



bulletin

Kesher Zion Synagogue



Volume 83 Issue 1

Elul 5779– Tishrei 5780

September 2019

Kesher Zion Mission Statement: Kesher Zion Synagogue seeks to encourage the involvement of its members and create a special sense of belonging, while stressing the joy within Judaism. Our egalitarian synagogue is committed to meeting the religious, social, educational, and cultural needs of its members within the framework of the Conservative Movement. Kesher Zion Synagogue also recognizes its responsibilities to provide a public place of worship, to observe Jewish life cycle events, and to support the local community and the State of Israel.



KZ welcomes our new spiritual leader
Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sisen

Kesher Zion Synagogue
555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-374-1763
www.kesherzion.org

*Committed to meeting the
religious, social, and
educational needs of its
members within the
framework of the
Conservative movement.*

- Kesher Zion Synagogue

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Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen

NOTES FROM THE RABBI/HAZZAN

First and foremost, hello to everybody, and thank you for selecting me to be the new spiritual leader of Keshar Zion. I'm honored and humbled, and I look forward to serving the *kehilla* and being a part of the community for many years to come.



The High Holidays, the *Yamim Noraim*, are certainly a cornerstone in our Jewish calendar. For many Jews, it's the once a year, can't miss, time to come to shul. For others, it's a highlight of the ritual year, and for the rest, it's an ordeal that they must endure for a variety of reasons: family tradition, personal or traditional habit, sense of obligation, or simple guilt that they will be missed if they don't attend. For the others of us, the Hazzanim, Cantors, it's when we get to sing all the good stuff!

Frankly, that's not what the *Yamim Noraim* are all about.

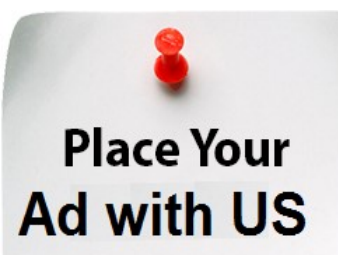
Look at the *Yamim Noraim* from the bottom up. Rosh Hashana is designed to inspire us to begin a process of personal introspection. Yom Kippur gives us the opportunity to take what we have learned about ourselves, and gain forgiveness for our deeds and resolve to do better for the next year. Sure, the liturgy may seem to some as archaic, boring, and rote, but read the words; there is a depth to the authorship and poetry which is supposed to function as a wakeup call to inspire us to personal action. The expanded prayers, special music, and pomp and circumstance which surround the High Holiday services only serve to reinforce the idea that we need to be conscious of our deeds and actions daily, and take ownership for them. Why is it that we can maintain our phones, our computers, our cars and our homes, but we fall short when we need to upgrade our souls? Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur remind us that we need to renew ourselves daily, not just annually. Our daily service praises G-d as *ham'chadesh b'tuvo b'chol yom tamid ma'ase b'reshit*, "who renews daily in His goodness the works of Creation." We have the ability, but need a reminder to ensure the willpower, to accomplish this difficult task.

We need to spend our lives trying to make the world over in the Divine image, not our own. The *Yamim Noraim* should not be a chore, they should be an inspiration. And if, in services, you're sitting next to family or friends, that will make the message of the season be just that more important for you.

So come to shul. Bring a friend. Bring a whole family; we have room. Keshar Zion is the one and only place for traditional Conservative Judaism in Berks County. I look forward to many years of serving this community, being here as a teacher, counselor, advisor, and friend, to my entire new family.

Shana Tova,

Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen



It was wonderful to see so many of you at the congregation meeting in May as I began my tenure as Keshet Zion's president. I know that I speak for the congregation when I say how grateful we have been for Cindy Balchunas's leadership over the course of the past two years. I look forward to working with you for the next two years. Thank you for your confidence in me.

The summer and fall marks many new beginnings at our synagogue. A new Board began its tenure in May. This summer we signed a five-year lease with RCOS. Our new year brings a new spiritual leader, Rabbi/Hazzan David Sislen. Much of what I have done these past few months has been completing the work started by KZ's leadership before me, making sure these essential components of our community are in place.

As part of this work, financing the sanctuary and paying those who work tirelessly to keep everything running, has been much on my mind. In June, we read the end of Leviticus, a final appendix detailing everyone's financial responsibilities in the support of the priests and the sanctuary. Coincidentally, that week we sent out a letter about our new dues structure, asking everyone to honestly and generously re-consider what they can give. Of course, the letter did not begin as chapter 27 in Leviticus begins—"And the Lord spoke"—nor is KZ asking for 1/10 of all of your goods and income! The Board's authority is significantly less and our request much more modest. Still, it is heartening to see that even those who wrote the Torah thousands of years ago, also worried about how it all was going to be paid for, and what was fair in terms of an individual's contribution.

There is more to this passage, though, than a simple command to financially support your holy places and spiritual leaders. Beneath the details of proper payment is really an ethic of community, an ethic of everyone coming together to build a holy congregation. It is too easy to look at a synagogue and see the rabbi and the office staff and the Board as those in charge of running the institution while everyone else sits back. Instead, this chapter reminds us that everyone participates. What Leviticus 27 really emphasizes is the equal importance of each fruit tree, each ox, each sheep, each person—man or woman, young or old. Everyone works together in different ways to build the community. The small cadre of leaders are entirely dependent upon all of you. It is the congregation that invests the others with authority; the congregation that provides the financial support; the congregation that forms the heart and shapes the mind and is the soul.

So, why end Leviticus with an account of how each person will contribute to the financial maintenance of the sanctuary and its priesthood, detailing how this should be accomplished, each according to his or her own ability and means? Because this is how we all build holiness—not just participate in it, but actually create it. Not just by following the laws laid out within the Torah; not just by coming to the synagogue from time to time to listen to a Torah reading and sing prayers. We also create the sacred community every time we take out our check book and send a dues payment to KZ, laying the financial foundation upon which everything else is built, without which none of this would exist. In the way that Leviticus frequently takes mundane acts and ordinary objects, and elevates them to the status of the holy, this final chapter gives us the power to create the sacred with an act as simple as the signing of a check.

Keshet Zion is about to embark upon another new year and another chapter in its history. Be a part of this sacred community but even more, help us all create it—come to services, plan a social event, visit someone in the hospital, join a committee, write a check. All that holy communities need to flourish is you.

September 2019 Elul 5779- Tishrei 5780

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 1 Elul	2 2 Elul Labor Day KZ Office Closed	3 3 Elul	4 4 Elul	5 5 Elul Minyan 7:30 pm	6 6 Elul	7 7 Elul Morning Services 9:30am
8 8 Elul	9 9 Elul	10 10 Elul	11 11 Elul	12 12 Elul Minyan 7:30 pm	13 13 Elul	14 14 Elul Morning Services 9:30am
15 15 Elul Trivia Sunday 3-5pm	16 16 Elul	17 17 Elul	18 18 Elul	19 19 Elul Minyan 7:30 pm	20 20 Elul	21 21 Elul Morning Services 9:30am Selichot 8:30pm
22 22 Elul	23 23 Elul	24 24 Elul	25 25 Elul	26 26 Elul BOD Meeting 7:00pm Minyan 7:30 pm	27 27 Elul	28 28 Elul Morning Services 9:30am
29 29 Elul Erev Rosh Hashanah /Service 6:15pm- /Dinner 7:00pm Inn at Reading	30 1 Tishrei Rosh Hashanah /Service 9:00am- lunch following services Inn at Reading Tashlich 5:30pm Reading Public Museum- Mincha to follow KZ Office Closed					
					2019	

Torah Fund Campaign

What The World Needs Now...

Sponsor a Kiddush



Celebrate your special occasion with your congregational family.

For more information on sponsoring a Kiddush...

please contact the Synagogue office at: (610) 374-1763 or email:

In 1965 a popular song written by the successful team of Hal David and Burt Bacharach answered this question with "Love". Perhaps the Jewish duo was familiar with the Hebrew term "Chesed" which translates as "kindness" or "lovingkindness". This word, chesed, conveys a deep love that evokes acts of kindness without thought of reward or even acknowledgement.

The Bible tells many stories of chesed: Abraham and Sarah welcome 3 strangers to their tent in the heat of the day. Rebecca offers water to Isaac and to his camels. And Ruth sticks steadfastly to her mother-in-law, Naomi, adopting her religion and people, after Naomi experiences great loss.

Judaism is deeply committed to the attribute of kindness as a central pillar of Jewish life. In Pirke Avot 1:2 it states "The world rests on 3 things: on Torah, on service to G-d, and on deeds of kindness."

The annual Torah Fund Campaign supports the education of Jewish teachers and Clergy. All monies collected go directly to the cause for Conservative Judaism. Please consider giving as generously as you can in order to continue the education of future Jewish generations. A special donation of \$180.00 will merit the gift of the Torah Fund pin for 5780 (2019-2020).

This pin depicts a heart surrounded by 3 circles, growing in size. This symbolizes the heart of kindness which Jews perform in ever-widening realms of generosity. Perhaps the kindness spreads from family to community to the world. As it is said in Psalm 89: May we build a world of kindness.

Wishing everyone a Healthy, Happy New Year 5780
Arlene Ehrlich (610-373-6648)

And remember to consider calling me for our beautiful Torah Cards. We have cards for all occasions: New Baby, Simchas, Get Well and Sympathy. The cards are addressed, stamped and mailed—all for just \$5.00



Receive the Torah Fund pin for 5780 as
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in recognition of your generous support.



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Main Office: 1700 Fairview Street
Reading, PA

Reminder: If you haven't already returned your KZ dues declaration letter please do so, it's past due. We need your response in order to bill for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. If you don't have the form, call or email the office and we will send you another one.
610-374-1763 or kzsecretary@entermail.net



Kesher Zion Synagogue
High Holidays
Tishrei 5780

Selichot

Joint Program & Service with RCOS & KZ together

Saturday, September 21, 2019

Program: 8:30 p.m.

Dessert: 10:00 p.m.

Service: 10:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Evening Service 6:15 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m. **at the Inn at Reading**

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 30, 2019

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Kiddush Luncheon following services

at the Inn at Reading

Tashlich 5:30 p.m. at Reading Public

Museum: Mincha to follow

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Israeli Kiddush Luncheon to follow
services **at the Inn at Reading**

Shabbat Shuvah

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Kever Avot

Sunday, October 6, 2019

(At the Kesher Zion Cemetery)

Memorial Service 10:30 a.m.

Erev Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

at the Inn at Reading

Mincha 6:00 p.m.

Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

at the Inn at Reading

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Yizkor 10:30 a.m.

Mincha 6:15 p.m.

Neilah 7:00 p.m.

Shofar 7:45 p.m.

Maariv & Havdalah to follow

Communal Break the Fast

Sukkot

Monday, October 14, 2019

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Lunch and Learn in the Sukkah

12:00 noon

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Lunch and Learn in the Sukkah

12:00 noon

Shemini Atzeret

Monday, October 21, 2019

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor Recited

Kiddush Luncheon following services

Simchat Torah

Monday, October 21, 2019

Maariv and Hakafot 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Kiddush following services

Yahrzeit Fund 5780

Each week, KZ Sisterhood sends out reminder cards concerning the yahrzeits of our beloved departed family members and accepts donations in their memory. All donations are announced in the weekly bulletin & announced at Shabbat services. Some members find it convenient to pay for all of their yahrzeits (\$5.00 minimum per name) at one time only once per year. Please send your checks made out to **Kesher Zion Synagogue to Cynthia Balchunas, 511 Thomas Place Sinking Spring PA 19608** if you would like to take advantage of this convenient way to remember your loved ones and donate to Sisterhood.

Minyan

The weekly Minyan needs more congregants to attend weekly Minyans on Thursday nights at 7:30 pm to cover for Minyan assignments who are away on vacation. Please call Robert Schneier for more info at 484-987-4805.

**CHEVRAH KADISHA**
(Burial Society)

“The highest act of *gemilut chesed* (acts of loving kindness) is that which is done for the dead, for there can never be any question of repayment”. (Tanhuma Vayehi 107A)

Kesher Zion Synagogue has been providing Tahara (ritual washing) services for the entire Berks County Jewish Community for many years. Participation in tahara is a mitzvah of the highest order. It is performed by Jews to honor a deceased person who is Jewish. Generally, women perform tahara on women and men for men. Kesher Zion has a women’s group and a men’s group with chair people for each.

There are two major elements to the service. First is the cleaning of the body and second is the ritual washing and dressing in a shroud. The entire process takes place at the funeral home and should be done a few hours before the funeral service. Because there is a need to physically move the body during both processes, at least 3 people (ideally 4) are needed.

It is critical that the chair people have a sufficient number of people on their lists to accommodate everyone’s vacation/travel/ work schedules. The more people that are on the lists, the less frequently one is called. No one does this alone! It is a communal effort.

If you would like to learn more about chevrah kadisha, either talking to the chair people or attending a washing, please call the Kesher Zion office (610.374.1763) or email kzbookkeeper@entermail.net.

Please Remember

Your call is very important to us!

If you reach our answering machine, we are either on the other line, at a meeting, or stepped out for a break.

Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have an emergency that can’t wait, and you cannot reach us during or after business hours, call:

KZ President
Dr. Jennifer Koosed
at: 484-651-0122

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for all of my birthday greetings. ~Carol Robinson

Thanks you to all of the wonderful people who sent me a leagram on my birthday. ~ Mariette Jacobson

Many thanks to all of those who contributed to the KZ Memorial Book. ~ Lisa Levine, KZ Sisterhood

Many thanks for all the cards and leagrams. You made our special days even more special. ~Bernie & Janet Kaplan

Fred & Eileen Knoblauch –Wagner send warmest thanks to all who so kindly remembered our 50th wedding anniversary... it meant so much to hear from you all.

Thank you for all of the leagrams wishing me a happy birthday, They worked! I appreciate your good wishes. ~ Betsy Katz

Thank you for the leagrams we received for our anniversary. ~ Solange & Paul Mintz

Thank you Arlene & Irving Ehrlich for the donation of a refrigerator and a freezer to the KZ kitchen.

MAZEL TOV

To Carole & Mike Robinson on the birth of their grandson,
Cameron James Robinson

To Lisa & Alan Levine on the birth of their grandson,
Liam

CONDOLENCES

To Carol Greenberg and family on the loss of Molly Greenberg,
Carol's mother-in-law

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Contributions to support our Synagogue and Sisterhood are deeply appreciated. Whenever you wish to remember friends and loved ones, in joy or sorrow, please think of the following funds. An appropriate acknowledgment is sent. Make your check payable to the appropriate fund and send to the office.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE GENERAL FUND: Minimum \$ 6.00
 Windows of Keshet Zion cards Minimum \$10.00

MORRIS HASSEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUNDS:
 Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund Minimum \$ 6.00
 Hebrew School Scholarship Fund Minimum \$ 6.00
 David & Rebecca Schein Scholarship Fund Minimum \$ 6.00
 Windows of Keshet Zion cards Minimum \$10.00

LEONARD C. LEVIN FUND FOR IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE:
 (Please make check payable to Leonard C. Levin Fund) Minimum \$ 6.00
 Windows of Keshet Zion cards Minimum \$10.00

HELEN RUDOLPH MUSEUM FOUNDATION OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE: (Please make check payable to the Foundation.) Proceeds are used to support the museum collection Minimum \$ 6.00

HARRY G. BARRER YOUTH FUND OF KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE:
 (Please make check payable to the Harry G. Barrer Youth Fund) Proceeds are used for U.S.Y. and Kadima activities Minimum \$ 6.00
 Windows of Keshet Zion cards Minimum \$10.00

DR. ROBERT N. GREENBERG SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM FUND: Minimum \$18.00

KIDDUSH FUND:
 Contribute to the weekly Shabbat kiddush and your name will be listed in the Shabbat bulletin. There will also be a framed acknowledgement at the kiddush in Sisterhood Hall Minimum \$36.00

SISTERHOOD FUNDS:

TORAH FUND:
 Cards available for all occasions. Funds are used to support the Jewish Theological Seminary's programs and scholarship fund. Call Arlene Ehrlich (610-373-6648) to have cards sent for \$5.00 each

SIMCHA FUND:
 Cards available for all occasions. Call Sylvia Wenger (610-375-3422) to have cards sent (\$1.50 each) or to purchase them for personal use (\$1.00 each).

*Contributions to the Synagogue and the Sisterhood funds must be paid before cards are processed.
 Mail or bring your check with complete information to the synagogue office. If you have an account or wish to start one, please contact the office. Money should be added when the account gets low.
 This will eliminate writing numerous checks.*



TODAH RABAH

Our warmest thanks are extended to those who have contributed to the following funds:

General Fund:

*In memory of Samuel Boudov
 ~ Alan & Phylliss Daniels*

*In memory of Walter Brandt
 ~ Esther & Alan Strauss*

*In memory of Lou Gordon
 ~ Esther & Alan Strauss*

*Mazel Tov to Lisa & Alan Levine on the birth of their grandson, Liam
 ~ Debbie & David Goldberg and family
 ~ Betsy & Al Katz*

*In memory of Molly Greenberg
 ~Debbie & David Goldberg*

Dr. Robert Greenberg Scholar-In-Residence Program Fund:

*In memory of Molly Greenberg
 ~ Solange & Paul Mintz
 ~ Sari & John Incledon*

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Kesher Zion Synagogue



Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen.....Rabbi

Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....President

Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....Educational Chair

Office.....Sisterhood

Al Katz.....Proofreader

Lenore Meyerson.....Editor

Call the office for advertising information

*The deadline for submission of articles for the
October 2019 Bulletin is Tuesday, September 3, 2019*

To advertise your business or services Contact KZ Office: 610-374-1763

Email: kzsecretary@entermail.net

Contact Us

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Synagogue**

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Visit us on the web at
www.kesherzion.org

Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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SAVE THE DATES FOR

UPCOMING KZ EVENTS

KZ Trivia Sunday September 15, 2019 -3-5:30pm

Rosh Hashanah September 29—October 1, 2019

Yom Kippur October 8-9, 2019

Sukkot October 13-20, 2019

Shemini Atseret/Simchat Torah

October 20-22, 2019

KZ Tricky Tray December 8, 2019- Doors open at Noon