

JANUARY 2024

TEVET-SHEVAT

# KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE

Official Bulletin of Keshet Zion

## Keshet Zion Mission

We are a Conservative synagogue serving Berks County, Pennsylvania since 1929. Keshet Zion is proud of our history as a kind, welcoming community, eager to share our love of Judaism throughout our area. We are affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We strive to bring a love of prayer, halakhah, and learning through our Shabbat & holiday services and adult & youth education programs. With knowledgeable clergy, lay leaders, and staff, our congregation shares our joys and sorrows through life cycle events, services and other special activities. Our congregation warmly welcomes Jewish and interfaith families, couples and singles into our community. We are egalitarian in all aspects. Together we strive to connect with our local Jewish community and those living in Israel.

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# .....THE RAIN IS GONE

## I can see clearly now...

January, in Eretz Yisrael, most of the annual rains have already fallen. So, the blossoming of trees this month are the first blossoming of a new year. Therefore, Tu Bishvat/the 15 th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, is observed as the New Year for Trees/Rosh Hashanah l'Ilanot. Here, in January, our Torah reading cycle continues by starting anew book, Shemot/Exodus. Whereas the first book of the Bible is concerned with Creation and the history of the Patriarchs, the second book of the Torah was called Sefer Yitziat Mitzrayim/Book of the Departure from Egypt. During the month we will read of the hardships the Israelites endured, culminating not merely in their deliverance, but in the Revelation at Sinai. The effect that epochal event has had on history cannot be overstated.



Cantor Ted Prosnitz

When we stand before the Aron Kodesh/Holy Ark and pray to Hashem, the Creator, our Redeemer, we say,

We do not put our trust in any mortal; nor on any angelic being do we rely. Our trust is in God, Lord of the heavens... Our adult education series has begun, and our first session started thinking about idolatry-what it meant in the Bible, and what it is today. Come and join us for these interesting discussions two Tuesdays a month. Our next session will be Tuesday, January 9, at 7 PM. The topic will be based on one of the Aseret Hadibrot/Ten Commandments-

**FALSE WITNESS: The Power of Speech.**

Later in the month, come celebrate the New Year for the Trees, as Keshet Zion and RCOS, with sponsorship from the Jewish Federation of

Reading/Berks, enjoy a Tu B'Shvat seder. Hope to see you then, January 24, for some fruits from the Holy Land, some fun for the whole family, and a chance to be in community with friends during the middle of our winter.

(Maybe Johnny Nash, the composer of I Can See Clearly Now, knew the Jewish Arbor Day song lyrics:)

The almond tree is growing, the golden sun is glowing...



.....It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright)Sun-shiny day)



## GOOD-BYE TO 2023 AND HELLO TO 2024

May we all have a Happy and Healthy New Year. Throughout 2023 I would like to thank our office staff which included Sue Weiss and Stephanie Fogelman. Huge thanks to Ben Johnson our custodian who prepares the Shabbat Kiddish and everything else that needs to be done. To our Board of Directors and various Committees who meet and decide the direction for KZ to follow. And to Volunteers who do an amazing job. Special Thanks to Cantor Prosnitz for all he does for KZ and also his involvement in the Community.

As we look forward to 2024, we have many events coming up. January 24th will be our Tu B'Shvat Seder at 7PM. We are planning the Community Shabbat that KZ will be hosting, date to be determined. Our Junior Congregation/Family Shabbat will continue each month with the next one being January 20. If there is a program you would like to see please contact the Cantor or myself.

Once again, a Happy and Healthy New Year to All

Larry Fogelman  
President

A message from  
*our President*



SEDER  
TU BISH'VAT  
January 24th





The tradition of KZ volunteering at the Kennedy House on Christmas day continued this year. We served 110 meals and had a great time..

Thank you to our volunteers

Andrea Fogelman

Carole Robinson

Judy Schwank

Myron and Karen Kabakoff

Susan Weiss and Dov Heinlein

Elliot Leisawitz

Larry Fogelman

Connor and Olivia



# A LITTLE LAUGHTER

## The Fortune Teller

Feeling his days are numbered, the head of Hamas visits a fortune teller to find out when his end will come. She says, "You're going to die on a Jewish holiday."

The terrorist demands to know, "Which holiday? Hanukkah? Passover? Which Jewish holiday will be the day of my death??"

The astrologer answers, "Any day you die will be a Jewish holiday!"

---

Old Max Greenberg lies on his deathbed.

He asks, "Is my wife Sara here?" "Yes," says Sara. "I'm here with you!" "Are my children here?" "Yes, Max, your sons and your daughters are all here!" "Are my grandchildren here?" "Yes, all of the grandchildren are here. Max, your entire family is here with you!"

Then Max Greenberg lifts his head one last time and asks, "So why is the light on in the kitchen?"



# Keshar Zion Social Action Committee Project for Israel

We all have been watching in horror as war rages in Israel. Rather than watching helplessly, the Keshar Zion Social Action Committee has decided to do something to help Israel and its brave soldiers.

We are going to start a collection for the IDF soldiers. As the Israeli Army is very particular as to what they will accept, and getting items to Israel through customs is hard, we have found an organization, CareOne, that has already done some of the organizational heavy lifting. Here is some information on CareOne and its efforts that they plan on continuing until the war is over.

<https://www.care-one.com/standing-together-supporting-israel-in-a-time-of-crisis/>

<https://jewishlink.news/community-applauds-heroic-efforts-at-careone-aid-israel/>

With your help, we are going to use the Amazon link below to purchase and deliver the items the Israeli soldiers so desperately need. Only items from the link will be accepted by CareOne.

[https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3U8YRX387K1BL?fbclid=IwAR1d-F6HX4z7dfJBNN3H-BaO6A6OfI-W8g\\_MZWHhcOv-5m7pkOTulizb5loRR-vA](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3U8YRX387K1BL?fbclid=IwAR1d-F6HX4z7dfJBNN3H-BaO6A6OfI-W8g_MZWHhcOv-5m7pkOTulizb5loRR-vA)

All you have to do is follow the link, place the item in your cart, make sure the item is sent directly to our partners at CareOne, and then pay for your donation. CareOne's address is:

CareOne at Teaneck  
544 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please consider donating to one of the organizations suggested by our Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.

Jewish Federation of North America's Emergency Fund for Israel [click here](#)

Magen David Adom (Israel's paramedics and first responders) [click here](#)

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee [click here](#)

Israel Defense Force (IDF) Widow and Orphans Fund [click here](#)

Friends of the IDF [click here](#)

Lone Soldier Center [click here](#)

[Click here to donate to Meir Panim](#)

[Click here to donate to Yemin Orde](#)

Please call the KZ office at 610-374-1763 or Simeon Ratner at CareOne 917-273-6071 with any questions.

Thank you all for supporting our mitzvah project and for supporting Israel.

Respectfully,  
Debbie Goldberg  
Chair of the Keshar Zion Social Action Committee

# Kesher Zion Social Action Committee Project for Israel

The Kesher Zion Social Action Committee is partnering with CareOne of Teaneck, NJ to purchase and deliver much needed gear for Israel's brave soldiers.

Use the Amazon link below to purchase the items the Israeli soldiers have requested.

[https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3U8YRX387K1BL?fbclid=IwAR1d-F6HX4z7dfJBNN3H-BaO6A6OfI-W8g\\_MZWHhcOv-5m7pk0Tulizb5loRR-vA](https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3U8YRX387K1BL?fbclid=IwAR1d-F6HX4z7dfJBNN3H-BaO6A6OfI-W8g_MZWHhcOv-5m7pk0Tulizb5loRR-vA)

All you have to do is follow the link, place the item in your cart, make sure the item is sent directly to our partners at CareOne, then pay for your donation. CareOne's address is:

CareOne at Teaneck  
544 Teaneck Road  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

**For more information, please call the KZ office at 610-374-1763  
or Simeon Ratner at CareOne 917-272-6071.**

**Thank you helping to support this critical endeavor!**



**Prayer for the Welfare and the Return of  
Israel's Captured and Missing from  
Among our Sisters and Brothers**

God of Israel, our Rock and our Redeemer,  
God of Mercy, of Compassion,  
we pray, we plead that You return these precious and beloved  
people [...] the captured and the missing, who have cruelly and  
heartlessly been torn from their homes and carried off to our  
enemy's territory.

We are terrified contemplating their fate and horrified at the  
thought of what the missing and the captured are suffering  
right now [...] They lay beyond our reach and our  
capacity to save them.

And so we plead before You:  
Father of Mercy, be at their side, support them, protect them  
and quickly bring them back to the embrace of their families  
and all who love them as You have declared:

"Thus says the Lord; Behold, I will restore the captives of  
Jacob's tents, and have mercy on their dwellingplaces..."

[Jeremiah 30:18]

We beseech you, Adonay, quickly fulfill Your word: "Here, I  
am with you, I will watch over you wherever you go and will  
bring you back to this land, indeed I will not leave you until I  
have done what I have said to you." [Genesis 28:15]



Rabbinical Assembly of Israel



Masorti Movement

# Prayer for Israeli Soldiers

מִי שֶׁבָּרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב הוּא יְבָרֶךְ אֶת חֵילֵי צְבָא הַגָּנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, הָעוֹמְדִים עַל מְשַׁמַּר אֶרְצֵנוּ וְעָרֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִגְּבוּל הַלְּבָנוֹן וְעַד מִדְּבַר מִצְרַיִם וּמִן הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל עַד לְבוֹא הָעֶרְבָה בַּיְבֵשָׁה בְּאֵוִיר וּבַיָּם. יִתֵּן ה' אֶת אוֹיְבֵינוּ הַקָּמִים עָלֵינוּ נִגְפִים לַפְּנִיָּהֶם. הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא יִשְׁמַר וְיִצִּיל אֶת חֵילֵינוּ מִכָּל צָרָה וְצוּקָה וּמִכָּל נֹגַע וּמַחְלָה וְיִשְׁלַח בְּרָכָה וְהִצְלָחָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם. יְדַבֵּר שׁוֹנְאֵינוּ תַּחְתֵּיהֶם וְיַעֲטֵרם בְּכֹתֶר שׁוֹעָה וּבַעֲטָרַת נִצְחוֹן. וְיִקְיָם בָּהֶם הַכְּתוּב: כִּי ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הֵהָלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם לְהִלָּחֵם לָכֶם עִם אוֹיְבֵיכֶם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם: וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן:

He Who blessed our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob -- may He bless the fighters of the Israel Defense Forces, who stand guard over our land and the cities of our God, from the border of the Lebanon to the desert of Egypt, and from the Great Sea unto the approach of the Aravah, on the land, in the air, and on the sea. May the Almighty cause the enemies who rise up against us to be struck down before them. May the Holy One, Blessed is He, preserve and rescue our fighters from every trouble and distress and from every plague and illness, and may He send blessing and success in their every endeavor.

May He lead our enemies under our soldiers' sway and may He grant them salvation and crown them with victory. And may there be fulfilled for them the verse: For it is the Lord your God, Who goes with you to battle your enemies for you to save you.



## **KZ SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATES!**

The Keshet Zion Social Action Committee has started working jointly with the Wyomissing Church of the Brethren to help those in need at the New Journey Community Outreach/Food Pantry. New Journey is a non-profit organization established in 2014 and strives to restore hope, comfort, and dignity by feeding, clothing, and supporting those in need in the Reading, PA area. At present time, they have approximately 300 people in need.

This month, our KZSA volunteers made 20 lbs. of BBQ to add to the batches made by the volunteers from the WYCOB for distribution to those served by New Journey. Volunteers from both groups filled lunch bags and delivered the bags and the BBQ to New Journey.

The KZSA is thrilled to be a part of this project and look forward to continuing our work together with WYCOB in support of New Journey.

If anyone is interested in joining our efforts, please contact Debbie Goldberg, KZSA chair, for more information on how you can help. Her email is [eyepatch3@comcast.net](mailto:eyepatch3@comcast.net)

**The following are upcoming 2024 dates for this project:**

**January 7 & 8**

**March 10 & 11**

**May 12 & 13**

**July 7 & 8**

**Sept 8 & 9**

**November 10 & 11**

# WE ARE OUR BROTHERS' KEEPERS

THE 2023-2024 TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN HAS SELECTED THE THEME OF RESPONSIBILITY.

KOL YISROEL AREVIM ZEH BE'ZEH

כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה

ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

EVERY YEAR TORAH FUND MAKES A PLEA FOR DONATIONS.

WHEN YOU SUPPORT TORAH FUND,  
YOU HELP TO EDUCATE STUDENTS IN NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES,  
ISRAEL, LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE.  
YOU ARE SAYING, "I WANT TO STAND WITH THOSE WHO EDUCATE  
COMMITTED JEWISH STUDENTS TO BECOME RABBIS, CANTORS,  
EDUCATORS, SYNAGOGUE ADMINISTRATORS, SOCIAL WORKERS,  
SCHOLARS, RESEARCHERS AND LAY LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, YOU ARE HELPING TO PROVIDE THE  
LEARNING, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO FORTIFY FUTURE  
GENERATIONS OF JEWISH PEOPLE.

PLEASE CONSIDER ADDING A DONATION FOR TORAH FUND WHEN  
YOU SEND IN YOUR KESHER ZION MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023-2024.  
AND REMEMBER TO CALL ARLENE EHRLICH (610-373-6648) TO SEND A  
TORAH FUND CARD FOR ANY OCCASION: CONGRATULATIONS,  
CONDOLENCE, THANK YOU, GET WELL...

THE COST OF \$5.00 COVERS MAILING.  
A SPECIAL TORAH FUND DONATION OF \$180.00 WILL EARN YOU A  
BEAUTIFUL GIFT PIN STATING, "AREVUT", HEBREW MEANING  
RESPONSIBILITY.

WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## 2023 GIFT PIN





# 50 YEARS CELEBRATING TOGETHER

**Congratulations  
to KZ and RCOS in 5784,  
for celebrating together the 50th  
Anniversary of both movements  
recognizing women in the minyan  
(8/29/1973)**

**Robert and Beth Caster  
Want to thank everybody for  
the anniversary Leagrams**

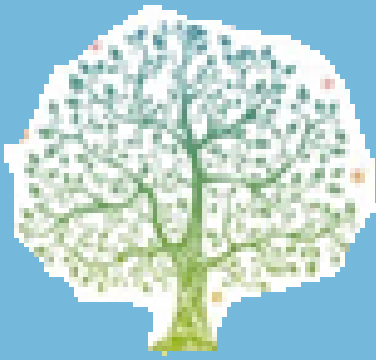
A donation has been made in  
memory of Gerald Levine  
By Michael Kastenbaum  
Davis and Debbie Goldberg  
Paul and Solange Mintz  
Betsy and Al Katz  
Harvey and Roberta Goldstein  
Elliot and Doris Leisawitz  
Robert and Deborah Weidner  
Myron and Karen Kabakoff  
Exeter Internal Medicine

**THANK YOU TO OFFICER BIMBAM  
FOR PROTECTING OUR SHUL**



**Mrs. and Mr. Jennifer Gurwitz**

The Keshet Zion Cemetery offers lots to members of Keshet Zion Synagogue and members of the broader Jewish community. To obtain information on purchasing lots, contact the Cemetery Association President, Robert M. Caster at 610-587-1985 or via email at [robertmcaster@comcast.net](mailto:robertmcaster@comcast.net), or you can contact Larry Fogelman at 610-507-5281 or via email at [lfogelman@comcast.net](mailto:lfogelman@comcast.net).



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

# JUNIOR CONGREGATION

January 20, 2024

10:30am

KIDDUSH TO FOLLOW

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE

555 WARWICK AVE

WYOMISSING, PA 19610



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL 610-374-1763

KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

Please Join  
Keshar Zion On  
January 24th for  
our  
Tu B'Shvat Seder  
7:00pm



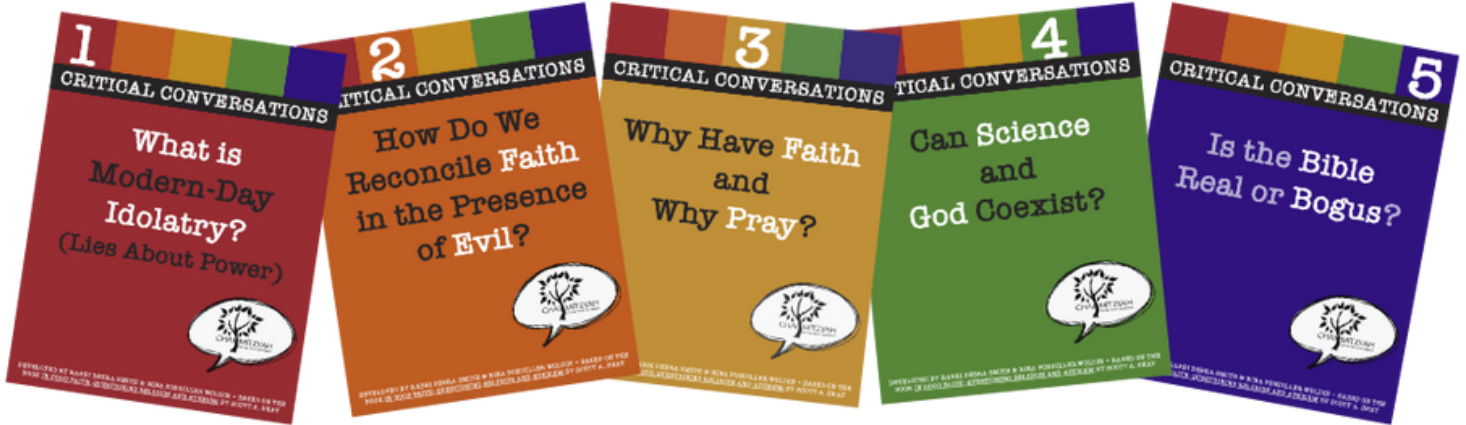
**ON TU B'SHVAT, WE CELEBRATE A NEW YEAR  
FOR THE TREES, REJOICING IN THE  
FRUIT OF THE TREE  
AND THE FRUIT OF THE VINE.  
COME CELEBRATE WITH A  
SPECIAL TU B'SHVAT SEDER MODELED OFF THE  
PASSOVER SEDER, FEATURING SPECIAL FRUITS  
FROM HA' ARETZ . TU B'SHVAT ANTICIPATES THE  
BEGINNING OF SPRING IN ISRAEL WHILE  
SUSTAINING RAINS ARE AT THEIR PEAK.**

**ט"ו בשבט הגיע**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE OFFICE AT [KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM)  
OR CALL 610-374-1763**



Kesher Zion Synagogue



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CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS**

based on the award-winning book *In Good Faith: Questioning Religion and Atheism* by Scott A. Shay. We'll explore Jewish and non-Jewish, ancient and contemporary texts selected to inspire meaningful discussion in a safe and informal environment.

Meetings will take place at Kesher Zion Synagogue  
555 Warwick Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
7:00 – 8:00 PM on two Tuesdays each month  
January 9  
January 30  
February and March dates To Be Determined

The programs are FREE

**But advance registration is appreciated  
online at [kesherzioncantor@gmail.com](mailto:kesherzioncantor@gmail.com)  
or by calling 610-374-1763**

**Questions?  
Contact Cantor Ted Prosnitz 201-321-3030**



*Critical Conversations* was created by  
[Chai Mitzvah, The Resource for Jewish Engagement.](http://www.chaimitzvah.com)





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Keshher Zion Synagogue



Affiliated with the United Synagogue  
of Conservative Judaism

Cantor Ted Prosnitz.....Clergy  
Larry Fogelman.....President  
Susan Weiss.....Editor

Call the office for advertising  
information.

The deadline for submissions of  
articles for the  
February 2024 Bulletin is  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

### Contact Us

Keshher Zion Synagogue  
555 Warwick Drive  
Wyomissing, Pa. 19610

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

[keshherzionoffice@gmail.com](mailto:keshherzionoffice@gmail.com)  
visit us on the web at  
[www.keshherzion.org](http://www.keshherzion.org)

Office hours:  
Mon-Wed-Fri  
10:00am-3:00pm

To advertise your business or services

Contact KZ Office : 610-374-1763

Email: [keshherzionoffice@gmail.com](mailto:keshherzionoffice@gmail.com)

# TZEDAKAH

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT OUR SYNAGOGUE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED. WHENEVER YOU WISH TO REMEMBER FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, IN JOY OR IN SORROW, PLEASE THINK OF THE FOLLOWING FUNDS. AN APPROPRIATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS SENT. MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE APPROPRIATE FUND AND SEND/BRING TO; KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE 555 WARWICK DRIVE WYOMISSING, PA 19610

KESHER ZION GENERAL FUND.....MIN. \$6  
DR. ROBERT N. GREENBERG SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM  
FUND.....MIN. \$18

KIDDUSH FUND..... .MIN. \$36

CONTRIBUTE TO THE WEEKLY SHABBAT KIDDUSH FUND AND YOUR NAME WILL BE LISTED IN THE SHABBAT BULLETIN. THERE WILL ALSO BE A FRAMED ACKNOWLEDGMENT AT THE KIDDUSH IN THE SOCIAL HALL

YARZEIT FUND 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 AT SHABBAT SERVICES. SOME MEMBERS FIND IT CONVENIENT TO PAY FOR ALL OF THEIR YAHRZEITS( \$5 MINIMUM PER NAME) AT ONE TIME, ONLY ONCE PER YEAR. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONVENIENT WAY TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES AND TO DONATE TO KZ.....

## TORAH FUND

Cards available for all occasions. Funds are used to support the Jewish Theological Seminary Programs and Scholarship Funds. Call Arlene Ehrlich at (610) 373-6648 to have cards sent for \$5 each.



SIMCHA FUND CARDS AVAILABLE FOR ALL OCCASIONS CALL SYLVIA WENGER AT (610) 375-3422 TO HAVE CARDS SENT FOR \$1.50 EACH OR FOR PURCHASE FOR PERSONAL USE FOR \$1 EACH