

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE

OCTOBER 2025

TISHREI/HE5HVAN
5786



You shall rejoice on your festivals, and
should be fully happy.



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.

THIS ISSUE

RABBI'S MESSAGE
PAGE 2-3

OCTOBER CALENDAR
PAGE 4

MESSAGE FROM OUR
PRESIDENTS
PAGE 5

KESHER ZION
NEWS
PAGE 6-7

A LITTLE LAUGHTER
PAGE 8

Sukkot
Tuesday, Oct. 7
9:30 AM

Sukkot
Wednesday, Oct. 8
9:30 AM

Sh'mini Atzeret
Tuesday, October 14
9:30 AM
Yizkor- 11 AM

Simchat Torah
Celebration
Tuesday, October 14
7 PM

Simchat Torah
Wednesday, Oct. 15
9:30 AM

Minyan
Thursday, Oct 16th
7PM

Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, Oct. 17th
6:30PM

RABBI PROSNITZ



The Season of Our Rejoicing

In October, shortly after Yom Kippur ends, we will celebrate the Festival of Sukkot. It is referred to as z'man simchateinu/the season of our rejoicing. Yes, it is the final harvest of the agricultural year, a time to celebrate the abundant blessings with which God has blessed us. In ancient times an elaborate ceremony was held. Of this joyous event it was said, whoever has not seen the water-drawing has not seen celebration (Mishnah Sukkah 51a).

A separate holiday, Sh'mini Atzeret/the Eighth Day of Assembly, which is observed on the day after Sukkot, is also referred to as z'man simchateinu. Between the 7 days of Sukkot, the 8th day holiday of Sh'mini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah (which outside Israel is observed on the next day), this adds up to the longest festival of the year.

Yes, after the last harvest of the year, amidst daily ceremonies of water-drawing, at a time when God is thought to judge the world for rain for the coming year, celebrations with food and wine, song and dance would be in order. Even the Maggid of Dubno recognized that the soul could only be truly joyous if the body cooperated, based on the verse "...אך שִׂמְחָה, אַךְ וְהָיִיתָ, אַךְ שִׂמְחָה/you shall be joyful only" (Deut. 16:15).

But, “everything in moderation, nothing in excess” is a well-known maxim. In fact, joyous celebrations were held on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, when people felt assured of God's graciousness and forgiveness. To temper them somewhat and to discourage excessive and sinful activities, the Torah reading for minchah that day focused on forbidden relationships. Simcha/happiness was not limited to gashmiut/materialism (based on the word geshem/water, which corresponds to life).

The other aspect of even the harvest festivals is ruchniut, the spiritual dimension. The danger of abundance is that people may loosen their connection to their Creator. More people have tended to abandon their faith in good times than in bad. Especially during the Festival of Booths, when we are commanded to dwell in temporary sukkot, through whose roofs the sky/the heavens can be seen, we must be conscious that we rely on He who spreads the shelter of peace over us/עָלֵינוּ הַפּוֹרֵשׁ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹמָא (haporeis sukkat shalom aleinu), and over all His people, Israel, and over Jerusalem. Let's rejoice in all the material and spiritual aspects of our lives.



Kol Nidre
Wednesday, Oct. 1
6:15PM

Church of the Brethren
2200 State Hill Rd.
Wyomissing, Pa. 19610

Yom Kippur

Thursday, Oct. 2
Church of the Brethren
2200 State Hill Rd.
Wyomissing, Pa. 19610

OCTOBER

at Keshar Zion

9:00AM - Morning Service
11:00AM - Yizkor
5:00PM - Study Group with Rabbi
5:30PM - Mincha
6:15PM - Neilah
Shofar Blowing

Congregational Break the Fast Following Services



Sukkot
Tuesday, Oct. 7
9:30 AM

Sukkot
Wednesday, Oct. 8
9:30 AM



Sh'mini Atzeret
Tuesday, October 14
9:30 AM
Yizkor- 11 AM

Simchat Torah Celebration
Tuesday, October 14
7 PM

Simchat Torah
Wednesday, Oct. 15
9:30 AM

DAVEN WITH A MINYAN!



Minyan
Thursday, Oct 16th
7PM

Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, Oct. 17th
6:30PM





Co-Presidents Jennifer Koosed and Susan Wilson

The fall is such a wonderful season, full of great holidays both religious and secular—and Sukkot is one of the best. Resonate with spiritual meaning, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur embody so many of the core values of Judaism. Celebrating Sukkot just a few days later perfectly counterbalances the solemnity and seriousness of the High Holidays. Sukkot certainly has its important meanings too, but it is also a whole lot of fun. What could be better than sitting outside during a beautiful fall evening, hosting family and friends, and eating good food?

So, we wish you all fun this fall season. Walk in a park to see the turning leaves, visit an orchard for fresh apples, carve a pumpkin for Halloween, and of course, find the part of Judaism that gives you joy and go do it! Start by swinging by Jennifer's house on October 10 and 11 at 7:30 pm for her annual Whiskey in the Sukkah. There will be a glass of whiskey or apple cider waiting for you.



KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE CELEBRATES JOYOUS SMICHA ORDINATION CEREMONY

BY JENNIFER KOOSSED AND SUSAN WILSON

Joy, unity, and spiritual pride filled the air at Kesher Zion Synagogue on Sunday afternoon as the community gathered to celebrate the ordination (Smicha) of Rabbi Ted Prosnitz. The two-hour cocktail event, held on September 14th, marked a meaningful milestone for Rabbi Prosnitz, the congregation and the greater Reading area Jewish community.



Kesher Zion's celebration featured hors d'oeuvres, a specialty drink crafted for the occasion, and a warm atmosphere that reflected the deep sense of communal pride. Community members from across Reading came together, joined by key representatives of the Greater Reading Unity Council and local dignitaries.

Highlights of the event were the presence of Pennsylvania State Senator Judy Schwank, who delivered a heartfelt address and presented a special citation recognizing the rabbi's ordination and the synagogue's ongoing contributions to interfaith and civic life in Berks County as well as meaningful addresses given by Rabbis Peg Kirshenbaum and Brian Michelson.





The celebration was elevated by the beautiful acoustic guitar stylings of local musician Olivia Holeva, whose heartfelt performance added a serene and joyful tone to the gathering. Her music accompanied the mingling and toasts, offering a soulful soundtrack to the momentous occasion.



The ordination is a significant step in a rabbi's journey, marking formal recognition of years of Torah study, spiritual preparation, and leadership development. For Keshet Zion, this milestone signifies a new chapter filled with hope, vision, and continued commitment to Jewish learning, tradition, and inclusive community values.



A huge thank you to everyone who made this day possible.

A Little Laughter

A yeshiva decides to start a crew team. But no matter how much they practice, they lose every single race. Eventually they decide to send one boy down to the nearby prep school as a spy, to watch their winning crew team and find out what their secret is. After a day of reconnaissance, the boy comes back. "Listen!" he tells his teammates. "I learned how they do it – they have eight guys rowing, and only one guy screaming!"



Three Jews who had recently converted to Christianity were having a drink together in a posh restaurant. They started talking about the reasons for their conversions.

"I converted out of love," said the first. "Not for Christianity, but for a Christian girl. As you both know, my wife insisted that I convert."

"And I," said the second, "I converted in order to rise in the legal system. You probably know that my recent appointment as a federal judge may have had something to do with my new religion."

The third man spoke up: "I converted because I think that the teachings of Christianity are superior to those of Judaism."

"Are you kidding?" said the first man, spitting out his drink.

"What do you take us for, a couple of goyim?"



Schwartz, an elderly man, is resting peacefully on the porch of his small hotel outside Boca when he sees a cloud of dust up the road. He walks out to see who could be approaching: It is a Southern farmer with a wagon. "Good afternoon," says Schwartz. "Afternoon," says the farmer. "Where you headed?" asks Schwartz. "Town." "What do you have in the wagon?" "Manure." "Manure, eh? What do you do with it?" "I spread it over the fruit." "Well," says Bernstein, "you should come over here for lunch someday. We use sour cream."



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 your dues, for a Yahrzeit, Leagram, Kiddush or one of the many options available – or you can just send in a general donation to help support Kesher 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.

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Lila Shapiro
wishes to thank
everybody
for their kind
birthday wishes.

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 Lauren – lfsoccer52@comcast.net
610.301.2083 484.336.0129



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!

YAHREZEIT 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**

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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
November Bulletin is
Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Contact Us

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keshherzionoffice@gmail.com
visit us on the web at
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

Tzedakah

צדקה

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

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.....

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

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

