

DECEMBER 2023

KISLEV-TEVET

# 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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# Am Yisrael Chai

An excerpt from D'var for Parsha Vayishlach

Following 9/11 signs popped up everywhere saying, "See something, say something." It called for communal responsibility. And the entire country responded as one community, supporting the victims of the attack and the aftermath.

However, there is a difference between committing a crime, and being a bystander who does not prevent it. Both the perpetrator and the bystander are guilty, but in different degrees. To defeat the Nazi regime, German cities—containing civilians—were bombed. Many of the leaders were tried and convicted for their crimes at Nuremberg. Many civilians— who had put the Nazi regime in power through democratic elections—suffered.

Today, Hamas rules Gaza—committing unspeakable crimes against humanity as it attacks Jews. The people living in Gaza suffer at the hands of Hamas directly—Hamas kills its fellow Arabs both when they oppose Hamas politically and even when they try to flee to safety; and Gazans suffer from Hamas indirectly as Israel tries to remove Hamas from power.

One way world Jewry unites as one community is to stand with Israel. In particular, Berks County is engaged in its most consequential effort with its Israel Emergency Relief Fund. Few, if any of us, were in a position to help when the State of Israel faced existential challenges during the War of Independence in 1948, or the Yom Kippur War in 1973. But now, if we can, we must. The most efficient and powerful way we can, in the words of Mordechai Gebirtig's pogrom influenced song, S'brent, "Don't just stand there looking on—be true—show what you can do," is to make a significant contribution to this campaign. The funds raised will be managed by the most responsible organizations in Israel, all vetted by the Jewish Federations of North America. And every dollar donated, up to one million dollars, will be doubled by our local Federation Foundation.



**ALERT**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT  
ALERT**

**ALERT**

A message from  
*our President*

Have I gotten your attention?  
I hope so. Keshet Zion has always been a congregation of VOLUNTEERS. I am calling all to help us. We are responsible this year for hosting the Community Shabbat on February 23, 2024. We need a committee immediately to help plan this event. Without this committee we may not be able to host this event.



We also need VOLUNTEERS to join our FUND RAISING/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE to plan our events for the coming year. Our Chanukah event this year will be on Wednesday December 13 at 6:30. Please join us, bring your Menorahs to light, we will have arts and crafts and Latkes to eat.

Thank you to Paul and Solange Mintz for providing latkes.

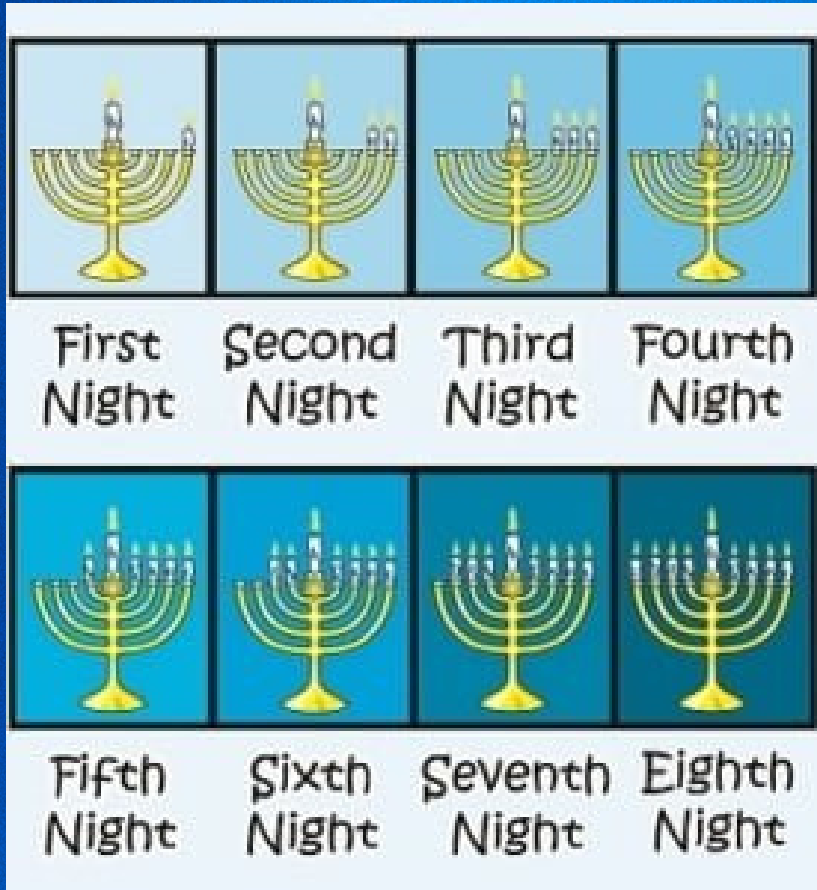
I hope my phone, the office phone will be flooded with calls from our Volunteers to help plan these events. Any questions feel free to contact me.

Larry  
610-507-5281



# HANUKKAH HOW TO

LOAD  
MENORAH  
RIGHT  
TO  
LEFT



LIGHT  
THE  
CANDLES  
LEFT  
TO  
RIGHT

FIRST NIGHT RECITE ALL 3 BLESSINGS  
ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS JUST THE FIRST 2.

## BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

1

ברוך אתה אֱ-דוני אֱ-לקינו  
מלך העולם אשר קדשנו  
במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר  
חנכה.

*Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-  
he-nu Me-lech ha-olam  
a-sher ki-de-sha-nu be-mitz-  
vo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik  
ner Cha-nu-kah.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our  
G-d, King of the universe,  
who has sanctified us with  
His commandments, and  
commanded us to kindle the  
Chanukah light.

2

ברוך אתה אֱ-דוני אֱ-לקינו  
מלך העולם שעשה נסים  
לאבותינו בימים ההם  
בזמן הזה.

*Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-  
he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam  
she-a-sa ni-sim la-avo-te-nu  
ba-ya-mim ha-hem bi-zman  
ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our  
G-d, King of the universe,  
who performed miracles for  
our forefathers in those days,  
at this time.

3

ברוך אתה אֱ-דוני אֱ-לקינו  
מלך העולם שהחיינו  
וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-  
he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam  
she-he-che-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-  
ma-nu ve-higi-a-nu liz-man  
ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our  
G-d, King of the universe,  
who has granted us life,  
sustained us, and enabled us  
to reach this occasion.





# A LITTLE LAUGHTER

How many Jews does it take to screw in a light bulb?

Four: One to convince others to do it, a second to donate the bulb, a third to screw it in, and a fourth to make a speech saying the entire Jewish people stands behind the new bulb.

Two men, a Jew and a Gentile, were marooned on a desert island. The Gentile immediately got to work, dragging rocks to spell out "SOS" in huge letters on the beach, gathering driftwood to build a bonfire, and thinking about ways to build a boat.

The Jew, however, merely sat on the beach and waited.

"What's the matter with you?" the Gentile exclaimed. "Don't you want to be rescued?"

The Jew said calmly, "Look, I live in a city with a big Jewish Federation. Last year, I donated a million dollars to them. The year before, I donated a million dollars to them. This year, wherever I am, they'll find me!"

Two men are waiting for a train. The younger man asks the older man for the time, but the older man ignores him. After a while, the younger man again asks for the time and again the older man ignores him. Frustrated, the younger man finally asks, "Why won't you answer me when I ask you for the time?"

The older man sighs and explains: "Look, if I tell you the time, we'll start to talk. Then when the train comes, you might sit down next to me. Perhaps we'll get to know each other, and maybe I'll eventually invite you to my house for Shabbat dinner. Maybe then you and my daughter would really get along – why, you might even get engaged! And why would I want a son-in-law who can't even afford a watch?"

# 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!**

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

The Keshar 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)**

**Mrs. and Mr. Jennifer Gurwitz**

A DONATION TO  
KESHER ZION  
IN MEMORY OF  
ROBERT KAUFFMAN  
RICHARD ROEBERG  
BY  
ESTHER STRAUSS

A DONATION  
HAS BEEN  
MADE TO THE  
TORAH FUND IN  
MEMORY OF  
GERALD LEVINE  
BY  
SYLVIA  
WENGER

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

December 9, 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**

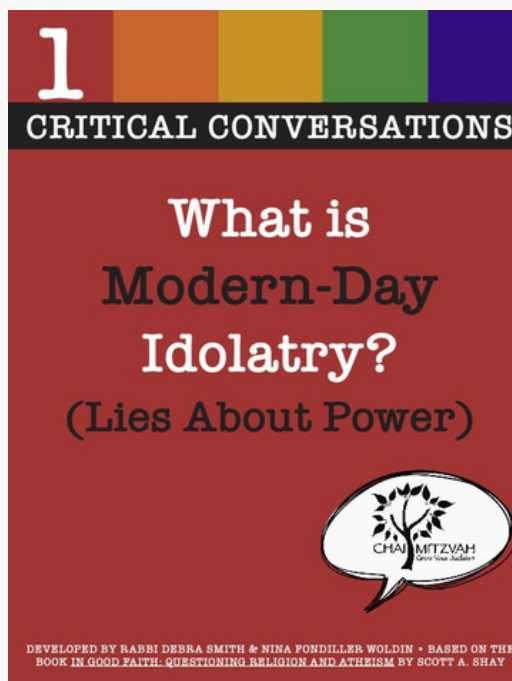


**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE  
CONTACT THE OFFICE  
AT 610-374-1763 OR EMAIL US AT  
KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM**

# Adult Education News

Kesher Zion is engaging in a program from Chai Mitzvah.

We are the beneficiaries of a grant giving us access to all the materials available from this ready-made curriculum, free of charge. The format is a discussion group, not frontal teaching. No previous background or special skills are necessary, everyone is welcome.



The first session will be held

The aim is for each person to set a three-part goal:

1. LEARN something new
2. ADOPT/ENHANCE a spiritual practice
3. ENGAGE in a mitzvah for the community





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](http://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](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