

Kol HaLev Happenings

Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community

April 2010

From Our President – Allen Binstock

Many of you may not be aware that our current contract with Rabbi Steve Segar is about to expire. Does that thought unnerve you? However, when we come to a significant moment in time like this, we become even more grateful for having our beloved rabbi. Rest assured, we are well on the way toward a new contract and a continuing relationship with Rabbi Steve. We have agreed to the basic terms of a new long-term contract and hope to have it finalized and approved by the Board in the next month.

When we think about what brought us to Kol HaLev and why we believe that it is a special community, our thoughts turn to our rabbi. As our first and only full-time rabbi, Steve has been with us through our formative years as a small havurah and has been an integral part of our growing into a vibrant congregation of 130 families. He has been a constant from the time we were just a small group of families, through our B'nai Mitzvah year, until the present as we conclude our second year at Ratner. And now he will remain with us as we prepare to celebrate our *chai* (18th) anniversary. At the outset of our discussions for a new contract, I told Steve that he is the heart and soul of Kol HaLev, and I know that I speak for the whole community when I say that.

In considering my own personal growth as a member of Kol HaLev, I owe so much to Rabbi Steve. I certainly never expected to be a service

leader when I joined KHL, but Steve gave me the training and confidence to do it. I include confidence in the gifts he has given me because when I first considered doing a service, I was fairly terrified of getting up in front of a large group of people to do or say anything. Steve, however, encouraged me and gave me the sense of calm that I needed to be a service leader. I have now led services a number of times and found it to be one of the most enriching experiences I have had at KHL. Aside from leading services, Steve trained me to lead the Shabbat Torah Service so that I could fill in for him when needed.

There have been so many other ways that Rabbi Steve has been important to me. I have taken adult education courses with him that have enriched my intellectual growth.

(continued on page 4)

New Members

b'ruchim haba'im

Please welcome new members

Barrie Sandman
and her children

Sasha Chesler, 14 and Jonathan Chesler, 12

Judi Dash

We look forward to seeing you at future
Kol HaLev events

DIRECTORY

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Greg Millas
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Barbara Truitt
Judy Vida

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Finance	Vacant
Vacant	Torah Study
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High Holy Days	Mike Armin
Nancy Hecht	Webkeeper
Claudia Weissman	David Conn
Holidays	Tech Support
Deb Schein	Brian Miller
Kiddush Coordinator	Weekly Update
Robin Shell	Ron Kohn
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Deadline for the May issue is Friday, April 16, 2010

Kol HaLev Kvells

Mazel tov to Barbara Messinger-Rapport, M.D., Ph.D., who will receive the Jennifer B. Langston Community Service Award on April 29 at the Alzheimer's Association's Celebration of Hope annual dinner. This award is given annually to a person or organization that has been instrumental in furthering the projects and programs of the Alzheimer's Association.

Chug HaSefer--Book Discussion Circle

The book group will not meet during April in order to allow people to attend the free public lecture and book signing by Israeli author Savyon Liebrecht at Siegal College on April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Liebrecht is the author of *Apples from the Desert*, the book that was discussed at the March meeting.

The discussion for the May 27 meeting will be led by Rabbi Steve on *The View from the Center of the Universe* by Joel Primack and Nancy Abrams

Rabbinic Corner – Rabbi Steve Segar

Rabbi Steve's column will not appear this month due to his sabbatical in March. His column will return in next month's newsletter.

Rabbi Steve is available to meet with Kol HaLev members on a range of issues by appointment on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. Please contact him by phone at the office (216-320-1498) or by e-mail (rabbisteve@kolhalev.net) to schedule a meeting time.

Board Report

At the March 15 Board meeting the draft of an updated set of bar/bat mitzvah guidelines prepared by the youth and family education committee was reviewed, and several clarifications were suggested. The revised guidelines, which detail the responsibilities of the celebrant and the family, will apply beginning with the new bar/bat mitzvah cohort whose ceremonies occur during 5771 (i.e. starting next fall). The guidelines will be finalized and distributed to the appropriate families as soon as possible.

The Community Fair, originally scheduled for March 21, 2010, has been postponed and will be scheduled as part of the annual meeting on June 6, 2010.

Sue Pelleg, immediate past president presented the nominating committee slate for 2010-2011 (see article on page 5). The new slate reflects a number of changes in organizational structure designed to facilitate the integration of the Value Teams into the structure of the congregation. Sue is drafting changes in the Kol HaLev by-laws to allow these changes. The changes will be considered at the annual meeting.

Greg Selker reported that with the outstanding effort of David Conn and Brian Miller, the web site is now able to provide forums for member participation.

The Board approved Rabbi Steve Segar's recommendation that Kol HaLev participate with a consortium of synagogues, as well as the Agnon and Gross Schechter day schools, in an all-night Shavuot learning session May 18, 2010.

The next Board meeting will be held April 12, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Mimi Plevin-Foust and Bill Foust.

Judy Harris

Women's Shabbat Dinner

All KHL women are invited to a Shabbat potluck dinner on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Molly Berger's home in Shaker Heights. We'll have Shabbat blessings, singing and schmoozing. Please RSVP to Maureen Dinner at Maureendinner@gmail.com or 440-9140404, if you would like to attend. Maureen will get back to you to confirm your potluck assignment and provide directions. Food should be dairy, veggie or fish. No meat please.

Bring a Friend to Kol HaLev

A recent survey of new members by Kol HaLev's marketing committee confirmed what the committee had suspected—Kol HaLev members are our best marketing tool. Almost 70% of those responding said they first learned about Kol HaLev from a friend who was already a member of the community, suggesting that a “Bring a Friend to KolHaLev” campaign may be the most effective way of growing our membership.

“One of the other things we learned from the survey was that people are attracted to Kol HaLev because of our size, sense of community and welcoming attitude,” said Deena Epstein, who co-chairs the committee with David Conn. “We don't want to change that and are not looking for huge membership growth. However, we do need to add a few more members to make the community more financially sustainable.”

Rabbi Steve, the Reconstructionist philosophy, Kol HaLev's values and our religious services were also factors that made people decide to join, according to the survey.

Most of the new members reported that their first experience at Kol HaLev was attending a religious service, and that they took time to get to know us before joining. Most said they joined between two months and a year after their first visit.

“We need to do a better job of encouraging our members to introduce their friends to Kol HaLev,” said Epstein who indicated that the marketing committee will be exploring how to do that as well as looking at other ways of marketing Kol HaLev.

From Our President – Allen Binstock

(continued from page 1)

I have meditated with him in the KHL Mindful Judaism group and in other settings. I have celebrated holidays with him. He helped me bury my father and eased my grief. Steve and I have worked side by side for the past three years of my presidency to build and maintain KHL as a vibrant Jewish community. He is also currently working with me to help me learn how to assist in my daughter's wedding ceremony this summer.

In short, Rabbi Steve has been central to my Jewish journey by helping me grow both spiritually and intellectually as a Jew. I know that there are other rabbis in town who serve in that way. But I have not met one who brings the warmth and direct personal connection that Rabbi Steve does, and I think this is what sets him apart. Every one of us knows and personally feels his warmth and caring. He has a way of making us all feel special. Both my mom and my mother-in-law, who occasionally come to KHL events, have remarked on how Steve has personally greeted them and made them feel so warmly welcomed.

I know that every member of KHL could have written this personal thank you note to Steve. I hope that, in expressing my gratitude, I have in some way spoken for you and conveyed your thoughts and feelings. As we conclude our new agreement with Rabbi Steve, I am looking forward to the coming years of spiritual, personal and congregational growth with our very special rabbi.

Allen

The Kol HaLev Nominating Committee is happy to present our slate of officers and members of the Board of Trustees for 2010 and 2011. This slate will be presented for approval by the membership of Kol HaLev at our annual meeting on June 6. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, an absentee ballot will be enclosed in the May issue of "Kol HaLev Happenings."

SLATE OF OFFICERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2010-2011

New Officers

- President – Greg Selker (1st term)
- First Vice President – Barb Truitt (1st term) Values Team Leader: Spiritual
- Program Vice President – Sue Kisch Value Teams Leader: Learning Teams
- Secretary – Molly Berger

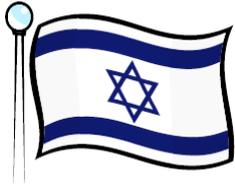
Board and Values Team Leaders

- Greg Millas – (2nd term on Board) Values Team Leader (1st term as VTL): Informed and Involved
- Barry Epstein – Values Team Leader (1st term as VTL): Democratic and Fiscally Responsible
- Leah Kamionkowski – Values Team Leader (1st term as VTL): Participation and Volunteerism
- Board Member – Linda Gross (1st term)
- Board Member – Elise Collins (1st term)

Continuing Board Members

- Administrative Vice-President – Alan Weinstein (2nd year of 2nd term) Values Team Leader: Welcoming and Caring
- Treasurer – Ami Kopstein (2nd year of 1st term)
- Board Member at Large – Robin Shell (2nd year of 1st term)
- Board Member at Large – Leah Gilbert (2nd year of 2nd term)

Submitted by Nominating Committee: Sue Pelleg, Chairperson; Deena Epstein, Andy Getz, Glenda Kupersmith, Greg Millas, Barb Truitt,



ISRAEL: SABABA*!

Monday, April 19, 2010

Free Community-Wide Celebration of Israel's 62nd Anniversary
B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, 6-9 p.m.

Yom Hazikaron (6-6:35 p.m.) features a memorial service for those who lost their lives protecting Israel, as well as in terrorist attacks.

Yom Ha'atzmaut (6:35-9 p.m.) is a huge carnival-like celebration marking the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. There will be activities for all ages - music, Israeli dancing, games, community art exhibit, Israeli *shuk*, face painting, special teen activities and much more. Various booths will offer kosher Israeli food for purchase.

The annual event is hosted by the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland and B'nai Jeshurun Congregation with the support of Michael Zweig, J.P. Morgan; the Cleveland Jewish News and local synagogues, agencies and organizations. Event co-chairs are Laura Goldberg, Michael Haas, and Raquel Flatow Haas.

For more information or **to volunteer for a shift during this event, visit www.jewishcleveland.org, call the Federation at 216.344.8270 or e-mail pwitriol@jcfcleve.org.**

*cool, great, awesome

Contributions

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

- Allen Binstock in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his father, Henry Binstock
- Abraham and Muriel Chasin in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Abe's father, Israel Chasin
- Maureen Dinner in honor of Hagigat Limud of Zachary Segar and the birth of Jeffrey and Deborah Schein's granddaughter
- Richard and Deena Epstein in honor of the birth of Deb and Jeff Schein's granddaughter; in honor of Naomi Goodman; and get well wishes to Lee Brooker and Judy Herdering
- Leah and Ronald Gilbert in commemoration of Arthur Ness' yahrzeit
- Selma and Ralph Gwatkin in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Selma's father, Nathan Schatz
- Alan Lipson and Judy Harris in honor of the birth of Jeff and Deb Schein's granddaughter and in commemoration of the yahrzeit of David Fink, Judy's brother
- Ken and Barbara Messinger-Rapport to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for Matanot Evyonim and in memory of Aurelia Pelsmajer's brother
- Mark Munetz and Lois Freedman in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Mark's father, Leon Munetz
- Ruth M. Ness in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Arthur Ness

TGIS (Thank Goodness It's Shabbat!) is Coming Again: Friday, May 7

Our January TGIS dinners were a great success, with over one hundred KHL members participating. These dinners have proven that KHL lives up to its reputation as a warm, welcoming, participatory community! Now is your chance to be a host or be a guest at a potluck Shabbat dinner on Friday May 7.

TGIS dinners are a lovely opportunity to learn about different families' Friday night Shabbat customs and to celebrate in the warmth and comfort of our community's homes. But please plan ahead. Last time we were oversubscribed, and we want to be sure that everyone who wants to participate is included.

Anyone who would like to be a guest, or who is willing to host a few families, on Friday, May 7, please RSVP to Renee Siegel, renee-siegel@sbcglobal.net or Judy Vida judyvida@sbcglobal.net, 440-646-1390. We'll match hosts and guests. Deadline of April 23 to RSVP.

Hagiga Happenings

Chag Sameach! Happy holiday! As we are beginning the process of thinking about next year, I am first taking some time to reflect on this past year, which seems apt for our annual theme of Sacred Cycles. While daily life is so full with commitments and obligations, and down time is scarce, we seldom have a moment to reflect on where we have been or where we are going. The sacred cycles of Judaism, though, have this reflection period built in. Let me share with you some examples from what we have covered this year.

Our theme of Sacred Cycles was broken into several sub-categories: cycle of the Jewish year (holidays), cycle of Jewish time (Shabbat, Havdalah, Rosh Chodesh), cycle of Torah, and cycle of Jewish life (life cycle events). While each group had the opportunity to learn on their own level, on topics that were developmentally appropriate, constants began to appear throughout all the lessons. As I prepared for each holiday I had thought about what happened last year (where the children had been) and then made a conscious decision about what we wanted to learn this year (the path that we are presently on) and then made notes for the coming year (where we are going).

The same is true for the weekly cycle (Shabbat/Havdalah), monthly cycle (Rosh Chodesh), and certainly the annual cycle (Torah/Holidays). How lucky we are to have the opportunity to come back to things again and again so that we can examine them from multiple angles and be able to see the whole picture, as well as the elements in depth. We are a fortunate people, and all the more privileged to be in a community that recognizes our need to approach a topic multiple times from the different places we are on our journey. May your journey be enlightening at every stop along your way.

Robyn

Lag B'Omer



Intergenerational Celebration

Celebrate the 33rd day of the Omer with friends, fun, fire and frenzy!
Bring your favorite instrument and we will provide the smores!
The evening will begin with Havdalah.

Saturday, May 1, 2010/17 Iyar 5770
7:30 pm at the Solomon's
(7416 Warwick Lane, Chesterland)

Bring your favorite seating.
A-L bring desserts and M-Z bring drinks.

Contact Robyn with any questions
robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498.



Explore KHL's New Website Features



The KHL website now has **photo galleries!**

<http://kolhalev.net/gallery>

E-mail our Webkeeper if you have photos you would like to post on our website:

webadmin@kolhalev.net

The KHL website now features **discussion forums!**

<http://kolhalev.net/forums/index.php>



WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

Participate in the Kol HaLev Education Survey

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TRFQ6B6>

The Youth and Family Education Committee, Adult Education Committee and the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland are working on a long-range plan for KHL Education for the next five years. A critical part of that plan is obtaining the ideas, feedback, and evaluation of our program from all members. We need your feedback and ideas. The survey is an online "survey monkey", very easy and fun to fill out. **ALL KHL MEMBERS OF ALL AGES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE - adults with and without children, kids, teens!** Must be completed by 4/19!



Contact Kirby Date with any questions kdate@sbcglobal.net

Chesed

A speedy recovery to Lois Selker, who broke her ankle
Condolences to Margaret Cohen and her family on the loss of her brother, Carl Cohen
Condolences to Aurelia Pelsmajer and her family on the loss of her brother, Jesus Rodriegues
Condolences to Jack Brodsky and his family on the loss of his mother, Tamara

Yahrzeits

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

Members of Kol HaLev will mark the following yahrzeits during April:

Arthur Ness – husband of Ruth Ness and father of Leah Gilbert

Joseph Korman – father of Neil Korman

Evelyn Litwin – mother of Richard Litwin

Diana Tonti – mother of Mario Tonti

Dudley Stuart Dinner (David) – husband of Maureen Dinner

APRIL 2010 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

- Saturday 3 10:15 a.m. - **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Pesach Torah verses*; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Torah discussion leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush co-hosted by Mark and Adina Davidson in honor of their anniversary and by Vicki Sussman in honor of her birthday
- Saturday 3 10:15 a.m. - **Hagiga**
- Saturday 3 10:45 a.m. Tot-Parent Shabbat Program for families with children in preschool and under, in Room 113. The program is about a half an hour, led by Rachel Williams. Babysitting is available before and after Tot Shabbat, also in Room 113
- Monday 5 10:00 a.m. **Pesach/Yizkor Service** at Ratner Chapel; Service leaders: Rabbi Steve and Simcha Zevit
- Saturday 10 10:00 a.m. **Explore the Parasha** (*Shemini*) and the Shabbat morning service at the home of Sue Wolpert, [3108 Scarborough Road](#), Cleveland Heights
- Saturday 10 3:30 p.m. **Torah Study** at the home of Maureen Hack, 17 Dorset Court, Beachwood, 216-831-0997
- Monday 12 7:30 p.m. - **Board Meeting** at the home of Mimi Plevin-Foust and Bill Foust, 2700 Coventry Rd., Shaker Heights, 216-321-9604. All Kol HaLev members are welcome
- Friday 16 6:30 p.m. - **Women's Shabbat Dinner** at the home of Molly Berger, 19744 Chagrin Boulevard, Shaker Heights (see article on page 3)

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APRIL 2010 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

(continued from page 10)

- Saturday 17 10:15 a.m. – **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Tazria-Metzora*; Service leader, Arthur Lieberman; Torah discussion leader: Fred Chenin; Kiddush co-hosted by Lynn Liebling in honor of her grandson's first birthday and by Eric and Sue Kisch in memory of Sue's parents and brother
- Saturday 17 10:15 a.m. - **Hagiga**
- Saturday 17 10:15 a.m. - **Bonim (grades 3-5) Family Program**
- Saturday 17 10:45 a.m. Tot-Parent Shabbat Program (see April 3 for details)
- Thursday 22 7:30 p.m – **No Book Discussion Group** - free public lecture and book signing by Israeli author Savyon Liebrecht at Siegal College; Liebrecht is the author of *Apples from the Desert*, the book that was discussed at the March meeting.
- Friday 23 6:00 p.m. - **Shabbat Potluck Dinner** and sing-along at the home of Sam and Anna Kelman, 2072 Campus Road, South Euclid. **Space is limited, so you must RSVP** by Wed., April 21 to Anna 216-297-9490 or annadkelman@gmail.com
The dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or parve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10 people: A-H: desert/drinks, I-P: salads/side dishes, Q-Z: main dishes
***In keeping with our goal becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck.
- Saturday 24 Because of a scheduling conflict, we are unable to use The Ratner School on this date, so we will not be having the Shabbat Kehillah service and workshops.
- Wednesday 28 7:30 p.m. **Mindful Jewish Practice** at the home of Molly Berger, 19744 Chagrin Blvd., Shaker Heights, 216-752-5434

COMING IN EARLY MAY

- May 1 10:15 a.m. **Senior Siyum**: Come celebrate our graduating seniors as they move into the next chapter of their lives. Ceremony will take place during the Shabbat morning service.
- 10:15 a.m. **Madrachim Appreciation**: Celebrate our madrichim, volunteer guides for Hagiga, Kol HaLev's educational program and honor them for all they give to Kol HaLev and our children. Recognition will take place during the Shabbat morning service.
- 7:30 p.m. **Lag B'Omer Intergenerational Celebration** Celebrate Lag B'Omer with Kol HaLev at the Solomons' home (7416 Warwick Lane, Chesterland) with a bonfire, treats, music and community. (See flyer on page 8)
- May 7 6:30 p.m. **TGIS Potluck, RSVP by April 23** (See article on page 7)

See our website calendar and weekly email for additions and changes.

Kol HaLev Happenings

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216-320-1498

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Kol HaLev

Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community

An egalitarian, participatory spiritual community

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