



bulletin

Kesher Zion Synagogue



Volume 84 Issue 6

Nisan- Iyar 5781

April 2021

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.

In This Issue

- Adult Ed
- Calendar
- Donation page
- Passover
- Thank you notes
- The Prez Sez



Because of rising COVID-19 numbers in Berks County all in-person services have been suspended until further notice.

Saturday morning services are at 9:30 via Zoom.

Minyan will be held only on the first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30pm via Zoom

Check your weekly Google Group emails and the KZ Website for Zoom links and updates.

www.kesherzion.org

Kesher Zion Synagogue 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 www.kesherzion.org

Office: 610-374-1763 Email: kesherzionoffice@gmail.com

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

The Prez Sez- Dr. Jennifer Koosed

Last year's Passover season, we were just beginning our pandemic journey. I remember being bewildered and anxious as I read the news and watched the COVID-19 numbers rise. Last spring many public parks were even closed because the virus was still being studied, and no one really knew what the risks were for outdoor transmission. I still left my house every day—but only to walk around my neighborhood. Jobs and schools had just moved on-line and we were still figuring out how to work and learn and connect digitally. The big seder planned at my sister's home became a virtual event only between our two families.



At this year's Passover, we are nearing the end of our pandemic journey. Case numbers are falling and vaccinations are increasing. Some families will be able to gather safely, although perhaps still outside and socially distanced. We have not crossed over to the Promised Land yet—every time the virus spreads it has an opportunity to mutate, and it has been taking advantage of those opportunities. Variants are emerging and spreading. Deaths are still startlingly high. But we can lift our eyes and look out to the horizon, and see our journey's end.

The walk from slavery into freedom has had its costs. We have all experienced small losses: play dates and field trips and birthday celebrations and bridge games with friends—all gone. Each missed event a small loss, but the accumulated effect still sorrowful. We have also experienced grave losses: the deaths of loved ones, made particularly sharp by the inability to gather and be with them as they died, the inability to gather and comfort each other after they were gone. We have so lost many along the way.

Yet, we will still celebrate our liberation. Sometimes our holidays express our ideals, and not necessarily our realities. This Passover may not bring liberation, not quite yet. But as we celebrate Passover in whatever way we can, we declare it to be both joyful and liberatory; we will affirm these ideals; we will in this moment act as if we are happy and free. Acting *as if* can be transformational in our attitude and positively affect our well-being; acting *as if* can sometimes be enough to transform the world. Joy is not a feeling but an act of will. Liberation is not actual but a deeply held hope. We will imagine it first to make it real.

If you want to pick up a weekday or Shabbat prayer book, or drop off your High Holiday book, kindly contact the office at 610-374-1763

There are many Mahzor Hadash books that have still not been returned. If you're unable to return them yourself please let us know and we can arrange a pick-up time and date.

Services — Adult Education

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KZ ADULT EDUCATION 2020-2021

with Dr. Robert Seesengood

כתובים

Reading the Writings: The Ketuvim in Scholarship and Popular Culture

You know, very well, the stories of Ruth and Esther. You've read Qohelet often. But how far into Psalms have you gone? Are Jewish proverbs the source of both Jewish wisdom and Jewish comedy? Are Job and Shir Hashirim dramas (or the inspiration for modern movies)? And what about Chronicles? Or the weird and mysterious book of Daniel? The Ketuvim are a fascinating collection, tucked into the back of the Bible, that is brimming with strange and interesting content. They've been a regular interest to scholars; they tell us a great deal about how ancient Jews thought and lived, and about how the Bible came together. The Ketuvim have staying power; they show up in a great deal in popular culture, and their stories brim with witty language and with characters – Esther, Ruth, David, Solomon – who are integral to Jewish imagination. This class, over the winter and spring of 2020-2021, is an opportunity to read through the Ketuvim together and discover again these wonderful Writings.

This class will be held online on the second Thursday of the month: 6:30-7:30 pm, so that those who wish to attend minyan will have adequate travel time to come to the shul.

April 8 ~ May 13 ~ June 10

You must register for the course or for an individual class in order to receive the Zoom link.

You can contact us at: keshertzionoffice@gmail.com

Dr. Robert Seesengood (Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Drew University) is Professor of Religious Studies and Associate Dean at Albright College, Reading, PA. He is the author of numerous articles and five books, all on the subject of biblical studies. He's currently at work on *American Standard: The Bible in U.S. Popular Media and Culture* (Blackwell).



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APRIL 2021

NISAN – IYAR 5781

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				19 Nisan 1 Pesah 5 Minyan 7:30pm	20 Nisan 2 Pesah 6	21 Nisan 3 Pesah 7 Passover Services 9:30am
22 Nisan 4 Pesah 8 Yizkor Passover Services 9:30am	23 Nisan 5	24 Nisan 6	25 Nisan 7	26 Nisan 8 Adult Ed 6:30pm	27 Nisan 9	28 Nisan 10 Services 9:30am
29 Nisan 11	30 Nisan 12	1 Iyar 13	2 Iyar 14	3 Iyar 15 Minyan 7:30pm	4 Iyar 16	5 Iyar 17 Services 9:30am
6 Iyar 18	7 Iyar 19	8 Iyar 20	9 Iyar 21	10 Iyar 22 BOD Meeting 7pm	11 Iyar 23	12 Iyar 24 Services 9:30am
13 Iyar 25	14 Iyar 26	15 Iyar 27	16 Iyar 28	17 Iyar 29	18 Iyar 30	



Keshher Zion Synagogue



PASSOVER 2021/5781

Saturday, April 3

Virtual KZ Passover Shabbat Services at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 4

Virtual KZ Passover Services 9:30 a.m. with Yizkor

KZ Passover Services will be virtual, to participate click the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85631162395?
pwd=ZEZRZzQ2T1VOc2RtY0NxMTNXRjBSQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85631162395?pwd=ZEZRZzQ2T1VOc2RtY0NxMTNXRjBSQT09)

Meeting ID: 856 3116 2395

Passcode: 094357

Israeli-Themed Programs April 2021

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony	Tuesday April 13	Erev Yom Hazikaron	Israeli Holiday
Taste of Memories	Wednesday April 14	Yom Hazikaron Erev Yom Ha'atzmaut	Israeli Holiday & Cooking Class
Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration - Drive-thru	Thursday April 15	Yom Ha'atzmaut	Israeli Holiday
Humans of the Holocaust	Sunday April 18	Youth program	Holocaust Education
Israeli Chef Lior Mashiach	Sunday April 18	Cooking	Israeli Cooking Class
Israeli Chef Shy Golan	Wednesday April 21	Cooking	Israeli Cooking Class
Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Eyal Dror	Sunday April 25	Speaker	Israeli Current Events

*All the events are online except for Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

Notes from: Cantor Kevin Wartell

PESACH 5781/2021

OUR JOURNEY THRU THE DESERT...EXPLORING OUR HUMAN CONDITION

One year ago...for the first time in all of our lives, and I do mean ALL of our lives, we experienced the beginning of a worldwide pandemic.

Never in our common history has anyone reading this article experienced a Passover Seder over "zoom".

None of us ever experienced living in a state of "social distancing" ...staying at least six feet apart and constantly washing our hands and wearing masks to protect us from a virus that would take more American lives than World War 1 and 2 and Vietnam combined.

And now, here we are...one year later...vaccines being distributed albeit slowly but surely.

We are beginning to see the horizons of a sunrise out of the dark nightmare of the COVID 19 experience.

How did we cope as we travelled thru this rocky road?

How has this experience changed our lives?

Our values?

Our humanity?

It always amazes me how Torah reflects the humanity of life regardless of the generations.

That is the eternal beauty of the gift of Torah...to be able to reflect on its message, whether it be as cogent as the prophetic message of "Justice" or the hidden message of the 40 years of "the desert experience" ...Torah speaks to our common humanity.

We lost an entire generation traveling from Egypt to The Promised Land...and we lost many of our loved ones this past year from a vicious virus not seen in our lifetime.

So here we are...standing on the edge of living our lives in some sense of normality once again.

Imagine how our ancestors felt as they approached the visual sight of The Promised Land of their freedom after losing their parents in the desert and melding themselves into the people hood of Israel.

Both of us...the ancient Israelites and ourselves have been given a great gift to live to breathe free once again.

Let us not waste this gift but learn from the past year that life indeed is a precious gift, and we are blessed to be able to experience it together as a sacred Keshet Zion community, caring for each other thru the wilderness to the dawn of life renewed.

It is my honor to be on this sacred journey with you!

May we all be blessed as we breathe in the fresh air of Spring, renewing our bonds with each other and savoring our gift of life renewed.

Hag Sameach

Happy Passover!

Cantor Kevin Wartell



THANK YOU NOTES

I wish to thank all my friends who extended best wishes for my recent Big Birthday, as well as the recent get well wishes

~ Bob Caster

Thank you for all of the Happy Birthday notes and wishes

~ Andi Franklin

Thank you for all of the Happy Birthday wishes and Leagram

~ Carol Gerber

Thank you for your warm wishes on my birthday

~ Sincerely, Elliott Leisawitz

Thank you everyone for my birthday cards and Leagrams. I appreciate your good wishes

~ Shirley Kauffman

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KZ Virtual Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday May 2, 2021

11:30 am

Minyan —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)

רבונו של עולם,

אלהי הרוחות לכל־בשר

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 will be held only on the first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30pm via Zoom
Check weekly emails and website for updates
www.keshertzion.org



**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.



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

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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

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

ADDITIONAL 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 funds must be paid before cards are processed.
 Mail or bring your check with complete information to the synagogue office.
 You may also donate via PayPal on our website: www.keshertzion.org*

Donations to KZ can now be made online.

Visit our website at:

<https://www.keshertzion.org/donations>

and click on the donation button.



TODAH RABAH

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

General Fund:

*Donation to Keshet Zion
 ~ Michael Leifer*

*In memory of Gloria Ferber
 ~ Sari & John Incedon*



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 keshertzionoffice@gamil.com to request an invitation to our group



Kesher Zion Synagogue



Contact Us

Kesher Zion Synagogue

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Visit us on the web at
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Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

www.kesherzion.org

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....President
Cantor Kevin WartellCantor
Dr. Jennifer Koosed.....Educational Chair
Lenore Meyerson.....Office Administrator
Betsy & Al Katz.....Proofreaders
Lenore Meyerson.....Editor

Call the office for advertising information

*The deadline for submission of articles for the
May 2021 Bulletin is Monday, April 3, 2021*

To advertise your business or services Contact KZ Office: 610-374-1763
Email: kzsecretary@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: Dr. Jennifer Koosed at 484-651-0122

Note: Regular office hours are 9am-3pm
Monday-Friday

During COVID-19 we will be working both in the office and remotely. Kindly call the office to notify us before coming in.

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