



## **KESHER 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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**MAZAL**  
**TOV!**  
**RABBI PROSNITZ**

**COME TEST**  
**YOUR TRIVIA**  
**SKILLS**  
**ON AUGUST 10**  
**AT 7:00PM**

# RABBI PROSNITZ



## If I forget you, O, Jerusalem...

These words are from Psalm 137. The setting is when the people of Israel were in exile from their land, sitting and weeping by the banks of Babylon. Since the days of Avraham Avinu/our Father Abraham, his descendants have looked to the Promised Land as home. No matter what it was called – whether Canaan, the oldest Biblical name, or Palestine, the name when Rome ruled – Israel has been in our hearts. And in our prayers—we face Jerusalem when we pray; the prayers for rain, successful crops, and sustenance are oriented to the agricultural season and cycle of Eretz Yisrael.

And the people who live there are our family. When they hurt, we hurt. When they are attacked, Jews wherever they may be in the world are essentially attacked. Since the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem in British Mandate Palestine met with Hitler, till contemporary chanting of “from the river to the sea,” it has never been about the political governance of territory but the annihilation of Jews.

What is The Hope/Hatikvah that Naftali Herz Imber penned?

With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion, Then our hope - the two-thousand-year-old hope -

will not be lost:

To be a free people in our land, The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Tisha B'Av is the date when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. It was God's house, and we mourn its loss.

On Saturday night, August 2, at 9 PM, all are welcome to come together to support one another. That night, and every day, we pray for Jerusalem, Zion's people, and the leaders of Israel, and of all nations. May we see the day when the words of the prophet Micah are realized:

"But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it." (Micah 4:4).

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**Thank you to all those  
who contributed to  
Keshar Zion Synagogue in  
Honor of  
Rabbi Prosnitz's Ordination**

**Dr. and Mrs. David Goldberg**

**Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Simon**

**Mrs. Rochelle Mann**

**Dr. and Mrs. Paul Mintz**

**Mr. and Mrs. Michael Robinson**

**Mr. and Mrs. Myron Kabakoff**

**Thanks so much for the  
thoughtful  
anniversary leagrams and  
birthday wishes.**

**We really appreciate it so  
much,  
Jan & Jonathan Simon**



Co-Presidents Jennifer Koosed and Susan Wilson

It seems as if we just had our annual meeting, yet here we are – getting ready for the High Holidays. But that is not the only thing Keshar Zion is planning!

We are extremely excited about the upcoming celebration of Rabbi/Hazzan Prosnitz. His hard work and dedication to Keshar Zion culminated in his Rabbinical ordination on June 11<sup>th</sup>. A special committee has been formed and they are working diligently on a community wide celebration, here at Keshar Zion, on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Please save the date. More details to follow.

Another exciting update is the new B'nai Mitzvah Resources page on the Keshar Zion website. This page contains recordings of our Shabbat songs and prayers for all our students (and adults) for listening and learning. Students studying for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah can learn these portions at their leisure, enabling them to focus more attention on their Haftorah portions when the time comes. No one is too young or too old to take advantage of this new resource! A huge thank you to Debbie, Abby and Mark Goldberg, Cindy Balchunas, and Paul Mintz for making this possible.

And of course, there is our upcoming Bingo/Tricky Tray fundraising event on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Keshar Zion is a small but mighty force. We need everyone's help in making this a success so KZ can continue to be our home – and our children's home – and our grandchildren's home – for many years to come.

Please reach out to see how you can help.  
Jennifer and Susan





# *august calendar*

Sat. Aug. 2

Tisha B'Av  
9PM

Thurs. Aug 7

Minyan  
7PM

Sat. Aug 9

Birthday/Anniversary  
Shabbat  
9:30AM

Fri. Aug 15

Kabbalat Shabbat  
7:30PM

Thurs. Aug 21

Minyan  
7PM

Tues. Aug 26

Session 1  
High Holiday Crash  
Course  
7PM

# What is a Tikkun?

It has become a Jewish custom on the evening of Shavuot to have a night of study, which is called Tikkun Leil Shavuot. Shavuot is recognized as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. Keshet Zion organized an evening featuring five teachers to help us think about and explore what that event and the holiday has meant in the past, and what it can mean today.

The President of Alvernia University, Dr. Glynis Fitzgerald spoke about "Ruth from the Perspective of Shared Humanity." The Book of Ruth is traditionally read on the holiday of Shavuot. Perhaps its most famous passage begins, "Whither thou goest, I will go." President Fitzgerald also helped attendees learn more about Alvernia University. From the Islamic Society of Berks County, Dr. Moro Osumanu spoke about "The Divine Revelations." In Islam, Divine Revelation (wahy) represents How God communicates to humans. Muhammed is held to be the last of the prophets. But Moses, Musa in Arabic, is a prophet, too.

Dr. Robert Seesengood, Associate Dean at Drew University, taught about "The Septuagint, the Greek Translation of the Bible: What it is, and Why Does It Matter." Among other things, Dr Seesengood explained how the Septuagint sometimes adds phrases or changes words to help fill in the blanks or help clarify the Hebrew text.

The Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) is composed of three sections: Torah, Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Sacred Writings). The Book of Ruth is one of five Megillot/scrolls that are part of Ketuvim. "Ruth and Relationships" was the focus of Rabbi Michelson's presentation. The momentous event at Sinai happened over 3,000 years ago. In the 9th century C.E. the Jewish philosopher Saadia wrote and revelation and reason. How they are connected to today's observance of Shavuot, through an understanding of what Sabbath means, was what Rabbi Ted Prosnitz explored in his sessions.

Everyone who came to the event enjoyed the variety of learning, as well as delicious refreshments—of course, including cheesecake, and the camaraderie of community.





# *Birkat Halevana*

## *Blessing of the Moon*



On Sunday, June 29, a small crowd of Keshet Zion congregants gathered. We did not bless the moon. Rather, we took the occasion of the reappearance of the moon to sanctify the time and acknowledge our faith in God's continuing care. At times, things may seem dark, or troubles may feel interminable, but we trust in God's faithfulness.

We also had food. It is always a pleasure to sit, relax, and enjoy good food and company. Although the date of this picnic had been scheduled months in advance, the weather cooperated. Despite the recent rains, we had dry weather and a beautiful view of the waxing crescent moon high in the daytime sky - when we were not dining in the shade.

God directed the moon to renew itself, a crown of glory, Blessed are You, Hashem, Who renews the months. Let the moon be a sign-

Siman tov u'mazel tov, Let it be a good sign and good fortune for us and all Israel. Amen.



# A LITTLE *laughter*



## The Corporate Ladder

A priest and a rabbi are old friends who like to rib each other.

The priest says to the rabbi, "Too bad in your business there's no room for moving up. Once a rabbi, always a rabbi."

The rabbi asks, "And in your line of work you can move up?"

"Well if I work really hard, I can become a bishop."

"Huh. And then what?"

"If I play my cards just right, I just might become a cardinal."

"Huh. And then what?"

"Well after that it's possible that I can actually become pope!"

"Huh, and then what?"

"What do you mean and then what? I can't become God Himself!"

"One of our boys made it!"

A rabbi at a Chicago shul tells the congregation he is moving to New York and they will have a new rabbi at the end of the month.

After the meeting a woman approaches the rabbi and says "this is terrible news. Please don't leave us. Work out a better contract with the board. Tell your wife you have to stay in Chicago for the kids. Anything, just don't leave!"

The rabbi puffs up his chest, puts his hand on her shoulder and says "Mrs. Goldstein, I realize this is tough news. But who knows, your next rabbi may even be better than me."

"Oh sure," she cries. "That's what they told us the last time too."



One day, three Jewish men were hiking and unexpectedly came upon a large raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so.

The first man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, but only after almost drowning a couple of times.

Seeing this, the second man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools to cross this river." Poof! G-d gave him a rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about an hour, but only after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times.

The third man had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength, the tools, and the intelligence to cross this river."

Then, poof. God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, and walked across the bridge.



## TORAH FUND 2025-2026



Oseh Shalom Bimromav, “may the One who makes peace in the heavens, make Peace for us and all the people of Israel, “ appears at the end of the Kaddish and in other prayers. This is the theme of this year’s Torah Fund Campaign.

Thanks to the generosity of donors the Women’s League of Conservative Judaism, through the Torah

Fund, helps committed Jewish students become the rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers and lay leaders of tomorrow. Your financial support helps to fortify the Jewish people!

When your annual Keshet Zion statement arrives please add an additional donation for Torah Fund. A special donation of \$180. Will earn you a gift of this year’s pin stating “Oseh Shalom” in Hebrew resting atop an olive branch.

You can also support Torah Fund by purchasing and sending Torah Fund cards for all occasions:condolence, congratulation, simcha etc. The cost has held steady at \$5. and the postage is included.

Call

Arlene Ehrlich: 610-373-6648

Please Give Generously to Torah Fund!

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

## YAHREIT MESSAGES

Because of our recent upgrade to Shalom Cloud software, we will be sending the Yahrzeit notices as letters rather than post cards, starting with the Adar (and Adar 1 and Adar 2) notices. The information will be the same, it will look slightly different and will be on a full page letter. You can still send the donation (\$5.00 minimum)to Cynthia at her address, writing a check to Keshet Zion Synagogue. And you can continue to pay in advance so that your notice will be marked “PAID”.

You can still send the donation (\$5.00 minimum) to Cynthia at her address, or you can now pay electronically via the Keshet Zion website. You will find this option under the ‘About KZ/Donate to KZ’ tabs’, clicking on the ‘Donate’ button and selecting ‘Yahrzeit’ on the dropdown box next to the ‘Please select a category’. The link to that page is as follows: <https://www.keshetzion.org/donations>. If you would like to pay in advance, your notice will be marked as ‘Paid”.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Balchunas





**Saturday Night  
August 2, 2025  
9:00PM**

**Please join us as we read the  
Book of Lamentations (Eicha)  
in remembrance of the saddest day  
in Jewish History**

**You are invited to bring flashlights**



**For more information please contact  
KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM  
(610) 374-1763**

**KESHER  
ZION  
PRESENTS**

**TRIVIA  
NIGHT**

**AUGUST 10, 2025**

**7-9 pm**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**\$10 ADMISSION FOR NON MEMBERS**

**RSVP'S WOULD BE APPRECIATED BUT NOT MANDATORY**

**555 WARWICK DRIVE WYOMISSING**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL US AT [KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM)**

**OR CALL (610) 374-1763**



**Get More Meaning Out Of Your  
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**HIGH HOLIDAY  
HEBREW READING  
CRASH COURSE  
WITH RABBI PROSNITZ**

The class will Not only improve your reading/pronunciation skills but will also improve your understanding and appreciation of the High Holiday liturgy and service.

**7:00PM  
4 TUESDAYS  
AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 9TH AND  
16TH.**

**NO SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP OR  
AFFILIATION NECESSARY**

**FREE OF CHARGE**

**KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE  
555 WARWICK DRIVE  
WYOMISSING, PA 19610**

**PLEASE REGISTER WITH NAME,  
PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL  
BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICE.**

**KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM  
TEL: 610-374-1763**



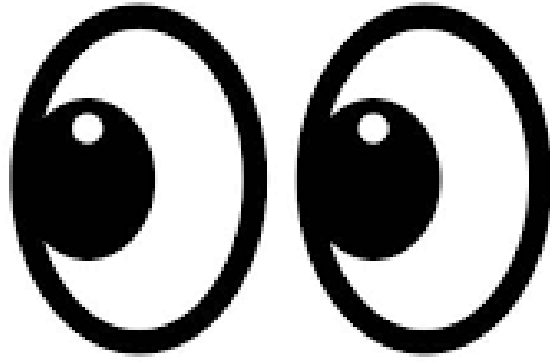


Please join us on Sunday September  
14th at 2:00PM as we will Celebrate  
Cantor Prosnitz's huge accomplishment  
of receiving Smicha (rabbinal ordination)  
and hence becoming....



RABBI  
PROSNITZ

*More Details to Follow*



## **HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE KESHER ZION WEBSITE LATELY?**

**We have been hard at work making sure our website has the most up-to-date information, so you know everything we have going on!**

**Check out the [Events Page](#), the new [Bnai Mitzvah](#) page (under the resources tab), and the Donate to KZ page (under the About KZ tab).**

**You can now RSVP and/or pay to attend an event. You can pay for a Yahrzeit, Leagram, Kiddush or one of the many options available – or you can just send in a general donation to help support Keshet Zion.**

**And this is just the beginning! We are still working to enhance all the capabilities we now have with our new Shalom Cloud portal, to ensure access for all our congregants will be a smooth and easy transition. So stay tuned! More updates to come.**



# Kesher Zion Social Action Committee Requests Your Support

Like you, the Kesher Zion Social Action Committee has been devastated to hear of the tragic flooding in Central Texas a few weeks ago. Shalom Austin Jewish Family Service is collecting financial and other donations to assist their community members who were affected. The Kesher Zion Social Action Committee has already made a donation and now we're encouraging our Kesher Zion Family to donate as you can. Please use this link to donate to Shalom Austin: <https://shalomaustin.org/texas-flood-relief/>



Additionally, we were so saddened to learn that the terrorism in Boulder Colorado from last month has taken the life of Karen Diamond. Karen was a member of Congregation Bonai Shalom and very much involved in her community as a volunteer and philanthropist. They've posted an obituary for Karen with information about making donations in her memory. Please follow this link to help the Boulder community remember Karen Diamond. [https://www.bonaishalom.org/rabbis-blog.html?post\\_id=1657799](https://www.bonaishalom.org/rabbis-blog.html?post_id=1657799)



**For more information please contact Lisa Levine  
at (610) 507-0569 or email her at [alevine347@aol.com](mailto:alevine347@aol.com)**

# WE NEED YOUR HELP

In Making Kesher Zion's **BINGO** Fundraiser a Success!

Please consider donating in one or more of the following ways:

**Game Sponsor:** We will be awarding monetary game prizes starting at \$40.00

All sponsors/donors will be recognized during the event

**Gift Baskets:** We are looking for raffle prize donations to add excitement and attract more participants to our event. Prize ideas are as follows:

- Gift Cards to Local Businesses
- Gift Baskets
- Lottery Baskets
- Themed Baskets (movie night, spa day, cooking, etc)
- Tools/Home Improvement Kits
- Candy or Snack Baskets
- Liquor Baskets



Any amount or donation would be greatly appreciated!  
Please do not hesitate to  
contact either Susan Wilson or Lauren Valentine for additional  
information

Susan – [wexler718@hotmail.com](mailto:wexler718@hotmail.com) Lauren – [lfsoccer52@comcast.net](mailto:lfsoccer52@comcast.net)

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Keshher Zion Synagogue



Affiliated with the United Synagogue  
of Conservative Judaism

Cantor Ted Prosnitz.....Clergy  
Jennifer Koosed.....Co -President  
Susan Wilson.....Co-President  
Susan Weiss.....Editor

Call the office for advertising  
information.

The deadline for submissions  
of articles for the  
April Bulletin is Wednesday,  
August 15, 2025

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)

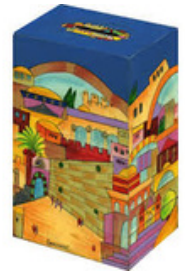
Office hours:  
Mon-Wed-Fri  
9:00am-2:00pm

To advertise your business or services  
Contact KZ Office : 610-374-1763  
Email: [keshherzionoffice@gmail.com](mailto:keshherzionoffice@gmail.com)



# Tzedakah

## צדקה



**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**

**KESHER ZION GENERAL FUND.....\$10 MIN  
DR. ROBERT N. GREENBERG SCHOLAR-IN-  
RESIDENCE PROGRAM FUND.....\$18 MIN  
KIDDUSH FUND.....\$36**

**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**

**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 Seminaries 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**





**CALLING ALL  
CHORUSTERS**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF  
THE HIGH HOLIDAY CHOIR  
PLEASE CONTACT RABBI PROSNITZ AT (201)321-3030**

