

KESHER ZION MISSION

We are a Conservative synagogue serving Berks County, Pennsylvania since 1929. Kesher 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.

DECEMBER EVENTS

DEC. 14 BIRTHDAY-ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT 9:30AM

> DEC. 20 KABBALAT SHABBAT 6:30PM

DEC.21 JR. CONGREGATION 10:30AM

DEC 28
HANNUKAH PARTY
6:00PM

THIS ISSUE:

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A LITTLE LAUGHTER PAGE 11





Let There Be Light

Rome and Judeah had different characters, but also shared some things in common. December was the 10th month (from decem, as in decimal) in the ancient Roman calendar (till a calendar change in 153 BCE). Kislev, which usually corresponds to December, is the 10th month in the Hebrew calendar. The 25th of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem following the successful revolt by the Maccabees against the Syrian-Greeks (165 BCE). In the Roman calendar the 25th of December was the time of the winter solstice - the shortest day of the year, when ancient people feared the sun might not return. Lights were lit by Romans who feared the sun might not return. Lights were lit by Jews who were thankful to Hashem for the miracle of Hanukkah.

(אַרְרַחֲנָבַת ,On Hanukkah, Psalm 30, a psalm of thankfulness, is part of our prayers. It begins Mizmor, Shir Hanukat Habayit/ A Psalm; a Song for the Dedication of the Temple. The / הַבַּיִת לְדָוִד , psalm concludes, "that [my] whole being might sing hymns to You endlessly; O LORD my God, I will praise You forever." The most popular Hanukkah custom is to light a menorah (actually a special menorah/candelabra specifically for this holiday called a Hanukkiah). In order to publicize the miracle of Hanukkah (the military victory per the Book of the Maccabees) we display the Hanukkah Menorah publicly, in our windows, and in Israel outside our doorstep opposite the mezuzah during .this Festival of Light

The causes behind the Maccabean revolt included culture wars-the attempt to force Hellenic culture on the Judean population, the outlawing of Jewish practices, and the demand that Jews abandon their belief in the God of Israel. The revolt against the Syrian-Greeks of the Seleucid Empire was successful. But the subsequent political appeal for help led to later subjugation to the Roman Empire. No wonder Rabban Gamliel warned, "Be guarded in your relations with the ruling power; for they who exercise it draw no man near to them except for their own interests" (Ethics of the Fathers 2:3).

Chanukkah's Best-Known Hymn Is Not Really Well-Known

The hymn Maoz Tzur, popularly known in English as Rock of Ages, has more than the one stanza that is commonly sung. Furthermore, the standard English version does not even make clear the specific connection to Chanukkah-Chanukat hamizbe-ach-the dedication of the defiled and now cleansed altar. Each of the stanzas refer to one of the four classic exiles or oppressions. Look for the key words that connect to the Egyptian (Pharoah), Babylonian (Bavel), and Persian (the Aggagite refers to Haman of Purim infamy) periods. Only in the 5th stanza is Hanukkah referenced (Greeks/Y'vanim). The poem is constructed beautifully with modern rhyming of lines and even within lines (egmor/mizmor; uvyado/paroh; etc.)

The paytan/poet signed his creation using the letters of his name, מרדכי, to begin each stanza. In the response to vicious European anti-Jewish behavior in the 16th century(300 years after the poem was understood to have been composed., another stanza using אדמון/the red one as a euphemism for Rome/Christian persecution. Here is all of Maor Tzur. It is worth looking at.

Karen and I hope you and your families have a light-filled holiday appreciating our freedom to practice our faith in peace and happiness.

חג חנוכה שמח



M A O Z

Hebrew

מָעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי, לְךְ נָאֶה לְשַׁבֵּחַ תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תְּפִּלָּתִי, וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה

ּלְעֵת תָּכִין מַטְבֵּחַ מִצָּר הַמְנַבֵּחַ. אָז אָגְמוֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזָבֵּחַ.

ָרְעוֹת שֶׂבְעָה נַפְשִׁי, בְּיָגוֹן כֹּחִי כּלה

חַיַּי מֵרְרוּ בָּקֹשִׁי, בְּשִׁעְבּוּד מַלְכוּת עגלה

וּבְיָדוֹ הַגְּדוֹלָה הוֹצִיא אֶת הַסְּגֻלָּה חֵיל פָּרְעֹה וִכָל זַרְעוֹ יַרְדוּ כְּאֵבֶן

בִּמְצוּלָה.

דְּבִיר קָדְשׁוֹ הֶבִיאַנִי, וְגַם שָׁם לֹא שׁקטתּי

וֹבָא נוֹגֵשׁ וְהִגְּלַנִי, כִּי זָרִים עָבַדְתִּי וְיֵין רַעַל מַסָּכִתִּי, כִּמעֵט

> שֶׁעָבַרְתִּי קֵץ בָּבֶל זְרָבָּבֶל, לְקֵץ שִׁבְעִים

נוֹשַׁעְתִּי כָּרוֹת קוֹמַת בָּרוֹשׁ בִּקֵשׁ, אֲנָגִי בָּן

בְּוֹת אונות בְּוֹ וֹפ בִּגֵּוְפ, אֲנָגִּיּ בָּן הַמְּדָתָא

וְנָהְיָתָה לוֹ לְפַח וּלְמוֹקֵשׁ, וְגַאֲוָתוֹ נִשְׁבָּתָה

> רֹאשׁ יְמִינִי נִשֵּׂאתָ, וְאוֹיֵב שְׁמוֹ מחית

רֹב בָּנָיו וְקִנְיָנִיו עַל הָעֵץ תָּלִיתָ. יְוָנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עַלִי, אֲזַי בִּימֵי

חַשְׁמַנִּים

וּפָּרְצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְדָּלַי, וְטִמְּאוּ כָּל השׁמנים

> וּמִנּוֹתַר קַנְקַנִּים נַעֲשָׂה נֵס

לַשׁוֹשַׁנִּים

ּבְּנֵי בִינָה יְמֵי שְׁמוֹנָה קָבְעוּ שִׁיר וּרננים

חֲשׂוֹף זרוֹעַ קדְשֶׁרְ וְקָרֵב קֵץ הישׁוּעה

ַבְּרָב. נְקֹם נִקְמַת עֲבָדֶיךָ (דָם) מֵאֻמָּה

הָרְשָׁעָה כִּי אָרְכָה הַשָּׁעָה וְאֵין קֵץ לִימֵי

הָרָעָה דְּחֵה אַדְמוֹן בְּצֵל צַלְמוֹן הָקֵם לָנוּ רוֹעִים שָׁבַעָה

TZUR

Romanization

Ma'oz Tzur Yeshu'ati, lekha na'eh leshabe'ach.

Tikon beit tefilati, v'sham toda nezabe'ach.

Le'et takhin matbe'ach mitzar hamnabe'ach.

Az egmor beshir mizmor chanukat hamizbe'ach. Ra'ot save'ah nafshi, b'yagon kochi kala.

Chayai mereru v'koshi, b'shi'abud malkhut egla. Uvyado hagdola hotzi et hasgula.

Cheil par'o v'khol zar'o yaredu ke'even bimtzula.

D'vir kodsho hevi'ani, v'gam sham lo shakateti.

Uva noges v'higlani, ki zarim avadti.

V'yein ra'al masakhti, kim'at she'avarti.

Ketz Bavel Z'rubavel, l'ketz shiv'im nosha'ati.

K'rot komat berosh bikesh, Agagi ben Hamdatah. v'niheyata lo l'fach ulemokesh,

v'ga'avato nishbata.

Rosh y'mini niseta, ve'oyev shmo machita.

Rov banav v'kinyanav al ha'etz talita.

Yvanim nikbetzu alai, azai bimei Chashmanim.

Ufartzu chomot migdalai, v'tim'u kol hashmanim.

Uminotar kankanim na'asa nes lashoshanim.

B'nei vina y'mei shmona kav'u shir ur'nanim.

Chasof z'ro'a kodshekha, v'karev ketz hayeshu'a.

N'kom nikmat (dam) avadeikha me'uma haresha'a.

Ki arkha hasha'a, v'ein ketz limei hara'a.

D'cheh admon betzel tzalmon, hakem lanu ro'im shiv'a.

Translation[15]

My Refuge, my Rock of Salvation! Tis pleasant to sing Your praises. Let our house of prayer be restored. And there we will offer You our thanks.

When You will have slaughtered the barking foe.

Then we will celebrate with song and psalm the altar's dedication.

My soul was sated with misery, my strength was spent with grief.

They embittered my life with hardship, When enslaved under the rule of Eavot.

But God with His mighty power
Brought out His treasured people;
While <u>Pharaoh</u>'s host and followers
Sank like a stone into the deep.
He brought me to His holy abode. Even there, I found no rest.

The oppressor came and exiled me, Because I served strange gods, and drank poisonous wine.[a] Yet scarcely had I gone into exile, When Babylon fell and Zerubbabel took charge; Within seventy years I was saved.

The <u>Agagite,[b]</u> son of Hammedatha, plotted to cut down the lofty fir;[c] But it proved a snare to him, and his insolence was silenced.

You raised the head of the Benjamite, but the enemy's name You blotted out. His numerous sons and his household You hanged upon the gallows.

The Greeks gathered against me, in days of the <u>Hasmoneans</u>.

They broke down the walls of my towers, and defiled all the oils. But from the last remaining flask a miracle was wrought for the Jews.[d] Therefore the sages of the day ordained these eight for songs of praise.

O bare Your holy arm and bring the end [of] salvation.[e]

Wreak vengeance upon the (blood of the) wicked nation, On behalf of your faithful servants.

For deliverance has too long been delayed; And the evil days are endless.

O Reject the enemy[f] into the shadows of idolatry,[g] and set up for us the seven shepherds.[h]

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

1

בָּרוּהְ אַתָּה אֵ-דֹנָי אֵ-לֹקֵינוּ מֶלֶהְ הָעוֹלֶם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמָצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חנכה.

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lohe-nu Me-lech ha-olam a-sher ki-de-sha-nu be-mitzvo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner Cha-nu-kah.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light. 2

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֵ-דֹנָי אֵ-לֹקֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלֶם שֶׁעְשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזִּמֵן הַזָּה.

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lohe-nu Me-lech Ha-olam she-a-sa ni-sim la-avo-te-nu ba-ya-mim ha-hem bi-zman ha-zeh.

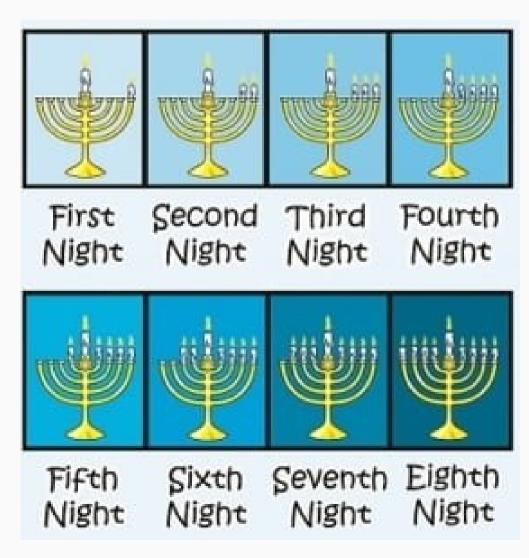
Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time. 3

בָּרוּהְ אַתָּה אֲ-דֹנָי אֱ-לֹקֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהָגִּיעָנוּ לִזְמַן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lohe-nu Me-lech Ha-olam she-heche-ya-nu ve-ki-yima-nu ve-higi-a-nu liz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion. S a y
O n l y
o n
f i r s t
n i g h t









LARRY FOGELMAN

Winter is finally here. It is cold outside but we have many events this month that will warm you up.

Thursday evening Minyan will be on December 5 and 19. Once a month at Saturday morning service we will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries for the month. The Cantor will contact you hoping you will come to services and receive an honor. This will occur on the 2nd Saturday of the month

Another new event will be Friday Night Services. Our 1st service will be on Friday December 20 at 6:30PM. Come and join with your fellow congregates in the service.

We will continue with our Junior Congregation on Saturday Dec 21st. On Saturday December 28 at 6:00PM we will be having our Chanukah celebration. Bring your Menorahs and candles, we will have food and games for the children.

Hope to see you at one of our many events this month Larry

TODAH RABAH TO
OUR K.Z FRIENDS FOR
BOTH OUR
HEARTWARMING
BIRTHDAY WISHES,
FRED & EILEEN
KNOBLAUCH WAGNER

THANK YOU TO
EVERYBODY
WHO WISHED US A
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.

BETH AND BOB CASTER

KESHER ZION

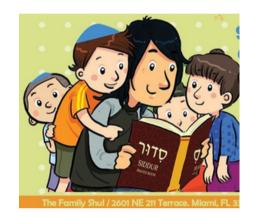
Youth Events

Synagogue Skills & Chinuch

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

12/5, 12/19, 1/2, 1/16, 1/30

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





Held once a month, usually the 3rd
Shabbat
(Sticker Board for attendance)

UPCOMING JR. CONGREGATION
12/21
1/18
2/15

FAMILY SHABBAT JANUARY 21ST

Ages 8-10

12/5, 12/19,
12/28 KZ Congregational
Chanukkah
Candle Lighting
1/18/2025 Family Service

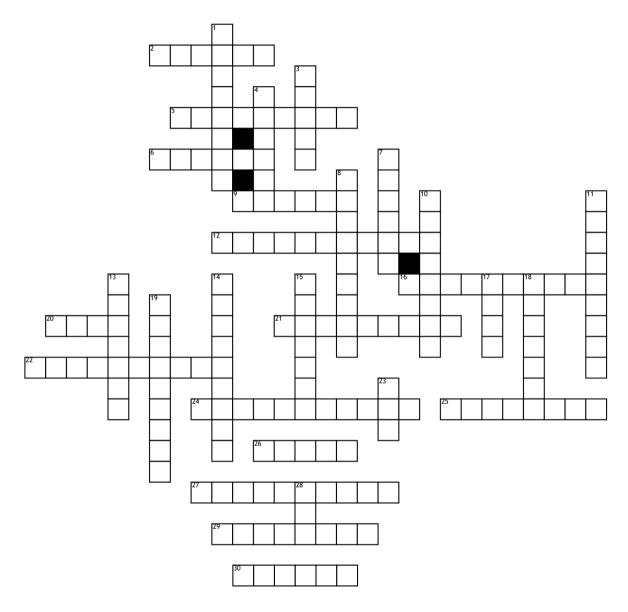
Synagogue Skills



Ages 11-13

12/28 KZ Congregational
Chanukkah
Candle Lighting
1/18/2025 Family Service

Chanukah



Across

- **2.** new altar dedication month
- **5.** conquerer of Syria, Egypt & Palestine
- 6. the quiet town of priests
- 9. Judah's brother
- 12. Greek-like
- **16.** rebellion leader with 5 sons
- 20. we'll all dance the ____
- 21. Holy Temple locale

- **22.** strawberry filling container
- 24. Menorah
- **25.** ______ festival
- **26.** gelt
- 27. Chanukah meaning
- 29. nine / how many
- 30. oil based foods

Down

- 1, 00
- **3.** part of the Ptolemaic Kingdom
- 4. mother of seven

- 7. Festival of
- 8. The Madman
- 10. Judah the _____
- 11. Syrian-Greeks
- 13. a useful candle
- 14. when to light
- 15. Torah study concealer
- **17.** ____-worship
- 18. Holofernes assassin
- 19. gift-giving inspiration
- 23. nothing
- 28. gimel



PLEASE JOIN US ON
SHABBAT, DECEMBER 14
AS WE CELEBRATE ALL
DECEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS
AND ANNIVERSARIES



FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SPONSOR KIDDISH
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT
(610)374-1763
OR EMAIL KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

BRING YOUR MENORAHS

THE HIGHT









PLEASE JOIN US
ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 28
AT 6 PM FOR

KESHER ZION'S ANNUAL HANNUKAH PARTY

RSVP'S ARE APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE EMAIL
THE OFFICE AT
KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL (610)374-1763



Q: WHY DON'T JEWISH MOTHERS DRINK?

A: ALCOHOL INTERFERES WITH THEIR SUFFERING.



Q: WHY DO JEWISH MOTHERS MAKE GREAT PAROLE OFFICERS?

A: THEY NEVER LET ANYONE FINISH A SENTENCE!

TWO OLD FRIEND

S MEET AFTER A SEPERATION OF MANY YEARS. SAM YOU OLD SO AND SO. YOU'VE BEEN MARRIED OVER THIRTY YEARS BY NOW.

HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE FRESH.

MY WIFE AND I DISCUSSED IT WHEN WE GOT MARRIED AND DECIDED DINNER OUT ONCE A WEEK WOULD BE NICE.

SO WE CHECKED OUT THE GOOD PLACES NEAR US AND PICKED A NICE ONE. I GO TUESDAYS, SHE GOES THURSDAYS.



A MAN IS LAYING ON THE OPERATING TABLE, ABOUT TO BE OPERATED ON BY HIS SON, THE SURGEON.

THE FATHER SAYS, "SON, THINK OF IT THIS WAY ... IF ANYTHING

HAPPENS TO ME, YOUR MOTHER IS COMING TO LIVE WITH YOU."

A RABBI RECOUNTED THIS STORY:

WITH ALL THE INSTANT MESSAGING AND TEXTING LINGO GOING AROUND - WITH ABBREVIATIONS LIKE "LOL" AND "OMG" AND "BTW" - I ASKED A YOUNG LADY NAMED KAILA IF SHE WOULD BE GOING TO SHUL THIS SHABBAT, AND SHE REPLIED TO ME "JFK."

"JFK? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?", I ASKED.

KAILA ANSWERED POLITELY, "JUST FOR KIDDUSH."





KESHER ZION SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MITZVAH PROJECT HANDING OUT BOOKS AT THE FOOD PANTRIES

The Kesher Zion Social Action Committee has just completed another mitzvah project. We have spent the last month and a half collecting children's books that were handed out at the Federation's food pantries. We are proud to have helped these families in need and hope our gift of books will help these young children learn English and find a love of reading. We want to thank all those in the community who donated books to complete our mitzvah project!





Kesher Zion is so proud of our members doing mitzvot.





Delivering food to New Journey Food Bank with our friends at Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

"WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET. WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE"

- SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL





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 Kesher
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 IN MEMORY OF MARK H. GOLDBERG BY CAROL GOLDBERG A DONATION WAS MADE
TO KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE IN
MEMORY OF JENNIFER KOOSED'S
STEPFATHER
BY
SUE WILSON

PLEASE CONTINUE PRAYING FOR OUR HOSTAGES HELD IN GAZA

SHOMER YISRAEL, GUARDIAN OF ISRAEL,
WE CALL OUT TO YOU WITH FERVENT PLEA AND PRAYER TO BLESS
AND PROTECT THE CIVILIAN MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN BRUTALLY
KIDNAPPED BY HAMAS AND HELD CAPTIVE IN GAZA, ALONG WITH
THE MEMBERS OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSE FORCES MISSING IN ACTION OR
HELD CAPTIVE.

MAY IT BE YOUR WILL, SPEEDILY AND SOON, TO BRING THEM OUT FROM DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH. MAY THE HOLY ONE OF BLESSING BREAK THEIR BONDS, DELIVER THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESS, AND RELEASE THEM SWIFTLY BACK TO THE LOVING EMBRACE OF THEIR DEAR ONES.

DO ALL THAT MUST BE DONE SO THAT RELIEF, RESCUE, AND LONG LIFE MAY BE THE LOT OF EVERY ONE OF THE SOLDIERS AND THE CIVILIANS WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE.

ACT ON THEIR BEHALF, LORD. TAKE UP THEIR CAUSE WITHOUT DELAY, SO THAT YOU FULFILL THROUGH THEM YOUR VERSE FROM ISAIAH: "THOSE REDEEMED BY THE LORD WILL RETURN; THEY WILL ENTER ZION WITH SINGING, AND EVERLASTING JOY WILL CROWN THEIR HEADS. GLADNESS AND JOY WILL OVERTAKE THEM, AND SORROW AND SIGHING WILL FLEE AWAY."

SO MAY IT BE YOUR WILL, AND LET US SAY: AMEN.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED







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KESHER ZION BULLETIN PG17



Affliated 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 Dec. Bulletin is Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024

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> Office hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 10:00am-3:00pm

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

Email: kesherzionoffice@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.....\$6 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

TORAH FUND

Cards available for all occasions. Funds are used to support the Jewish Theological Seminaries Programs and Scholoarship Funds. Call Arlene Ehrlich at (610) 373-6648 to have cards sent for \$5 each.

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.....

SIMCHA FUND Cards
available for all
occasions call Sylvia
Wenger at (610) 3753422 to have cards sent
for \$1.50 each or for
purchase for personal
use for \$1 each