

# Kol HaLev Happenings

*Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community*

April 2011

## Planning for Passover

We want to make sure all Kol HaLev members have a place at a seder. So if your answer to either of the questions below is "yes," please call the Kol HaLev office (216-320-1498) or e-mail [judy@kolhalev.net](mailto:judy@kolhalev.net).

1. Do you have room at your first or second seder for a guest or two or more? Which night and for how many?
2. Would you like to join others for a seder either as a guest or as a co-planner? Which night and how many of you?

## KHL Cookbooks Still Available

Looking for some new Passover recipes? Trying to find a perfect hostess gift for that seder you will be attending?

Your job has just been made easier with publication of two new indexes for "Kol HaLev Cooks," the cookbook published in late 2010 that features recipes from our members. One index lists recipes by contributor, and the other by category. The new indexes can be downloaded from the Member Resources section at [www.kolhalev.net](http://www.kolhalev.net)

If you have not purchased your copy, books are still available for \$18. They can be ordered from Leah Kamionkowski ([leah@bepure.com](mailto:leah@bepure.com)), or by filling out the order form on the Kol HaLev website. The cookbook makes a great gift, and if you buy five or more, they are just \$15 each.

## Tikkun Olam for Japan

If I am not for myself, who will be?  
If I am only for myself, what am I?  
If not now, when?  
--Hillel, *Pirke Avot 1:14*

Jewish organizations, both in Israel and North America, are mobilizing responses to the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11. An Israel-based coordinating organization has said that it has two teams of rescue personnel, emergency medical officers and water pollution specialists ready to deploy to Japan.

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation website has several links for organizations accepting donations to respond to humanitarian needs in Japan.

For updates go to <http://jrf.org/Japan-Tsunami>.

## New Members

*b'ruchim haba'im*

Please welcome new members

Josh Chefitz and Tyler Katz  
and their children  
Adler and Sammy

We look forward to seeing you at future  
Kol HaLev events

**DIRECTORY**

<b>Office</b> 2245 Warrensville Center Road, #215 University Heights, OH 44118, <a href="http://www.kolhalev.net">www.kolhalev.net</a>		<b>Office Manager</b> Judy Herdering 216-320-1498
<b>Officers</b> President Greg Selker First Vice President Barb Truitt Administrative Vice-President Alan Weinstein Secretary Molly Berger Treasurer Ami Kopstein	<b>At-Large Board Members</b> Leah Gilbert Elise Hagesfeld Linda Gross Greg Millas Robin Shell  <b>Ex Officio Board Members</b> Past President – Allen Binstock Rabbi Steve Segar Founding Rabbi Jeffrey Schein Director of Youth and Family Education Robyn Novick	<b>Value Team Leaders</b> Democratic and Fiscally Responsible: Barry Epstein Informed and Involved: Greg Millas Learning Teams: Sue Kisch Participation and Volunteerism: Leah Kamionkowski Spiritual: Barb Truitt Welcoming and Caring: Alan Weinstein
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<b>Deadline for the May newsletter is Friday, April 15, 2011</b>		

**Hug HaSefer – Book Discussion Circle**

The next book group meeting will be Thursday, April 28, at 7:30 at the home of Muriel and Abe Chasin. Abe will lead a discussion on *The Cross and the Pear Tree: A Sephardic Journey* by Victor Perera, which chronicles the history of Perera’s Sephardic family from his parents’ generation back to the family’s Spanish origins in the fourteenth century. Perera finds many noteworthy ancestors and discovers Christian branches, too. The Library Journal says that this book “is a worthy addition to the growing literature on the Sephardim.”

The book for May is A. B. Yehoshua’s *Friendly Fire: A Duet*.

All KHL members are welcome to attend. For more information about the group and being added to the group’s e-mail list contact Kevin Weidenbaum (KJW@oberlin.net).

## **A Prayer in Response to the Earthquake and Tsunami**

By Rabbi Menachem Creditor

Dear God,  
Many, many images of God have been lost in earthquake  
and fire and mighty waters today.  
And so we turn to You, Adonai,  
and we ask for Your strength and comfort.  
We open our hearts one to the other  
as brothers and sisters struggling in Your world.  
"Above the thunder of the mighty waters,  
more majestic than the breakers of the sea is Adonai (Ps. 93:4)."  
Be with us as we offer what we can, through prayer and action,  
to our sisters and brothers who are suffering in Japan  
and who stand on alert around the world.  
We ask for You to be the still, small voice after the fire,  
allowing space for mourning and hope in the face of tragedy.  
We see Your sheltering Presence and Your holy tears  
in the receding waters of the Tsunami  
and in the rescue work being carried out  
by so many for the sake of a fragile world.  
May it be Your will, Adonai our God and God of our ancestors,  
to send healing to the injured and comfort to those in mourning.  
May You be with those who are engaged in the sacred work of rescue.  
Be with us as we bring shelter, food, and water to those in need.  
May we merit to save many lives.  
May those affected by this disaster know Your comfort.  
May we act when we learn how we can help.  
May our world be blessed by peace.  
*Amen.*

## **The Peace of Wild Things**

by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

## **From Our President — Greg Selker**

It is hard to believe, but we are approaching our third anniversary at the Lillian and Betty Ratner School. No longer can we talk about Ratner being our *new* home. As it has been our home for nearly three years, we certainly both intend and want it to remain our home into the future. In fact, over the next several months, we will be meeting with Ratner to re-negotiate our lease with the school; and I expect that I will soon be able to announce the completion of our new agreement. I also wanted to take the opportunity to let the community know that starting April 16, we will begin sharing our home at Ratner with a Japanese language and cultural school.

Several months ago, we were made aware that Ratner was in negotiations with a Japanese language school that would potentially join us in using the building on Saturdays. In mid-February, we were informed that Ratner and the Japanese Language School had in fact come to an agreement. We were subsequently invited to a meeting at Ratner where the leaders of our two organizations were introduced to each other. All of us attending this meeting from Kol HaLev left with the clear impression that the leadership of the Japanese Language School is committed to working with us in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

The Japanese Language School will principally be occupying the classrooms on the second floor. They will also be holding an adult class in one ground floor classroom that is not currently being used by Kol HaLev. We will continue to use the ground floor classrooms for Hagiga and our Tot Shabbat programs. Our teens will continue to use the basement for their programming, and we will have the same use we have now of the library and the gym pod. We will be the only tenants using the chapel, where we will continue to hold our regular Shabbat services; and we will continue to use the cafeteria for all our kiddushim and the auditorium for special events such as bar or bat mitzvah celebrations.

The typical day in the Japanese Language School is from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., so we will each have to make a slight scheduling adjustment in order for both of us to use the cafeteria. They have offered to begin their lunch period about 15 minutes earlier, and we will plan to start our services about 15 minutes later. The language school students brown bag their lunches so they have no need of the kitchen for food preparations. They are also willing to eat in their classrooms on days when KHL has a bar or bat mitzvah celebration.

Having the Japanese Language School as a co-tenant in our home at Ratner offers us a rare opportunity to cooperate and befriend another culture. Given the experience I have had with the language school leadership, it seems to me that they are approaching our co-tenancy with the same spirit of cooperation that we are. I am certain there will be an adjustment period for both of our institutions where we will learn what works and what doesn't work. I am also certain that as a community, we will approach this opportunity to interact and learn about another culture with our values of Welcoming and Caring and Learning guiding our interactions.

Please look to the Weekly Update for information about upcoming schedule changes, and as you encounter our new co-tenants, please say “Shalom” in greeting and extend the natural warmth and welcoming experience that defines who are at Kol HaLev.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions and can be reached at [president@kolhalev.net](mailto:president@kolhalev.net).

*Greg*

## Board Report

The March board meeting began with the newly established practice of board members talking about KHL attributes in personal terms. They shared experiences of “mindfulness” as an attribute of Kol HaLev in order to become comfortable talking about the community in terms of our “brand.”

The treasurer reported that we expect to spend less than what is budgeted for our fiscal year. However, we still have approximately \$60,000 in accounts receivable of which final Sacred Space Fund commitments total about \$6,000, and outstanding dues commitments for our current fiscal year amount to \$45,000. There are also additional commitments that derive from part of this year’s fundraising efforts. If we continue to collect these outstanding commitments at a good rate, we have a good probability of finishing the year with a balanced budget.

The Mishloach Manot drive raised about \$1800 in profit.

The board approved a four-year contract with Robyn Novick to continue as Kol HaLev’s Director of Youth and Family Education.

Leah Kamionkowski was approved to serve as KHL’s proxy at the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) plenum in April. She is authorized to vote for the unification of the JRF and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC).

The next board meeting will be April 11 at Barb Truitt’s home. All members are welcome.

## Contributions

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- Julie and Louis Handler, Nancy Rubel and Dan Klein, Vicki Sussman, and Sue Wolpert to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
- Anita Cohn, Deena and Dick Epstein, Maureen Hack, Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer, and Sue and Kevin Weidenbaum in honor of Gabriel Segar’s bar mitzvah
- Anita Cohn in commemoration of the yahrzeits of her mother and father, Lisa and Harry Goldstein
- Deena and Dick Epstein in memory of Gil Goldberg’s sister, Helene
- Abe and Muriel Chasin in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Abe’s father, Israel Chasin
- Julio and Aurelia Pelsmajer in honor of the wedding of their son Michael Pelsmajer
- Michael and Irene Immerman in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Irene’s father, Samuel Gold
- Cj and Jennie Rosenstiel to Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund in honor of Cj’s conversion
- Maxine Collin, Juanita Fish, and Sue and Kevin Weidenbaum to Matanot L’evyonim
- Judy Harris and Alan Lipson in memory of Lee Brooker and in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Judy’s brother, David Fink
- Barbara and Barry Epstein in memory of Lee Brooker; in memory of Steven Kanner’s mother, Lorene Kanner; in memory of Gil Goldberg’s sister, Helene; in memory of Ken Rapport’s father John Rapport; and in memory of Scott Elgart’s father, Louis Elgart
- Naomi and John Rapport to RDF in appreciation to Rabbi Steve and KHL for all the help and support received on the passing of Ken’s dad
- Allen Binstock in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his father, Henry Binstock
- Selma and Ralph Gwatkin in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Selma’s father, Nathan Schatz
- Ami Kopstein and Glenda Kupersmith in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Ami’s father, Aaron Kopstein

## Hagiga Happenings

There are changes coming our way! Starting this month we will be sharing space at the Ratner School with The Japanese Language School of Cleveland. The Japanese school will be exploring Japanese culture and language, as well as building community. They will be doing all these things right next to us, while we are pursuing similar goals in the Jewish context. It will be so interesting to see if we have any cultural similarities with our new neighbors.

I am reminded of when we first moved into the Ratner building in September 2008, and focused on the theme, “Sustaining Our Sacred Center.” We worked hard to define this space as a sacred space for praying and learning. Since that first year some of our attitudes have become more lax. I think that this is a good time to review with our families acceptable and expected behaviors, such as walking in the halls, using appropriate voice levels, keeping food in designated areas, and staying in designated areas.

As there will be classrooms on the first floor being used by the Japanese school, after our service and Hagiga, all KHL children should be either in the cafeteria, library or gym pod. We will provide games for all ages to utilize in the library during this time. Also, any books that are borrowed from the library should be returned to their proper shelf or placed on the librarian’s desk to be shelved. Please be sure that there is no running in the hallways, playing piano, or playing in the auditorium. As the madrichim are not watching the children at this time, we need to watch the children as a community to ensure that we respect our neighbors’ learning.

To share the space effectively we need to make some changes to our routine. Most prominent of the changes is our Saturday morning schedule, which will be shifted back 15 minutes. **Starting in April, Torah Study will begin at 9:45 a.m. and the service and Hagiga start time will be 10:30 a.m.** We anticipate that Hagiga and the service will end at 12:30 pm. The Japanese cultural school will be having lunch in the cafeteria during our snack time, so Hagiga snack will be moved to the gym pod. Otherwise the changes will merely be in our attitude and treatment of the space.

If you should see our new neighbors, please introduce yourself. I am looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship with them.

*Robyn*

## **Share Shabbat at a TGIS Dinner**

*Divide the work. Multiply the joy!*

There will be two opportunities to enjoy a TGIS (Thank Goodness It’s Shabbat) potluck dinner this spring: May 13 and May 20. TGIS dinners are a great way to get further acquainted with other KHL members and to celebrate Shabbat in various members’ homes. We usually have groups for families with children, for adults only, and mixed.

You can choose to be either a guest or a host, but please **let us know soon so we can start planning**. Hosts decide how many guests they would like, and then we match guests and hosts. Hosts may also invite KHL guests of their own choice. Everyone brings something for the meal; it’s easy and enjoyable. All KHL members and their families are invited to join in.

For more information and to **RSVP**, contact Judy Vida: [Judyvida@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Judyvida@sbcglobal.net), 440-646-1390 or Leah Kamionkowski: [leah@bepure.com](mailto:leah@bepure.com), 216-464-2940.

## Women's Shabbat Dinner: Save the Date

The next Kol HaLev Women's Shabbat dinner will be on Friday, May 6, at Molly Berger's home, at 6:45 p.m. Please RSVP to Nan Arian ([arian2@roadrunner.com](mailto:arian2@roadrunner.com)) and let her know what you'd like to bring for the potluck: appetizer, salad, entree, side dish, dessert. The potluck is veggie, dairy, or fish. Please no meat or nuts.

## Hesed

Condolences to Steven Kanner and Karly Whitaker and their daughter Mira, on the loss of Steven's mother, Lorene Kanner.

Condolences to Michael and Irene Immerman on the loss of Michael's mother, Margery Immerman

## Have fun! This is your chance to be a Greeter or Sadran

**Greeters** will open the main front door, welcome all members and guests, and direct them to the suitable location.

**Sadrans** will stand at the door in the Chapel or Sanctuary, welcome members and guests, hand them appropriate materials (siddur, machzor, handouts, etc.), and, if necessary, direct them to where they can be seated.

If you have not fulfilled your 2010-2011 KHL annual obligation to be a "welcomer" at the front-door (greeter) or at the sanctuary door (sadrans), please sign up now. The following dates are available. Contact Michael Immerman at [mgimmerman@gmail.com](mailto:mgimmerman@gmail.com).

Thanks!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Still Available</u>
<u>2011</u>		
March 19 –	Saturday	Greeter
March 25 –	Friday	Greeter and Sadran
March 26 –	Saturday	Greeter
April 2 –	Saturday	Greeter
April 12-	Tuesday	Greeter and Sadran
April 19 –	Tuesday Passover Service	Greeter
April 22 –	Friday (Passover)	Greeter and Sadran
April 23 –	Saturday Small (Passover)	Greeter
April 25 –	Monday Passover Service	Greeter and Sadran
April 30 –	Saturday	Greeter
May 7 –	Saturday	Greeter and Sadran
May 21–	Saturday	Greeter and Sadran
May 21–	Saturday Lag B'omer 7:00pm	Greeter
May 27 –	Friday	Greeter and Sadran
June 4–	Saturday	Greeter and Sadran
June 7–	Tuesday Erev Shavuot	Greeter and Sadran
June 8–	Wednesday Shavuot Service	Greeter
June 18–	Saturday	Sadrans
June 25–	Saturday	Greeter

## Yahrzeits

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

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

**Henry Binstock** – father of Allen Binstock

**David Fink** – brother of Judy Harris

**Harry Litwin** – father of Richard Litwin

**Arthur Ness** – husband of Ruth Ness, father of Leah Gilbert

**Deborah Susan Raddock** – mother of Mike Raddock

**Nathan Schatz** – father of Selma Gwatkin

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 JudyHerdering@kolhalev.net.

## APRIL 2011 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

Saturday 2      10:30 a.m. – **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Tazria*; Service leader: Beth Friedman-Romell; Discussion leader: Arthur Lieberman; Kiddush co-hosted by Judy Harris and Alan Lipson and by Nancy Hecht

Saturday 2      10:30 a.m. – **Hagiga**  
10:45 –Tot-Parent Shabbat Program for families with children in preschool and under in Rooms 113 & 114. The program is about a half an hour, led by Rachel Williams. Babysitting is available before and after Tot Shabbat, also in Rooms 113 & 114

Saturday 2      12:45 p.m. – **Lunch and Learn** – The Sacred Time and Space of Shabbat – teacher, Mark Davidson

Tuesday 5      8:00 a.m. – **Schmooze With the Rabbi** at the Stone Oven on Lee Road

Friday 8-  
Sunday 10      **Intergenerational Shabbaton** at Punderson State Park

Monday 11      7:30 p.m. – **Board Meeting** at the home of Barb Truitt, 19015 Van Aken Boulevard, Unit 315, Shaker Heights, 216-258-7825; all Kol HaLev members are welcome.

Saturday 16      10:30 a.m. – **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Acharei Mot*; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Discussion leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush hosted by Emory Petrack and Sammy Greenspan

Saturday 16      10:30 a.m. – **Hagiga**  
10:45 –Tot-Parent Shabbat Program for families with children in preschool and under in Rooms 113 & 114. The program is about a half an hour, led by Rachel Williams. Babysitting is available before and after Tot Shabbat, also in Rooms 113 & 114

*(continued on page 9)*

## APRIL 2011 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

(continued from page 8)

- Tuesday 19 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - **Passover Service** at The Ratner School; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; kiddush co-hosted by Ed and Mimi Feil in honor of Mimi's father, Julius Weil and by Alan Weinstein
- Friday 22 6:00 p.m. – **Musical Kabbalat Shabbat** at The Ratner School; oneg co-hosted by Anne Adamson in memory of her father, Hyman Benjamin Bronstein and by Robert Shafran and Susan Knell
- Saturday 23 10:30 a.m. – **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Exodus 33:12 - 34:26*; Service leader: TBA; Discussion leader: TBA; kiddush co-hosted by Rabbi Steve and Andy Getz and by Frederick and Beth Friedman-Romell in honor of Shakespeare's birthday
- Monday 25 10:30 a.m. - **Passover Service** at The Ratner School; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; kiddush co-hosted by Morissa Freiberg and by Arthur and Sue Biagianti
- Wednesday 27 7:30 p.m.-**Mindful Jewish Practice** at the home of Molly Berger, 19744 Chagrin Boulevard, Shaker Heights, 216-752-5434
- Thursday 28 7:30 p.m. – **Book Group Meeting** at the home of Abe and Muriel Chasin, 120 Fox Hollow Drive, #403; Mayfield Heights, 440-646-9959
- Saturday 30 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – **Body, Heart, Mind and Soul: A “Four Worlds” Torah Yoga Service** with Rabbi Myriam Klotz at The Temple-Tifereth Israel; Kiddush hosted by Molly Berger

Please note: Kiddushim are subject to change.

## COMING IN EARLY MAY

Sunday, May 1 **Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Memorial Day**, is marked on the Hebrew date of Nissan 27th. On this day, we remember the lives of the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, and the experiences of those who survived its horrors. The day of remembrance was chosen by the Knesset in 1951, and is recognized by most Jews around the world.

Friday, May 6 **Women's Shabbat Dinner**

Saturday May 7 10:30 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.

10:30 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.

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

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## **Kol HaLev Happenings**

2245 Warrensville Center Road, #215  
University Heights, Ohio 44118  
216-320-1498

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### **Kol HaLev**

#### **Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community**

An egalitarian, participatory spiritual community

*Library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday- 9-5*

*Visit our website at [www.kolhalev.net](http://www.kolhalev.net)*