



# bulletin

Keshher Zion Synagogue



Volume 85 Issue 4

Shevat— Adar 1 5782

February 2022

*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.

*Keshher Zion Synagogue*  
555 Warwick Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
610-374-1763  
[www.keshherzion.org](http://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*



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The older I get, the more I seem to reflect on my past, my present and my future. I look back at my parents and grandparents - not just their lives but how they lived them. What influenced them and what actions and influences of theirs, helped to make me who I am today.

Never would these thoughts have crossed my mind as a child or teenager. The only thoughts were of having fun and what was best for me. When I have children I will never let them – I will allow them to...(famous last words).



And then we start to mature and realize, the world isn't just about us. It's about those around us. Not just those we know and love but helping and caring for those we don't as well. We never had a lot of money but we were rich beyond belief in so many other ways. Our home was always open to friends and family and even if they had just met us and were in our home for the first time, my parents made everyone feel welcome and loved and a part of our family.

My grandparents came from Russia and Poland and of course were from a different generation and mindset. Mostly things were black and white but even with the rigidity, there was a softness in their souls that showed in their smiles and hugs - unless I accidentally turned the light on during Shabbat. That look will forever be engrained in my mind. But even then, they realized that things change, times change and loving me was more important than the accidental turning on of a light switch – even on Shabbat.

My parents were always so positive, even though my father came down with an unknown illness at the age of 33 which eventually left him a paraplegic. Not in their game plans. Three children at home (again, all of whom were only thinking of fun, games and their own pleasures), lots of doctors appointments from New Jersey to Boston, schlepping my father into his wheelchair and getting him to work (while he could still work) and coming home, making us dinner and still running bingo games to pay off the synagogue mortgage and fund it's Hebrew School. Oh and did I mention she was also sisterhood president and president of Hadassah? Not once do I remember her complaining. She once said to me 'If someone could promise me my complaining would make daddy well again and everything would be okay, I will complain night and day. Can anyone promise me that?' No. No one could promise her that. She adjusted – and life for all of us was good. It was beyond good. It was blessed.

I took those lessons from my parents. Life doesn't always go the way we want it to and that's okay. It's not always about us. We need to learn from our adversities and judgements in error we may have once made. It's what makes us stronger and more understanding. It's what makes us better people. It's what makes us human beings.

'I would never let my children' – I learned if it didn't really matter, I let them.

'I will allow my children to' – I learned that children need structure, so I didn't always allow them to do whatever it was I said I would allow them to do when I didn't have a clue about raising children – or life in general.

I grew, I matured, I learned to adjust. Just as my grandparents and parents did before me. And I look at my children now and I couldn't be prouder. They too have learned to adjust. Life can be so much sweeter for ourselves and everyone in our lives if we would just realize life is short and we need to cherish every moment and not sweat every little thing.

Thank you to my parents and grandparents for teaching me how important life really is.

I hope everyone stays safe during this time and of course, continue to be happy and healthy and of course, adjust.

Susan Wilson, KZ President

# FEBRUARY 2022

## SHEVAT– ADAR 1, 5782

**KZ will be holding In-person and Virtual services on Saturday mornings at 9:30 You can still attend services via Zoom. Minyan led by Cantor Wartell will continue on Zoom the first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30pm via Zoom**

DATE	HEBREW DATE	SERVICE	TIME
Thursday, February 3	2 Adar 1	Adult Ed - Religion & Film	7:00 PM
Thursday, February 3	2 Adar 1	Minyan	7:30 PM
Saturday, February 5	4 Adar 1	KZ morning services with Cantor Wartell	9:30 AM
Thursday, February 10	9 Adar 1	Adult Ed - Religion & Film	7:00 PM
Saturday, February 12	11 Adar 1	KZ morning services	9:30 AM
Thursday, February 17	16 Adar 1	Adult Ed - Religion & Film	7:00 PM
Thursday, February 17	16 Adar 1	Minyan	7:30 PM
Saturday, February 19	18 Adar 1	KZ morning services	9:30 AM
Monday, February 21	20 Adar 1	KZ Office Closed	President's Day
Thursday, February 24	23 Adar 1	Adult Ed - Religion & Film	7:00 PM
Saturday, February 26	25 Adar 1	KZ morning services with Cantor Wartell	9:30 AM



Mazel Tov Cantor Wartell!

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America is honoring Kesher Zion's Cantor Kevin Wartell.

Cantor Kevin will receive his honorary doctoral degree in a ceremony which will take place on February 2, 2022 in New York.

The JTS extends this award to only a select group of cantors to recognize their important achievements and excellence in leadership.

This will be Cantor Wartell's second honorary doctorate as he was awarded his first in April, 2010 from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.

Congratulations Cantor Wartell. It is an honor well deserved.

Kesher Zion BOD

## **MAZEL TOV**

**To Carole & Michael Robinson on the birth of their granddaughter, Brooks Acadia Shipe**

**To Susan Wilson on the birth of her grandson, Paxton James Chabin**

**To Sue & Mike Farrara on the birth of their grandson, Landon James Farrara**



## **WINTER WEATHER**

**For current Kesher Zion bad weather closings:**

**Call the office**

**(610) 374-1763**



## Torah Fund Campaign

### Five Wonderful Reasons To Support Torah Fund

#### Sponsor a Kiddush



Celebrate your special occasion with your congregational family.

For more information on sponsoring a Kiddush...

please contact the Synagogue office at: (610) 374-1763 or email:

I have written about Torah Fund for many years. I have asked all of you to give whatever donations you could to support this facet of The Jewish Theological Society for Conservative Judaism. This year is no different. The only difference is that COVID-19 has changed the way we look at the world and life. Torah Fund Campaigning has taken a pause and will not have a new theme or a gift pin. They are continuing the B'Yachad (together) Campaign as we are all still "in this together" and our goals and needs have not changed.

The Women's League for Conservative Judaism has sent me material to help in my solicitations. Since there is no point in changing their words I am unashamedly passing them along to you:

**Reason #5:** It's an opportunity to continue to demonstrate your commitment to our work in helping provide quality education, resources and scholarships at our Jewish institutions of higher education.

**Reason #4:** Your donation shows your gratitude for the ways our rabbis, cantors, educators, professors, social workers, Jewish professionals and camp staff continued to provide essential care, services, training and guidance to our Jewish communities throughout the pandemic.

**Reason #3:** The costs of quality education continue to rise and many academic institutions cut budgets and resources. Your gift will help to maintain excellence in Jewish education and in the development of our future leaders.

**Reason #2:** When you give to Torah Fund you are in sync with caring individuals who value knowledge and learning and recognize the importance of equipping our future generation with leadership skills.

And the #1 reason: Your contribution helps fortify the Jewish people and ensure our bright future.

So I am asking you to add a donation to The Torah Fund when your New Year dues statement to Keshar Zion arrives.

Please help by giving!

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy, COVID-free New Year  
Arlene Ehrlich

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THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for all of the wonderful Anniversary wishes

~ Andi & Bill Franklin

We would like to thank everyone for the anniversary wishes!

~Beth & Bob Caster

Many thanks to the Irvin G. and Beatrice M. Shaffer Fund of Berks County Community Foundation for the Grant in Support of the KZ Cemetery Fund.

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:

Cantor Kevin Wartell at 484-239-3414

Note: Regular office hours are 9am-3pm Monday -Friday

During COVID-19 we will be working both in the office and remotely. Kindly call the office to notify us before coming in: 610-374-1763

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Robert R. Nye, Supervisor

KZ Google Group KZ uses Google groups to email weekly information, such as our weekly Shabbat Bulletin (Catch-Up Flier). We also use this platform to email updates, events, announcements, etc.



If you are currently not receiving emails from our group, please let us know if you would like to be added. Email: keshertzionoffice@gmail.com

KZ Website: www.keshertzion.org Facebook Page:

Lenore Meyerson
KZ Bulletin Editor
kzsecretary@entermail.net



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 Kesher Zion cards ..... Minimum \$10.00

**MORRIS HASSEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUNDS:**  
Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund ..... Minimum \$ 6.00  
Hebrew School Scholarship Fund ..... Minimum \$ 6.00  
David & Rebecca Schein Scholarship Fund ..... Minimum \$ 6.00  
Windows of Kesher Zion cards ..... Minimum \$10.00

**LEONARD C. LEVIN FUND FOR IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE:**  
(Please make check payable to Leonard C. Levin Fund) ..... Minimum \$ 6.00  
Windows of Kesher Zion cards ..... Minimum \$10.00

**HELEN RUDOLPH MUSEUM FOUNDATION OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE:** (Please make check payable to the Foundation.) Proceeds are used to support the museum collection ..... Minimum \$ 6.00

**HARRY G. BARRER YOUTH FUND OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE:**  
(Please make check payable to the Harry G. Barrer Youth Fund) Proceeds are used for U.S.Y. and Kadima activities ..... Minimum \$ 6.00  
Windows of Kesher 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 Sisterhood 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:

*Mazel Tov to Cantor Wartell in honor of his honorary doctoral degree from the JTS*

~ Doris & Elliott Leisawitz  
~ Karen & Myron Kabakoff

*Mazel Tov to Beth & Bob Caster on the birth of their grandson, Everett Shai Caster*

~ Doris & Elliott Leisawitz  
~ Andi & Bill Franklin  
~ Karen & Myron Kabakoff

*Mazel Tov to Sue & Mike Farrara on the birth of their grandson, Landon James Farrara*

~ Debbie, David, Scott, Mark, & Abby Goldberg

*Mazel Tov to Jan & Jonathan Simon on the birth of their grandson, Grant Benjamin Simon*

~ Doris & Elliott Leisawitz  
~ Andi & Bill Franklin  
~ Karen & Myron Kabakoff

*Mazel Tov to Carole & Mike Robinson on the birth of their granddaughter, Brooks Acadia Shipe*

~ Andi & Bill Franklin  
~ Karen & Myron Kabakoff

*Happy Anniversary to Beth & Bob Caster*

~ Andi & Bill Franklin

*To Susan Wilson on the birth of her grandson, Paxton James Chabin*

~ Debbie, David, Scott, Mark, & Abby Goldberg  
~ Karen & Myron Kabakoff

C A F É S W E E T S T R E E T

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2022

# RELIGION AND FILM

a 9-week course led by

Dr. Robert Seesengood (Prof. of Religious Studies, Albright College)

and Dr. John Incledon (Prof. Emeritus, Albright College)

Would you like to catch a movie? Join us February and March for a movie discussion series on Religion and Film with Dr's Rob Seesengood and John Incledon. Rob and John, both faculty at Albright College, have each written and taught extensively (and sometimes in collaboration) on the themes of Religion and Movies. For this series (designed for a general-interest, non-specialist, adult audience) they have selected nine movies that foreground some aspect of Judaism and Christianity. In addition to recommending movies to watch through our cold late-winter, they will be hosting a weekly (online) discussion about the films (and ranging into topics of Religion and Movies more broadly). The class also features access to a website with links to readings, trivia and other content; participants can "dig in" for a full course, or just watch, listen and enjoy.

We will cover one film a week during this 9-week course. Participants will watch the film on their own. (All but one of the films are available free of charge on YouTube or for rent for \$3.99 or less from Amazon.com. There is no other cost to participants for the course.) Class will meet via Zoom, on Thursday evenings, 6:00-7:00 pm, beginning February 3 and continuing to March 31. Covid and schedule permitting, we may screen some of the films for the community on occasional Tuesday evenings, prior to the scheduled Thursday conversation.

For Zoom link, email your request to: [keshertzionoffice@gmail.com](mailto:keshertzionoffice@gmail.com)

Tentative Schedule:

Thurs, Feb 3 - THE TRUMAN SHOW (1998)

Thurs, Feb 10 - BLACK NARCISSUS (1947)

Thurs, Feb 17 - HESTER STREET (1975)

Thurs, Feb 24 - GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT (1947)

Thurs, March 3 - THE ROBE (1953)

Thurs, March 10 - HAIL, CAESAR! (2016)

Thurs, March 17 - THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW (1964)

Thurs, March 24 - SLING BLADE (1996)

Thurs, March 31 - USHPIZIN (2004)



Kesher Zion Synagogue





# KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE WINTER ADULT EDUCATION 2022

## SCHMOOZE WITH THE CANTOR

**JANUARY 12, 2022 12 noon at KZ Lunch included with pre registration**

Come and enjoy an opportunity to engage with your fellow congregants on a variety of issues as Cantor Wartell will facilitate a lively discussion.

Together we will enjoy a leisurely lunch and delve into the issues of the day from a Jewish perspective.

## PRE PASSOVER WORKSHOP WITH THE CANTOR

**March 30, 2022 12 noon at KZ Lunch included with pre registration**

Cantor Wartell will lead the group thru some innovative ways to make your Seder this coming year user friendly for families and also timely for those who want to use the Seder meal to reflect on how Jews can effectively participate in social action projects to make our world a better place for all of G-d's children.

## LEARNING HOW TO LEAD A SHABBAT SERVICE

Cantor Wartell will meet with you privately to assist you in learning various parts of leading a Shabbat service.

Want to chant a Haftarah?

Want to learn Torah Trope?

Want to improve your Hebrew?

A special opportunity to learn in the privacy of a one-on-one tutorial session with our Spiritual leader.

For more information and to arrange an appointment, contact Cantor Wartell

by email ([kzcantor@gmail.com](mailto:kzcantor@gmail.com)) or call the KZ synagogue office.



Keshher Zion Synagogue  
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Wyomissing PA  
Phone: 610-374-1763

Email: [kzsecretary@entermail.net](mailto:kzsecretary@entermail.net)  
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Kesher Zion Synagogue



## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.kesherzion.org](http://www.kesherzion.org)

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



## ***Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism***

Kevin D. Wartell .....Cantor

Susan Wilson.....President

Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....Educational Chair

Betsy & Al Katz.....Proofreaders

Lenore Meyerson.....Editor

Call the office for advertising information

*The deadline for submission of articles for the*

*March 2022 Bulletin is Monday, February 7, 2022*

To advertise your business or services Contact KZ Office: 610-374-1763

Email: [kzsecretary@entermail.net](mailto:kzsecretary@entermail.net)

## **Yahrzeit Fund 5782**

### **Yahrzeit Fund 5782**

Each week, KZ sends out reminder cards concerning the yahrzeits of our beloved departed family members and accepts donations in their memory. All donations are announced in the weekly bulletin & announced at Shabbat services. Some members find it convenient to pay for all of their yahrzeits (\$5.00 minimum per name) at one time only once per year. Please send your checks made out to **Kesher Zion Synagogue to Cynthia Balchunas, 511 Thomas Place Sinking Spring PA 19608** if you would like to take advantage of this convenient way to remember your loved ones and donate to KZ.



**Minyan will be held only on  
the first and third Thursday of  
every month at 7:30pm  
via Zoom  
Check weekly emails and  
website for updates  
[www.kesherzion.org](http://www.kesherzion.org)**