



bulletin

Keshar Zion Synagogue



Volume 83 Issue 8

Sivan-Tammuz 5780

June 2020

Keshar Zion Mission Statement: Keshar 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. Keshar 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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A banner for Tisha B'Av featuring a background of a stone wall on the left and a hand holding a small green tree on the right.

Tisha B'Av

Destruction & Renewal

Fast starts at sunset, Wednesday, July 29, 2020 - Ends at nightfall, Thursday, July 30, 2020

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

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

NOTES FROM THE RABBI/HAZZAN

Remember the good old days? When “Zoom” was a sound effect, not both a noun and a verb? When “online” was how a New Yorker described standing in a queue? “Quarantine” sounded like an exotic French brunch dish, “corona” was what you waited for during a solar eclipse, and “virus” was something you hoped your computer wouldn’t catch as opposed to you.



Times have changed. When I first arrived in Pennsylvania, just over a year ago, I certainly could not have predicted how—shall we say, unique—this first year was going to be. We’ve had to reinterpret and improvise, change our norms and routines, and reverse what we used to consider flexible and what was set in stone. We’ve learned how to wear masks even if Purim has passed. We observed Pesach at home with our immediate family as did our ancestors. We have gotten to know our families again, watched all the movies we always said we’d get around to eventually, and cooked the entire Food Channel, except for the *treif* stuff.

It strikes me, though, that there are two constants to Jewish life: consistency...and change. For us, these are not contradictory. Our calendar, traditions, customs, and culture keep going in their daily, weekly, monthly, and annual cycles whether we like it or not. But each time around, it’s a little bit different. The prayer which jumps out as being particularly relevant this week may not be the same one that affected you last Shabbos. Current events may cast the weekly Torah portion into a completely different light. The circumstances of this Shabbos, Sukkot, Pesach, or any day for that matter, may create an indelible image which will become part of the tapestry for that occasion moving forward.

The key to it all is just that: moving forward. I sincerely pray that by the time you read this, that there is an end in sight, and that our accustomed services and events will be in the process of resuming. But when things get back to “normal,” let’s resolve to learn and grow from what we’ve experienced on this go-around. If you only connected to your synagogue community on special occasions, resolve to do so more often. If you only came to shul from time to time, come pray and socialize with us more often. If you haven’t taken a class or learned a text, the door is open, and if we don’t offer the class or subject you want, just ask. I’ll teach a class of 2, or a class of 200.

Kesher Zion is a unique place, a special and close-knit community, and a wonderful opportunity to continue melding the traditions of our past with the potential for our future. As we are given the ability to relax our social distancing, let’s see to what extent we can come together as a *kehila*, a community, a family, and a people, and as friends.

In a few months we will reach the *Yamim Noraim*, the high holidays, where we add an extra word to the *kaddish*, saying the doubled *l’eila l’eila*; higher and higher. May our post-pandemic lives bring us to new heights.

Rabbi/Hazzan David B. Sislen

The Prez Sez Dr. Jennifer Koosed

How are you? What have you been doing?

I remember the first time I heard the term “social distancing.” I was sitting in a meeting on Tuesday, March 10 and we were discussing what measures we might be taking at Albright in light of the global pandemic. I remember that the phrase sounded awkward and even strangely quaint. It made me laugh. Now, not only does it easily roll off my tongue, it has become so embedded in my body that I social distance even in my dreams. We are separated from each other in so many ways; but in just as many ways, our community continues to care and connect across the space that spans between us.



How are you? What have you been doing?

Marc Goldstein, Vice President of Keshet Zion Synagogue, started Blankets of Hope in 2011 to provide blankets to people who were living in the streets and in shelters, and he soon expanded to providing blankets to others in need like cancer patients, as well as beds to children in foster care. When the coronavirus crisis hit, Marc had not been planning to expand the non-profit's services further; but then opportunity arrived in his email inbox. At his regular business, he began receiving solicitations from companies looking to sell masks. He had no need for them in his business but what if, he wondered, Blankets of Hope could do something with them? Are there organizations in Berks County still in need? He made a few phone calls and heard a resounding yes. Within weeks, Blankets of Hope had received enough financial donations to buy 25,000 masks and received an additional grant from the United Way to buy 60,000 more. Blankets of Hope is in the process of distributing these essential items to organizations all around town, including to the Jewish Federation.

Why could Blankets of Hope access masks so quickly for Berks County? Because Marc already had relationships with the companies making the masks, therefore he had direct access to the products. He did not have the same supply chain problems that other organizations have had, and he has used his resources to help protect essential workers in hospitals, law enforcement, and other social service organizations all over the county. In many ways, this has replicated what he already does with other items. When a donation comes in to Blankets of Hope, 100% of that donation goes to purchase blankets, blankets people in need will hold in their hands within 72 hours.

With 80,000 masks, who knows how many people Blankets of Hope have saved either from death or from the significant suffering this virus can cause. Who knows how many people are helped by all of our actions, both large and small. We are “socially distancing” but we are also helping our community, making it stronger and safer. Social distancing does not drive us apart; rather, we are becoming even more tightly knit as our need for one another is heightened beyond measure.

How are you?

If you are like me, you are a little lonely, a little bored, a little tired. Missing restaurants and movies and family and friends.

What are you doing?

More good than you will probably ever know.



Explore the Siddur



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 Sislen.

REMAINING CLASSES HAVE GONE ONLINE!

June 11

The second Thursday night of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm

Please register with the Keshet Zion office or directly with the Rabbi/Hazzan to receive the Zoom link.

kzsecretary@entermail.net or keshetzionrav@gmail.com

*555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-374-1763*



Stay connected with KZ.

If you are currently not a member of KZ's Google Group and would like to be added to receive current updates and information.

Please email kzsecretary@entermail.net to request an invitation to our group

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)

Keshet 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. Keshet 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 Keshet Zion office (610.374.1763) or email kzsecretary@entermail.net.

Minyan Postponed—Prayer in place of Mourner's Kaddish

Prayer in Place of Mourner's Kaddish

When a Minyan Cannot Gather (to be used in exigent circumstances only)

רִבּוֹנוֹ שֶׁל עוֹלָם,

אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחֹת לְכָל־בָּשָׂר

Ribbono shel olam,
elohei ha-ruhot l'khol basar —

Master of the world, God of the spirit of all flesh, it is revealed and known before You that it is my fervent desire to praise Your name, and to remember and honor my beloved:

father/mother/son/daughter/ husband/wife/partner/brother/sister/_____
[the name and relation of the person may be inserted]

by reciting the Mourner's Kaddish in the company of a *minyan*. Though circumstances prevent me from doing so, may my yearning and prayers find favor in Your eyes, and be accepted and received before You as if I had prayed that Kaddish.

May you grant hope and healing to all who suffer, and may we soon be able to once again safely gather in holiness and joy.

May Your name, Adonai, be elevated and sanctified everywhere on earth and may peace reign everywhere.



**Minyan
Postponed
until further
notice**

KZ Calendar June 2020

Sivan – Tammuz 5780

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9 Sivan	2 10 Sivan	3 11 Sivan	4 12 Sivan	5 13 Sivan	6 14 Sivan
7 15 Sivan	8 6 Sivan	9 17 Sivan	10 18 Sivan	11 9 Sivan Virtual Explore the Siddur 6:30-7:30	12 20 Sivan	13 21 Sivan
14 22 Sivan	15 23 Sivan	16 4 Sivan	17 25 Sivan	18 6 Sivan	19 27 Sivan	20 28 Sivan
21 29 Sivan	22 30 Sivan Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	23 1 Tammuz Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	24 2 Tammuz	25 3 Tammuz KZ Virtual BOD Meeting 7:00 pm	26 4 Tammuz	27 5 Tammuz
28 6 Tammuz	29 7 Tammuz	30 8 Tammuz				

KZ Calendar July 2020

Tammuz – Av 5780

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9 Tammuz	2 10 Tammuz	3 11 Tammuz	4 12 Tammuz
5 13 Tammuz	6 14 Tammuz	7 15 Tammuz	8 16 Tammuz	9 17 Tammuz	10 18 Tammuz	11 19 Tammuz
12 20 Tammuz	13 21 Tammuz	14 22 Tammuz	15 23 Tammuz	16 24 Tammuz	17 25 Tammuz	18 26 Tammuz
19 27 Tammuz	20 28 Tammuz	21 29 Tammuz	22 1 Av Rosh Chodesh Av	23 2 Av	24 3 Av	25 4 Av
26 5 Av	27 6 Av	28 7 Av	29 8 Av Erev Tish'a B'Av	30 9 Av Tish'a B'Av	31 10 Av	

KZ Calendar August 2020**Av— Elul 5780**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11 Av
2 12 Av	3 3 Av	4 14 Av	5 15 Av Tu B'Av	6 16 Av	7 17 Av	8 18 Av
9 19 Av	10 20 Av	11 21 Av	12 22 Av	13 23 Av	14 24 Av	15 25 Av
16 26 Av	17 27 Av	18 28 Av	19 29 Av	20 30 Av Rosh Chodesh Elul	21 1 Elul Rosh Chodesh Elul	22 2 Elul
23 3 Elul	24 4 Elul	25 5 Elul	26 6 Elul	27 7 Elul KZ Virtual BOD Meeting 7:00 pm	28 8 Elul	29 9 Elul
30 10 Elul	31 11 Elul					

With heavy hearts, we regret to inform you that, until further notice, KZ will be suspending all services and public events in accordance with government guidelines.

The KZ Annual Congregational meeting and the Sisterhood meeting have been postponed, indefinitely.

Virtual Coffee & Shmooze

Thursday mornings at 10:00 am

See page 9 for further details

MAZEL TOV

On the births of

Tali Singer

Daughter of Tara and Tal Singer

Granddaughter of Janet and Arthur Werner

Great-granddaughter of Sylvia Wenger

(Correction from May 2020 bulletin)

Jacob Ethan Sachs

born April 7, 2020.

Son of Melissa Ehrlich and Garret Sachs

of Alpharetta, GA

grandson of Arlene and Irving Ehrlich

Phoenix. Sutorius

, Son of Stephanie and Kevin Sutorius

of Moraga, CA.

grandson Debbie Cieplinski

Maxwell Levi Brown

Son of Sarah Simon Brown & Adam Brown of

Rockville, MD.

1st grandchild of Jonathan & Jan Simon of
Wyomissing

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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 (610-373-3422) 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.



Coffee & Shmooze



Thursday mornings at
10:00 am

KESHER ZION COFFEE SHMOOZE

Take a break with us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am for our weekly Zoom Coffee Shmooze!

You bring the coffee, tea, or your beverage and snack of choice, and spend some time catching up with your KZ family.

Check the regular emails from the Rabbi/Hazzan and the KZ office for each week's sign in information.

KZ

Keshet Zion Synagogue



TODAH RABAH

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

General Fund:

In memory of Frances Mendelsohn

~ Cecily & David Englander

~Toby & Bernie Mendelsohn

~Joanne & Gerry Wagner

Mazel Tov to Arlene & Irving Ehrlich on the birth of their grandson Jacob Ethan Sachs

~Betsy & Al Katz

~ Solange & Paul Mintz

~Debbie & David Goldberg

Mazel Tov to Jonathan & Jan Simon on the birth of their grandson Maxwell Levi Brown

~ Solange & Paul Mintz

~Debbie & David Goldberg

In Rabbi/Hassan David B. Sislen's honor

~Sylvia Wenger



**KEEP ME
in the
LOOP**

Attention KZ congregants who do not receive email notices.

If you would like to be notified via telephone call of important community developments, please call the KZ office at 610-374-1763 and provide your name and phone number to be added to our call list.

To receive text messages from Keshet Zion, text 81010, with the message @kzsyn



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
 Betsy & Al Katz.....Proofreaders
 Lenore Meyerson.....Editor

Call the office for advertising information

*The deadline for submission of articles for the
 September 2020 Bulletin is Monday, August 3, 2020*

Contact Us

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 Synagogue**

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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



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