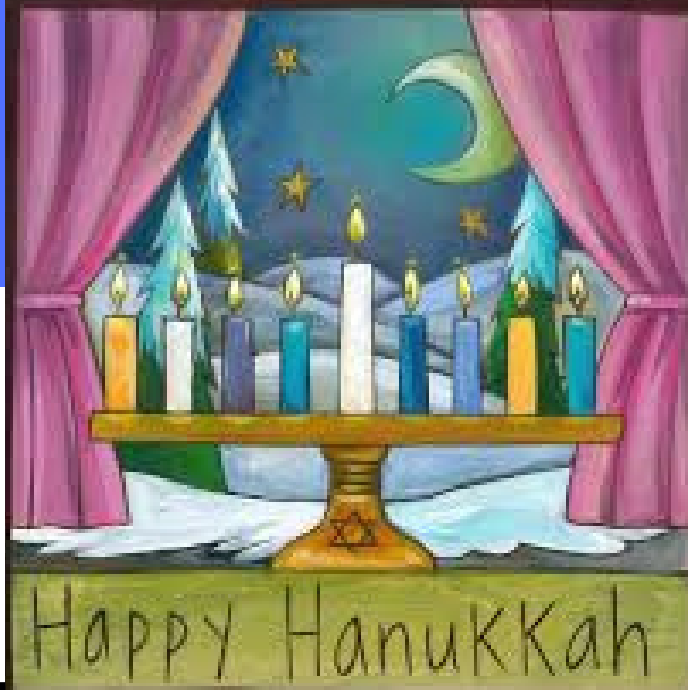


OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

2025
CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET



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.

November 9
Community
Kristallnacht
Remembrance
Trinity Lutheran Church
7PM

MINYAN
11/6, 11/20
12/4, 12/18

WE NEED YOU!

Save the Date
KZ Hanukkah
Party
12/21

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RABBI PROSNITZ



Hodu Ladoshem Ki Tov

As a boy, my father had the task of banking the coals each night to maintain the fire and ward off the cold for the sake of all who lived in that building. As a Boy Scout, when winter camping, fire watch through the night was a task I shared, in cooperation and in shifts, with other Scouts for the protection and benefit of the entire troop. For centuries, living in polities ruled by non-Jews, Jews were denied many rights - including citizenship and the enfranchisement to vote. This month, on Tuesday, November 4th, we have the privilege and the responsibility to vote. Democracy, like fire, is powerful but needs tending.

Winston Churchill said, "Democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." He was speaking, in 1947, after wardens of democracy, the citizens of Germany, had failed to protect and defend themselves from authoritarian rule. Democratically elected, Hitler subsequently freed himself of legal restrictions by declaring himself *Führer und Reichskanzler* ("Leader and Reich Chancellor"). As unchecked supreme leader, he dismantled the republican government and enacted hundreds of laws disenfranchising and attacking Jews, and other "enemies of the state."

On the night of November 9, 1938, Germany's now one-party ruled government orchestrated a night of broken glass, Kristallnacht -the widespread attack against Jewish buildings and Jewish individuals. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum reports that the Nazis burned more than 1,400 synagogues, vandalized thousands of Jewish-owned businesses, broke into Jewish homes, humiliated, assaulted, and killed Jewish people, and imprisoned in concentration camps about 26,000 Jewish men. This year, on Sunday, November 9, not just Jews, but other good-hearted members of our greater Reading community will gather together to remember and recognize the crimes committed, the dangers that preceded them, and the world-changing consequences that followed. You are encouraged to be part of that event (to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 7 PM).

Two days later, one week after Election Day, we will observe Veterans Day. November 11 – the 11th day of the 11th month, the day the Great War ended - now, after a second World War, recognizes and honors all who served our country in wartime. Jews have served in America's military in numbers disproportionately larger than our percentage of the population. We remember and honor all who have served. From Jewish Military Chaplain Michael Bloom, we may pray:

Give thanks to the Eternal, for God is good, His mercy endures forever.

Avinu Shebashamayim – O Sovereign of the universe, bless our nation, the United States of America.

Safeguard it and its ideals of freedom and liberty.

Bless our Veterans, our Defenders of Liberty, who braved danger to defend us from tyranny.

Giving thanks is something to do every day. America has taken the Jewish fall harvest festival from the Bible, Sukkot, and made the secular holiday of Thanksgiving Day. בְּכָל-יוֹם אֲבָרְכֶךָ /Every day I will praise You (Ps. 145:2; "Ashrei"). We make opportunities to be especially cognizant and appreciative of family members and friends on their birthdays, at graduations, and at other life cycle events. Thanksgiving Day is an opportunity to be especially sensitive to and aware of all of our blessings. It is a time to recognize that the goodness and abundance that we may enjoy is not solely due to the work of our own hands. Erev Thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 26, please join me in a community-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (at Emmanuel UCC, Shillington, at 7 PM). How can I repay the Lord for all the Lord's bounties to me? Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good/Hodu ladoshem ki tov. (By the way, the Hebrew word for India, the world's most populous democracy, is Hodu).



Co-Presidents Jennifer Koosed and Susan Wilson

This year, Keshar Zion embraced something – I don’t believe we have seen in our synagogue’s history before – Co-presidents. Our partnership reflects the spirit of collaboration and teamwork that is at the very heart of Keshar Zion. We understand that leadership isn’t about one person, but about a shared vision, mutual respect, and the strength that comes from working together toward a common goal.

The High Holidays mark a sacred time in our lives—one of deep introspection, prayer, and, most importantly, community. In this moment, we look inward and upward, seeking forgiveness, growth, and a fresh start. But we also look outward toward each other. Because we know that the strength of this community, Keshar Zion, is built on the bonds we share.

The Torah portion today, Leviticus 16:1-34, recounts the ritual acts done by Aaron (and, presumably, subsequent high priests) on this Day of Atonement. The passage is rich in detail, describing exactly what Aaron must do to atone for the sins of Israel, all the items that must be handled: goats, bulls, rams, lots, censors, coals, fire, incense, curtains, covers, the ark, water, the instruments of slaughter...

Only Aaron’s actions are described, but each one of his acts would have required dozens and dozens of people behind the scenes, each ritual item used represents enormous amounts of labor. First, Aaron brings a bull and a ram into the sanctuary (verse 3): who bred the parents, birthed the calves, fed and watered and cared for them as they grew? Next Aaron is to put on his vestments—who grew and harvested the flax, who hung it out to dry, who carded the fibers, who spun the threads, who wove them into clothe, who constructed the tunic, the undergarments, the sash, and the turban? Who drew the water he used to bathe? And now we are through verse 4. I could go on.

At Keshar Zion, we know that no one stands alone. It is in our shared efforts, our collective prayers, and our mutual support that we truly thrive. This is a time to remember that every act of kindness, every moment of connection, and every prayer uttered together strengthens the fabric of our community.

Whether it's our volunteers who spend countless hours making sure our services run smoothly, that our website is continually upgraded – and if you haven't looked at it lately, please do. There are wonderful resources that are now accessible to everyone – the overseeing of our finances, our social action committee – or our board of directors, making decisions for the synagogue's future—every act of service has been driven by the spirit of collaboration. We've come together to serve one another, and through this work, we've made Keshar Zion more than just a place of worship; we've made it our home.

But the work is not done.

We are entering a year filled with opportunity, and the strength of our congregation—our success in fostering spiritual growth, education, and community—is rooted in your commitment and generosity. As we prepare for the year ahead, I ask you to reflect on what Keshar Zion means to you. Maybe it is the sense of security you feel when you walk through our doors. Perhaps it's the connection to a rich tradition that continues to shape our lives. Or maybe it's the feeling of knowing you are part of something larger, something that thrives because we all contribute our unique gifts.

It is this spirit of teamwork that will continue to propel us forward.

To continue providing the vibrant and nurturing environment that we all cherish, we need each and every one of you. Whether you can contribute your time, your talents, or your resources, we are counting on the collective strength of this congregation. Your support ensures that we will sustain and we will grow. Together, we can rise to the challenges ahead. Together, we can make sure that our community not only survives but thrives. The work we do together today will echo through the lives of our children, our families, and generations to come. This is the strength of our synagogue.

We are deeply grateful for each of you—for your presence, your passion, and your commitment to Keshar Zion. Together, we are building a future filled with promise, possibility, and the profound joy of community. I invite you to become a more intricate part of Keshar Zion as we step into the year ahead with hope, purpose, and unwavering unity.

.

**Keshar Zion Synagogue wishes to thank
B'nai B'rith
for their generous donation.**



KESHER ZION'S BINGO/TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS!

5 CHESHVAN 5786

SPECIAL EDITION

26 OCTOBER 2025

The spirit of community and fun was in full swing on Sunday, October 26, as Keshar Zion hosted its first ever Bingo/Tricky Tray Fundraiser. The event drew a large, enthusiastic crowd for an afternoon filled with excitement and laughter. From the moment the doors opened, guests were treated to delicious food, fabulous prizes, and lot of chances to win both cash and prizes. Tables were filled as players laughed and enjoyed the camaraderie of those around them. It was a pleasure to see so many people in the Berks County community coming out to support KZ! It was truly a room filled with warmth, laughter and love.

By the end of the day, everyone left with smiles, some with prizes, all with great memories. The success of this year's fundraiser not only supports Keshar Zion's programs and activities but also strengthens the bonds within the congregation and the Berks County community.

We are already talking about next year's Bingo/Tricky Tray and are looking for to it being even bigger and better – so we will be looking for you to join in the fun!



**THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
ATTENDED,
DONATED,
VOLUNTEERED,
AND SUPPORTED
KESHER ZION. WE
CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE YOU AGAIN
NEXT YEAR!**

November and December at KZ

**November 6
Minyan
6PM**

**November 8
Birthday/
Anniversary
Shabbat**

**November 9
Community
Kristallnacht
Remembrance
Trinity Lutheran
Church
7PM**

**November 21
Kabbalat
Shabbat
6:30PM**



**November 20
Minyan
7PM**

**November 26
Interfaith
Service**

**December 4
Minyan
7PM**

**December
13
Birthday/
Anniversary
Shabbat**



**December 18
Minyan
7PM**

**December 19
Kabbalat
Shabbat
6:30PM**

**December 21
Chanukah
Party**



A LITTLE LAUGHTER

Chanukablanca.

**"Play it again, Sam" – H. Bogart, Casablanca
by Joe Hample (sung to the tune of
"As Time Goes By" from "Casablanca")**
You must remember this,
A bris is still a bris,
A chai is just a chai.
Pastrami still belongs on rye,
As time goes by.
With holidays in view,
A Jew is still a Jew,
On that you can rely.
No matter if we eat tofu
As time goes by.
Old shtetl customs, never out of date.
All those potatoes someone has to grate.
One flame in the window,
keep counting till there's eight
To light the winter sky.
In the Bronx or in the Mission,
It's still the same tradition,
That no one can deny.
We roam, but we recall our birthright,
As time goes by.
Dreidels and chocolate, never out of date.
Ancient Semitic glories to relate.
Blue-and-white giftwrap,
ain't this country great,
And festive chazerai!
It's still the same old Torah,
It's still the same menorah,
We've latkes still to fry.
December's when I feel most Jewish,
As time goes by.

**It was Hanukkah and the tiny village was in fear of
not having any latkes because they had run out of
flour.**

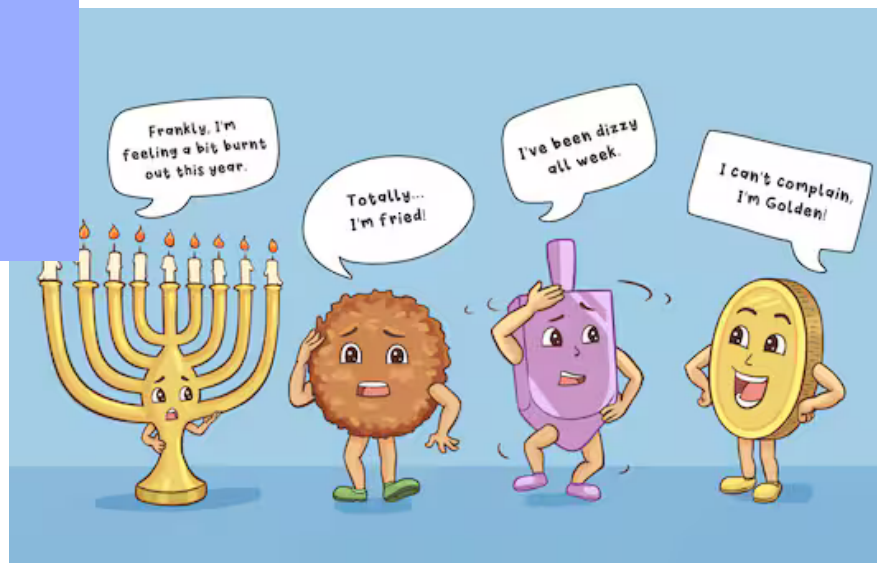
**Rudi, the rabbi, was called upon to help solve the
problem. He said, "Don't worry, you can substitute
matzo meal for the flour and the latkes will be just
as delicious!"**

**Sheila looked to her husband and said, "Morty...you
think it'll work?"**

**Morty said, "Of course! Everybody knows...Rudolph,
the Rav, knows grain dear!"**

**Miriam goes to the post office to buy stamps
for her Hanukkah cards one year. She says to
the cashier, "Please may I have 50 Hanukkah
stamps?"**

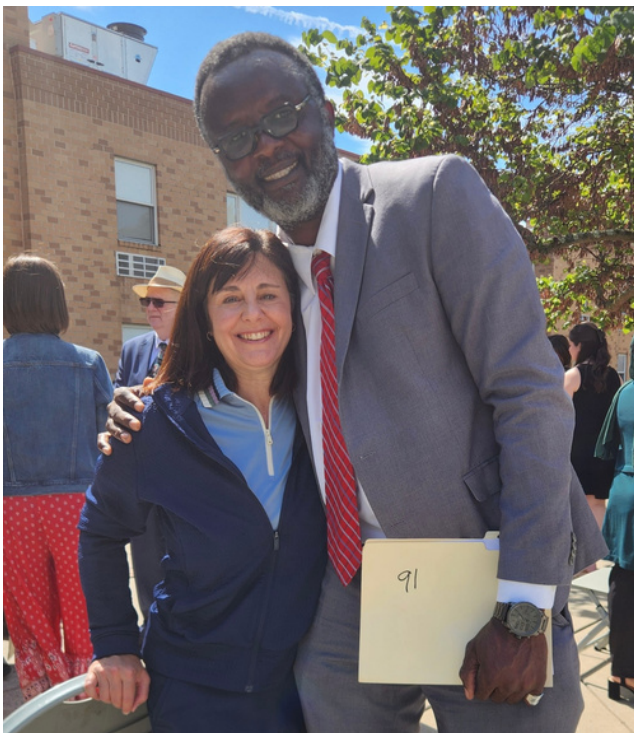
**The cashier asks, "What denomination?"
Miriam says, "Oy vey, give me 6 Orthodox, 12
Conservative, and 32 Reform."**



Member Spotlight

DEBBIE GOLDBERG

Debbie Goldberg wears many hats in the Jewish community. She maintains Keshar Zion's website and Facebook page, she is central to the work of Keshar Zion's social action committee, and she recently ended her term as the secretary for the Jewish Federation's Board of Directors. She also works with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), through which she is involved in the Greater Reading Unity Council (GRUC).



GRUC is a coalition of Reading organizations—the Jewish Federation, Centro Hispano, the NAACP, the LGBT Center, Bring the Change, the Islamic Center, the Islamic Society, and Alvernia's Office of Justice, Equity, and Inclusion. Recently, Debbie's important work with JCRC and GRUC was recognized at the Berks Cultural Diversity Festival on September 27. Along with Margo Levin, Debbie was presented with this year's Cultural Titans Award. The Cultural Titans Award recognizes their efforts in making connections, building bridges, and fostering understanding between the different communities in Reading. We are all so grateful for what Debbie does for Keshar Zion and for Reading!

**A Donation To the Torah Fund
was made by
Sylvia Wenger
in honor of the Marriage of
Shirley Kauffman's
Granddaughter Emily**

**A Donation To the Torah Fund
was made by
Sylvia Wenger
in honor of the birth of
Lila Shapiro's
Great Grandson
Jack Bennet**

**Doris and Elliott Leisawitz
send their sincere thanks
for the kind and thoughtful
50th anniversary wishes.
All were appreciated!**

**A Donation has been made to
Keshar Zion Synagogue
in honor of George Balchunas Jr.
for passing the bar.
Mazel Tov!**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY TO
LOUISE ZEIDMAN**

95

**Until 120
Susan and Dov
Heinlein
Judy & Jim Schwank
Susan Wilson**



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 Keshar 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.



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 at 610-373-6648

Please Give Generously to the Torah Fund!

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

**A Donation To The
Torah Fund was made by
Sylvia Wenger
in memory of
Rochelle Mann**

Yahrzeit 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.

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

**A Donation was made to
Keshet Zion Synagogue
memory of
Rochelle Mann
by
Naomi & Alex Knoll
Dr. & Mrs. David Goldberg
Judith Karabelnik
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Adelman
Mr. & Mrs. Michael
Robinson
Annarose & Chas Milch
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Nevitt
Dean Schneider
Mrs. Carol Greenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey
Goldstein**

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Keshher Zion Synagogue



Affiliated with the United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism

Rabbi 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
January Bulletin is Wednesday,
December 15, 2025

Contact Us

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Wyomissing, Pa. 19610
Office: (610) 374-1763

kesherzionoffice@gmail.com
visit us on the web at
www.kesherzion.org

Keshher Zion Office
will be closed
from November 1 until
December 3

For urgent Matters
Please contact
Sue Wilson @ (610)301-2083
or Jennifer Koosed @ (484) 651-0122

To advertise your business or services
Contact KZ Office : 610-374-1763
Email: kesherzionoffice@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 YAHREZITS 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 YAHREZITS(\$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

Save the Date

**For Kesher Zion's Annual
Hanukkah Party**

**Sunday December 21st
7PM**

**Latkes
Donuts
Games
Prizes**

