



# bulletin

## Keshher Zion Synagogue



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February 2020

*Keshher Zion Mission Statement:* Keshher 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. Keshher 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.

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Keshher Zion Synagogue 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 610-374-1763

[www.keshherzion.org](http://www.keshherzion.org)

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

## Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen

### NOTES FROM THE RABBI/HAZZAN

I suppose you couldn't blame Tu B'shvat if it developed an inferiority complex. The other holidays have their special prayers, unique foods, ancient traditions, rules and regulations. Tu B'shvat, the New Year of the Trees, has its foods, its traditions, and its liturgies but they are all relatively new and open to interpretation. The custom of holding a Tu B'shvat Seder had its origins with the mystics, but none of the prayers, readings, or foods are set in stone. While every Tu B'shvat observance centers around nature/agriculture in general and trees in particular, the variety of different rituals, themes, and degree to which they parallel the better-known Pesach version is all over the map. But despite the confusion, I happen to think that Tu B'shvat is one of the most important holidays we have. All the rest of our holidays are either *mitzvot* which were commanded by G-d in the Torah or are a commemoration of some historical or cultural event. Tu B'shvat, the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Shvat, commemorates a change of season; a seemingly random choice of a date where winter begins to turn to spring in Israel. (Hillel and Shammai disagreed on the date in the Talmud, but, what else is new?) But since it celebrates something which is yet to be, Tu B'shvat is a holiday of tremendous faith. We trust that G-d's seasonal cycles will continue to operate as they should, and we celebrate the bounty that nature provides. Even more importantly, however, in most modern Tu B'shvat sedarim, we recognize our role in preserving and maintaining the blessing of resources we have. That makes Tu B'shvat one of the most forward-thinking holidays we have. Tu B'shvat looks to the future rather than symbolically remembering the past. On Yom Kippur we review our past year in order to ensure our future. On Pesach, we remember slavery to better appreciate freedom. On Sukkot and Shavuot we are grateful for what we have. On Tu B'shvat, we renew our commitment to protect and maintain the planet. Last spring will never come again. But it is up to us in partnership with G-d to ensure that future springs will.



I hope you will be able to join us on **Sunday evening, February 9 at 6:30pm**. KZ and RCOS will be joining together for a festive Tu B'shvat seder. In the meantime, think about what you can do to hold up your end of the bargain with G-d. Plant a tree, both in Israel and here. Recycle. Reduce your carbon footprint, and support businesses and causes which do so. And on Tu B'shvat, be sure to wish your favorite tree a Shana Tova!

Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen

## The Prez Sez

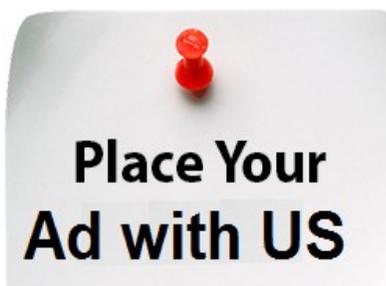
## Dr. Jennifer Koosed

If your New Year's resolution is to get more involved with your community, here is your chance! You have all received word that Kesher Zion's bookkeeper Gayle Kastenbaum has retired. Gayle was more than the synagogue's bookkeeper. She also volunteered endless hours to the synagogue through her work in Sisterhood, as chair of the House Committee, and in countless other ways. Although the office work is being covered by Herbein + Company and Lenore Meyerson, other tasks still await the right person.

Kesher Zion needs someone who would like to lead the House Committee. Even though we no longer have our own building, there are still a number of projects that need to be done to make 555 Warwick Drive truly our home. You can choose to chair the Committee, or just take one of the projects through to completion. Any level of commitment will be much appreciated.

Kesher Zion also needs someone to lead the Membership Committee. If you like meeting new people, this is the volunteer opportunity for you. There are a few people ready to work on this important committee and many new ideas have already been generated—all we need is a chair to take the lead. I can still remember when Harriet Leisawitz reached out to me when I first arrived in Reading. A warm welcome to Reading and to Kesher Zion can make all the difference.

A few years ago, Cindy Balchunas gave a High Holiday appeal that focused on giving time. She asked you to answer, "hineni, here I am," when you hear the call. Who will respond "hineni" today?



# Famous Father Girl:

## A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein

with Jamie Bernstein

Sunday, March 1st • 10am

(9 am registration)

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Reading

Registration required. To register, visit [ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour](http://ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour)

*This community event includes brunch. Cost is \$36 per person.*

Copies of Famous Father Girl will be available for sale on-site through Reads & Company

The oldest daughter of revered composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein offers a rare look at her father on the centennial of his birth in a deeply intimate and broadly evocative memoir. An intoxicating tale, *Famous Father Girl* is an intimate meditation on a complex and sometimes troubled man, the family he raised, and the music he composed that became the soundtrack to their entwined lives. Deeply moving and often hilarious, Bernstein's beautifully written memoir is a great American story about one of the greatest Americans of the modern age.

# February 2020

## Shevat - Adar 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6 Shevat Morning Services 9:30am
2 7 Shevat	3 8 Shevat	4 9 Shevat	5 10 Shevat	6 11 Shevat Minyan 7:30pm	7 12 Shevat	8 13 Shevat Morning Services 9:30am
9 14 Shevat Tu B' Shvat Seder 6:30pm	10 15 Shevat	11 16 Shevat	12 17 Shevat	13 18 Shevat Adult Education 6:30pm Minyan 7:30pm	14 19 Shevat	15 20 Shevat Morning Services 9:30am
16 21 Shevat	17 22 Shevat	18 23 Shevat	19 24 Shevat	20 25 Shevat Minyan 7:30pm	21 26 Shevat	22 27 Shevat Morning Services 9:30am
23 28 Shevat	24 29 Shevat	25 30 Shevat	26 1 Adar	27 2 Adar BOD Meeting 7:00pm Minyan 7:30pm	28 3 Adar	29 4 Adar Morning Services 9:30am



**Keshet Zion Synagogue and  
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
Invite you to a**

# **TU B'SHVAT SEDER**

**Sunday, February 9, 6:30 pm**

**Join us as we celebrate the coming of  
Spring to the land of Israel, and all of the  
blessings of nature.**

**Please RSVP to the KZ office:  
kzsecretary@entermail.net or 610-374-1763**



## Tricky Tray 2019

### 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 email:



Kesher Zion hosted its 5th Annual Tricky Tray on Sunday, Dec. 8. with about 90 people in attendance. The social hall doors opened at noon to tables overflowing with a tempting array. Participants purchased tickets in hopes of winning a variety of over 140 prize baskets, ranging from instant pots, massages, and restaurant gift cards to doctor visits, hockey tickets, and tickets to Broadway! The excitement mounted as Christine Cieplinski began calling the winning tickets at 1:00. Everyone went home a winner, whether winning an actual prize or enjoying a fun afternoon with friends!

A big "thank you" to the many volunteers who solicited and donated prizes. This event wouldn't have been a success without your help! Thanks also to our ticket and food sellers Debbie Cieplinski, Rochelle Mann, Robert Schneier, Karen and Myron Kabakoff, Cindy Balchunas, Jessica Martin, photographer Michelle Taylor, chefs Michael Farrara and Michael Robinson, and emcee Christine Cieplinski, who kept everyone laughing throughout the afternoon. With your help and participation, the 5th Annual Tricky Tray was an entertaining and successful fundraising event!



Winners Pictured above : Rebecca Robinson and Michelle Taylor. Coordinators pictured on right: Sue Wilson, Carole Robinson, and Sue Farrarra





Keshher Zion Synagogue



## EXPLORE THE SIDDUR AT KESHER ZION

Learn the history of our prayers, the structure of our services, experience the beauty of the poetry, and the wisdom of our tradition in a monthly class taught by Rabbi/Hazzan David Sisen.

**First semester schedule:**

February 13

March 12

May 14

June 11

The second Thursday night of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm  
*(Minyan will follow the class)*

*Please register at the Keshher Zion office  
or contact us for more information:*

*kzsecretary@entermail.net or keshherzionrav@gmail.com*

*555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610*

*610-374-1763*

### WINTER WEATHER

For current

Keshher Zion bad weather closings:

Call the office

(610) 374-1763

### **Minyan**

We need more Minyan Participants for the New Year.

Only 20 minutes on average once a month.

Your continued support will allow for a weekly Minyan.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Please call Robert Schneier for more information at 484)987-4805.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to everyone who sent me a birthday leagram. ~ Fran Mendelson

Thank you for all the Anniversary leagrams. ~ Andi & Bill Franklin

Thank you for all the birthday wishes. ~ Gaye Corbin

## RHOADS MEMORIALS, LLC

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**Phone:** (610) 921-3240 **Cell:** (484) 269-1783

**Email:** RHOADSMEMORIALS@COMCAST.NET

### KZ Cemetery

The Board of Directors of the Keshar Zion Cemetery is pleased to advise the congregation that the planned improvements to the cemetery have now been completed. During the summer we reconstructed and freshly paved the entrance to the cemetery as well paving the external driveway. We also sealed the various major cracks in the internal walkways located throughout the cemetery. Finally, we have placed stone markers throughout the cemetery to assist in locating specific rows. We hope these improvements make your visitations to the cemetery safer and easier for you. If you have any questions about any of these items or the cemetery in general please do not hesitate to contact the synagogue office at (610) 374-1763.

## MAZEL TOV

To Naomi & Alexander Knoll on the birth  
of their granddaughter, Sophie Mira Knoll.

## CONDOLENCES

In Memory of Dr. Jeffrey Frank

In Memory of Loretta Charnoff

In Memory of Shirley R. Mazer

In Memory of Mervin Lewis

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Kerry J. Burrell, OD  
Karen L. Heaney, OD  
Heidi L. Sensenig, OD, MS, FCOVD  
Amanda S. Legge, OD  
Perry C. Umlauf, OD  
Jeffrey S. Stefanick, OD

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### WYOMISSING

50 Berkshire Court  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
Phone: 610-374-3134

### DOUGLASSVILLE

1050 Benjamin Franklin Hwy. W.  
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**Tzedakah—Torah Rabah**



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

**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 the Social 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.*





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TODAH RABAH

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

General Fund:

In memory of Dr. Jeffrey Frank

- ~ Sandy & Dick Bloom
- ~ Betsy & Al Katz
- ~ Debbie, David, Scott, Mark & Abby Goldberg
- ~ Selma LeVan
- ~ Solange & Paul Mintz
- ~ Mara & Randy Winn
- ~ Gayle & Mike Kastenbaum
- ~ Marsha & Joel Adelman
- ~ Roberta & Harvey Goldstein
- ~ Alyse, Rich, Max, & Mykah Leybovich & Seth, Valerie, Natalie & Claire Corbin
- ~ Rochelle Mann
- ~ Ellen & Don Abramson & Family
- ~ Carole & Mike Robinson

In memory of Miriam Fogelman

- ~ Carole & Mike Robinson

In memory of Shirley R. Mazer

- ~ Debbie & David Goldberg
- ~ Solange & Paul Mintz
- ~ Robert Schneier

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

In memory of Dr. Jeffrey Frank

- ~ Doris & Elliott Leisawitz

Cemetery Fund:

Many thanks to the Irvin G. and Beatrice M. Shaffer Fund of Berks County Community for their donation

Kiddush Fund:

Thank you Dr. Ellis Freidman for your donation



Kesher Zion Synagogue



### Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

- Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sisen.....Rabbi
- Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....President
- Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....Educational Chair
- Office.....Sisterhood
- Betsy & Katz.....Proofreaders
- Lenore Meyerson.....Editor

Call the office for advertising information

The deadline for submission of articles for the March 2020 Bulletin is Monday, February 3, 2020

### Contact Us

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555 Warwick Drive Wyomissing, PA 19610

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kzsecretary@entermail.net Visit us on the web at www.kesherzion.org

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



To advertise your business or services Contact KZ Office: 610-374-1763 Email: kzsecretary@entermail.net



### KESHER ZION JUDAICA SHOP

Need a Gift Idea?

Visit our Judaica Shop where you will find a wide selection of giftware, books, jewelry and ritual items.

Contact Solange Israel-Mintz 610-372-4553 or simassoc20@aol.com

We are often able to beat the price of catalog items.

### Please Remember

Your call is very important to us!

If your 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 can't reach us during or after business hours, call: Rabbi/ Hazzan David Sisen at 484-509-0847



229 North 5th St. Reading PA 19601 610-373-4500 Robert R. Nye, Supervisor