

FEBRUARY 2024

SHEVAT-ADAR

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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Cantor
Ted Posnitz



HOW IS THIS MONTH DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER MONTHS?

We can even ask, “How is this year different from most years? This secular year is a leap year. So, we add a day (February 29) to the end of the last month of the Roman winter, so Spring will come in the first month of the agricultural year, March. In the Jewish calendar, this is also a leap year, in Hebrew a shanah m’uberet/a pregnant year. So, we add a month (Adar II) to the end of the last month of the Jewish year (Adar), so Spring (and Passover) will come in the first month of the agricultural year, Nissan. The confluence of these two leap years, the secular and the Jewish, will not happen again until 2052.



BE HAPPY IT'S ADAR



The Talmud teaches us, מְשֻׁנְכָּנִס אֶדָר מְרַבֵּין בְּשִׂמְחָה /when adar enters our joy increases (Taanit 29a). That is because the most festive holiday in the calendar, Purim, comes in Adar. (This year Adar begins on February 10). But, Purim is always observed in the month immediately before Pesach (which begins this year on April 9), on the basis that redemption should follow redemption. And, if Purim falls in Adar, perhaps we should keep to the policy of ain maavirin al hamitzvot/do not pass over or delay doing a mitzvah. So, in leap years we have a special day that does not happen every year, on the 14th of Adar (I) we have the holiday Purim Katan/minor Purim. On that day we do not observe the Purim practices including reading the Megillah, but we are encouraged to increase our joy and make our meals extra special. This is in addition to the principle, "the good-hearted as always festive" (Proverbs 15:15). So, be happy, and use the extra 30 days to prepare for a real Purim sameach/joyous Purim (March 24) with the sending of mishloach manot and real feasting!



A message from
our President

Hope all the members are surviving the snow and cold weather. Will we have an early Spring? The meteorologist or the ground hog will tell us. Whichever one you believe! I do know that Purim and Passover are coming and that is a definite.

KZ will be hosting the Community Shabbat this year on March 1st. Please send you reservations to the Federation ASAP. Cantor Prosnitz is working on the Friday night service along with Rabbi Michaelson and Rabbi Lipsker. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

Our Social Action Committee is sending out a survey asking if you need a ride to services. If you do, please respond and we will make sure you can attend Saturday morning services. A very worthwhile project.

Our next Family Shabbat/Junior Congregation will be on February 17. Come and join us for a family event.

For all the sports fans pitchers and catchers report in about 2 weeks. Spring is coming!

If you have any questions or program suggestions, please contact us.

Larry



מזל טוב

MAZEL TO JAN AND JONATHAN SIMON ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER CLAIRE AMELIA, DAUGHTER OF ZACH AND KATHERINE SIMON OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - WORLD WIDE WRAP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - JUNIOR CONGREGATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 - COMMUNITY SHABBAT

JEWISH FEDERATION OF
READING/BERKS INVITES YOU TO

COMMUNITY SHABBAT

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

Hosted at Keshar Zion Synagogue
555 Warwick Dr. Wyomissing

6:00 p.m. Service

6:45 p.m. Kosher Dinner

\$36 per adult

\$15 for youth (13-17)

\$8 for 12 and under

Financial assistance is available by calling JFS at 610-921-0624

RSVP by February 23



Community Shabbat is an open event for our Berks County Jewish community to come together to celebrate. This annual event is planned in partnership with Keshar Zion Synagogue, Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom and Chabad Lubavitch of Reading

A LITTLE LAUGHTER

Keeping Kosher

God: And remember Moses, in the laws of keeping kosher, never cook a calf in its mother's milk. It is cruel.

Moses: Ohhhhhh! So you are saying we should never eat milk and meat together.

God: No, what I'm saying is, never cook a calf in its mother's milk.

Moses: Oh, Lord forgive my ignorance! What you are really saying is we should wait six hours after eating meat to eat milk so the two are not in our stomachs.


God: No, Moses, what I'm saying is, don't cook a calf in its mother's milk!!!

Moses: Oh, Lord! Please don't strike me down for my stupidity! What you mean is we should have a separate set of dishes for milk and a separate set for meat and if we make a mistake we have to bury that dish outside....

God: Ah, do whatever you want....

-Author Unknown

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A Jewish man and a Chinese man were conversing. The Jewish man commented upon what a wise people the Chinese are. "Yes," replied the Chinese, "Our culture is over 4,000 years old. But, you Jews are a very wise people, too." The Jewish man replied, "Yes, our culture is over 5,000 years old." The Chinese man was incredulous, "That's impossible," he replied. "Where did your people eat for a thousand years?"

-Author Unknown



Funny Thing

The temple board president, a very pious Jew, was extremely distressed in receiving the news that his only son has converted to Christianity. He is so besides himself that he goes to talk to the Rebbe, the highest authority he knows.

He says "Rebbe, Rebbe what have I done wrong? I brought him to Temple every day. I taught him everything that I was taught, gave him all I was given. Where, where did I go wrong?"

The Rebbe says "Funny ting, my only son too, he has converted to Christianity. I, too, can not figure out what went wrong, after all I am the Rebbe, surely my teachings and guidance should have been sufficient." The Rebbe continues "There is only one thing we can do, we must speak to a higher authority still.

The Rebbe and the Board President make there way to the sanctuary and they begin to speak to G-d. They say: "Oh, Adoni, where have we gone wrong, our only sons have shunned us and converted to Christianity, what shall we do? Where did we go wrong?"

A big booming voice is heard from above to say; "FUNNY THING!"

-Author Unknown

TU B'SHVAT SEDER



MEMBERS OF KZ & RCOS GATHERED ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH IN THE SOCIAL HALL TO HAVE A TU B'SHVAT SEDER LED BY CANTOR TED AND RABBI MICHAELSON, WHO TALKED ABOUT THE AGRICULTURAL CYCLE WE GET FROM THE TORAH AND THAT CONTINUES TO BE USED IN ISRAEL TODAY. THERE WERE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS, INCLUDING PLANTING VERY LITTLE "TREES" RUN BY ZIV, OUR SHALIACH FROM THE JEWISH AGENCY, AND ADULTS DID NOT MISS OUT, ABLE TO SAMPLE RABBI MICHAELSON'S ETROG LIQUER.



SUSAN'S GRANDSON PLANTING A LEMON TREE ON TU BSHVAT IN ISRAEL



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF OUR HOSTAGES AND FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES

SHOMER YISRAEL, GUARDIAN OF ISRAEL,

WE CALL OUT TO YOU WITH FERVENT PLEA AND PRAYER TO BLESS AND PROTECT THE CIVILIAN MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN BRUTALLY KIDNAPPED BY HAMAS AND HELD CAPTIVE IN GAZA, ALONG WITH THE MEMBERS OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSE FORCES MISSING IN ACTION OR HELD CAPTIVE.

MAY IT BE YOUR WILL, SPEEDILY AND SOON, TO BRING THEM OUT FROM DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH. MAY THE HOLY ONE OF BLESSING BREAK THEIR BONDS, DELIVER THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESS, AND RELEASE THEM SWIFTLY BACK TO THE LOVING EMBRACE OF THEIR DEAR ONES.

DO ALL THAT MUST BE DONE SO THAT RELIEF, RESCUE, AND LONG LIFE MAY BE THE LOT OF EVERY ONE OF THE SOLDIERS AND THE CIVILIANS WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE.

ACT ON THEIR BEHALF, LORD. TAKE UP THEIR CAUSE WITHOUT DELAY, SO THAT YOU FULFILL THROUGH THEM YOUR VERSE FROM ISAIAH: "THOSE REDEEMED BY THE LORD WILL RETURN; THEY WILL ENTER ZION WITH SINGING, AND EVERLASTING JOY WILL CROWN THEIR HEADS. GLADNESS AND JOY WILL OVERTAKE THEM, AND SORROW AND SIGHING WILL FLEE AWAY."

SO MAY IT BE YOUR WILL, AND LET US SAY: AMEN.

אחינו כל בית ישראל, הנתונים בצרה ובשביה, העומדים בין
בים ובין ביבשה, המקום ירחם עליהם, ויוציאם מצרה
לרוחה, ומאפלה לאורה, ומשעבוד לגאלה, השתא בעגלא
ובזמן קריב.



AS FOR OUR BROTHERS, THE WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL,
WHO ARE GIVEN OVER TO TROUBLE OR CAPTIVITY,
WHETHER THEY ABIDE ON THE SEA OR ON THE DRY LAND:

MAY THE ALL-PRESENT HAVE MERCY UPON THEM, AND BRING THEM FORTH FROM TROUBLE TO ENLARGEMENT, FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, AND FROM SUBJECTION TO REDEMPTION, NOW SPEEDILY AND AT A NEAR TIME.

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

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

Sylvia Wenger made a
donation to the Torah Fund in
memory of Robert Hammel
brother of Victor Hammel

Rob Schneier made
donations to Keshar Zion
Synagogue in memory of
Gerald Levine
Berna Sherman

Rochelle Mann
made a donation to
Keshar Zion Synagogue
in memory of
Ann Greth



The Keshar Zion Cemetery offers lots to members of Keshar 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.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE
555 WARWICK DRIVE WYOMISSING, PA 19610

DO A MITZVAH

**PLEASE HELP US MAKE A MINYAN ON
THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS OF
EVERY MONTH SO THOSE NEEDING TO
SAY KADDISH ARE ABLE TO.**

ALL ARE WELCOME

**MINYAN STARTS AT 7:30 PM AND LASTS
20-25 MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 1+15	MARCH 7+21	APRIL 4 + 18
MAY 2 + 16	June 6+ 20	July 4 + 18

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
ROBERT SCHNEIER
(484) 987-4805
ROBERTBSCHNEIER@GMAIL.COM**

The Keshet Zion Social Action Committee wants to hear from you.....

**We would like to know if you would like an
occasional ride to KZ to attend services?**

**We also would like to know if you are able to
give an occasional ride to a congregant,
so that they can also attend services?**

**Please respond to :
Robert Schneier**

robertbschneier@gmail.com (484) 987-4805

WORLDWIDEWRAP

fjmc



Join Jews around the globe on Super Bowl Sunday to learn, for the first time or since long ago, about Tefillin: what they are, what they mean, how to put them on.



Who: Have fun building their own tefillin from ready-to-make kits.

What: World-Wide Wrap

When: Sunday, February 11 at 9 AM

Where: Keshet Zion Synagogue Chapel

Advance registration not required, but appreciated (first 10 get a special T-shirt for free).

Questions or reservations, please contact
Cantor Ted Prosnitz 201-321-3030.

SHABBAT
SHALOM



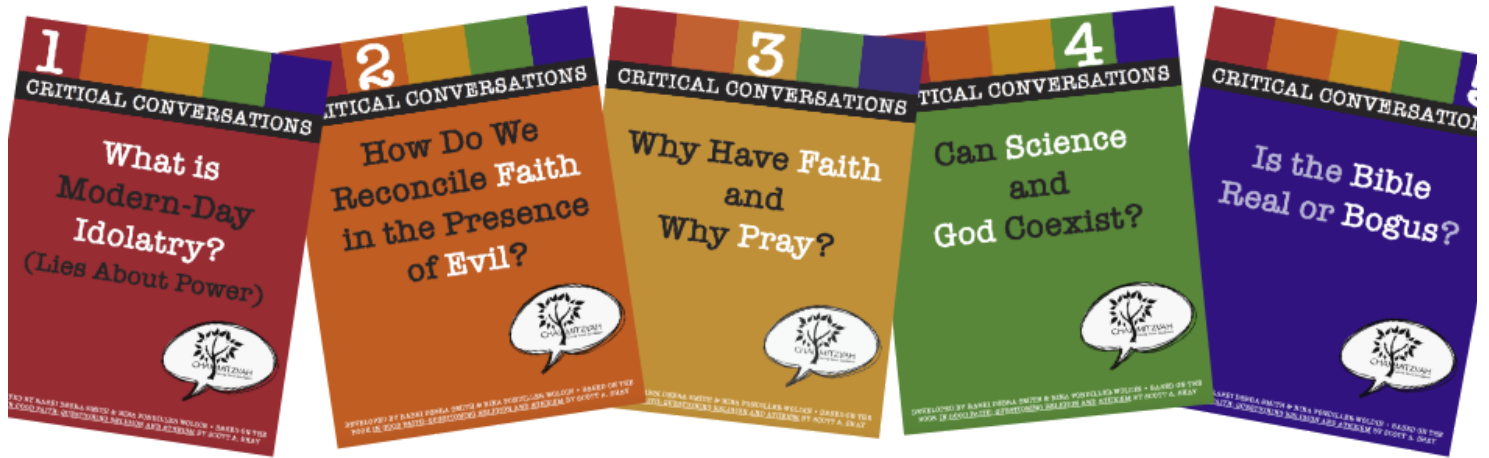
**JUNIOR
CONGREGATION**

February 17, 2024
10:30am

KIDDUSH TO FOLLOW

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

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE 555 WARWICK AVE WYOMISSING, PA 19610



**Join Cantor Ted Prosnitz and friends for
CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS**

based on the award-winning book *In Good Faith: Questioning Religion and Atheism* by Scott A. Shay. We'll explore Jewish and non-Jewish, ancient and contemporary texts selected to inspire meaningful discussion in a safe and informal environment.

Meetings will take place at Keshar Zion Synagogue
555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610

2:00 on Monday February 5th and 19th

The programs are FREE

**But advance registration is appreciated
online at kesharzioncantor@gmail.com
or by calling 610-374-1763**

**Questions?
Contact Cantor Ted Prosnitz 201-321-3030**

Critical Conversations was created by
[Chai Mitzvah, The Resource for Jewish Engagement.](http://ChaiMitzvah.org)





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610-385-4333

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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
February 2024 Bulletin is
Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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