

# KESHER ZION BULLETIN

READING, PENNSYLVANIA



Adar/Nisan 5771

April 2011

Volume 75, Issue 6

*Kesher Zion Mission Statement:* Kesher Zion Synagogue seeks to encourage the involvement of its members and create a special sense of belonging, while stressing the joy within Judaism. Our egalitarian synagogue is committed to meeting the religious, social, educational, and cultural needs of its members within the framework of the Conservative Movement. Kesher Zion Synagogue also recognizes its responsibilities to provide a public place of worship, to observe Jewish life cycle events, and to support the local community and the State of Israel.

## Scholar in Residence with Rabbi Jonah Steinberg & Rabbi Installation at KZ

**Friday Evening, April 1st**

**6:00p.m.** Shabbat evening service

**7:00p.m.** Shabbat Dinner & Learning Topic:  
“Moses visits the rabbis--an ancient encounter  
between past and future”

**Saturday Morning, April 2nd**

**9:30a.m.** Shabbat morning service

**12:00p.m.** Kiddush Luncheon & Learning Topic:  
“The Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto”--a 20th century  
perspective on tradition and change

**Saturday Evening, April 2nd**

**7:30p.m.** “Havdalah & Musical Melaveh Malkah”  
Connecting with our past and our future in song  
(Dessert and Coffee will be served)

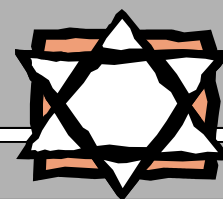
**Sunday Afternoon, April 3rd**

**2:00p.m.** Rabbi Bromberg’s installation followed  
by a Dessert Reception & Entertainment

## 2011 PASSOVER CELEBRATION

- Monday, April 18:** Fast of the First Born  
Siyyum Service at 8:00a.m. in the  
Chapel followed by a light breakfast  
**RSVP to KZ office before  
Monday, April 11th**
- Monday, April 18:** Passover First Seder at RCOS  
RCOS Services at 6:00p.m.  
**Reservations to RCOS by  
Monday, April 11th**
- Tuesday, April 19:** Passover Festival Services 9:30a.m.
- Tuesday, April 19:** Evening Services at KZ 7:00p.m.  
Passover Second Seder at KZ 7:30p.m.  
**Reservations to KZ before  
Monday, April 4th**
- Wednesday, April 20:** Passover Festival Services 9:30a.m.
- Friday, April 22:** Shabbat Evening Services 7:00p.m.  
**Shabbat Passover Dinner 8:00p.m.**  
**Reservations to KZ office before  
Friday, April 8th**
- Saturday, April 23:** Shabbat Morning Services 9:30a.m.  
followed by Lunch & Learn on  
*Shir HaShirim*/Song of Songs with  
Rabbi Bromberg & Dr. Jennifer Koosed
- Monday, April 25:** Passover Festival Services 9:30a.m.
- Tuesday, April 26:** Passover Services including Yizkor  
Service at 9:30a.m.
- No Hametz after 10:30a.m. Monday, April 18th**  
**Hametz permitted after 9:00p.m. on Tuesday, April 26th**

# FROM THE RABBI



**RABBI MINNA BROMBERG**

As you look through this bulletin you will see we've included our standard guide to "Passover 2011 Preparations." Once again, we prepare for the journey from slavery to freedom. Once again we try to remember: which items need a special hechsher if you buy them before Pesach and which need that hechsher only if you have to buy them during Pesach?

It all boils down to the difference between *חמץ chametz* and *מצה matzah*. Before Pesach we focus on the need to get rid of and guard against the intrusion of *חמץ chametz/leaven*. Then, once Pesach starts we eat lots of *matzah*. What is *chametz* technically? See question 1 in the included guide. And for details on the fourfold process of getting rid of it --cleaning, nullifying, burning, and selling-- see question 4. But if you're curious about what this all means, stick with me here for one take on this:

In the festival of Pesach (and its attendant preparations) we experience the coming together of one of Judaism's biggest ideas --We are liberated from slavery in order to serve God in freedom!-- with an insistence on attention to the tiniest details. And these details impact our most ordinary tasks --shopping, cleaning, and cooking.

As the great Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught, Judaism asks us not to take a leap of faith but to take a "leap of action." We clean out (and nullify and burn and sell) all of our *chametz* in its physical form and we also try to clear our own hearts and minds of all that *chametz* has come to represent in our tradition: all the ways we so easily get puffed up with pride and self-righteousness, all the distractions in our lives that draw us further and further from our truest purpose. We hope that we can let the work of our hands --in shopping and cleaning and cooking-- bring us to a change of heart.

What's the difference between *chametz* and *matzah*? It's as great as the difference between stuckness and slavery on the one hand and freedom and service on the other. And, (as Eliyahu Ki Tov points out in his *Sefer Ha-Toda'ah*) it is as tiny as the difference of one little Hebrew letter. Yes, *חמץ chametz* (built from the Hebrew letters chet-mem-tzadi) and *מצה matzah* (built from the letters mem-tzadi-heh) are only differentiated by one letter. And the difference between *ה* (heh) and *ח* (chet)? Ask anyone learning to read Hebrew and they will tell you that these two are easy to confuse. How can you tell them apart? See how the left "wall" of the chet reaches all the way to the "roof." The same left "wall" on the heh has a tiny little opening up near the top. It's a tiny detail, a tiny opening, and yet it is an opening big enough to allow our entire people out of the Narrow Places and into Freedom.

As God is quoted as saying in a *midrash* (an interpretive teaching) on the Song of Songs (which we read on Pesach), "Open for Me an opening as narrow as the eye of a needle and I will open for you an opening wide enough for carriages to pass through."

On this Pesach may we embody our largest ideals in the smallest of our actions and may our leaps of action lead us to greater freedom and greater joy.



Your synagogue is eager to serve you . Rabbi Bromberg can be reached directly at 484-723-3104 or by e-mail at [kzrabbi@entermail.net](mailto:kzrabbi@entermail.net)



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- Thank you to everyone for their good wishes on my birthday ~**Bob Caster**
- Thank you to everyone for my birthday Leagrams and cards. They really brightened my day! I greatly appreciate all your kind thoughts. ~**Shirley Kauffman**

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To Jan & Jonathan Simon on your daughter,  
Sarah's wedding

To Judith Schwank on your election as  
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## PASSOVER 2011 PREPARATIONS



### 1. What is Chametz?

*Answer:* If one of the five grains—wheat, oats, rye, barley, or spelt, comes in contact with water after being cut off from the ground, it becomes fermented or Chametz. This fermentation takes 18 minutes, according to tradition. Pesachdik baked goods are made from flour, which has been ground from matzah. The term Chametz also is applied to dishes and utensils, which have been in contact with Chametz food during the year.

### 2. Why do most Ashkenazim not eat beans, rice or corn on Pesach?

*Answer:* Although these are not among the five species of grain that can become chametz, the Rabbis forbade their use because in the past, flour was made from them. They felt that people might become confused and be tempted to use regular flour if they were allowed to use flour made from those plants. To avoid possible confusion, most Ashkenazic Rabbis ordained that these not be used at all. (The Sephardim do not know of such restriction.) Non-flour products, such as peanut oil, may be used if they are prepared under rabbinic supervision and properly certified.

### 3. Why do the first born fast?

#### What is the Siyyum B'Chorim?

*Answer:* Since the first born of Israel were spared from the last plague (in which all Egyptian first-born were slain), the fast is assumed as a service of dedication for the first-born. The Jewish tradition has developed an alternative to fasting. The first-born may join in a feast for the performance of a religious duty on this day. This is expressed in one form of a "Siyyum" or completion of a Talmudic tractate, which takes place at the morning service.

### 4. Why must we clean our houses so thoroughly before Pesach?

*Answer:* The rule against chametz on Pesach applies not only to eating but also to enjoyment (Hana'ah) and involves removing all the chametz from one's home. No chametz is even allowed to be in the possession of a Jew during Passover. To facilitate this cleaning, the following rituals are part of Passover preparations. (The text for the ceremonies can be found in a good Haggadah.)

**a. Bedikat-Chametz** After the house has been cleaned, on the night before Passover, we search once again for any crumbs of Chametz we may have missed. We use a candle, a feather and a wooden spoon. This symbolizes that all the chametz which we could see was removed.

**b. Bittul Chametz** A formula renouncing any chametz left that we may have inadvertently missed is said, canceling our responsibility for it, thus symbolically removing it from our homes.

**c. Be'ur Chametz** On the morning before Passover we burn the chametz that has been found during the search of the night before.

**d. Mechirat Chametz** We are not always able to destroy or get rid of all the chametz. It may be economically disastrous. So the Rabbis ordained that a symbolic sale be made of all the chametz to a non-Jew in the community who then sells it back to us after Pesach. The chametz is then no longer "in our possession." The Rabbi normally does this for those who contact him or her. Incidentally, it is only necessary to sell or destroy foodstuffs. Dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

## PASSOVER FOOD

### 5. What foods may not be used during Passover?

*Answer:* All of the following foods are considered chametz and may not be used during Passover: *cakes, leavened bread, biscuits, crackers, cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, peas, dry beans and liquids which contain ingredients made from grain alcohol.*

### 6. What foods require rabbinic supervision for Passover?

*Answer:* *Matzoh, noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, processed cheeses, jam, jelly, relishes, wines, liquors, salad oils, vegetable gelatin, vinegar, shortening.* A “Kosher L’Pesach” label or tag without product name and rabbinic signature is of no value. This applies to products made in America, Europe, or Israel.

### 7. What foods require no certification?

*Answer:* *Pure natural coffee-ground or instant, sugar (not confectioners or powdered), brown sugar, saccharine, tea, salt, pepper, vegetables (dry beans and peas are forbidden, string beans permitted), pure garlic and onion powder, dried fruit, honey, pure unadulterated soy bean or safflower oil, nuts (except legumes), dish detergent and scouring powders.* All these items should be bought before Passover and left unopened until Passover begins.

### 8. May canned or frozen fruits and vegetables be used for Passover?

*Answer:* Fruits and vegetables normally permitted for Passover use, when packed in water or their own juices may be used. Cans or packages containing added ingredients should not be used.

### 9. May tuna and salmon be used?

*Answer:* Oil packing introduces an uncertain element possibly containing additional ingredients. Therefore, use the water packed variety and purchase it before Passover.

### 10. Which dairy products do not require a hechsher (Rabbinic supervision) if purchased before Passover?

*Answer:* *Milk, butter, cottage cheese, cream cheese and hard unprocessed cheese* do not require a hechsher if purchased **before** Passover. If purchased during Passover, these foods do require a hechsher. Processed cheese requires a hechsher whether purchased before or during Passover.

## DISHES & UTENSILS

### 11. Can any dishes and utensils used during the year be used on Passover?

*Answer:* It is preferable to have dishes and utensils specifically reserved for Passover and stored away during the rest of the year. However, since this is not always possible, the rabbis ordained that certain types of utensils may be “Kashered” (specifically prepared for Passover). However, earthenware, enamelware or porcelain utensils, if used during the year, may not be used during Pesach.

### 12. How may utensils be “kashered” for Passover?

*Answer:*

**A.** Silverware, knives, spoons, forks made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be kashered by scouring thoroughly and then immersing in boiling water. They are then Pesahdik and parve.

**B.** All table glassware is permitted after thoroughly scouring. There is also a practice of soaking glass ware for 72 hours before Passover. Follow the custom used in your family.

**C.** Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking) if made wholly of metal may be used during Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. Kashering is done in the following way: *fill a large pot with water and heat to boiling. Take the utensil, tie a string to it and immerse completely in the boiling water. For small items, cord netting can be used to dip several at once. This process renders utensils Pesahdik and parve.*

## KITCHEN APPLIANCES

### **13. How may the stove be kashered?**

*Answer:* Thoroughly scrubbing and cleaning all parts and turning on full flame or the clean cycle in the oven and all the grates prepare the stove.

### **14. How may a microwave be kashered?**

*Answer:* Microwave ovens present a special case since the inside surfaces do not become hot. There is a difference in opinion as to whether, or how, one can be kashered. We recommend thorough cleaning and then placing a dish of water in the oven and allowing it to boil as a symbolic kashering.

### **15. How may a dishwasher be kashered?**

*Answer:* A dishwasher may be used for Passover after thoroughly scouring with boiling water and then running it empty for two cycles, one with soap and one without. Some families secure an additional set of Pesach racks.

### **16. How may a refrigerator be kashered?**

*Answer:* Remove all chametz food and opened packages. Clean thoroughly with boiling water and scour the racks. In a freezer, frozen chametz foods should be put in a special closed-off section and should be sold with other chametz.

### **17. How can utensils be kashered that come in contact with fire?**

*Answer:* Any utensils which come in direct contact with fire, such as a barbecue spit, a barbecue grill, a broiling pan or rack, is kashered by open flame. The procedure is as follows:

*A. The article to be kashered is thoroughly scoured.*

*B. The article is set aside and not used for 24 hours.*

*C. The article is then put under an open flame and thoroughly heated until the metal glows red hot or is so hot that a piece of paper is singed when it touches the utensil.*

## SPECIAL CASES

*A. Knives with wooden handles cannot be kashered, because particles of food, which could lodge between the handle and the blade, cannot be effectively removed by purging.*

*B. Pyrex, Corning ware, Corelle and other modern ovenproof ceramics are considered the same as glass.*

*C. Fine (glazed) china that has not been used for twelve months is considered as new. Earthenware and other unglazed pottery cannot be kashered, since the material they absorb cannot be purged.*

*D. Plastics with a high heat tolerance can be kashered as if they were metal. Mel Mac and other plastics that might melt cannot be kashered, since the requisite amount of heat most likely would not be applied.*

*E. Utensils covered with a non-stick surface such as Teflon can be kashered like other utensils.*

*F. Countertops and tables made of Formica or Arborite should be thoroughly scoured. Those made of wood are scraped with a steel brush. The surface is then bare for 24 hours, after which the surface is thoroughly rinsed with boiling water poured directly from the pot in which it was boiled.*

*G. A sink is kashered as a large pot.*

*H. Any metal surface of a small appliance that comes in contact with food should be kashered by purging. Plastic parts are treated as mentioned above. An electric frying pan that can be immersed should be purged. Many electrical appliances cannot be immersed and therefore cannot be kashered. An electric mixer should have its beaters purged, and its bowls either purged (metal) or washed (glass). An electric can opener should have its blade and magnets removed and purged. The rest of the appliance should be cleaned so that no food remains in any crevice.*



**TODAH RABAH**  
**Our warmest thanks are extended to those  
 who have contributed to the following funds:**



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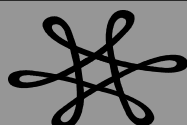
~Alan & Esther Strauss

## KESHER ZION WINE & GIFT SHOP—2011

The Wine & Gift Shop will be open for sales and order pick up on Sunday, April 3rd  
 and Sunday, April 10th from 9:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.

On Monday, April 11th from 4:30p.m. to 6:00p.m. in Sisterhood Hall

No Seder orders will be filled after Wednesday, April 13th



# SISTERHOOD CORNER



### FRIENDSHIP—PURPOSE—COMMITMENT

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Sisterhood Donor:  
 Monday, May 9, 2011

**ADULT LIBRARY**



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 Shoshanna Tannenbaum's (obm) cookbooks. They are on the shelves in the library. Passover is coming!  
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# April 2011

26 Adar II 5771 - 26 Nisan 5771

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |  |   |   |   | 1<br>26 ADAR II<br>Scholar in Residence & Rabbi Installation<br>Evening service & talk by Rabbi Jonah Steinberg followed by a shabbat dinner 6pm | 2<br>27 ADAR II<br>תוריעה פ' החודש<br>Morning service & Kiddush Luncheon 9:30am<br>Evening Havdalah service & talk by Rabbi Steinberg 7:30pm       |
| 3<br>28 ADAR II<br>Rabbi Bromberg's Installation 2pm followed by a Champagne Reception & Entertainment<br><br>Wine & Gift Shop open 9:30-11:30am | 4<br>29 ADAR II<br>Hebrew School 4-6pm<br><br>Gift Shop opens 4:30-6pm   | 5<br>1 NISAN<br>ראש חודש ניסן<br>Minyan Assignments 7:30pm  | 6<br>2 NISAN  | 7<br>3 NISAN  | 8<br>4 NISAN<br>KZ Neighborhood Shabbat 7pm  | 9<br>5 NISAN<br>מצורעה<br>Morning service 9:30am<br>KZ Lunch & Learn KZ Hebrew School event 10:30am to 12pm  |
| 10<br>6 NISAN<br>Wine & Gift Shop open 9:30-11:30am  | 11<br>7 NISAN<br>Hebrew School 4-6pm<br><br>Wine & Gift Shop open 4:30-6pm   | 12<br>8 NISAN<br>Healing service/Minyan Assignments 7:30pm  | 13<br>9 NISAN   | 14<br>10 NISAN  | 15<br>11 NISAN   | 16<br>12 NISAN<br>אחרי מות<br>Morning service 9:30am   |
| 17<br>13 NISAN<br>Hebrew School Special Sunday 9am to 12pm   | 18<br>14 NISAN<br>ערב פסח<br>Siyyum service 8am<br>Chapel<br>1st Seder RCOS 6pm dinner to follow<br><b>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</b><br><b>Passover</b> | 19<br>15 NISAN<br>יום א' פסח<br>Passover Festival service 9:30am<br>2nd Seder KZ 7pm dinner to follow<br>No Minyan Assignments<br><b>Passover</b> | 20<br>16 NISAN<br>יום ב' פסח<br>Passover Festival service 9:30am<br><b>Passover</b> | 21<br>17 NISAN<br>יום ג' חוה'מנצח<br>פסח<br><b>Passover</b> | 22<br>18 NISAN<br>יום ד' חוה'מנצח<br>פסח<br>Shabbat evening service 7pm<br>KZ Passover dinner 8pm<br><b>Passover</b>                             | 23<br>19 NISAN<br>יום ה' חוה'מנצח<br>פסח<br>Morning service 9:30am followed by a Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Bromberg & Dr. Koosed<br><b>Passover</b> |
| 24<br>20 NISAN<br>יום ד' חוה'מנצח<br>פסח<br>Easter Day<br><br><b>Passover</b>  | 25<br>21 NISAN<br>יום ו' פסח<br>Passover Festival service 9:30am<br><br>Hebrew School 4-6pm<br><br>Gift Shop closed<br><b>Passover</b>         | 26<br>22 NISAN<br>יום ח' פסח<br>Passover service including Yizkor 9:30am<br><br>No Minyan Assignments<br><b>Passover</b>                          | 27<br>23 NISAN  | 28<br>24 NISAN  | 29<br>25 NISAN   | 30<br>26 NISAN<br>קדושים<br>Morning service 9:30pm   |



# TZEDAKAH



Contributions to support our Synagogue and Sisterhood are deeply appreciated. Whenever you wish to remember friends and loved ones, in joy or sorrow, please think of the following funds. An appropriate acknowledgment is sent. Make your check payable to the appropriate fund and send to the office.

## D'OR L'DOR PLAQUE (ELEVATOR):

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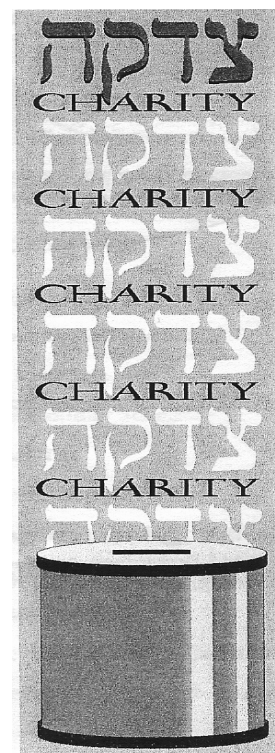
Send your check to the Library Fund c/o the office. An acknowledgement is sent.

## **TORAH FUND:**

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## **SIMCHA FUND:**

Cards available for all occasions. Call Sylvia Wenger (610-375-3422) to have cards sent (\$1.50 each) or to purchase them for personal use (\$1.00 each).



*Contributions to the Synagogue and the Sisterhood funds must be paid before cards are processed. Mail or bring your check with complete information to the synagogue office. If you have an account or wish to start one, please contact the office. Money should be added when the account gets low. This will eliminate writing numerous checks.*

**Kesher Zion Synagogue**  
**1245 Perkiomen Avenue**  
**Reading, PA 19602**  
**Office: 610-374-1763**  
**Fax: 610-375-1352**  
**www.kesherzion.org**

**Email: kzsecretary@entermail.net**

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Rabbi Minna Bromberg .....Educational Director  
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Office.....Sisterhood  
Muyumi Minnich.....Editor  
Esther Strauss .....Proofreader

**Call the office for advertising information.**  
*The deadline for submission of articles for the  
May 2011 Bulletin is  
Monday, April 11, 2011*

**Synagogue Office hours:**

Mon. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Tues. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Wed. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**HEALING SERVICES AT KZ**

Healing services are designed to bring more wholeness and peace into our lives, the life of the community, and beyond.

All are welcome to join!

Healing services will be held  
Tuesdays, April 12<sup>th</sup> & May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
in the KZ Chapel.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Kesher Zion Synagogue**  
1245 Perkiomen Ave  
Reading, Pennsylvania 19602

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