

Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community

AUGUST 2013

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS FROM S'LICHOT TO SUKKOT: SERVICES, WORKSHOPS, CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS, POTLUCKS, AND MORE

Come join us for all or part of the High Holy Days at Kol HaLev, when we come together as a community for a season of renewal and self-reflection.

Members were sent a High Holy Days information packet by snail-mail as well as email (if you need one, the packets are available on the Kol HaLev website at <http://www.kolhalev.net/High-Holy-Days-2013> or by calling Kelli in the Kol HaLev office at 216-320-1498.) The packet contains the times and places for all services, meals, babysitting, children's programming and child care, as well as opportunities for additional donations and the cost for guests, Tishri members (see sidebar) and the Rosh Hashanah luncheon.

Please return your registration



TISHRI MEMBERSHIPS

The High Holy Days are early this year, and once again it's Kol HaLev's pleasure to offer Tishri memberships, a warm and welcoming way to invite nonmembers to share the month of Tishri and the High Holy Days with us. Tishri members can participate in all Kol HaLev services and events during the month of Tishri, which runs from *S'lichot* through *Sukkot*. To have a Tishri member packet sent to family or friends, contact [Maureen Dinner](#).

form as soon as possible. The deadline is Friday, Aug. 16, for luncheon and child care reservations without additional charge. We look forward to celebrating the High Holy Days with you and sharing the year to come. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

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Do you have friends you think would love Kol HaLev?

Bring them to

A Taste of Reconstructionism

Mon., Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m.

BottleHouse Brewery, 2050 Lee Rd., Cleveland Hts.

Bring your nonmember friends to this fun, family-friendly venue for a tasty beverage and a taste of Reconstructionist Judaism and Kol HaLev. After a short presentation by Rabbi Steve, there will be time to hang out, ask and answer questions, enjoy some beer and treats, and share your own experience of being a member of our wonderful community!

For more details and contact info, turn to [page 14](#).

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WEEKLY UPDATE
Robin Holzman
YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION
Lynn Liebling
YOUNG FAMILIES/TOT SHABBAT
Rachel Williams

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: THURS. AUG. 15

ELUL'S A GOOD TIME FOR "SOUL ACCOUNTING"

While the term “spirituality” has become pervasive in our culture over the past couple of decades, there is an incredibly wide range of interpretations of what it signifies. I would like to share some reflections on some definitions of this term that have been compelling to me as a way of entering into the month of Elul, a time which is traditionally used to prepare for the High Holy Day period, and which begins this year on Tues., August 6.

**Spirituality: "Seeking
always to grow in soul."**

Rabbi David Wolpe has written that his definition of spirituality is “seeking always to grow in soul.” Again, we can certainly argue about how to understand that phrase, particularly the term



“soul,” but the simplicity and directness of that definition appeal to me. Several years ago I had the chance to study with Rabbi Nancy Flam, a wonderful colleague and teacher, when I participated in the rabbinic training program sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (there it is again!). One evening during our week-long retreat was completely devoted to inquiry into this notion of spirituality and she shared a definition that I feel helps elucidate Rabbi Wolpe's meaning. Spirituality, she suggested, denotes the process of growth in consciousness and character; i.e. the ongoing development of how we perceive, understand and integrate our experience of the world as well as our ability to choose our behavioral response to that awareness.

The 3 realms of expression:

- Thought (*machsavah*)
- Speech (*dibur*)
- Deed (*ma'aseh*)

The idea that consciousness and character are the two main components of a person's “soul” makes sense to me. To take this one step further, there is a long history across many religious traditions, including the mystical strand of Judaism, of identifying three realms of expression for the human soul. These are, in ascending order of manifestation, thought, speech and deed, or in Hebrew, *machsavah*, *dibur* and *ma'aseh*. It strikes me that we can examine both consciousness and character in each of these realms of expression,

although one or the other aspect might seem to predominate, depending on the realm. For example, when it comes to the realm of thought, we can ask ourselves how much awareness we have on a moment-to-moment basis of the stream of ideas, projections, imaginings, etc. that flows through our minds. We are often so identified with that stream that we forget we have the capacity to step back and observe without becoming caught up in a personal way. This would be focusing on the “consciousness” aspect of the realm of thought. And as our awareness of our thought stream increases, we gain in our ability to address the character dimension of the realm of thought: that would be consciously choosing what we intend to focus on, rather than simply giving ourselves over to the

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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 by phone at the office (216-320-1498) or at rabbisteve@kolhalev.net to schedule a meeting time.

WORSHIP SERVICES

MEMBERS

All members of Kol HaLev whose dues are current, and their children under age 25, may attend services at no additional cost.

TISHRI MEMBERS

Others who would like to attend more than one service during the month of Tishri are invited to join our community for many activities. Tishri members are asked to contribute \$120/person, \$140/single-parent family or \$240/ two-parent family. For Tishri members who join Kol HaLev by Dec. 31, 2013, the cost of High Holy Days registration will apply toward full annual dues.

In addition to holiday services, Tishri members are invited to join us for Shabbat morning services on Sept. 22 & 29 and Oct. 6 & 13, as well as for our Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat potluck service on Friday, Sept 28. Please download our Tishri packet for more information: <http://www.kolhalev.net/sites/default/files/Tishri-Membership-Packet-Kol-HaLev-2013.pdf>

GUESTS

Out-of-town relatives and guests of Kol HaLev members may attend all events for \$60/adult and \$15/child if preb'nai mitzvah age. Out-of-town guests of members may attend a single service for \$40/adult, \$15/child, with a maximum of \$100 per Kol HaLev member family bringing out-of-town guests.

VISITORS

Morning services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah are free, but anyone planning to attend should indicate this on the Registration Form.

Visitors may attend any other single service for \$70/adult, \$15/ child.

PRAYER BOOKS

A few *machzorim* (prayer books for the Days of Awe) are available for loan to members' guests and to Tishri members on a first-



come, first-served basis. Kol HaLev members are asked to bring their own *machzorim*; which can be purchased from the Reconstructionist Press (<http://stores.jewishreconbooks.org> or 215-576-0800).

CHILDREN

BABYSITTING, AGES 1-4

Babysitting for children ages 1-4 will be available during the morning services on Rosh Hashanah (first day only) and Yom Kippur from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (We do not provide child care for children under the age of one, although parents and their infants are welcome in the babysitting room.) Pre-registration is required. Fees are \$10/child/session or \$18 for two or more children/session. Please remit by Aug. 16. Late registration will incur an extra fee. Please bring toys, games and books. Snacks will be provided. Children who are not enrolled in Babysitting are expected to attend services with their parents.

CHILDCARE, GRADES K-5

Children in grades K-5 are expected to attend the Children's Program from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the morning of Rosh Hashanah (first day only) and Yom Kippur, or to attend services with a parent. Before and after Children's Programming, children may stay in the Library to read, play board games, etc. (snacks will be provided). Parent volunteers will oversee Library activities 9:30 -- 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 -- 1:30 p.m.

Both the Children's Program and Child Care are open to members and guests free of charge, but registration is required. Child Care is provided by parent volunteers; please sign up to volunteer on the Registration form. Children in Grades 6-12 are expected to attend the Children's Program from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur morning, or to attend services with a parent. Please note that children may not roam the building unattended. There is no scheduled Children's Programming, Child Care or Babysitting on Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah second day, or Kol Nidre. During these services, children

are expected to attend services with a parent.

HOLIDAY MEALS

ROSH HASHANAH POTLUCK-PLUS

LUNCHEON

All who attend our morning services on Sept. 5, the first day of Rosh Hashanah, are invited to join us after services for our community “Potluck-Plus” Luncheon. Please help make this wonderful community gathering a success!



We will be purchasing some of the food to be served at our annual Rosh Hashanah luncheon, but we depend on each household participating to provide a tasty potluck dish. Please select what you will bring from the list below -- or be creative and bring a special recipe. Just be sure to let us know what you’ll be bringing (by writing it on your Registration Form or emailing your selection to marcia.goldberg@gmail.com). Each dish should serve 10-12 people. All dishes must be vegetarian/parve/non-meat/nut-free. If your dish must be refrigerated, please bring it in a cooler. We can use the Ratner ovens to keep food warm. Please bring your donation to the kitchen when you arrive for the Rosh Hashanah service.

The charge of \$5/person or \$10/family will cover beverages, paper goods and specially purchased additions to the menu. Please mail your check and registration form to the Kol Halev office by Aug. 16.

SUGGESTED ROSH HASHANAH LUNCHEON DISHES (DAIRY)	
Fruit salad	Mixed green salad
Fruit-filled blintzes	Roasted potatoes
Poached salmon	Grilled vegetables
Macaroni & cheese	Pasta salad
Lox	Egg salad
Vegetarian lasagna	Tuna salad
Quiche	Noodle kugel
Vegetarian strata	

DESSERT	FOR CHILDREN
Honey Cake	Small sandwiches
Brownies	Fruit, bite size
Cookies	Macaroni & cheese
Cake	Vegetable platter
Pie	Crackers

BREAKING THE FAST

If you are interested in sharing a potluck Break-the-Fast meal at a member’s home after Yom Kippur services, OR if you would like to host other Kol HaLev members at YOUR home, please contact Kelli at kelli@kolhalev.net.

FEES

PAYMENT

Please make checks for Services, Luncheon and Child Care payable to Kol HaLev and mail your registration and check to: Treasurer, Kol HaLev, 2245 Warrensville Center Road, University Heights, OH 44118. Or you may choose to pay via our website, www.kolhalev.net.

DONATIONS

Please consider donating to our High Holy Days Flower Fund or making an additional donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Donations will be acknowledged in a fall newsletter.

Tikkun Olam food donations and Mazon monetary contributions will also be accepted throughout the High Holy Days.

[Maureen Dinner](#) and [Jean Miller](#)
Membership Committee Co-Chairs
440-914-0404 and 216-932-6366

Claudia Weissman and [Marcia Goldberg](#)
High Holy Days Committee Co-Chairs
216-321-2774 and 216-321-1840

לשנה טובה !

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Sun., Aug. 18	7:30 p.m.	Elul Study Session I	at the home of Leah Kamionkowski, 9 Chelsea Court, Beachwood
Sun., Aug. 25	7:30 p.m.	Elul Study Session II	at the home of Dick and Deena Epstein, 20949 Colby Road, Shaker Heights
Sat., Aug. 31,	8:00 p.m.	<i>S'lichot</i> service and study session	Ratner School. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share.
Wed., Sept. 4,	8:00 p.m.	<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	Ratner School. Doors open at 7:30; please arrive by 7:45
Thurs. Sept.5	9:30 a.m.	<i>Rosh Hashanah, Day1</i>	Ratner School. Doors open at 9:00 a.m.; please arrive by 9:15. Babysitting and Child care will be available during adult services (return registration form by Aug. 16).
	10:30 a.m.	Children's Programming	Age group-specific Children's Programming. Children will be invited to join in the adult Shofar Service.
	11:00 a.m.	Tot/Parent Programming	
	1:00 p.m. -ish after services	Community "Potluck-Plus" Luncheon	Registration, potluck contribution and payment required.
	3:30 p.m.-ish after luncheon	<i>Tashlich</i>	Maps to tashlich location will be provided at services
Fri., Sept. 6	9:30 a.m.	<i>Rosh Hashanah, Day 2</i>	Ratner School. Choice of traditional or alternative service
	Important arrival instructions for Rosh Hashanah, Day 2: Ratner School will be in session. To have minimal impact on the school day, <i>we will enter the parking lot at the rear, off Belgrave</i> , which is the the first left on Brainard Rd. north of the Shaker traffic circle. <i>We will enter the building at the gym entrance</i> , not the front entrance.		
Fri., Sept. 13	7:00 p.m.	<i>Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur)</i>	Ratner School. Doors open at 6:30; please arrive by 6:45
Fri., Sept. 13- Sat., Sept. 14		<i>Tikkun Olam Food Drive</i>	Please bring food for hunger drive. Mazon contribution envelopes will also be available at the Information Table.
Sat., Sept.14	9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	<i>Yom Kippur Shacharit</i>	Ratner School. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Please arrive by 9:15.
	10:30 a.m.	Children's Programming	
	11:00 a.m.	Tot/Parent Programming	
	12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	<i>Avodah</i> Service	
	1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	Meditation	
	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Torah Study	
	4:45 – 5:45 p.m.	<i>Yizkor</i>	
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	<i>Neilah</i>		

EVERY DAY WE HAVE MIRACLES

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes people to build a community. It doesn't happen by chance, but with a lot of work behind the scenes, with a lot of caring and with the development of friendships and concern for one another.

The Torah reading for Tisha B'Av contains three selections; in one of them, G-d tells Moses to pick up new stone tablets and write upon them the commandments that G-d had written on the first set. In issuing this directive, G-d demonstrates that forgiveness is an important aspect of holiness. Moses had smashed the first set of tablets in anger when he saw the golden calf that the people had started to worship. It also shows that G-d realized that handing the commandments to Moses was not enough. Moses had to have ownership of them, which he gained by writing them himself. Is it no wonder that there are multiple versions of the commandments in the Torah? They are written in the Torah at different times, in different circumstances and so the wording is different. The emphasis in each version is nuanced.

So too are the rules that our community follows. Each of us has a different perspective on the community and different degrees of involvement, and both change as our individual needs change. Many of our rules are unwritten and are our *minhag*, our custom. One of the *minhagim* (customs) that I fully appreciate is the acceptance of our individuality. It is a source of amazing strength and the diversity of experiences, of outlooks, is a value that I cherish. It can also be a source of frustration when we have different visions and have different priorities.

At this time, one of our priorities is planning for the High Holy Days and for our planned Year of the Torah. Behind the scenes, work is on-going by many different people. The Trial committee works year-round and has a terrific cast for the trial of Abraham in November.

The planning for the High Holy Days began in February when Karal Stern, Bill Scher-Marcus and Rabbi Steve sat down to think about who will be leading the many different services. Why in February? Because *S'lichot* is the Saturday evening of Labor Day weekend and *Rosh Hashanah* occurs during Labor Day week! (And check out when Hanukkah starts!!!!)

This year, because Ratner School will be in session on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we met with them to plan how to have two different activities occurring at the same time with minimal impact on each other. We will be using the gym for the alternative service on the second day to avoid disrupting their classes with the sounds from drumming.

The biggest change will be in parking. The parking lot will have been completely redone and restriped, so no more dodging the potholes. They have requested that we enter the parking lot on the second day from Brainard via Belgrave (Belgrave is the the first left on Brainard Rd. north of the Shaker traffic circle). We will enter the building at the gym entrance for the second day only.

Where are the miracles? "What?" is one of my favorite sentence-starters, second only to "Why?" What is a miracle? Is it something that you notice that you hadn't noticed before? Is it something

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AN INVITATION TO LEAD . . .

Have you ever thought about co-leading a Shabbat service with Rabbi Steve?

As we get ready to welcome the New Year, the Religious Practices Committee, seeking to expand the group of Shabbat Service leaders and co-leaders, invites you to deepen your connection with Kol HaLev by co-leading a Shabbat service.

It's easier than you might think: there's a Leader's Guide to the service from which you make selections of prayers and readings (the readings can be from our prayer book or can be something you bring in). Rabbi Steve helps co-lead and works with each member in developing a service. In addition, there are members who are experienced service leaders and would enjoy co-leading a service with a new volunteer leader. So there is a lot of support available in helping members feel comfortable leading and designing a Shabbat service.

For those members who already have experience leading Shabbat services, we are in need of service leaders who could lead services when Rabbi Steve is not available. These leaders need to have musical ability and comfort with the Hebrew that is part of our Shabbat worship.

If you are interested and/or wish to have additional information about opportunities to co-lead or lead Shabbat services, please contact Karal Stern at 440-781-3318 or karals@roadrunner.com.



CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Ronald Kohn** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his mother, Minnotte Kohn
- **Mario and Roberta Tonti** in memory of Albert Dangler
- **Barry and Barbara Epstein** in appreciation of Art Biagianti
- **Barry and Barbara Epstein** in memory of Helen Zipper
- **Barry and Barbara Epstein** in honor of Jeff and Deb Schein's new grandchild
- **Dick and Deena Epstein** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Deena's father, Joseph Mirow
- **Dan Klein and Nancy Rubel** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Nancy's father, Herman Rubel
- **Lila Hanft** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her grandfather, David Labovitz

From Our President, [continued from page 7](#)

that seems to appear out of nowhere? The miracles that I see are the many members who are so very involved in making things happen and the many members who appreciate their efforts. That is the miracle that is Kol HaLev. Be part of the miracle.

THE YEAR AHEAD

It is hard to believe that it is already August and the summer is almost over! The office has been bustling and committees have been busy at work. There are wonderful things that are happening in the community which we will be able to take advantage of and weave into our plans next year. We have been working hard to put the plan in place and there is so much to share!

We are very excited to be working with Rabbi Kevin Hale, the only Reconstructionist sofer (scribe) in the world! He will be working with Kol HaLev on a Torah restoration project, as well as leading several educational opportunities this year: youth, adult and intergenerational. The Torah restoration is the inspiration for our annual theme: Torah! This year we will learn about the *Sefer Torah* (the Torah scroll), *Talmud Torah* (learning) highlighting the *parshat hashavuah* (weekly reading), *Torah Yomi* (everyday Torah) the Torah we encounter in our daily lives, as well as Torah on One Foot, which is based on the famous Hillel saying, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor." It should be very interesting!

Again this year we are the grateful recipients of generous enrichment funding from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. Inspired by our Torah theme and in accordance with the vision of the Hagiga program, we will be doing several art projects this year. I am thrilled to share that our very own Deborah Gross, a talented artist and dedicated member of our community, will be working with us to create a *bein gavra* (the cover used to cover/honor the Torah between the Torah readings when it is undressed, yet not being used). This will be a communal project that all the Hagiga participants will be able to participate in. The final project should be completed in time for the Torah dedication after Rabbi Kevin finishes restoring our community Torah.

Another project the Bonim (grades 3-5) and the Magshimim (grades 6-8) will be doing is creating a *yad*, the tool utilized for reading Torah. It will be a ritual object that participants can use for Torah reading, as well as a piece of Judaic art for their personal collection. The yadot will be made from kits purchased from Yada Yada Yad. Please look at their website for more information www.yadayadayad.com.

Two years ago we held the first ever youth retreat at Camp Wise. We will again be holding a cumulative program at Camp Wise for the Bonim (grades 3-5) and the Magshimim (grades 6-8) groups on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2014. We have been in touch with a specialist, Phil Biondo, who works with groups to enhance their community experience. We are thrilled that we get to work with him! While our last retreat was an amazing experience, I am delighted to say that this program will be like nothing we have ever done before.

It is going to be an amazing year! As always, if you have any questions, I am just a phone call or email away. Please be in touch!

Kol tuv,
Robyn

Yahrzeits

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

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

- **Charles William Baum**—maternal grandfather of Heidi Gorovitz- Robertson
- **Walter Chabot**—father of Audrey Warner
- **John Date**—father of Kirby Date
- **Harry Abraham Dudwick**—father of Nancy Dudwick
- **Minnie Epstein**—grandmother of Barry Epstein
- **Victor Gilletz**—grandfather of Michal Scher- Marcus
- **Emanuel H. Hecht**—father of Nancy Hecht
- **Dora May Karmel**—mother of Bruce Goodman
- **Edward Katz**—father of Barbara Epstein
- **Irving Louis Landau (Yehuda Lev Landau)**—father of Susan Golden
- **Lily Brunshwig Marks**—mother of Phyllis Maris
- **Joseph Mirow**—father of Deena Epstein
- **David Spieler**—brother of Jill Bieler
- **Seymour Spieler**—father of Jill Bieler
- **Lewis Weidenbaum**—father of Kevin Weidenbaum
- **David Labovitz**— maternal grandfather of Lila Hanft

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

OPERATION: YAHRZEIT UPDATE

We recently became aware that Kol HaLev's yahrzeit database is not as complete as it should be and that some members have submitted yahrzeits over the years which were never entered into our office database. As a result, the list of yahrzeits published monthly in the newsletter has been incomplete.

So we've launched Operation: Yahrzeit Update. If the yahrzeits you've submitted to the office in the past haven't appeared in the newsletter, or if you have new yahrzeits you're yet to submit, or if you're not sure, please send the following information to Kelli at kelli@kolhalev.net:

1. Your name
2. The name of the deceased (Hebrew and/or English)
3. Your relationship to the deceased
4. The date of death, including the year, in either the secular or Jewish calendar. (Please note: You choose at the outset whether you'd like the yahrzeit to appear in the newsletter based on the secular calendar or the Jewish calendar. You can find calendar converter at <http://www.hebc.com/converter/>).

Thanks for your patience and your assistance.

BOARD REPORT

MOLLY BERGER, SECRETARY

The Kol HaLev board of trustees met on July 8 at the home of Margaret Cohen. After Margaret's D'var Torah, the board approved the minutes from the July meeting. Pete Robertson had sent a treasurer's report to the board via email before the meeting. Key points included that as predicted, we should have an approximate \$8,000 surplus for the 2013 fiscal year that ended June 30. The bookkeeper has set up new QuickBook accounts based on Pete's suggestions for streamlining many of the budget line items and accounts. There remain outstanding commitments for FY 2013 and only 39 member units have made their FY 2014 commitments. Members are encouraged to follow up on both responsibilities. The finance committee will meet to review a planned giving campaign, reexamine the dues structure and evaluate current dues recommendations, which have not increased for eight years. The finance committee will study these and other questions and present their proposals to the wider KHL community through parlor meetings. The board also requested a report on last year's fundraising campaign, specifically asking what percentage of commitments had been received, as well as benchmark information from other Reconstructionist congregations.

The Board approved a request to purchase a \$75 half-page advertisement in the program of the Jewish Food and Culture Festival to be held Sunday, Aug. 11, from 11:00-4:00 p.m. at the Maltz Museum. Purchasing the ad will enable us to have an information table at the event.

On Aug. 5, we will hold an event, "A Taste of Reconstructionism," at the Bottlehouse on Lee Road at 7:30 p.m. The intent is that members will bring nonmembers to learn about Kol Halev. We will provide snacks but attendees will buy their own drinks.

Robyn Novick and Lynn Liebling, representing the Youth and Family Education (YFE) committee, presented revised language for the B'nai Mitzvah policy for board approval. The changes simplify and clarify policy regarding the number of years children need to attend Hagiga, thresholds for Hagiga attendance and options for members who join within the four-year "clock" for b'nai mitzvah preparation. The policy's goal is to integrate b'nai mitzvah and families into the community, so that these are community events. The board made some corrections and recommendations and approved the YFE proposal changes, pending suggested revisions.

Sue Kisch reported that Peter Haas, Chair of Department of Religious Studies and Abba Hillel Silver Professor of Jewish Studies at Case Western Reserve University, has accepted the committee's invitation to speak about Abraham at a pre-trial event to be held Oct., 13, 2013 at the Beachwood Siegal facility. Time to be determined.

Greg Selker gave a trial update. The sponsorship package has been completed and is being sent out to law firms. It would be helpful if members contact friends at existing law firms to solicit support. Avery Friedman, Jeff Mearns, and Dan Polster will participate. The panel includes Rabbi Steve, Reverend Leah Lewis, and the Imam Ramez Islambouli. Dan Moulthrop will moderate. The charges against Abraham will be announced in the September newsletter. Please let Greg know if you want a sponsorship package and who you plan to contact.

The trial will have new ticket pricing; we've created a \$75 category and raised the CLEs from \$55 to \$60. The base price is \$30. We hope to have more sponsors and more law firms purchasing

[*continued on page 12*](#)

HESED

We send wishes for a *refuah shleymah*, a complete and speedy healing, to **Mattuck Meacham**, who continues to recover from a recent car accident and to **Muriel Chasin**.

The Hesed committee is always looking for volunteers to help bring meals, offer rides, run errands or help in other ways to assist members of our community who are in need. We encourage people to let Rabbi Steve know of members who may require assistance; he'll be in touch with the Hesed committee when appropriate. To join our growing list of members who are available to help others, please contact Hesed Co-chairs Martha Schubert (marthaschubert@mac.com) or Robin Holzman (robinholzman@gmail.com).

Board Report, [continued from page 11](#)

CLEs. The deadline for inclusion in print on the flyer is Aug. 20.

Greg also gave an update on the proposed consultancy. Rabbi Shawn reviewed the proposal and, if the proposal is approved, can commit to 5-7 or 10 hours a month. Of the five proposed areas, he feels comfortable tackling 1) the cycle of leadership with the understanding that KHL participants will prepare by reading already available material 2) member entry and exit processes, and 3) volunteer recruitment and basic training of volunteers. If approved, preliminary planning would begin in August, with Rabbi Shawn beginning his work after the High Holy Days and wrapping up by the end of May. This was an update on the status of the project with the expectation that a more complete report will be forthcoming to the board for its approval.

The discussion generated an airing of observations by each person in attendance. One point that achieved some consensus was that there needs to be better communication from the board to the wider community through multiple channels that include summary updates on important initiatives such as the consultancy, Torah Task Force, volunteer opportunities, and other significant initiatives and action items. The Torah Task Force report and discussion was tabled until next month.

The next board meeting will be Monday, Aug. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Julio Pelsmajer 24615 Sittingbourne Lane, Beachwood. **Please note the new date.**

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Berger, Secretary

Rabbinic Corner, [continued from page 3](#)

cognitive train ride that so often tends to grab our attention.

And in a parallel way, we could explore the realms of speech and deed, reflecting on how much happens for us in an automatic or reactive way in these realms versus how often we are able to interrupt that reactivity and make a more intentional choice about how we will express that aspect of our soul.

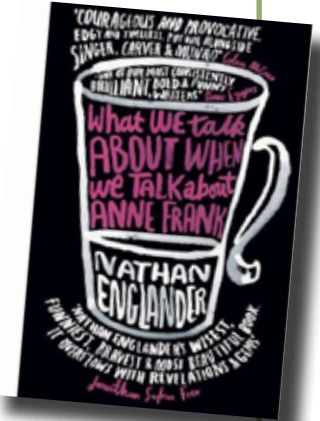
This coming month of Elul presents a rich opportunity to take time for some meaningful “soul searching,” or as it’s known in our tradition, “soul accounting.” This is a “built-in” framework for growing our souls, and to my mind, this is the foundation of what spirituality is all about.

Wishing you all a meaningful and insight-rich month of preparation.
Rabbi Steve

HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The August book group meeting will be Thursday, Aug.22, at the home of Deena and Dick Epstein. We will discuss *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank: Stories* by Nathan Englander. (224 pages, a Kindle version exists)

A review by A. Silverstone (a VINE™ VOICE reviewer): This collection of 8 short stories by acclaimed author Nathan Englander is sure to make you think. They revolve around Jewish or Israeli themes, but what unites these stories is always an O'Henry-like twist at the end coming from where least you expect. The first, eponymous story involves a religious American couple from Israel visiting their secularized friends in Florida. At first, what seems to be a clash of cultures evolves into the definition of love. One of the most amusing stories in the book is Camp Sundown. The head of a camp that has a youth section and an elder hostel is going slowly insane because a group of seniors suspect one of their bridge-playing members of being a former concentration camp guard. Okay, writing that description does not sound like a good basis for humor, but then that is why Englander is the author, and I, a reader. In another story, Peep Show, another secularized Jew finds his mind playing tricks on him when he goes to a Times Square peep show, and the women start morphing into rabbis and then worse. Englander has his characters struggle with identity, morals, and sometimes just making it through the day intact. His stories do not come to a conclusion as much as just end, leaving the reader to contemplate what it all means, and what does it say about my life. Englander continues to be a master storyteller, who leads us down roads we didn't know existed and weren't sure we wanted to follow.



The book for September is *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937 – 1948* by Madeleine Albright. The calendar of books for all of 2013 is listed at the web page shown below.

All KHL members are welcome to attend. For more information about the group, look at our web page (http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group) and contact Kevin Weidenbaum (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the group's email list.

READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY?

Was it one you tell all your friends to read, one you'd like to discuss with other Kol HaLev members, or one someone has recommended to you?

It will soon be time to choose the books for the 2014 Kol HaLev book group. The process starts with nominations, which can come from any member of Kol HaLev and should be directed to Kevin Weidenbaum at KJW@oberlin.net. Both nonfiction and fiction books may be nominated as the group tries to read approximately equal numbers of these each year. Books of excessive length are generally discouraged (but exceptions can be made for really great books). We read books by Jewish authors or books on topics relevant to Jewish or Israeli issues.

Other considerations for nominations are books that are generally available at public libraries and not so recent that paperback copies are not available. Many members also prefer books for which a Kindle [continued on page 17](#)

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN KIDDUSH SIGN-UPS

You may have noticed that Kol HaLev's service and program offerings have grown steadily over the past year; you may not be aware that we are now at the point where Kol HaLev members may need to sponsor more than one kiddush (or, alternately, sign up to sponsor a kiddush without a co-host).

Volunteer with a friend, or co-sponsor a kiddush with someone you'd like to know better! We have immediate need of Kiddush co-hosts for these imminent upcoming dates.

DATE/TIME ...	EVENT#	Number of Sponsors Needed
8/10/13 10:30 a.m.	Second Saturday	1
8/17/13 10:30 a.m.	Saturday Kiddush	1
8/23/13 6:00 p.m.	Friday Night Potluck	2
9/4/13 (Wed) 8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashana	1
9/6/13 (Fri) 9:30 a.m.	2nd day Rosh Hashanah	2
9/7/13 10:30 a.m.	Saturday Kiddush	2
9/14/13 (Sat) 6:00 p.m.	Yom Kippur Neila	2

Please contact Kelli at kelli@kolhalev.net if you are able to host one of these Kiddushim. Look for future open kiddush signup opportunities in the third Weekly Update of the month, as well as in this monthly newsletter.

Save the dates!

THE PEOPLE VS. ABRAHAM

SAT., NOVEMBER 16 • 7:30 PM

Guilty or Not Guilty? The audience-as-jury will decide!
Watch for the official indictment and ticket order forms
in the September newsletter.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available - call Greg Selker for more info

PLUS:

A special adult education session with Dr. Peter Haas
Chair, Religious Studies, and Director of Judaic Studies, CWRU
exploring the parshiot and commentaries related to the trial

NEW DATE: SUN., OCTOBER 13, 7:30 pm

Siegel College Beachwood building • Stay tuned for more info!

MITZVAH MACHINE

According to FBI statistics, the incidence of violent crime in the United States has declined dramatically in the last 20 years: by 35-60 percent in every category. Surely there are many factors in this development, but one of the proximate causes would seem to be a change in behavior. To that extent, in two decades literally millions of individual choices may have been made to NOT commit violent crimes. Together these decisions--however uncoordinated--spared millions of Americans untold suffering, grief and loss of life, livelihood and property.

Kol HaLev member **Sue Weidenbaum** alerted me to a new and unique "bank" established in tiny Estonia: the [Bank of Happiness](http://www.onnepank.ee/) (<http://www.onnepank.ee/>). "Bank customers" post either (1) offers to help people in specific ways or (2) requests for assistance with specific wishes or needs. Compensation is prohibited, excepting things like chocolate and friendly hugs. The website is a developing into a clearinghouse for kindness and good deeds. Any given "transaction" though this bank could be life-changing for the donor, recipient or both. (See learn more, visit National Public Radio (NPR)'s story on the bank at <http://www.npr.org/blogs/parallels/2013/07/18/200869850/At-Estonias-Bank-Of-Happiness-Kindness-Is-The-Currency.>)

Dr. Willard F. Harley, Jr., Ph.D., relationship counselor, author and driving force behind [Marriage Builders](http://www.marriagebuilders.com) (<http://www.marriagebuilders.com>), has developed a somewhat different "bank" concept within his practice -- the "Love Bank." A couple's "account balance" is a conceptual barometer for the health of their relationship. Positive actions within their relationship make deposits into their account; negative actions create withdrawals. Inaction and apathy are like service charges that insidiously drain their account. The main idea is that consistent, positive action is required to ensure healthy relationships. Perhaps it is the same with the network of family, friends, neighbors and strangers with whom we are bound by an invisible web of explicit and implicit relationships.

What is the point here? These three examples show that positive actions, coupled with mindfulness and intentionality, can improve relationships seen and unseen, can heal and strengthen the invisible web that links people everywhere and can dramatically change our societies and our world for the better.

Framing this in a Jewish context, the *mitzvot* -- the 613 commandments derived from the Torah by the rabbinical sages of antiquity -- come in both positive ("you will") and negative ("you will not") formulations. They include ethical mandates, ritual instructions -- and some with no obvious rationale within our human comprehension. Many, if not most, acts of kindness can be linked at least incidentally with one or more *mitzvot*, as can the avoidance of personal offenses and crimes. Fulfilling a positive or negative mitzvah may be, by extension, an act that improves the world.

By bringing together the needy and the willing, the Bank of Happiness is a conduit for large numbers of good deeds. The site could turn -- or turn its customer base -- into a big Mitzvah Machine. You do not need a website to fulfill mitzvot, of course, or to become a Mitzvah Machine yourself. Simply find and study a list ([Maimonides' enumeration](#) is the standard). There are only 225 mitzvot that can be performed outside Israel under current conditions (i.e., in the absence of the Temple in Jerusalem). You may find you are regularly fulfilling many mitzvot already. Chances are you will find some that you are not. Identify some that you are not and choose a few that resonate with you, challenge or even puzzle you. If they are the

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HOW I JOINED GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

BY MIMI PLEVIN FOUST



It took me awhile to warm up to GCC. Like most parents, I often feel like a juggler who needs an extra arm. The idea of adding another activity to my list was not appealing. However, when Donna and Dick Weinberger spoke at a Shabbat service about two clients who had been irreparably harmed due to lack of health insurance, I realized I needed to join GCC and show up to get Medicaid Expansion passed in Ohio.

The first GCC rally for Medicaid expansion I attended a few weeks later was memorable. A huge and diverse crowd filled the Olivet Church; the inspiring speakers came from all types of congregations and hospitals; and their call to action was simple and clear: Write and call state representatives to urge them to vote for Medicaid Expansion and ask a few friends to do the same.

In its clarity, simplicity and effectiveness, that rally was a model for GCC's process for achieving positive social change, a model evident in all the other GCC activities I have done since: Taking the bus to the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus for a Medicaid Expansion rally; door-knocking in Solon to ask people to call their state rep who was undecided about Medicaid Expansion; participating in Criminal Justice team meetings to find effective, local ways to reduce gun violence; and finally, attending GCC University in early June – a two-and-a-half day training at Trinity Cathedral in how to become a more effective activist.

In the process, I've met an incredible group of GCC organizers and members from all walks of life.

Over the past decades around the country, GCC (and IAF, its sister group) have scored amazing victories in many cities in addition to Cleveland. To read about them, visit <http://greaterclevelandcongregations.org/> and <http://www.buildiaf.org/victories-history/>. Or talk to the many Kol HaLev congregants who are already active in the GCC (they include GCC Core Team members Rabbi Steve, Allen Binstock, Dick and Donna Weinberger, Peggy Kittila, Sue Pelleg, and Karly Whitaker).

I am building relationships with a diverse and caring group of fellow activists; and I am actually getting to make a difference in others' lives. Thanks, GCC, and thanks to all the Kol HaLev members who reached out to involve me in such a fun and empowering group.

There's an opportunity to do the GCC training on Sun., Oct. 13, from 3-7 pm. (location TBD). Please contact our GCC staff person, Monique Williams, at 216-854-6590 or any KHL Core Team member for more information and to register.

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kind that can be scheduled, try to work them into your routine. If not, simply be mindful of them and do your best to act on them as you go about your day. Do not worry about mitzvot you are unable or unprepared to fulfill. Focus on what you can do; this builds positive momentum and a virtuous cycle. You may notice a subtle but perceptible effect on your inner world as well as the world immediately around you.

The last Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, often cited Maimonides' mystical idea that "any one single person performing a single mitzvah can be the catalyst that tips the scales and brings redemption to mankind and the entire creation" (quote from chabad.org). Even if you are not convinced of the ultimate cosmic significance of a single act, I hope the examples presented in this article will convince you that each one nevertheless has both value and potential.

How do YOU feel about this or any Jewish topic that is on your mind? Write me at david@estophile.com!

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UPCOMING GCC TEAM MEETINGS

- Wed., Aug. 14: Criminal Justice committee planning session for meeting with County Prosecutor, Fairmount Temple 8:45 a.m. Contact: Christine Weiss (chavadarling@gmail.com)
- Thurs., Aug. 29: Criminal Justice committee Gun Violence Reduction Research Team Meeting, Olivet Baptist Church, 7 p.m. Contacts: Judy Eigenfeld (jeigenfeld@hotmail.com) or Susan Reis (sixreis@gmail.com)
- Thurs., Sept. 17: Criminal Justice Team Meeting, location TBD, 6 p.m.
- Mon., Sept. 23: Health Care Team Meeting. Trinity Cathedral, 7 p.m. Contact Donna Weinberger (drw508@gmail.com)
- Tues, Sept, 24: Education Team Meeting, location TBD, 6 p.m. Contact Rev. Linda Robinson (lrobinson619@gmail.com).

Updated information available at <http://www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org/>

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version is available. Classics may be nominated. It is desired that members have read the books they are nominating and consider them worthwhile for discussion.

If you have refrained from attending the book group because none of the books have appealed to you, then now is your opportunity to get involved by nominating your favorite books. The book group started in August of 2002 and has discussed more than 100 books to date. If you would like to see the full list, please contact Kevin.

All KHL members are welcome to attend. For more information about the group, look at our web page (http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group) and contact Kevin Weidenbaum (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the group's email list.

CALENDAR

For the most up-to-date Kol HaLev calendar, please visit <http://kolhalev.net/calendar>.

Sat., Aug. 3	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service at Ratner Chapel , preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:30 a.m.; <i>Re'eh</i> ; Discussion Leader: TBA; Service Leaders: Rachel Davidson and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush hosted by Peggy Kittila and Miriam Geronimus in honor of their anniversary and by Nancy Dudwick
Mon., Aug. 5	7:30 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting.
	7:30-9:30 p.m.	A Taste of Reconstructionism at The Bottle House, 2050 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights. For more info, see page 14 or contact Leah Kamionkowski at leah@bepure.com or 216-464-2940. RSVP to kelli@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498.
Tue., Aug. 6	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Membership Committee Meeting at the home of Leah Kamionkowski, 9 Chelsea Court, Beachwood. We warmly encourage members to become active with this vital committee's planning and work. You will be most welcome. Please contact Leah at leah@bepure.com or 216-464-2940, or just attend.
Sat., Aug. 10	10:30 a.m.	Member-Led Shabbat Service at Ratner Chapel; Shoftim ; Service and Discussion Leader: Larry Solomon. The Torah discussion will take place within the service. Kiddush hosted by Kareen and Mike Caputo
Thu., Aug. 15	Deadline for the Sept. issue of <i>Kol HaLev Happenings</i>.	
Sat., Aug. 17	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service at Ratner Chapel , preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m.; <i>Ki Teitzei</i> ; Discussion Leader: Mark Davidson; Service Leaders: Miriam Geronimus and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush sponsored by Robin Holzman
Sun., Aug. 18	7:30-9:00 p.m.	Elul Study Session I at the home of Leah Kamionkowski, 9 Chelsea Court, Beachwood.
Mon., Aug. 19 (new date)	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting at the home of Julio Pelsmajer 24615 Sittingbourne Lane, Beachwood. All KHL members are welcome to attend.
Wed., Aug. 21	7:30-9:00 p.m.	GCC Core Team Meeting
Thu., Aug. 22	7:30-9:00	Hug HaSefer Book Group at the home of Deena and Dick Epstein. We will discuss <i>What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank: Stories</i> by Nathan Englander (more information on page 13)
Fri., Aug. 23	6-8:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck at Ratner. Service leaders; member musicians. Kiddush sponsored by Ami Kopstein and Glenda Kupersmith.
Sat., Aug. 24	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service in the Park (family-friendly) North Chagrin Metro Park. <i>Ki Tavo</i> ; Leader: Rabbi Steve and members of the Kol HaLev youth community. Kiddush co-hosted by Alan Weinstein and by Ron Kohn. .

CALENDAR

Sun., Aug. 25	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Kol HaLev Community Meeting. Topic: Organizational Structure, location TBA. Look for more information in the Weekly Update.
	7:30-9:30	Elul Study Session II at the home of Dick and Deena Epstein, 20949 Colby Road, Shaker Heights.
Wed., Aug. 28	7-8:30 p.m..	Mindful Jewish Practice at Nancy Rubel's office, 24755 Chagrin Blvd., #305. Please RSVP to karlywhitaker@yahoo.com
Sat., Aug.31	10:30 a.m.	Musical Shabbat at the Ratner School. <i>Nitzavim-Vayelech</i> ; Service leader: Rabbi Steve. Kiddush cohosted by Greg and Lois Selker and Abe and Muriel Chasin.
	8:00 p.m.	S'lichot Service at the Ratner School. Service leader: Rabbi Steve. Study session 8-9 p.m.; service 9-10 p.m. Kiddush cohosted by Nancy Dudkwick and by Connie Friedman and David Shutkin.
HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE on page 6		

DISCLAIMER: *The newsletter calendar is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication. Be aware, however, that dates and venues for Kol HaLev events do sometimes change. To keep abreast of changes, you can open and read the Weekly Update email which is sent to all members each Thursday (Don't get the update? Email kelli@kolhalev.net). Alternately, you can check Kol HaLev's [website calendar](#).*

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR MEETING OR SPECIAL EVENT IS LISTED ON THE KHL CALENDAR:

To submit an event or meeting to the calendar, send the event information -- the title of the event, with the date, time, location, and contact information -- to calendar@kolhalev.net (if you don't use email, you can give the information to Kelli at Kol HaLev office at 216-320-1498).

Once your meeting or event is entered into the Kol HaLev calendar, it will automatically be included in the calendars published in the newsletter, the weekly update and on the website.

To include a longer article or flyer about an upcoming event in this monthly newsletter, please send text and images to newsletter@kolhalev.net by the 15th of the previous month.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Kol HaLev Happenings is the newsletter of Kol HaLev, Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community. This digital newsletter can be read onscreen in Adobe Reader or printed out on paper. Please email newsletter@kolhalev.net with comments, complaints, corrections, suggestions, or notices for upcoming issues. [Back issues of Kol HaLev Happenings](#) can be downloaded from the [Kol HaLev website](#).

Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community

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