



NOVEMBER 2023

CHESHVAN.KISLEV

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE

Official Bulletin of Keshar Zion

Keshar Zion Mission

We are a Conservative synagogue serving Berks County, Pennsylvania since 1929. Keshar 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.

This Issue:

Thanksgiving, An
American Sukkot

PAGE 02-04

Our lives have been
changed.....

PAGE 05

Keshar Zion Social
Action Committee
Project for Israel

PAGE 06-07

A LITTLE LAUGHTER

PAGE 09

Thanksgiving, an American Sukkot?

Before setting off for the New World, the Puritans lived among the Sephardic Jews in Holland. The Jews had come to Holland after being expelled from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1496. The Puritans fled England in 1608 to escape religious intolerance. Having crossed the ocean, as the Children of Israel had crossed Yam Suf, the British Pilgrims saw themselves as the New Israelites. They were well-versed in the Old Testament and familiar with the joyful Jewish Fall harvest festival. In our liturgy, Sukkot is termed z'man simchateinu/ the season of our rejoicing, based on Lev.23:40 וּשְׂמֵחָתֶם and Deut. 16:14 וּשְׂמֵחָתָּ בַּחֲגֹךָ.

Based on a letter written by Edward Winslow, the first Thanksgiving is identified as happening in 1621. Like the Jewish holiday, it was celebrated by giving thanks for several days (either three or seven days, historians are unsure). Another similarity between these Puritans and Jews is that they did not always all agree. The historian Diana Muir Applebaum writes that some Puritans rejected the Catholic concept of fixed holidays, feeling they desensitized the flock to God's special beneficence. Jewish practice combines both regular prayers, like the Shema which is said (twice) every day, and special occasion prayers such as when a rainbow is seen. Here is that b'racha

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם זֹכֵר הַבְּרִית וְנֹאמָן
בְּבְרִיתוֹ וְקִיָּם בְּמַאֲמָרוֹ.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, zocher
habrit v'ne'eman biv'reetoh v'kayam b'ma'amarav.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe,
who remembers the covenant, and is faithful to His
covenant, and keeps His promise.



Although the first Thanksgiving was reportedly in December 1621, and President George Washington had proclaimed a Thanksgiving Day 1789, it was not a regular annual observance until President Ulysses S. Grant signed the bill making it a federal holiday in 1870.

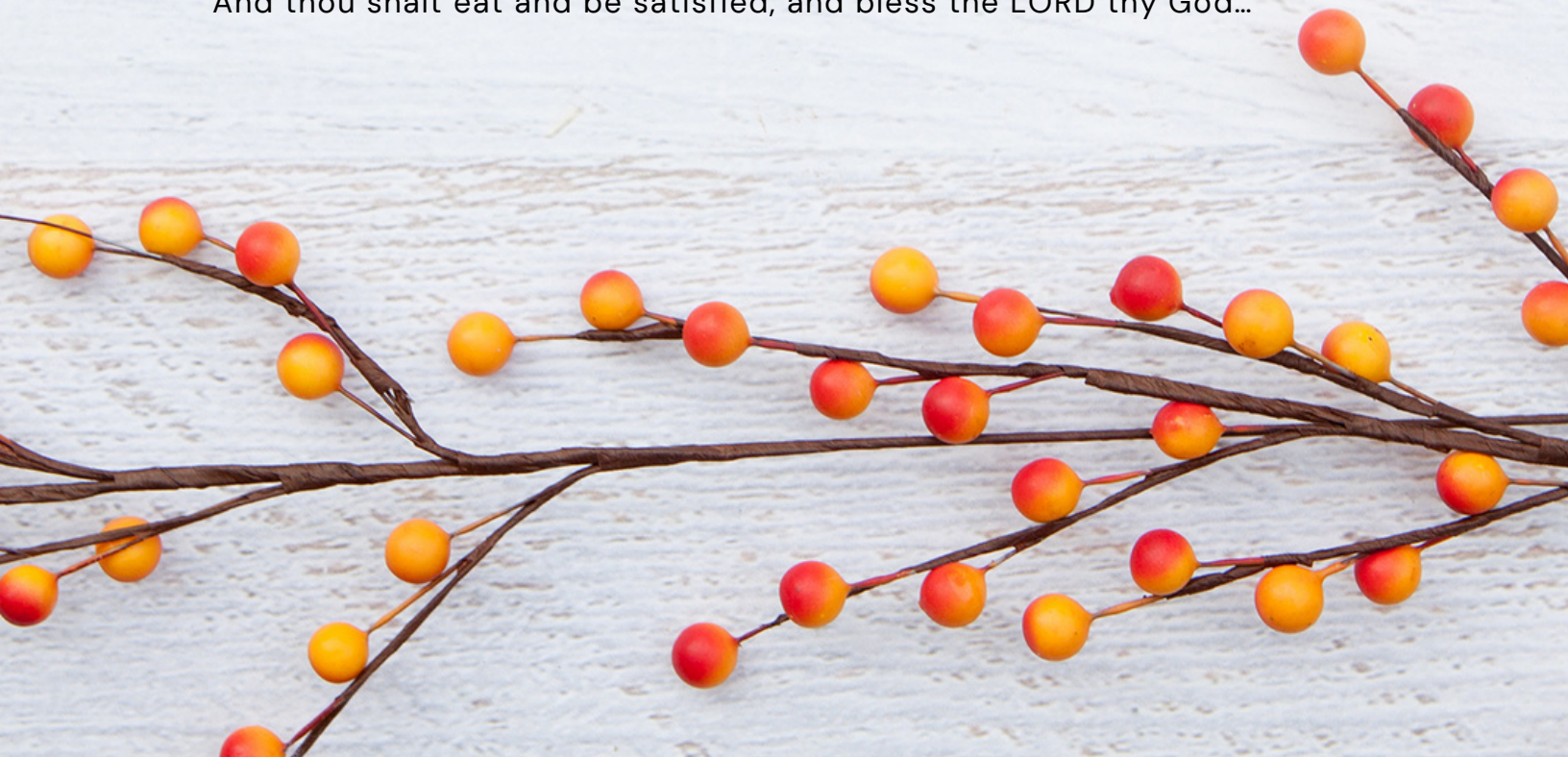
It is always timely to thank Hashem for all our blessings.

Thanksgiving Day this year will be on the 10th day of Kislev. Kislev is the ninth month in the Jewish Calendar (November is also the ninth month, in the Roman calendar). Already the 10th of Kislev? That is only 15 days before the start of Hanukkah (on the 25th of the month)! Please plan to come for a community lighting of the first candle in Penn Square on Thursday, December 7, and a family Festival of Light at Keshar Zion on Wednesday, December 13. Then we will praise and thank God for His deliverance. Every day, in our Amidah prayer we petition God for sustenance: בָּרַךְ עֲלֵינוּ י-ה-ו-ה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶת־הַשָּׁנָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת־כָּל־מִינֵי תְבוּאָתָהּ לְטוֹבָה / Bless this year unto us, O Lord our God, together with every kind of the produce thereof, for our welfare...

At Thanksgiving, it will be an especially good time to thank Hashem by observing the commandment in Deuteronomy 8:10:

וְאָכַלְתָּ, וְשָׂבַעְתָּ--וּבֵרַכְתָּ אֶת־י-ה-ו-ה אֱלֹהֶיךָ,

And thou shalt eat and be satisfied, and bless the LORD thy God...



You may also use the following Thanksgiving Prayer by Rabbi
Zalman Schachter-Shalomi:

Hebrew	English
<p> בִּימֵי הַמִּהְגָּרִים נִקְיִי הַדַּעַת כְּשֶׁהִגִּיעוּ לָאָרֶץ מִקְלָטָם וְסָבְלוּ רָעַב וְקוֹר נֶשֶׁאִו רָנָה וּתְפִילָה לְצוֹר יִשׁוּעָתָם אֲזַ עֲמַדָּתָ לָהֶם בָּעֵת צָרָתָם וְעוֹרֶרְתָּ חֲמַלָתָ הַתּוֹשְׁבִים הָאֵינְדִּיאָנִים עֲלֵיהֶם וְהַאֲכִילָם מִזֶּן, בְּרִבּוּרִים וְתִירָז וְכָל מַעֲדָנִים הַצִּלָּתָם מִרָעַב וְיָגוֹן וְהִרְאָתָ לָהֶם דֶּרֶכִּי שָׁלוֹם עִם תּוֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ – עַל כֵּן, בְּרִגְשֵׁי תּוֹדָה קִבְּעוּ יוֹם הַוּדָאָה שָׁנָה וְשָׁנָה לְזִכָּר לְדוֹרוֹת וּמֵאֲכִילִים סְעוּדוֹת הַוּדָה לְאוֹמְלָלִים: לְכֵן גַּם אֲנוּ מוֹדִים לָךְ עַל הַטּוֹבוֹת בְּחַיֵּינוּ – אֵל הַהוּדָאוֹת אֲדוֹן הַשָּׁלוֹם. מוֹדִים אַמְחֵנוּ לָךְ: </p>	<p> For all the boons in our lives we offer our thanks to you YHWH our God and in blessing your Name we hope that all of life will bless You too and especially today because: In the days of the Pilgrims, the Puritans, when they arrived at these safe shores, suffered hunger and cold. They sang and prayed to the Rock of their Salvation. And You, standing by them, roused the caring of the Natives for them: who fed them, turkey and corn and other delights. Thus saved You them from starvation, and they learned the ways of peace with the inhabitants of the land. Therefore, feeling grateful, they dedicated a day of Thanksgiving each year as a remembrance for future generations, feeding unfortunates feasts of thanks. Thus do we thank You for all the good in our lives, God of kindness, Lord of Peace; thus do we thank You. </p>

Our lives have been changed since the events of October 7 in Israel. As previous emails have stated we will be having Professional Security Guards at Saturday morning services and other events that occur. We are working with the local Police and other agencies to keep us updated on events in our area. The Cantor is here if you need to talk. Please reach out if you need us.

Please continue to join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evening at 7:30 for evening minyan. Our attendance has been wonderful.

On November 25th Eileen Kope will be sponsoring the Saturday morning Kiddish in honor of her birthday. Please come and join us.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO FORM A COMMITTEE FOR KZ'S HOSTING THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY SHABBAT ON FEBRUARY 23RD. PLEASE CONTACT ME OR CALL THE OFFICE

As I have said in the past if you have any ideas regarding programs feel free to contact the Cantor or myself.

Hope to see you soon at services.

Larry

A message from
our President



Kesher Zion Social Action Committee Project for Israel

We all have been watching in horror as war rages in Israel. Rather than watching helplessly, the Kesher 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

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 Kesher 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/gi/guest-view/3U8YRX387K1BL?fbclid=IwAR1d-F6HX4z7dfJBNN3H-BaO6A6OfI-W8g_MZWWhcOv-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 שֶׁבֵּרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב הוּא יְבָרֶךְ אֶת חֵילִי צָבָא הַגָּנָה
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, הָעוֹמְדִים עַל מִשְׁמַר אֶרְצֵנוּ וְעָרֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִגְּבוּל הַלְּבָנוֹן וְעַד
מִדְּבַר מִצְרַיִם וּמִן הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל עַד לְבוֹא הָעֶרְבָה בִּיבֶשֶׁה בְּאֵוִיר וּבַיָּם. יִתֵּן
ה' אֶת אוֹיְבֵינוּ הַקָּמִים עָלֵינוּ נִגְפִים לַפְּנִיָּהֶם. הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא יִשְׁמַר
וְיִצִּיל אֶת חֵילֵינוּ מִכָּל צָרָה וְצוּקָה וּמִכָּל נֹגַע וּמַחֲלָה וְיִשְׁלַח בִּרְכָּה
וְהַצִּלָּה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵיהֶם. יְדַבֵּר שׁוֹנְאֵינוּ תַּחֲתֵיהֶם וְיַעֲטֵרם בְּכֶתֶר
יְשׁוּעָה וּבַעֲטָרַת נִצְחוֹן. וְיִקָּים בָּהֶם הַכָּתוּב: 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.



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 לזה

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

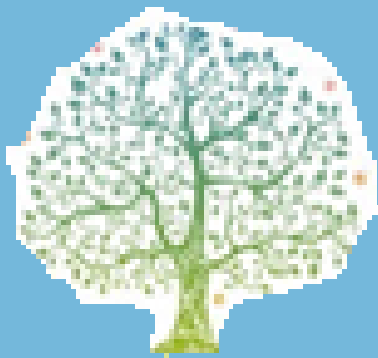
**to KZ and RCOS in 5784,
for celebrating together the 50th
Anniversary of both movements
recognizing women in the minyan
(8/29/1973)**

Mrs. and Mr. Jennifer Gurwitz

A donation to Torah
Fund was made by
Sylvia Wenger
in memory of
Ed Golden

Thanks
everyone for
the lovely
birthday
Leagrams
Carol
Perlmutter

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, or you can contact Larry Fogelman at 610-507-5281 or via email at lfogelman@comcast.net.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

JUNIOR CONGREGATION



November 18, 2023
10:30am

KIDDUSH TO FOLLOW KESHER
ZION SYNAGOGUE
555 WARWICK AVE WYOMISSING,
PA 19610



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 610-374-1763
KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM



**KESHER ZION
SYNAGOGUE**

HANUKAH CELEBRATION



**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023
6:30PM**

**BRING YOUR
MENORAHS,
CANDLES AND
DREIDELS
AND EAT SOME
YUMMY LATKES**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT THE OFFICE
AT 610-374-1763 OR EMAIL US AT
KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM**





Stay Connected



People Making You Look Good

6 Convenient Locations

Serving Berks County Since 1927

WYOMISSING OPTOMETRIC CENTER

The Best Care In Sight!

Comprehensive Vision & Medical Eye Care

Glenn S. Corbin, OD
Perry C. Umlauf, OD
Jeffrey Stefanick, OD

Kerry J. Burrell, OD
Amanda S. Legge, OD
Leslie B. Miller, OD



wyo-opto.com

MYERSTOWN
717-866-1400

DOUGLASSVILLE
610-385-4333

WYOMISSING
610-374-3134



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

December, 2023 Bulletin is
Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Contact Us

Keshher Zion Synagogue
555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, Pa. 19610

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

keshherzionoffice@gmail.com
visit us on the web at
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

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