

SHEVAT



KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF KESHER ZION FEBRUARY 2025

KESHER 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.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

FEB 6
MINYAN
7PM

FEB 8
BIRTHDAY-
ANNIVERSARY
SHABBAT
9:30AM

FEB 9
WORLD WIDE
WRAP
9AM

FEB 12
TU BSHEVAT
7:00PM

FEB 15
JR.
CONGREGATION
10:30AM

FEB 20
MINYAN
7PM

FEB 21
KABBALAT
SHABBAT
6:30PM

THIS ISSUE:

CANTOR'S MESSAGE
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MESSAGE FROM
OUR PRESIDENT
PAGE 4

A LITTLE LAUGHTER
PAGE 11

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
TU B'SHVAT SEDER
WED FEB 12

7
PM





Cantor Prosnitz

Time...Time...Tempus fugit...Time marches on...

Last month, January, we celebrated the new secular year. This month, February, we will celebrate the New Year for Trees. The only Jewish holiday in this month, it is called Chamishah-Asar B’Shvat, or more simply Tu B’Shvat (both meaning the 15 th of the month of Sh’vat). Historically this was associated with the Biblical tithing of fruit. Keshar Zion will celebrate a Tu B’Shvat Seder on Wednesday, February 12 at 7 PM together with RCOS. Come, learn, enjoy! (Please contact the office to reserve your place at the seder.

The seder for this Rosh HaShanah La’lanot is a ritual that has grown in popularity. Rituals are important. David Brooks, in a recent New York Times opinion piece about the importance and value of rituals even supported his argument by referring to Maimonides and the 613 commandments (Taryag Mitzvot). Rituals are a way for us to consciously notice what is special and what might pass unappreciated as our days pass by. Truly, we are witnesses to miracles every day. But it is a challenge to be sensitized to recognize them in ordinary time. That is why in our morning prayers we have both thanks “בְּרַחֲמִים. וּבְטוֹבוֹ” / with compassion and in His goodness God renews every day, continually, the work of Creation” and praise

“הַמְחֲדֵשׁ בְּטוֹבוֹ בְּכֹל יוֹם תָּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרָאשִׁית” / He renews in His goodness, each day, continuously, the work of Creation”.



Our daily lives may have some sort of routine, or fixed (keva) pattern in which appreciation for all our gifts may not be automatic. We can make time to deliberately feel (kavannah) thankful. Shabbat, a day when we imitate God and rest from our weekly labors, is an opportunity to be mindful of the goodness we experience. When we might say a blessing (our sages suggested saying 100 each day), we might naturally think about what is happening around us and how other people may not be as fortunate as ourselves. Can prayer prompt us to react or respond?

The Biblical book of Deuteronomy is associated with this Hebrew month: These are the words which Moses spoke unto all Israel ... in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month (Deut. 1:1,3). Deuteronomy is a Mishnei Torah, a repetition of the Torah. This month Moses began his commencement addresses, charging the people to remember and observe God's teachings. One paragraph has particular prominence: Deut. 11:13-21. These words are part of the Shema prayer, and are in the tefillin worn on the hand and between the eyes, and in the mezuzot on our doorposts. These ritual objects are aids to help us make time in our lives - as we praise, labor, and love.





Eagles' Fight Song

שירת הנשרים

Ufu Nesharim..
 Yashar la-nitzachon!
 Ufu Nesharim..
 Touchdown--Shiga'on!
 Ba-ragla-yim..ba-yada-yim,
 Mamri-im ha'Nesharim.
 Ufu Nesharim,
 Atem ha-min-atz-chim!

עופו נשרים..
 ישר לנצחון!
 עופו נשרים..
 טאצ'דאון שגעון!
 ברגלים... בידיים,
 מריאים הנשרים.
 עופו נשרים..
 אתם המנצחים!

Eagles Fight Song

transcribed by Stephen Freedman

7 Fly, Ea-gles, fly, on the road to vic-to-ry Fight, Ea-gles, fight, score a
 Ufu, n'-sha-rim ba-de-rech la-ni-tza-chon Ha'ku n'-sha-rim ha-shi-

13 touch-down one, two, three. Hit'em low, hit'em high and watch our Ea-gles fly!
 gu "touch-down" a-chat sh'tayim, shalosh. Ha'ku l'ma'tah ha'ku l'malah ha-n'-sha-rim a-fim.

Fly, Ea-gles, fly, on the road to vic-to-ry!! E - A - G - L - E S EA- GLES!!
 Ufu, n'-sha-rim ba-de-rech la-ni-tza-chon!! Nun, shin, resh, yud, mem N' SHA- RIM!!



LARRY FOGELMAN

I hope your winter hasn't been too cold. Spring is near, keep your fingers crossed. I often wonder if anyone actually reads our monthly bulletin and my article. So, this month will be a test. If you remember your child's Hebrew School teacher at KZ, please email the name to Keshertzionoffice@gmail.com

We have a lot of exciting events coming in February. Please note that we have changed the time for our Thursday evening Minyans. At the request of members attending, we will be meeting at 7PM.

For all the EAGLE FANS get your Sunday Super Bowl started with our World Wide Wrap program. Learn the Mitzvah of Tefillan. We will also be having our Birthday/Anniversary celebration, a joint Tu Bishvat Sedar celebration with RCOS, Junior Congregation and Friday night service. All dates and times are included in the bulletin and will be sent out with our weekly announcements.

Looking forward to seeing you in February at one of our many events.
GO EAGLES

Larry



February Events

**BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY
SHABBAT
FEB 8 9:30AM**



**WORLD WIDE WRAP
COME AND LEARN ABOUT
THE MITZVAH OF
TEFILLAN**

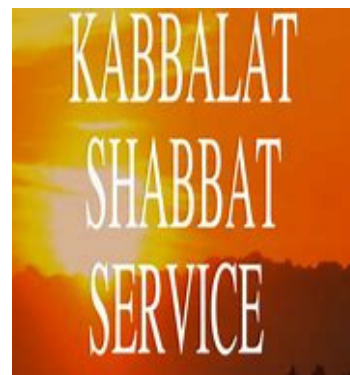
SUN FEB 9 9AM



**JR, CONGREGATION
FEB 15 10:30AM**



**TU B'SHEVAT SEDER
WEDNESDAY FEB 12 7PM**



FRIDAY 21 6:30PM



**THURSDAY
MINYAN
FEB 6 & 20
7:00PM**



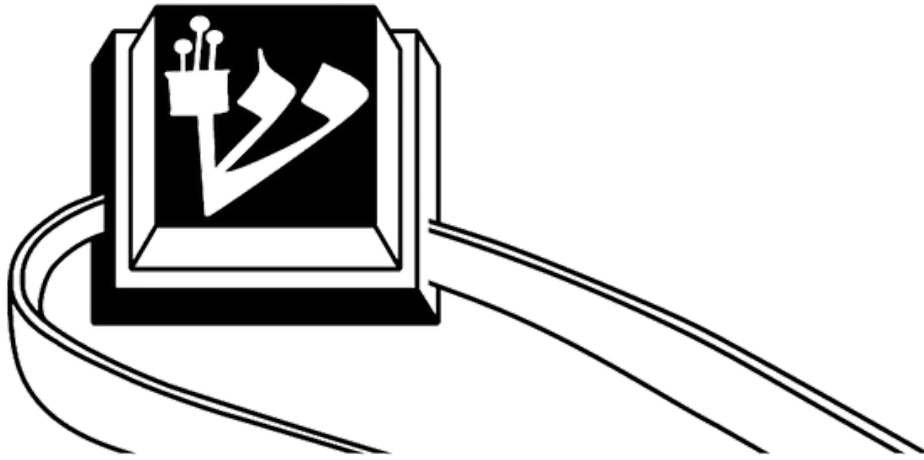
Keshher Zion Synagogue



Sunday
February 9th
9:00am
in the Chapel

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.

**You better believe
this is pretty heady stuff.**



**Join our “Wrap Sessions” and learn
the secrets behind the mitzvah.**

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



Visit the website! www.WorldWideWrap.org



REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM



Keshet Zion Synagogue



Please Join
REFORM CONGREGATION
OHEB SHOLOM and
KESHER ZION

for a joint Tu B'Shvat Seder on
Wed., February 12th @ 7:00pm

with sponsorship from



There is no cost to attend. RSVPs are welcomed but not required. If you have any questions, please contact RCOS at 610-375-6034 or Keshet Zion at 610-374-1763.

On Tu B'Shvat, we celebrate a New Year for the Trees, rejoicing in the fruit of the tree and the fruit of the vine. Some celebrate with a special Tu B'Shvat Seder modeled off the Passover Seder, featuring special fruit from Ha'Aretz. Tu B'Shvat anticipates the beginning of spring in Israel while sustaining rains are at their peak.

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

555 WARWICK DRIVE, WYOMISSING, PA 19610

PHONE #: 610-375-6034

EMAIL: TEMPLE.OFFICE@OHEBSHOLOM.ORG

**Please join us for Kabbalat Shabbat on
FRIDAY February 21st, 2025 at
6:30PM**



DESSERT TO FOLLOW

For more information please contact
KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM
(610) 374-1763

KESHER ZION

Youth Events

Synagogue Skills & Chinuch

**Ages 8-10 Meets Thursdays from
3:30 PM-4:30 PM
2 classes per month, approximately**

**Ages 11-13 Meets Tuesdays from
3:30 PM-4:30 PM
weekly**



Junior Congregation

Held once a month, usually the 3rd Shabbat

(Sticker Board for attendance)

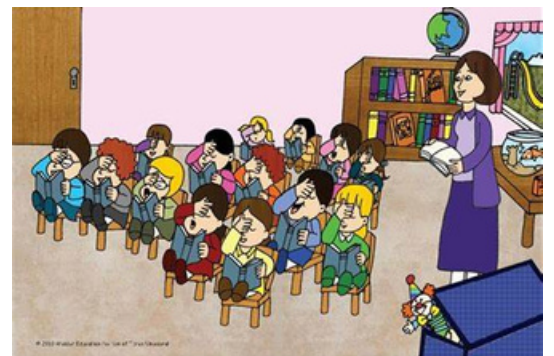
UPCOMING JR. CONGREGATION

February 15th

March 15th

April 19th

May 17th



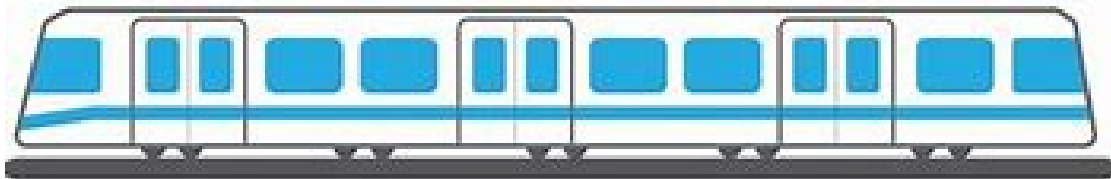


A LITTLE LAUGHTER



JACOB FROM RUSSIA HAD JUST COMPLETED A TRAINING COURSE TITLED, 'IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH' AND WAS TAKING AN ORAL EXAM. THE EXAMINER ASKED HIM TO SPELL "CULTIVATE." JACOB SPELLED IT CORRECTLY.

THEN THE EXAMINER ASKED JACOB TO USE THE WORD 'CULTIVATE' IN A SENTENCE. JACOB THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE, THEN REPLIED, "LAST VINTER, ON A VERY COLD DAY, I VAS VAITING FOR DE BUS BUT IT VAS TOO CULTIVATE SO I TOOK AN UNDERGROUND TRAIN HOME."

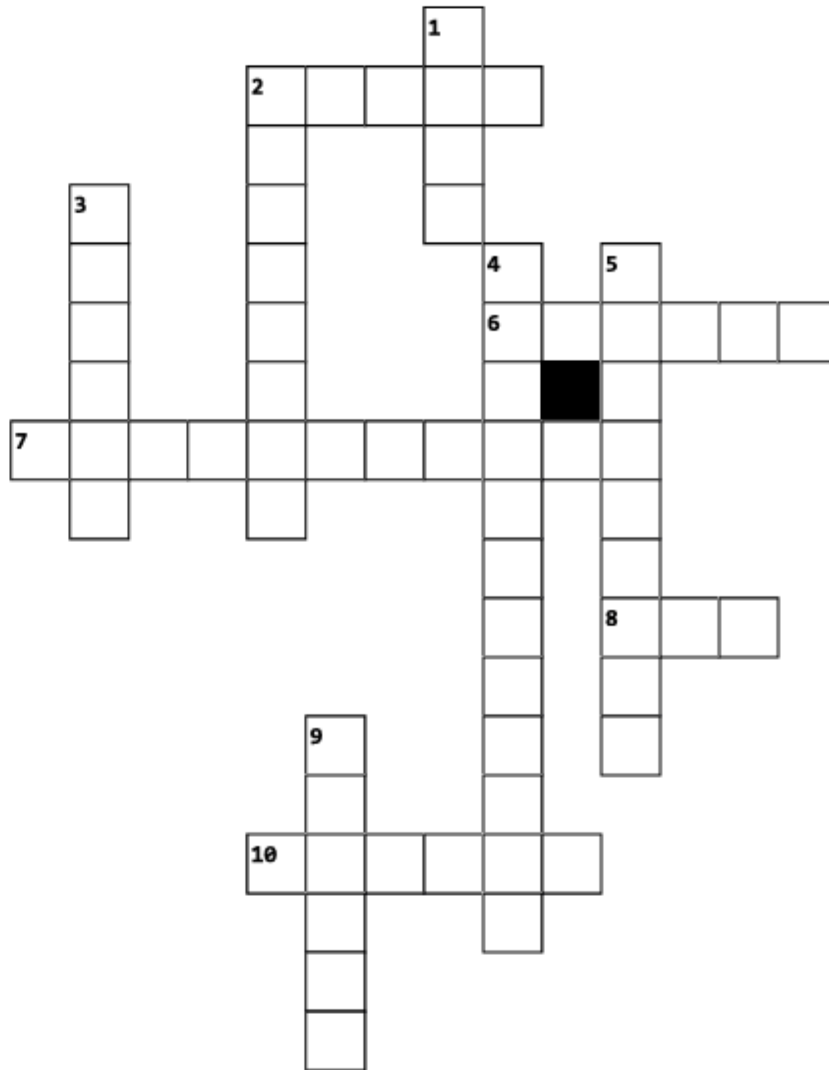


On his way to work one morning, Nathan arrives at Penn station a bit early. While he's waiting for his train, he notices a new machine on the platform - the sign on it says it's a state-of-the-art talking weighing machine. So Nathan stands on it, puts in a \$1 bill and the machine says, "You weigh 160 pounds and you are Jewish."

Nathan can't believe what he's just heard. So he gets on it again and inserts another \$1 bill. "You weigh 160 pounds, you are Jewish and you're waiting for the 7:35am train to take you to your job at the Bank."

He is totally shocked, but he's determined to beat the machine. He goes into the mens room, ruffles up his hair, puts on a pair of dark sunglasses, removes his tie, takes off his jacket and drapes it over his arm, and puts a first aid plaster on his chin. He then goes back outside, steps on the machine and puts in another \$1. The machine instantly says, "You're still Jewish and weigh 160 pounds. You're also a shlimazel, you just missed your train."

Tu B'Shevat



Across

- 2. We eat this food on Tu B'Shevat
- 6. Another one of the seven spices. They are salty. Some people like them on their pizza or salads.
- 7. Tu B'Shevat reminds us of our responsibility to help protect this.
- 8. Tu B'Shevat is the _____ Year for Trees.
- 10. One of the seven spices; it's a grain you might find in your cereal.

Down

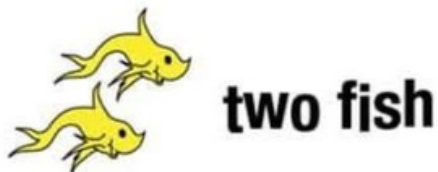
- 1. One of the seven spices; lots of us enjoy it in their newton form.
- 2. The English name of the month that Tu B'Shevat usually falls in.
- 3. This is a nut - it grows on pretty trees in Israel.
- 4. Another one of the seven spices. These are fruit and the rumor is that they have 613 seeds.
- 5. Tu B'Shevat falls on the ____ day of the month of Shevat.
- 9. This is the fruit that wine is made out of. It's also a popular juice.

Yahrzeit Messages

Because of our recent upgrade to Shalom Cloud software, we will be sending the Yahrzeit notices as letters rather than post cards, starting with the Adar (and Adar 1 and Adar 2) notices. The information will be the same, it will look slightly different and will be on a full page letter. You can still send the donation (\$5.00 minimum) to Cynthia at her address, writing a check to Keshet Zion Synagogue. And you can continue to pay in advance so that your notice will be marked "PAID".

We will also have the option now of sending the notices by email. If you prefer to receive your notices by email (saving trees and also money for KZ) please let Cynthia know at crbalchunas@comcast.net

Sincerely,
Cynthia Balchunas





TORAH FUND 2024-2025



Am Yisroel Chai

If you can translate this title (The People of Israel Live) you can thank a Hebrew school teacher, rabbi or lay leader.

I know we have been asked to donate to Israel in her hour of great need since the horrific attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023. We have seen protests world-wide against the state of Israel. And most unfortunately, some of our own Jewish people have rallied against Israel. Why? They are ignorant of history and the true struggles of the Jewish people. The Torah Fund of Conservative Judaism is also asking for your financial donations to help educate our future Jewish teachers and clergy. We must insure that future generations learn our history in order to work for Israel's survival!

“Am Yisroel Chai” is an expression of Jewish solidarity for the Jewish nation and the continuity of the Jewish people.

All contributions to the Torah Fund are welcome; a special donation of \$180 will be thanked with a pin saying, “Am Yisroel Chai”. Please include a Torah Fund donation with your Keshet Zion dues payment.

Remember Torah Fund all year with the purchase of cards for all occasions: Simchas, births, condolences and congratulation. The cost of a card is only \$5 and this includes the postage and mailing.

Call Arlene Ehrlich: 610-373-6648



**A DONATION WAS MADE TO
KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE WISHING
A MAZEL TOV TO
SYLVIA WENGER ON THE
BIRTH OF HER NEW
GREAT GRAND DAUGHTER
SHIRI FINGER**

**BY
LOUISE ZEIDMAN**

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



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Jeffrey Stefanick, OD

Kerry J. Burrell, OD
Amanda S. Legge, OD
Leslie B. Miller, OD

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717-866-1400

DOUGLASSVILLE
610-385-4333

WYOMISSING
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
March Bulletin is Wednesday,
Feb. 18, 2025

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
9:00am-2:00pm

To advertise your business or services

Contact KZ Office : 610-374-1763

Email: keshherzionoffice@gmail.com



Tzedakah

צדקה



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

**KESHER ZION GENERAL FUND.....\$10 MIN
DR. ROBERT N. GREENBERG SCHOLAR-IN-
RESIDENCE PROGRAM FUND.....\$18 MIN
KIDDUSH FUND.....\$36**

**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**

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 Seminaries 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

