NEW TORAH & ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 7

We are delighted to announce that we expect to welcome and dedicate our new Torah scroll on Sunday, June 7, prior to our annual meeting.

We hope the entire community can participate in the joyful marching, singing and dancing and the dedication ceremony that will take place as the kick-off to the annual meeting. The last time we had the chance to do this as a community was 18 years ago when we dedicated our current Torah scroll. We look forward to seeing many of you then and to celebrating together this significant communal life cycle event.

Please watch the the Weekly Update for specific times and details of our Torah dedication and annual meeting.

BAT MITZVAH

Please join us as our daughter

RACHEL BENEDETTA ANTENUCCI RADDOCK

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m.

The whole community is invited to join us for a light luncheon after the service

Chris Antenucci & Mike Raddock

B’NAI MITZVAH

Please join us as our children

JOHN HENRY PRINTZ LEWIS

&

CELIA BELLE MONROE LEWIS

are called to the Torah as B’nai Mitzvah Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Light kiddush lunch to follow.

All are invited!

Ben Lewis & Bellamy Printz

RSVP by May 20: bfprintz@gmail.com

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Values Team, Committees and Their Leaders

Welcoming & Caring:
- Lila Hanft
  • Hesed – Robin Holzman & Martha Schubert
  • Haver Kadisha – Lois Selker & Rachel Kay
  • Calendar - Itsik Kittila & Kelli Birch
  • Newsletter – Lila Hanft
  • Proofreaders – David Roberts, Deena Epstein, Marcia Goldberg, Itsik Kittila
  • Weekly Update – Robin Holzman
  • Website – Benjamin Barnett & Brian Miller
  • Marketing/PR – Deena Epstein & Halle Barnett
  • Tech Support – Brian Miller

Spiritual:
- Bill Scher-Marcus
  • Religious Practices – Karal Stern & Open
  • Holidays – Amy Hogg
  • Meditation – Nancy Rubel & Karly Whitaker
  • Music – Open
  • Security Corps – Open

Learning:
- Leah Kamionkowski & Glenda Kupersmith-Kopstein
  • Youth & Family Education – Sue Pelleg
  • Adult Education – Maureen Hack
  • Young Families/Tot Shabbat – Rachel Williams & Josh Chefitz
  • Child Care Coordinator – Traci Elgart
  • Torah Study – Ralph and Selma Gwatkin
  • Book Group – Kevin Weidenbaum
  • Lunch and Learn – Open

Involved:
- Karly Whitaker

Greater Cleveland Congregations – Allen Binstock, Dick & Donna Weinberger
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Nancy Dudwick
Israel Dialogue Group – Karly Whitaker & Mike Armin
Environmental Sustainability – Miriam Geronimus

Fiscal Sustainability:
- Open
  • Fundraising – Margaret Cohen, Barry Epstein & Greg Selker
  • Mock Trial – Open
  • Cemetery – Mike Armin

Participatory:
- Miriam Geronimus
  • Membership – Itsik Kittila
  • Greeters – Kelli Birch (Office Manager)
  • Kiddush – Kelli Birch (Office Manager)
  • High Holy Days – Marcia Goldberg
  • Women’s Group – Happy Wallach
  • Interfaith Families – Leah Kamionkowski
  • Leadership Development – Greg Selker & Leah Kamionkowski

Committees Directly Accountable to the Board:
- Finance – Pete Robertson & Greg Selker
- Ratner Liaison – Mike Caputo
- Rabbi Liaison – Selma Gwatkin & Barry Epstein
- Strategic Planning – Greg Selker
- Nominating – Sue Pelleg

June Newsletter Deadline: Friday, May 15
REDEMPTION: NOT IN ONE FELL SWOOP BUT IN BABY STEPS

Having recently celebrated what many have called the foundational holiday of our tradition, it strikes me that there is an interesting tension that is created by the energy of this holiday, Passover.

The tension as I see it has to do with the expectations that are created by the extremely dramatic narrative of the Exodus with its plagues and Divine intervention; the trajectory of the Exodus story implies not only that redemption can take place in one fell swoop, but that a dramatic redemption like that in Exodus is the ideal, and that anything less dramatic would fall short in some important way.

These expectations for stories of redemption very often exist in contrast to our actual experience of the world and our lives. In place of stark black and white, we see that we live for the most part within various shades of gray. Instead of immediate and self-evident transformation, we live, if we’re lucky, with two steps forward and one step back. While it’s true that the larger narrative context of the biblical exodus does a much better job of capturing the reality of this more subtle and messy process, the holiday itself, and the seder ritual in particular, is focused intensively on that revolutionary moment.

Now, it may be that we need a shot of that energy of profound possibility at least once a year to help us remain hopeful for and open to redemption happening on any level, but if we get too caught up in the exodus moment, we run the risk of overlooking the much smaller redemptive baby steps that happen with much more frequency to much less fanfare.

One example of such a step took place recently in Jerusalem when the group Women of the Wall (WOW) who have been gathering to celebrate the monthly minor holiday of Rosh Hodesh for nearly 30 years, held a service at the Western Wall which included reading from a full-sized Torah scroll for the first time. This was not the first time a service with a Torah had taken place, but on the previous occasions, the scroll had to be small enough to avoid detection by the security personnel. This time, though, the reading was proudly public, making use of one of the “official” scrolls kept at the Wall, usually reserved only for men.

Though many who support the goals of WOW will be pleased to hear that this ceremony took place, they might not pay so much attention to the redemptive baby step represented by the size of the scroll or by how it was acquired for use. According to the biblical narrative, the Israelites were slaves for 400 years before they reached the stage that proved they were ready to move in a redemptive direction. But the situation could not have been static for that entire 400 period. There must have been shifts in thought, in conversation and in behavior that paved the way for the dramatic crescendo. May we, as we continue to work on integrating the power of this story, remain attuned to the dynamics of redemption however they may happen to appear in our own lives, in the life of the Jewish people and in the life of the world.

(Rabbi Steve is available to meet with Kol HaLev members on a range of issues by appointment on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Contact him at 216-320-1498 or at rabbisteve@kolhalev.net.)

(Photo from Women of the Wall's Facebook page)
Do the Reconstruction

based on “The Locomotion” by Carole King and Gerry Goffin
New Lyrics by Cantor Beth Friedman-Romell

Everybody’s doin’ a brand-new dance, now
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
It’s full of groovy liturgy and fun New-Age chants, now
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
It all began with Mordecai, who wanted to please
The Jews of the United States with his 4-Bs
So come on, come on do the Reconstruction with me.

Well, open up my lips now
Drum on, baby!
Stand up!
Sit down!
Now let’s all sing it in a round...

“We love Jewish Peoplehood!” that’s our refrain, now
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
A chug-a, chug-a sefer, that we want to explain, now
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
A guided meditation and a “one-breath” Shema --
Forget about the keva; go for kavanah
So come on, come on do the Reconstruction with me.

God ain’t supernatural; we reject that notion
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
And don’t say “bachar banu,” ’cause no, we ain’t Chosen
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
And predicate theology means that we must do
The jobs we used to leave to God to pull us through
So come on, come on do the Reconstruction with me.

Well, open up my lips now
Drum on, baby!
Stand up!
Sit down!
Now let’s all sing it in a round...

Belonging and behaving, believing, becoming
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
Potlucks, retreats, talent shows and guitars a strumming
(come on baby, do the Reconstruction)
The past may have a vote now, that’s only right
But hurry up and veto or we’ll be here all night!
So come on, come on, do the Reconstruction with me.

c. 2015
DRUM CIRCLE — FINAL DAY
We send wishes for a refuah shleyma, a complete and speedy healing, to Abe Chasin, Louis and Julie Handler, Sam Kelman, Ron Kohn, Ben Lewis, Jean Miller, Pauline Raymond, and Roberta Tonti. We would love to hear from you if you or another Kol HaLev member you know of would like to be included on this list.

Thanks to Jane Arnoff Logson, who was the April Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members provided rides, cooked and delivered meals and ran errands. We thank all who extended themselves this month.

NEW SHIVA COORDINATOR

I will be taking over as Shiva Coordinator effectively immediately from Sue Wolpert, who has served in this role over the last several years. We offer deep gratitude to Sue for her devotion to supporting members when they have lost loved ones. Sue built a foundation for shiva support that we hope to continue and expand. Todah rabah, Sue!

As you may know, the Shiva Coordinator works with Rabbi Steve and the Monthly Hesed Coordinator to offer any support needed during the funeral and shiva period as well as beyond if desired. We are going to be evaluating and planning for the future in this area. If this interests you and you haven’t already identified yourself, please get in touch with me so that I can include you. We will be meeting together soon. I can be reached at janealogsdon@gmail.com or 216-375-0093.

Jane Arnoff Logsdon

With Pesach behind us, we are beginning to meet to implement ideas from the Hesed Conversation that recently took place (see April’s newsletter for more information). If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve the work of the Hesed committee, please be in touch with Martha or Robin.

If you are able to participate in the work of the Hesed Committee, or if you know of anyone who may need the support of our committee, please contact Rabbi Steve or Robin Holzman (robinholzman@gmail.com) and Martha Schubert (marthaschubert@mac.com), Hesed Co-Chairs.
SIGN UP NOW TO HOST A KIDDUSH

The new sign-up genius for Kiddush is ready! If you would like to sign up to host a Kiddush between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, please click here.

If you have a particular date you would like to host (for example, in honor of a family simcha), please try to sign up soon. If you don't know your schedule very far in advance, no worries — Kelli will be sending out quarterly reminders. Thank you in advance for volunteering to host a Kiddush and helping to create sacred community! If you have any questions, please contact Miriam Geronimus (mgeronimus@gmail.com).

Additionally, we know that not everyone is aware of the changes the Membership Committee made to Kiddush since we held the Kiddush Conversations last winter. Please see the article below, originally published in an addendum to the March newsletter, for more information.

NEW KIDDUSH POLICY: FRIENDLIER, EASIER & MORE REWARDING

by Miriam Geronimus, Participatory Values Team Leader

Let me begin with an anecdote.

The first time I came to Kol HaLev, I was searching for spiritual community, but I was scared. I wanted nothing more than to attend shabbes services and then disappear into the crowd. I wanted to be invisible. But that’s not how Kol HaLev works. Someone invited me to Kiddush – I figured I’d stay for the blessings, grab a piece of challah, and duck out. But then people started talking to me. Part of me wanted to run and hide – there were so many new people – but it was also incredibly refreshing to feel so welcome and to be seen. I had enjoyed the services, but it was the combination of that and the welcoming community that drew me back.

Ideally, this is the type of function Kiddush serves every week. Whether this is our first time to Kol HaLev or we’ve been members for years, we all have a desire to be seen and to connect. At Kiddush we can nosh and shmooze, catch up with old friends, and make new ones. This is community building at its most basic.

Over the past several months, the Membership Committee has been discussing the structure of Kiddush and seeking input from the community. We’ve learned that many members feel overwhelmed by Kiddush, not knowing what to do when they host or how to sign up. We also learned that many members find Kiddush burdensome or don’t understand its purpose. We’ve done our best to come up with a system that maintains the community-building aspect of Kiddush without putting too much stress on the members who host.

One way we are trying to make hosting easier is by creating a monthly Kiddush Coordinator position. Each month, a different member of the Membership Committee will serve as the Kiddush Coordinator. This person will be checking in with people who have signed up to host to see if they have questions, and contacting people who have yet to sign up this year to see if they would be willing and able to host. We would love it if everyone hosted Kiddush but we understand that may not be possible for everyone. If you receive a call and are unable to host, just let the Coordinator know that. Additionally, our office administrator Kelli Birch will be sending out quarterly reminders with a link for signing up to host Kiddush.

The Membership Committee hopes that these changes will make Kiddush a more meaningful and less overwhelming process for everyone. This is a work in progress and undoubtedly we will have bugs to fix. Please let me (mgeronimus@gmail.com) or Itsik Kittila (itsik.kittila@gmail.com) know if you have any questions or concerns.
I’ve just returned from Kol HaLev’s magical Shabbaton weekend at Punderson State Park. I look forward to these biennial retreats for many reasons – to have extended, concentrated time to commune with my fellow congregants in a beautiful setting, to dive into Shabbat and leave the rest of my week and its unending to-do list behind for a moment, to deepen my understanding of the always-interesting educational theme and its related applications. Inevitably, I always wind up getting more out of the experience than those intended outcomes; I wind up understanding myself better. And through the crazy magic of communion at these intensive weekends, I come home with a better understanding of my fellows too.

The Four “Bs” of Reconstructionism – Kaplan’s constructs of Belonging, Behaving, and Believing, and Rabbi Jeffrey’s sublime addition, Becoming – were the substrate for a host of delights, which all us Shabbatonians have unwrapped, investigated, danced around in, made music and art with, questioned, made choices with, revealed ourselves through, shared with tenderness, magnified, and now, have taken home for more study, and more delight in the profound possibilities these activities have awakened in us.

I see the same possibilities writ large for Kol HaLev as well. We come together as a community by choice. We accept each others’ different practices and beliefs lovingly, and we keep showing up because we like what we experience together. We continually rebirth the community together, evolving as our needs and understandings change, fully present with the dynamism of the circumstances. Sometimes we are more patient with that evolution than at other times!

It’s been a busy, somewhat complicated year for us. We welcomed new members and new babies, and celebrated so many members’ smachot (gladness or joys). We’ve lost beloved members too, some to exciting moves away, and some to illness. We’ve had big conversations – about finances, about Reconstructionist movement policy, about leadership and volunteer engagement and hesed and how to do some things differently to better serve members. This is the perpetual evolution machine that moves us day-to-day and person-to-person. Collectively, we are a unique combination of spirit and business, introspection and collaboration, constantly aspiring, constantly “becoming,” as we do the work and enjoy the splendid sense of “belonging.”

As the Talmudic sage Buckaroo Banzai said, “No matter where you go, there you are.” We’re always right here, right now, regardless of whether we choose to engage consciously in the moment. I appreciate the call to be fully present.

This month, we proceed apace, creating our tomorrow as we worship together in gratitude, celebrate more b’hai mitzvah, wrestle with a budget for the next fiscal year, thank our madrichim (Hagiga teachers) and mark our high school seniors’ commencements, and honor the receipt of the Torah at Sinai as we prepare to receive our own second scroll (yes! it’s imminent!). What a perfect month to also pause and reflect on our very foundation, even as we must turn the next page without our dearest Rabbi Jeffrey and Deb Schein.

Please join me on Sunday, May 31, at a special open house and program to celebrate, honor, and bid a fond farewell to Jeffrey and Deb as they embark on their next chapter in Minneapolis with their children.

L’hitra’ot, l’vracha, ul’shalom, haverim. You are always with us as we continue to become our best selves.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Sam and Anna Kelman** in commemoration of yahrzeit of their parents, Julius Kelman, Osnat Marshak Kelman, Jacob Festinger and Sarah Attenberg Festinger
- **Margy Weinberg** in memory of her parents, Herman and Jean Gordon
- **Ruth Ness** in appreciation of Kirby Date and Richard Litwin and in honor of grandson
- **Nathan Gilbert's graduation from CWRU**
- **Nancy Dudwick** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Ida G. Dudwick
- **Kirby Date and Richard Litwin** in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Harry and Evelyn Litwin
- **Mario and Roberta Tonti** in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Charlotte Davidoff Dangler and Diana Tonti
- **Karal Stern** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Helen Stern
- **Maureen Hack** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Sylvia Hack
- **Ralph and Selma Gwatkin** in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Ralph's mother, Ada A. Gwatkin and Selma's sister, Sylvia Oken
- **Lois Kuvin** in honor of Anita Cohn's 80th birthday
- **Sue and Kevin Weidenbaum** in honor of Anita Cohn's 80th birthday
- **Lynn and David Liebling** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Lynn's mother, Helen Zipper

Make a donation to Kol HaLev in honor of a simcha, in memory of a loved, or for any reason you'd like by check or online -- whichever is more comfortable and convenient for you! You can also pay for dues, Hagiga tuition, Mishloach Manot and many other things online as well as by check.

♦ **Pay by check.** Just drop a check in the mail to: Kol HaLev | 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 215 | University Heights, OH 44118 You'll receive a confirmation that your payment was received.

OR

♦ **Make an online donation.** You can pay safely and securely by credit card or electronic check at Kol HaLev's PaySimple page at [http://kolhalev.net/pay_simple](http://kolhalev.net/pay_simple) (Note: Kol HaLev pays a small fee for transactions processed through PaySimple).

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, *continued from page 10*

and grandchildren. To view the invitation, purchase tickets, or make a donation in their honor, visit [kolhalev.net/schein](http://kolhalev.net/schein). You're also invited to share thoughts, reminiscences, photos and stories of Jeffrey and Deb for a special Memory Book (to submit a memory, please follow the instructions on the invitation).

What we will be without Jeffrey and Deb immediately present, is what they have taught us diligently to be: Present. Engaged. Creative. Questioning. Grateful. Stepping into ourselves at every moment. Always aspiring.

*L’hitra’ot, l’vracha, ul’shalom, haverim* (Till we meet again, be safe and have peace, my friends). You are always with us as we continue to become our best selves.
EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN JEWISH AND WESTERN THOUGHT

On Sunday, May 17, Rabbi Steve and Alan Binstock will present an adult education session on "Evolution of Human Rights in Jewish and Western Thought." The session will take place at the home of Maureen Hack in Beachwood. For more information, contact Maureen at mxh7@case.edu.

SHABBAT IN THE PARK, SATURDAY MAY 23 IN THE METROPARKS

The annual Shabbat in the Park and Potluck Lunch, is scheduled for May 23 at the Buckley Shelter in the North Chagrin Reservation River Grove Picnic Area. Please bring a vegetarian/dairy or pareve dish which can serve 8-10 people. It SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck. Assignments: A-H - Dessert or Drink; I-P - Main Dish; Q-Z – Appetizer or Salad

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: NEXT WOMEN'S SHABBAT DINNER IN JUNE

The Kol Hal Lev Women's Groups will not meet in May. The next Women's Shabbat Dinner is scheduled for Friday, June 12, at 6:30 at the home of Audrey Warner.

YAHRZEITS

They are now a part of us, as we remember them

Members of Kol HaLev will mark the following yahrzeits during the next month:

- Dudley Stuart Dinner (David), husband of Maureen Dinner
- Ada A. Gwatkin, mother of Ralph Gwatkin
- Ida G. Dudwick, mother of Nancy Dudwick
- Lena (Lee) Warsh Baum, maternal grandmother of Heidi Gorovitz Robertson
- Irmegarde Lewisohn, mother of Peter Gray
- Helen Stern, mother of Karal Stern
- Helen Zipper, mother of Lynn Liebling
- Rella Gilletz, grandmother of Michal Scher- Marcus
- Lippman Geronimus, grandfather of Miriam Geronimus
- Earl Dresden, cousin of Phyllis Maris
- Sylvia Oken, sister of Selma Gwatkin
- Sylvia Hack, mother of Maureen Hack
- Alice Lesly Friedman Biales, sister of Joyce Wolpert
- Charlotte Davidoff Dangler, mother of Roberta Tonti
- Leon Sidney Imrey, father of Peter Imrey
- Samuel Dash (Shmuel), father of Judi Dash
- George Moon, uncle of Miriam Geronimus

Kol HaLev members may include the yahrzeit of family members in KHL Happenings by submitting the name of the deceased, the relationship to the member, and the date of death, including the year, in either the secular or Jewish calendar to kelli@kolhalev.net. (Please specify whether you're observing the secular or the Hebrew yahrzeit date. You can find a calendar converter at http://www.hebcal.com/converter/).
The Kol Halev Board met at the home of Kareen Caputo on April 13, 2015.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Bruce Fallick provided highlights of financial information as of March 31, 2015. The total amount in the checking, savings and related accounts was $159,000. Net income for March was $4,000. Dues commitments so far this FY 2015 amount to $174,000, an increase of $7000 from last month. Dues received amount to $141,000, approximately 12% more than receipts at this time last year. As of March 31, our net income YTD was $48,000. This is $12,000 higher than the net income was at this point last year.

Dues commitments and other pledges made so far this FY are approximately $259,000. This total is $23,000 less than this time last year. The total income actually received at this time amounts to $234,000, which is $4,000 higher than this time last year. Comparisons with last year are complicated due to the timing of pledges to the Kemach campaign and different ways that revenue and expenses have been recorded.

Overall, these updated figures make the fiscal picture a little better than previously reported. Income from dues has met expectations but income from other sources has been lower than anticipated. Increase in revenue from the Schein event remains unknown and does not affect our structural deficit. Regular annual fundraising needs to be addressed for the future. Expenses are running according to plan. Expenditures for rent and dues for Reconstructionist movement and GCC need to be clarified.

Education Director Contract: Board president Halle Barnett shared that the contract negotiating team met with Education Director Robyn Novick to discuss a new contract. Both parties need a little more time to come to agreement on a couple of contractual issues. The board will vote on the negotiated contract at the May Board meeting.

Finance Committee Proposals: A second reading of the two proposals presented at the March Board meeting occurred prior to taking a Board vote.

Proposal regarding dues structure:
The dues structure shall be automatically increased each year by an amount that reflects general price of inflation and contractual obligations. The exact amount of this increase will be determined each year by the Treasurer in consultation with the Finance Committee. It is anticipated that the annual increase will be in the vicinity of 2%.

The proposal passed unanimously.

Proposal regarding matching fund:
Kol HaLev shall establish a matching fund, funded by donations made specifically for this purpose, to match year-over-year increases in dues paid by households who, in the previous year, paid dues self-adjusted of an amount less than the full dues for their category.

The proposal passed unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Planning:
Bruce presented a first read of the FY 2016 Budget proposed by the Finance Committee. Board members were able to present a number of concerns.

In the FY 2016 budget, a deficit of $22,000 is being projected, which is better than anticipated earlier this year. Line items are more consistent with QuickBooks (QB) accounts than in previous budgets. Many of the items are being collapsed into categories and other items moved to more logical places to better reflect sources of revenue and expenditures. These changes will enable easier oversight for the Board and promote better understanding and

continued on page 14
**HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

The May book group meeting will be Thursday, May 28th, at the home of Anna and Sam Kelman. We will discuss *Great House: A Novel* by Nicole Krauss (289 pages, a Kindle version exists).

A brief description from Amazon: A powerful, soaring novel about a stolen desk that contains the secrets, and becomes the obsession, of the lives it passes through.

For twenty-five years, a reclusive American novelist has been writing at the desk she inherited from a young Chilean poet who disappeared at the hands of Pinochet’s secret police; one day a girl claiming to be the poet’s daughter arrives to take it away, sending the writer’s life reeling. Across the ocean, in the leafy suburbs of London, a man caring for his dying wife discovers, among her papers, a lock of hair that unravels a terrible secret. In Jerusalem, an antiques dealer slowly reassembles his father’s study, plundered by the Nazis in Budapest in 1944.

Connecting these stories is a desk of many drawers that exerts a power over those who possess it or have given it away. As the narrators of *Great House* make their confessions, the desk takes on more and more meaning, and comes finally to stand for all that has been taken from them, and all that binds them to what has disappeared. *Great House* is a story haunted by questions: What do we pass on to our children and how do they absorb our dreams and losses? How do we respond to disappearance, destruction, and change?

Nicole Krauss has written a soaring, powerful novel about memory struggling to create a meaningful permanence in the face of inevitable loss. "This is a novel about the long journey of a magnificent desk as it travels through the twentieth century from one owner to the next. It is also a novel about love, exile, the defilements of war, and the restorative power of language."—National Book Award citation

The book for June is *An Introduction to Islam for Jews* by Reuven Firestone.

All Kol HaLev members are welcome to attend book group meetings. For more information about the group, including a calendar of the book selections for this year, look at our web page ([kolhalev.net/book_group](http://kolhalev.net/book_group)) and contact Kevin Weidenbaum ([KJW@oberlin.net](mailto:KJW@oberlin.net)) to be added to the group’s e-mail list.

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transparency for members in general.

The 2% anticipated dues increase was part of the formula used to arrive at the FY 2016 budgetary projections. In terms of expenditures, it was pointed out that most of the budgetary expenditures are contractual obligations such as salaries and rent. There are few expenses that can be cut and most of our efforts need to be finding ways to generate more revenue.

The issue of dues for Jewish Reconstructionist Communities (JRC) was touched on and it was decided that Kol HaLev would continue the same level of support since there are so many benefits derived from our affiliation with the movement. Dues for GCC were also discussed and will need to be determined based on our final budget.

The proposed FY 2016 Budget will be reread and voted upon at the May Board meeting, followed by the Board vote for approval. The next meeting will be Monday, May 11 at the home of Karly Whittaker in Cleveland Heights.

Karal Stern, Secretary
Criminal Justice Committee
March held another important Delegate Assembly for Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC). The Delegate Assembly met to hear the latest report from our Criminal Justice team of their follow-up meeting with Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. The assembly was held at Trinity Cathedral on March 26.

Over 100 people came out action for Transforming the Criminal Justice System of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Over 10 members of Kol HaLev were present at this event to provide input for additional activities concerning the Consent Decree between the Department of Justice and the City of Cleveland.

The justice team reported that they had had a long meeting with Mayor Jackson. The mayor told of his efforts for reform but seemed to be unsure as to how effective his leadership could be in pushing for reforms at a quicker pace. The GCC Assembly members felt that the mayor was giving too many excuses for inaction and not pushing strongly for reforms. We urged the mayor to step up as a decisive leader and put active reforms into the Consent Decree.

The evening was an opportunity for us to meet and talk with members from other groups as we drew up our recommendations for the GCC Strategy Team. We opened links with many people that we did not know before that evening.

Education Committee
There are still opportunities for members of GCC to work with the GCC Education Team in Cleveland and suburban schools. This is a long term effort to support all the schools.

For information on any part of the GCC programs please contact a member of our core GCC team. You can contact Karly Whittaker, Sue Pelleg, Donna Weinberger or Allen Binstock.

AT AMAZON, EARN MONEY FOR KOL HALEV (WITHOUT EVEN TRYING)
If you shop at Amazon.com, there are two ways your purchases can raise money for Kol HaLev, at no cost to you.

- **Kol HaLev's Affiliate Link:** Kol HaLev is an Amazon.com affiliate, which means that when you access [Amazon.com through our unique link](http://kolhalev.net/kol-halev-amazon-referral-program), then make a purchase, Amazon gives Kol HaLev 4% of your total sale. (For more on how affiliate links work, see [http://kolhalev.net/kol-halev-amazon-referral-program](http://kolhalev.net/kol-halev-amazon-referral-program).)

- **AmazonSmile Foundation:** Start your Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and 0.5% of your purchase total will be donated to Kol HaLev. Just log into your account and choose Kol HaLev as your charity (make sure you pick the Kol HaLev in **University Hts, OH**). You can read more about this program at [smile.amazon.com/about/](http://smile.amazon.com/about/).
Jewish Gap Year Program in Portland, OR, Seeks Adventurous, Visionary 17-20 Year-Olds!

$1,000 discount for Reconstructionist-affiliated participants!

Additional need-based financial aid is also available at this time.

*Tivnu Gap Year* is 9 months of hands-on, Jewish social justice engagement. Participants live together, create community, discover the Pacific Northwest, and explore connections between Jewish life and social justice with their heads, hands, and hearts. Options include the Building track or our new Direct Service and Advocacy track.

**Building Track:** Participants learn and apply construction skills by building affordable housing projects with Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East. Participants also intern one day a week with local direct service and advocacy groups.

**DIRECT SERVICE AND ORGANIZING TRACK:** Participants work hands-on with local social justice organizations that align with their particular interests, including affordable housing/homelessness, food security, and environmental justice. Possible placements include JOIN, Portland Homeless Family Solutions, Street Roots, and Sisters of the Road.

Participants in both tracks grapple with the complex issues of housing and related social justice issues through general and Jewish perspectives.

To learn more, please visit [http://tivnu.org/gap-year-program](http://tivnu.org/gap-year-program) or contact Steve Eisenbach-Budner at steve@tivnu.org or 503.232.1864.
With great pleasure we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating high school seniors and send blessings as they continue on their journey. Please join us for the Senior Siyyum Service
Saturday, May 16, 2015/27 Iyar 5775
Parshat Bahar-Bechukotai

Mazel Tov

Charlotte Fallick—University of Pittsburgh
Naomi Goodman—Seattle by way of Tri-C
Gabe Hersch—Beloit College
Zoe Herzenstein
Abe Mendes
Ben Robertson—University of Chicago
Ben Shafran—University of Rochester
Tal Shutkin—Ohio State University Honors or Skidmore

Please join us in honoring our Madrichim at the Madrichim Appreciation Service
May 16, 2015/27 Iyar 5775

Zorim (K– grade 2)  Bonim (grades 3-5)  Magshimim (grades 6-8)
Traci Elgart  Benjamin Barnett  Karen Caputo
Nancy Rubel  Mattuck Meacham  Maxine Collin
Renee Siegel  Jennie Rosenstiel  Mordy Pelleg

Tot Shabbat—Josh Chefitz and Rachel Williams
We will be delighted to join the celebration on 5/31:  Number of tickets at $18 per adult
Number of tickets at $5 per child

We would also like to make a contribution to honor Jeffrey and Deb and help continue their work.

One hundred Chai ($1,800)  Thirty Chai ($540)  Twenty Chai ($360)  Ten Chai ($180)
Six Chai ($108)  Triple Chai ($54)  Double Chai ($36)  Other $

We prefer to give anonymously and do not wish to be listed in the program.

Pay by check: Mail this form with your check to Kol HaLev, 2245 Warrensville Center Rd., Suite 215, University Heights, OH 44118
Pay by credit card online: Visit KolHaLev.net/Schein

Ticket purchases requested by 5/21. Donations received by 5/21 will be listed in the program.
7:30-8:15 pm Session 1
Rabbi Michael Hecht: *The Medium is the Message? Do the Words of our Prayers Matter?*
Dr. Lifsah Schachter: *Women Who Take Fate into Their Own Hands: Alternative Readings of Biblical Stories*
Rabbi Steve Segar, Kol HaLev: *The Secret Meaning of “Mazel Tov”: Astrology in the History of Jewish Thought*
ADL Cleveland: *Word to Action*
Kevin Adelstein & Bob Jacob, CJN: *The Role of a Jewish Newspaper & Editorial Decisions: You Be the Editor for a Day*
Ken Bravo, Jewish Genealogical Society: *Bring Your Questions*
Dr. Rick Kudish & Rabbi Susan Stone, Cleveland Clinic: *Dress Secular, Think Jewish: Tensions and Alignment in Clinical Medical Ethics*
Rabbi Shalom Plotkin, Agudath B’nai Israel, Lorain: *Courage*
IC Next, Teen Israel Photo Exhibition: *Docent-led Tour*

8:20 pm Mincha -  9:00 pm Seudah Shlisheet (Lite Dinner) -  9:30 pm Festival Evening Service/Ma’ariv

10:00-10:45 pm Session 2
Rabbi Stephen Weiss: TBA
Rabbi Stanley Schachter: *Where Was the Torah Given and When?*
Rabbi Steve Grundfast, Beth El, Akron: *The Tablets: A Midrashic Exploration*
Rabbi David Kosak, Shaarey Tikvah: TBA
Doron Kalir, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law: *The 10 Commandments, Part II: The Last Five*
Miriam Geronimus, Kol HaLev: *Jewish Responses to the Theory of Evolution*

10:50 pm Grand Dessert Bar

11:15 pm-Midnight Session 3
Cantor Aaron Shifman: *Psalms: Biblical History, Poetry, Song & Prayer*
Rabbi Josh Foster: *God of Compassion or God of Vengeance?*
Cantor Beth H. Friedman-Romell, Ph.D., Knesseth Israel Temple, Wooster: *Singers, Sages, and Seers: Female Prophets in the Hebrew Bible*
Rabbi Enid Lader, Beth Israel, The West Temple: *Standing at Sinai with Martin Buber*
Toby Rosenberg: *Torah Yoga*

Midnight Breakfast Bar

12:15-1:00 am Dr. Ari Yares, Gross Schechter: *Mah La’asot: Ethical Dilemmas in the Eyes of the Rabbis*
12:15-1:00 am Rachel Davidson, Kol HaLev: *Transgender Identities and Judaism: A Community Centered Workshop*
1:00-1:45 am Jerry Isaak-Shapiro, Agnon: *I Didn’t Even Know We Were Nominated: Why We Were and Are We Still Chosen?*
1:45-2:30 am Elise Braverman Plotkin: *Rabbis of the Talmud: Wicked, Wonderful and Everything In-between*
2:30-3:15 am Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria: *Jewish Food Ethics*
3:15-4:00 am Rabbi Paula Sass: *Priests and Rabbis, or Jocks and Nerds: Characterizations of Jewish Leadership*

4:15 am Kabbalistic Wedding
5:00 am Sunrise Shacharit Festival Morning Service
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., May 2</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry for 5th-7th grade Hagiga students. Light breakfast will be provided; please be prompt.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hagiga</td>
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<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Parent-Tot Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., May 3</td>
<td>9:30-12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., May 4</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 9</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Member-Led Shabbat Service at Ratner. Parsha: <em>Emor</em>; Leader: Larry Solomon and Miriam Geronimus; Musical Co-Leader: Miriam Geronimus; Kiddush Host: Peter Imrey</td>
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<td>3:30-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Torah Study, at the home of Arthur and Sue Biagianti. Arthur will lead us in a discussion of &quot;The Story of Bel and the Dragon&quot; as we begin our study of the Apocrypha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., May 11</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting at the home of Karly Whitaker. All members welcome to attend. See the weekly update for the agenda.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., May 13</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Religious Practices Committee (RPC) Meeting. Contact Karal Stern for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., May 15</td>
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<td>Deadline for the May Issue of Kol HaLev Happenings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 16</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry for 5th-7th grade Hagiga students. Light breakfast will be provided; please be prompt.</td>
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<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Torah Study in the Ratner Library. Parsha: <em>Behar-Bechukotai</em>; Discussion leader: Sam Kelman.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Parent-Tot Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Mindful Jewish Practice in the Ratner Library. Nancy Rubel will lead an hour of a combination of sitting practice and brief conversation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., May 17</td>
<td>10:30-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya and Chaverim B’Tелефון Siyyum (final celebration) at the Bexley Park Pavillion. Bexley Park is located at 1601 Felton Road in South Euclid – it is between Miramar Blvd, Wrenford Road and Bexley Blvd.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Ed: Judaism and Human Rights at the home of Maureen Hack in Beachwood. Panel including Rabbi Steve and David Shutkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue., May 19</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Rosh Chodesh: Rhythm of the Months: Walking Meditation at Horeshoe Lake, Shaker Heights. For information contact Kirby Date, <a href="mailto:kdate@sbcglobal.net">kdate@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 23</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat in the Park and Potluck Lunch</strong>, Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Reservation River Grove Picnic Area Buckey Shelter. Parsha: <em>Bamidbar</em>; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Hosts: Robyn Novick and Traci Elgart. Dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or pareve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10. In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck. A-H - Dessert or Drink; I-P - Main Dish; Q-Z – Appetizer or Salad.</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Tikkun Leil Shavuot</strong> at B'nai Jeshurun, 27501 Fairmount Blvd., Pepper Pike. Rabbi Steve will present, as will Kol Hal Lev members Rachel Davidson, Beth Friedman-Rommel and Miriam Geronomus. For full schedule, see flyer on page 19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., May 24</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Shavuot Morning Service - Joint Service with Temple Emanu El</strong>, at Temple Emanu El, 4545 Brainard Rd, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022. See the Weekly Update for more details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 28</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Book Club Meeting</strong> at the home of Anna and Sam Kelman. We will discuss <em>Great House: A Novel</em> by Nicole Krauss. For more information, see page 15 or visit <a href="http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group">www.kolhalev.net/book_group</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., May 29</td>
<td>6:00-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck</strong> at Ratner. Service Leaders: Rabbi Steve and member musicians. Kiddush Sponsor: Maureen Dinner. The dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or pareve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10. In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck. A-H - Dessert or Drink; I-P - Main Dish; Q-Z – Appetizer or Salad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 30</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>B'Nai Mitzvah of John and Celia Lewis</strong> at Ratner. Parsha: <em>Nasso</em>; Service Leaders: John and Celia Lewis, and Rabbi Steve. Please RSVP by May 20th to Bellamy at <a href="mailto:bfprintz@gmail.com">bfprintz@gmail.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., May 31</td>
<td>1:30-3:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Bonim Family Program- Volunteering at Menorah Park</strong>, Menorah Park, 27100 Cedar Road, Beachwood, OH 44122. We will create artwork for the residents for about 30 minutes, and then we will help transport residents to and from a music program, which we would then get to enjoy ourselves. This gives the sense of Belonging. Questions, please contact Robin Shell, <a href="mailto:rshell@bernsockner.com">rshell@bernsockner.com</a>.</td>
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<td>4:00-7:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Celebration of Rabbi Jeffrey and Deb Schein</strong>, Nature Center At Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44120. See page 18 for details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Jun. 6</td>
<td>10:00-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Bar Mitzvah of Clay Williams</strong> at Ratner. Parsha: <em>Beha'alamotcha</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Jun. 7</td>
<td>2:00-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Kol HaLev's Torah Dedication and Annual Meeting</strong> at Ratner.</td>
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Kol HaLev Happenings
The Newsletter of Cleveland’s Reconstructionist Jewish Community

2245 Warrensville Center Rd., #215
University Heights, OH 44118
216-320-1498

Kol HaLev, Cleveland’s Reconstructionist Jewish Congregation, is an egalitarian, participatory spiritual community.
Visit our website at http://www.kolhalev.net