing cold and flu season. We are washing our hands, sanitizing our surfaces, and doing everything possible to keep our building healthy. Hand sanitizer and tissues for coughs and sneezes are available throughout the synagogue.

Sunday's Purim Carnival and Monday's Purim dinner, Scotch tasting, Megillah reading, and *Goodbye Persian Silk Road* Purimshpiel will all proceed as planned, with just a few changes, including the bagging of certain food for sale at the Purim Carnival and the face painting booth becoming an arm and hand painting booth so that we avoid touching one another's faces.

We are aware of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the attention it is getting worldwide. As a Jewish community committed to supporting one another, we want to remind everyone that whenever a Society Hill Synagogue member is ill and needs support, we are here for you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us so we can support you in a time of need.

We understand that SHS is a shared, communal space, and people of all ages gather here to pray, learn, celebrate, socialize, and deepen their friendships and bonds. Please help us and the entire community to protect our health by taking the steps below:

Limit physical greetings. Some experts recommend limiting physical greetings. For the time being, as an extra precaution, let's refrain from hugs, kisses, and handshakes at the synagogue. Think of this as a wonderful opportunity to practice non-physical greetings.

Take food safety seriously. We love to share food as a community, particularly at our Kabbalat Shabbat *Oneg* and Shabbat morning *Kiddush*. Please do your part to prevent the spread of germs by always using a utensil (tongs, serving spoon, or serving fork) to serve yourself or others at an *Oneg*, *Kiddush*, or other event. Use a fresh plate if you take a little more food. Use a new cup every time you pour a drink, and do not share cups or eating utensils.

Don't share cookies or bagels by breaking in half with your hands – please use a knife. Going forward, the challah we serve during Shabbat will be sliced in advance instead of congregants tearing off a piece, as is our custom. Please use tongs to serve yourself a slice of challah.

Avoid close contact. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.

Stay home when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.

Keep your children home from school if they are sick. We understand that this may be an inconvenience. However, it is the best thing for the staff and children and the community at large, and we know that you would want the same consideration for other families.

Cover your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

Clean your hands. Washing your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

Information and Resources:

- For all pertinent and updated information, including travel advisories – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>
- For specific questions, see the CDC's FAQ section – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

- For information about COVID-19 in your state, search your state's health department, which works with the CDC to monitor and implement all recommendations
– <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html>
- For up-to-date developments, research, and guidance from government health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO)
– <https://www.idsociety.org/public-health/Novel-Coronavirus>

Thank you for doing your part to keep our congregation haimish and healthy.

Shabbat shalom.

Upcoming Events

Friday March 6

6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service featuring Kitot Gimel & Dalet (3rd & 4th Grades)

Saturday March 7

9:00 AM Torah Study
10:00 AM Shabbat Service

Sunday March 8

10:00 AM Purim Carnival

Monday March 9

5:30 PM Purim Dinner & Scotch Tasting
6:30 PM Megillah Reading & Purimshpiel: *Goodbye Persian Silk Road*

Tuesday March 10

7:15 AM Morning Minyan
4:15 PM Hebrew School
5:00 PM Minyan Meeting
7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 PM *Over 20 Years of Poems & Readings That Illuminate & Deepen Jewish Prayer* with Rabbi Winokur

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