



bulletin

Keshher Zion Synagogue



Volume 83 Issue 5

Adar-Nisan 5780

March 2020

Keshher Zion Mission Statement: Keshher 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. Keshher 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.

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Keshher Zion Synagogue 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 610-374-1763

www.keshherzion.org

Committed to meeting the religious, social, and educational needs of its members within the framework of the Conservative movement. - Keshher Zion Synagogue

Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen

NOTES FROM THE RABBI/HAZZAN

We certainly look forward to Purim! Our annual bout of silliness and celebration is always welcome, and of course an intergenerational favorite. But despite the costumes, jokes, songs, and festivities, Purim reminds us that we must always be mindful of the whole picture, even, or perhaps especially, at times of celebration. As we recognize the heroism of Esther, the deliverance of the Jews, the condemnation of Haman (go ahead and boo...I'll wait), there are multiple levels of understanding and significance to the holiday. Take the four mitzvot of Purim, for example: hearing the Megilla, having a festive meal, sending *mishloach manot* (gifts of food) to others, and giving to the poor. What do they teach us?



HEARING THE MEGILLA

How can anyone go through the holiday motions if they don't know the story behind the symbolism? Even if the Megilla reading seems like a rote exercise, there is still the translation and tradition behind it which brings us back to the details of the story. We hear the words, and appreciate the miracle anew.

SEUDAT PURIM—THE FESTIVE MEAL

Ok. Jews like to celebrate with food. But having a formal holiday meal means that you have the opportunity to invite others to share the occasion with you. Is anything more meaningful than celebrating freedom and deliverance with others who are free to do so?

MISHLOACH MANOT

It's way too easy to make the requirements of a holiday be inwardly oriented. We clean, cook, bake, and prepare for ourselves. Purim encourages us to undertake these tasks for the benefit of others. Only a few of our hamentashen stay home; the rest, along with other goodies, go to other people. The care we take in providing for others (and be sure to include those who may not yet know of the tradition) is a *mitzva* which can transcend Purim. Don't want to bake? Try making a contribution to www.mazon.org so you can help feed the hungry. But observe the *mitzva* by giving at least two food items to at least two people on Purim.

MATANOT L'EVYONIM: GIVING TO THE POOR

While being focused on providing for ourselves and our families, we forget those who do not have the ability to do so for themselves. We can give *tzedaka* on Purim, or make timely contributions to many other organizations who can do so on our behalf. Hopefully, doing so at a time of celebration will inspire us to do so for the rest of the year. Esther fasted for three days before engaging Achashverosh and arranging the deliverance of the Jews. Why should others who are oppressed by hunger and want need to wait?

May we all have a happy, crazy, and meaningful Purim. I look forward to seeing all the cowboys, cowgirls, and other folk for Purim eve and morning (check out the flyer). As it says in the Talmud, *Yippi kayei!* (Not really, but go with it...)

In March, we celebrate Purim. It's a fun holiday for anyone who likes to dress up and make a lot of noise—a big hit with children, but really, who doesn't like to dress up and make noise? The cookies are fun too!

Whereas the holiday may appeal especially to kids, the book of Esther is not a children's book. It is replete with sex and violence; it raises serious ethical issues; it can reinforce certain damaging stereotypes about women. In addition, it inhabits a strange place in the Bible because it lacks many of the standard features of sacred scripture. It is one of only two biblical books that never mention God (Song of Songs is the other), and there are no references to Jewish customs or ritual practices. In fact, since Esther has so effectively hid her identity, readers can assume that she is not keeping such distinctive practices as kosher or Shabbat as she lives in the Persian palace.

What is a book like this doing in the Bible? It may not talk about God but it still can teach us important lessons. The primary question the book of Esther seems to be asking is "How do we live in diaspora communities, surrounded by people who are not like us and who are even hostile to us?" The advice in Esther seems to be that you can (and sometimes even should) marry a non-Jew; you can (and sometimes even should) keep your identity secret; you can (and sometimes even should) use your beauty as a weapon. In fact, Esther embodies a certain kind of pragmatic wisdom. She knows when to hide, when to reveal, and how to influence those who have the real power. Esther and the Jewish people win in the end not because of any ideological purity, nor because of any obvious miracle or intervention. Esther and the Jewish people win because, even though she could have kept quiet and safe, she risks it all in solidarity with her people. Esther is a warrior, but not one who brandishes a sword. Instead, she uses her beauty, her sex appeal, and her wits to wield power over the men who threaten Jewish lives.

Even in our relatively safe and comfortable place in 21st century America, Esther has lessons for us. Esther provides a strong model for *klal yisrael*. No matter your practices or your position, we are all in this together. Esther also reminds us that powerful leaders are not always worthy of their power, and that true power resides among the people. A single act of courage can avert disaster; a single voice speaking up can alter history. Do not wait for God or rely on your leaders, Esther tells us. The power is already in your hands.

Burial Society



"The highest act of *gemilut chesed* (acts of loving kindness) is that which is done for the dead, for there can never be any question of repayment". (Tanhuma Vayehi 107A)

Keshet Zion Synagogue has been providing Tahara (ritual washing) services for the entire Berks County Jewish Community for many years. Participation in tahara is a mitzvah of the highest order. It is performed by Jews to honor a deceased person who is Jewish. Generally, women perform tahara on women and men for men. Keshet Zion has a women's group and a men's group with chair people for each.

There are two major elements to the service. First is the cleaning of the body and second is the ritual washing and dressing in a shroud. The entire process takes place at the funeral home and should be done a few hours before the funeral service. Because there is a need to physically move the body during both processes, at least 3 people (ideally 4) are needed.

It is critical that the chair people have a sufficient number of people on their lists to accommodate everyone's vacation/travel/ work schedules. The more people that are on the lists, the less frequently one is called. No one does this alone! It is a communal effort.

If you would like to learn more about chevrah kadisha, either talking to the chair people or attending a washing, please call the Keshet Zion office (610.374.1763) or email kzsecretary@entermail.net.

March Adar-Nisan 2020 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Adar 1	6 Adar 2	7 Adar 3	8 Adar 4	9 Adar Minyan 7:30 pm 5	10 Adar 6	11 Adar KZ Services 9:30 am 7
12 Adar 8	13 Adar Purim Service, Megillah Reading 6:00 pm 9	14 Adar Purim Service, Megillah Reading 9:30 am 10	15 Adar 11	16 Adar Adult Education 6:30-7:30 pm Minyan to follow at 7:30 pm 12	17 Adar 13	18 Adar KZ Services 9:30 am 14
19 Adar 15	20 Adar 16	21 Adar 17	22 Adar 18	23 Adar Minyan 7:30 pm 19	24 Adar 20	25 Adar KZ Services 9:30 am 21
26 Adar 22	27 Adar 23	28 Adar 24	29 Adar 25	1 Nisan KZ BOD Meeting 7:00 pm break for Minyan at 7:30 pm 26	2 Nisan 27	3 Nisan KZ Services 9:30 am 28
4 Nisan 29	5 Nisan 30	6 Nisan 31				



WANTED



COWPOKES TO JOIN US FOR

PURIM

SERVICE, MEGILLA READING, SONGS AND SILLINESS

MONDAY, MARCH 9 AT 6PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 AT 9:30AM

**Come dressed as your
favorite COWBOY,
COWGIRL, or WESTERN
CHARACTER!**

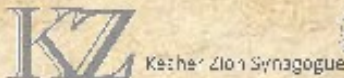
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**555 Warwick Drive
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www.keshetzion.org



כּוּסֵה

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
KESHER ZION'S
2020 PASSOVER CELEBRATION

Thursday April 9: **KZ Passover Shabbat Services at 9:30 a.m.**
followed by Kiddush

Passover Second Night Service and
Seder 6:00 p.m.
Conducted by Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sisen

Friday, April 10: **KZ Passover Festival Services 9:30 a.m.**
followed by Kiddush

Saturday, April 11: **Shabbat Chol Hamoed Services 9:30 a.m.**

Tuesday, April 14 **KZ Passover Service and Dinner at 6:30 pm.**

Wednesday, April 15: **KZ Passover Services 9:30 a.m.**
followed by Kiddush

Thursday, April 16: **KZ Passover Services 9:30 a.m.**
with Yizkor followed by Kiddush

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE INVITES YOU TO A
SPIRITED, TRADITIONAL, AND INTERACTIVE
SECOND NIGHT COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER

Conducted by Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen

Thursday, April 9, 2020 - Services at 6:00 p.m. Seder to follow



Kosher for Passover meal catered by Boscov's A La Carte Caterers
Cost: Adults—\$36.00/Children (6-13) - \$20.00/Children 5 & under free

Menu: Matzah Ball soup, gefilte fish, turkey,
potato kugel, vegetables, wine, matzah, and dessert.

Vegetarian entrée available upon request with reservation only (Same pricing as above)

Reservations and payment (Check payable to Kesher Zion Synagogue)

Must be sent to the Kesher Zion Office by March 23, 2020

If you are in need of transportation to the Seder, please contact the KZ Office (610) 374-1763.
If financial assistance is necessary, please contact Sari Inledon at Jewish Family Service (610) 921-2766.

I/We will be attending the Thursday, April 9th Passover Seder Meal at Kesher Zion Synagogue,
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610. We are returning our reservation form and check
made out to Kesher Zion Synagogue

Deadline for reservations: Thursday, March 23, 2020.



\$36.00 each adult x _____ \$ _____
\$20.00 each child x _____ \$ _____ (Children 5 & under are free)
Request for vegetarian entrée x _____

Total \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

PASSOVER DINNER AT KESHER ZION



Who wants to cook on the 7th night of Passover?
You don't have to! Join

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE

for Yom Tov services and a festive dinner

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Service at 6:30p.m. followed by

A kosher for Passover dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Soup, Chicken, Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert

Cost: \$28.00 / Adult

\$15.00 / Child 6 to 13 (Children 5 and under Free)

*Vegetarian entrée available upon request with reservation only
(same price)*

RSVP on or before March 23, 2020

If you are in need of transportation to the Shabbat Dinner or Service,
please contact the KZ Office (610) 374-1763.

RESERVATION FORM: SHABBAT PASSOVER DINNER

I/We will be attending Tuesday, April 14, 2020 for Passover Dinner at 555 Warwick Drive,
Wyomissing, PA 19610. We are returning this reservation form with our check made payable to
Keshet Zion Synagogue, - KZ Office 610-374-1763

RSVP by: March 23, 2020	\$28.00 x each adult _____	\$ _____
	\$15.00 x each child _____	\$ _____ (Children 5 and under Free)
	\$Total _____	\$ _____

PESACH 5780

Since we are not permitted to have hametz in our dwellings during Pesach, we appoint an agent to be our representative and, for the week of the holiday, sell our stored hametz to a non-Jew. To sell your hametz for the holiday, please complete the form below, and submit a copy to the Keshar Zion office.

Since a gift of Maot Chitin is also traditional for the holiday, please consider accompanying your form with a contribution designated for "Pesach 5780" which will be used exclusively to help individuals with their Pesach preparations, or to enable them to attend a Seder.

Chag Kasher V'sameach!

SHTAR HARSHA'AH (DOCUMENT OF PERMISSION)

I/We, the undersigned, do authorize Rabbi/Hazzan David Sislen to act as agent to write a Shtar M'khirah and sell our hametz as necessary. We understand that any hametz in our house will not be ours for use from Wednesday, April 8, at 10:00am, until the end of Passover, Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 8:45 pm.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Work Address, or address where additional hametz may be located:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

This document has been completed in:

City _____ State _____

On this date ____ / ____ / 2020

Signature _____

Describe below the places where hametz is stored:

Please copy this form and keep for your records until the end of Pesach.



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Want to acquire new insights into how to fight anti-Semitism and the growing BDS movement?

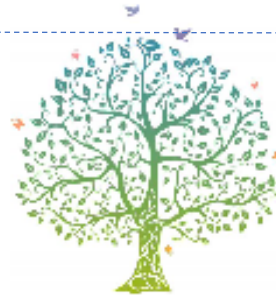
The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Reading is pleased to have our own **Michael Fromm**, National Chairman of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), along with **David Bernstein**, JCPA's President and CEO, to address our community on these pressing issues facing Jews across our nation.



The event will take place on
Monday, March 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Jewish Cultural Center of Reading
Please call with any questions 610-921-0624

TRIVIA SUNDAY

at Keshet Zion Synagogue



COME OUT AND JOIN KZ FOR A COMPETITIVELY FUN NIGHT OF TRIVIA WITH PROFESSIONAL "TRIVIA GUY" JIM MARLIN

Admission: \$ 8.00 per person, payable at the door

Teams: Teams up to 8 people-either prearranged or arranged on the spot

Prizes: Gift Certificate or cash prizes to top 3 teams

Food: Enjoy delicious munchies & desserts with soda or coffee

**** FREE GLASS OF WINE INCLUDED****



TRIVIA
sunday



Keshet Zion
Synagogue

▶ SUNDAY
APRIL 26, 2020

▶ TIME
3:00-5:30PM

555 Warwick Drive

Wyomissing, PA 19610

610-374-1763

kzsecretary@entermail.net



RSVP ON
OR BEFORE
MONDAY
APRIL 20, 2020





Keshher Zion Synagogue



EXPLORE THE SIDDUR AT KESHER ZION

Learn the history of our prayers, the structure of our services, experience the beauty of the poetry, and the wisdom of our tradition in a monthly class taught by Rabbi/Hazzan David Sisen.

First semester schedule:

March 12

May 14

June 11

The second Thursday night of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm
(Minyan will follow the class)

*Please register at the Keshher Zion office
or contact us for more information:*

kzsecretary@entermail.net or keshherzionrav@gmail.com

555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610

610-374-1763

WINTER WEATHER



For current

Keshher Zion bad weather closings:

Call the office (610) 374-1763

Minyan

We need more Minyan Participants for the New Year.

Only 20 minutes on average once a month.

Your continued support will allow for a weekly Minyan.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Please call Robert Schneier for more information at 484)987-4805.



GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER AT KESHER ZION

Let us know how you can volunteer at KZ . Please indicate your selection below.

_____ Secretary on the Board of Directors

_____ House Committee

_____ Education Committee

_____ Membership Committee

_____ Dues Committee

_____ Programming Committee (new)

_____ Digital Platform Committee (new)

_____ Add my name to Tuesday Minyan list

_____ Help in office

NAME: _____

_____ Minyan Committee

PHONE NUMBER: _____



Return to:
Keshet Zion Synagogue
555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for all the anniversary
leagrams

~Gaye & Glenn Corbin

MAZEL TOV

To Debbie Frank on the birth of her grandson

Jace Beckett

CONDOLENCES

To Dr. Michael Kastenbaum & Family on the loss of

Gayle Kastenbaum

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50 Berkshire Court
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-374-3134

DOUGLASSVILLE

1050 Benjamin Franklin Hwy. W.
Douglassville, PA 19518
Phone: 610-385-4333

MYERSTOWN

356 West Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
Phone: 717-866-1400

CAFÉ SWEET STREET

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MONDAY-FRIDAY: 9-6
SATURDAY: 10-5

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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.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE GENERAL FUND:.....Minimum \$ 6.00
Windows of Keshet Zion cards Minimum \$10.00

DR. ROBERT N. GREENBERG SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM FUND:..... Minimum \$18.00

KIDDUSH FUND:

Contribute to the weekly Shabbat kiddush and your name will be listed in the Shabbat bulletin. There will also be a framed acknowledgement at the kiddush in the Social Hall..... Minimum \$36.00

SISTERHOOD FUNDS:

TORAH FUND:

Cards available for all occasions. Funds are used to support the Jewish Theological Seminary's programs and scholarship fund. Call Arlene Ehrlich (610-373-6648) to have cards sent for \$5.00 each

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.



TODAH RABAH

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

General Fund:

In memory of Dr. Jeffrey Frank

~ Judy & Jim Schwank

Thank you Gayle for many years of service to KZ

~ Judy & Jim Schwank

In memory of Mervin Lewis

~ Robert Schneier

~Debbie, David, Scott, Mark & Abby Goldberg

Mazel Tov to Naomi & Alex Knoll on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophie Mira

~Debbie, David, Scott, Mark & Abby Goldberg

Thank you to Rabbi Sisen for leading Shiva Minyan for my mother

~ Andi Franklin

Thank you William & Sheila Lidman for your charitable contribution

~ Keshet Zion Synagogue

Thank you Louis Shucker & Sherry Faust for your donation

~ Keshet Zion Synagogue

Dr. Robert Greenberg Scholar-In-Residence Program Fund:

Mazel Tov to Naomi & Alex Knoll on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophie Mira

~Gaye & Glenn Corbin

~Mazel Tov to Debbie Frank on the birth of her grandson < Jace Beckett

~ Gaye & Glenn Corbin

Place Your Ad with US





Kesher Zion Synagogue



Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

- Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sisen.....Rabbi
- Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....President
- Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....Educational Chair
- Office.....Sisterhood
- Betsy & Al Katz.....Proofreaders
- Lenore Meyerson.....Editor

Call the office for advertising information

The deadline for submission of articles for the April 2020 Bulletin is
Monday, March 2, 2020

Contact Us

**Kesher Zion
Synagogue**

555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Office: (610) 374-1763
Fax: (610) 927-1763

kzsecretary@entermail.net
Visit us on the web at
www.kesherzion.org

Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



To advertise your business or services Contact KZ Office: 610-374-1763
Email: kzsecretary@entermail.net



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Visit our Judaica Shop where you will find a wide selection of giftware, books, jewelry and ritual items.

Contact Solange Israel-Mintz
610-372-4553 or simassoc20@aol.com

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Please

Remember

Your call is very important to us!

If you reach our answering machine, we are either on the other line, at a meeting, or stepped out for a break.

Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have an emergency that can't wait, and you cannot reach us during or after business hours, call:

Rabbi/ Hazzan David Sisen
at 484-509-0847