

Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community

DECEMBER 2015

KOL HALEV'S INTERGENERATIONAL

HANUKKAH

CANDELIGHTING, CELEBRATION & POTLUCK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 5-7 P.M.

THE RATNER SCHOOL

FEATURING:

- **LIGHT FESTIVALS** AROUND THE WORLD
 - DIWALI • TRUNG THU MOON FESTIVAL
 - WINTER SOLSTICE • LOI KRATHONG
- **LATKES** MADE BY **BRIAN MILLER**
- **STORIES** AND **CRAFTS**
- **ADULT EDUCATION** PROGRAM
- **LIGHTING** OF THE **HANUKKIOT** (BRING A **HANUKKAH MENORAH & CANDLES!**)
- **MUSIC** (BRING YOUR **INSTRUMENTS!**)
- NO'AR HADASH **DESSERT** POTLUCK (AFTER DINNER, JUST FOR TEENS)



PLEASE BRING A NUT-FREE PAVE/DAIRY DISH FOR 8-10 PEOPLE.

- A-H DESSERT OR DRINK • I-P MAIN DISH • Q-Z SALAD OR SIDE DISH

BRING YOUR MENORAH & INSTRUMENTS!

QUESTION? CONTACT AMY HOGG
(DUFFIEMCON@GMAIL.COM)

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DIRECTORY

SERVICES & PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT:

The Lillian and Betty Ratner School
27575 Shaker Boulevard
Pepper Pike, OH 44124
<http://www.kolhalev.net>

MAILING ADDRESS & OFFICES:

Kol HaLev
2245 Warrensville Center Rd. Suite 215
University Heights, OH 44118
(216) 320-1498

RABBI:

Steve Segar
rabbisteve@kolhalev.net

EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Robyn Novick
robyn@kolhalev.net

OFFICE MANAGER:

Kelli Birch
kelli@kolhalev.net

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT Halle Barnett
VICE PRESIDENT Karly Whitaker
SECRETARY Karal Stern
TREASURER Bruce Fallick &
Catherine Fallick
PAST PRESIDENT Barb Truitt

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Louise Elkind
Barry Epstein
Celia Jennings

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

RABBI Steve Segar
FOUNDING RABBI Jeffrey Schein
EDUCATION DIR. Robyn Novick

VALUES TEAM LEADERS

WELCOMING & CARING Lila Hanft
SPIRITUAL Bill Scher-Marcus
LEARNING Leah Kamionkowski &
Glenda Kupersmith
INVOLVED Karly Whitaker
FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE David Conn
PARTICIPATORY Miriam Geronimus

COMMITTEES and CHAIRS, by VALUES TEAM

WELCOMING & CARING VALUES TEAM

- Hessed – Robin Holzman & Martha Schubert
- Calendar - Itsik Kittila & Kelli Birch
- Newsletter – Lila Hanft
- Proofreaders – David Roberts, Itsik Kittila
- Weekly Update – Robin Holzman
- Website – Brian Miller, Lila Hanft, Benjamin Barnett
- Marketing/PR – Deena Epstein & Halle Barnett
- Tech Support – Brian Miller

SPIRITUAL VALUES TEAM

- Religious Practices – Karal Stern & *Open*
- Holidays – Amy Hogg
- Meditation – Nancy Rubel & Allen Binstock
- Music – *Open*
- Security Corps – Bill Scher-Marcus

LEARNING VALUES TEAM

- Youth & Family Education – Sue Pelleg
- Adult Education – *Open*
- Young Families/Tot Shabbat – Rachel Williams & Josh Chefitz
- Child Care Coordinator – Traci Elgart
- Torah Study – Ralph and Selma Gwatkin
- Book Group – Kevin Weidenbaum
- Lunch and Learn – *Open*

INVOLVED VALUES TEAM

- GCC – Allen Binstock, Dick & Donna Weinberger
- Interfaith Hospitality Network – Nancy Dudwick
- Environmental Sustainability – Miriam Geronimus

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY VALUES TEAM

- Fundraising – Margaret Cohen & Barry Epstein
- Mock Trial – Jennifer Finkel
- Cemetery – Mike Armin

PARTICIPATORY VALUES TEAM

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

DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE BOARD

- Finance Committee – Greg Selker & David Conn
- Ratner Liaison – Mike Caputo
- Rabbi Liaison – Selma Gwatkin & Barry Epstein
- Strategic Planning Committee – Greg Selker
- Nominating Committee – Sue Pelleg

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

LIGHT IN A TIME OF DARKNESS

This month we celebrate our tradition's "festival of lights" known as Hanukkah. While many adults learned as children that this holiday's origins are found in the story of the miraculous cruse of oil that burned for eight days instead of one, its actual origins probably lie in the need felt by the Maccabees to celebrate a belated Sukkot during the year when that holiday did not happen at its regular time due to fighting with the army of the Syrian Greeks.

Another influence on the holiday surely comes from its placement at the very darkest time of year in the Northern hemisphere and the importance of creating additional sources of light at a time when the sun and moon have become diminished in terms of the light they provide. So, Hanukkah is about finding light in a time of darkness on both a literal and metaphorical level.

In many ways it seems that our entire world has entered a period of darkness in recent years with the increasing activity and apparent success of ISIS, but the people who have taken the brunt of ISIS violence are in fact the refugees from Syria and Iraq who have been desperately trying to make their way to safer parts of the world over the same period of time.



The possibility of finding refuge in Europe or North America has served as a source of light for these people trudging through the darkness of fear, exhaustion, illness, and at times, death. Recently, due to the horrific attacks carried out by ISIS in Paris, there has been a strong wave of fear that has spread across our country and influenced a large number of governors to seek to prevent any further acceptance of these refugees into our country. I have been incredibly moved by the critical response of the American Jewish community nationally to this governors' initiative.

Despite the fact that there is more concern than ever among many Jews regarding Muslim attitudes towards Israel, there has been an unequivocal call from Jewish organizations across the spectrum to oppose the knee-jerk desire to close our borders to these refugees. Drawing powerfully upon Jewish historical experiences during the Second World War, many of these organizations understand that these refugees have been the number one victims of terror stemming from ISIS as well as from the Asad regime in Syria, and they understand what's at stake in this US debate over how and even whether to go forward with plans for resettlement.

May these voices from within the Jewish community shed some much needed light on our national conversation about the role of the US in responding to this massive global crisis and we come through this collective dark night of the soul to achieve clarity regarding the importance of not only maintaining our current level of commitment in this arena, but of pushing ourselves to further expand it.

Rabbi Steve

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

HESED

We send wishes for a *refuah shleimah*, a complete and speedy healing, to **Abe Chasin, Nancy Frazier, Ron Kohn, Ben Lewis, Marilyn Litvene, Pauline Raymond, Linda Sylte, Happy Wallach and Karly Whitaker and Mira Whitaker-Kanner**. *We would love to hear from you if you or another Kol HaLev member you know of would like to be included on this list.*

We send condolences on the loss of long-time Kol HaLev member Sam Kelman, may his memory be for a blessing, to Kol HaLev members Anna Kelman, and Adina, Mark, Josh and Rachel Davidson, as well as Sam and Anna's son Ari and his family, wife Lesley, and sons, Jacob and Ben, and the newest members of the extended Kelman-Davidson clan, Becca Richman and Raisa Cabrera. May Anna, Adina and Ari, and all of Sam's family and friends, and all of us in his community, find comfort at this painful time, along with all those who are in mourning among the Jewish people and the world as a whole.

We want to thank all of you who attended the shiva minyanim to honor Sam and brought love and comfort to Anna Kelman and the Davidson family. Thanks, also, to Nancy Rubel, who was the November Monthly Coordinator as well as to those of you who extended yourselves in many other acts of support. During the month of November, members cooked and delivered meals, provided rides and sent cards.

A few weeks ago, I was sitting in shul, feeling disconnected, pulled in a million directions, filled with anxiety, worry and sadness. The prayers left me cold, their meanings did not penetrate my blocked places. They were just words on the page and brought me little comfort or spiritual lift. I decided to put away the siddur, close my eyes, refrain from vocalizing and just listen and experience the voices and energy and spirit in the room.

Soon my despair lifted. It was palpable. I felt myself carried and held by my community, by the individual and collective voices, by the energy of our collective presence. It was then that I really understood the meaning of Hesed in our community life. At its core, for me, it is the invisible, but very real web of connection that we are creating, one deed at a time, one interaction at a time, that holds us when we are unable to face the challenges of life by ourselves. It is when we allow ourselves to trust that, when we need it, we will be held; we are not alone.

So, I invite you all to pay attention to the many ways we are connected with one another. To ask yourself, "How do I fit into this web of connection? Am I able to ask for support when I need it?" And just as important to this equation, "What am I doing to support others, what is my part in creating a community of trust and nurturing for others?" How am I being Held and How am I Holding? ~Robin Holzman

If you wish to participate in the work of the Hesed Committee, or if you know of anyone who may need the support of our committee, please contact Rabbi Steve or Robin Holzman (robinholzman@gmail.com) and Martha Schubert (marthaschubert@mac.com), Hesed Co-chairs.



BURNING IN

The expression “burnt out” has always bothered me. How painful it feels to get to a place where one no longer feels any spark, for work, or otherwise. What must happen for us to get to that uncomfortable, exhausted place? Where is the balance between an ambitious approach to all that excites and compels us, and the self-care that actually allows us to dive into that work in a sustainable way?

I am often guilty of opening the door too wide. When I think about the cool things that await my engagement on the other side, even in the face of the complexity of what it will require to achieve them, I feel the fire that propels me to take action. I know I will face consequences for taking on too much, but keep the hope that I will be able to manage the balance required to reach my goals and not spend my every breath or resource.

Thanksgiving is a great time to take a breath. To stop and appreciate what is, rather than what might be, and more acutely, rather than what might have been “if only.” Tickles of regret should not color the pleasure and gratitude for what is.

Hanukkah, too, gives us a beautiful metaphor for this state of mind. “The light that lasted” encompasses so much about Judaism; the very root of the word Hanukkah is “chinuch” – it’s a complicated word with many uses, from introducing the new, to dedicating oneself to a course, to a system of training or education. Sort of a willingness to “burn in.”

I invite you to join me in thinking about ways we, as individuals, and as an intentional community, can achieve a balance between our ambitions and our resources that will enable us to “burn in” with confidence, and gratitude.

KOL HALEV'S FALL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY!

Thank you for taking a close look at the fundraising letter sent to your home in early November, and considering a contribution that reflects how Kol HaLev enriches your life and the lives of all our members. Providing for Kol HaLev’s well-being is a group effort. Each of us is asked to contribute according to our abilities. Any size contribution from the heart is meaningful, and every contribution is helpful.

If you have already made a pledge or payment, *todah rabah* (thank you)!

If you haven’t yet made your pledge or payment, please do so today!

And *todah rabah* in advance for your participation.

[Click here to make a donation or downloadable copy of the letter and pledge/payment form.](#)



Share your joy! If you're kvelling, we want to, too!
Milestones, birthdays, anniversaries, births, b'nai mitzvah, graduations, awards, weddings
Send news, hot tips, announcements or pictures to newsletter@kolhalev.net

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KOL HALEV WOMEN'S BRUNCH SET FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

The next Women's Brunch takes place on Sunday, December 13 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, at the home of Sue Pelleg in Richmond Heights.. We will gather primarily for fun and for connecting through socializing.

In addition, this get-together will be a "Listening Meeting." Mimi Plevin-Foust and Karly Whitaker are soliciting active input. The combined efforts of the Greater Cleveland Congregations has managed to accomplish a great deal locally. They would like to hear what you would change to improve life in Cleveland for families and for the community. What story can you share (very briefly) that explains why you care about a particular issue? Where is the common ground in the stories? Can these issues be addressed by one or more of the ongoing committees of the Greater Cleveland Congregations community?

Please join us to learn more about and to further the social action of the Greater Cleveland Congregations! Please RSVP to Sue Pelleg at suelisw@aol.com. (If you would like to contribute some food, please let Sue know what works for you. All food should be dairy or parve, and without nuts.)

PARENTS: DID YOU MISS THE LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY MEETINGS? YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN A (SHORTER) CONVERSATION (AT YOUR CONVENIENCE)!

Thank you to the many people who came to participate in one of the two community conversations which The Leadership Task Force (LTF) convened in the first part of November. The purpose of these conversation was to gather insights into the elements that make for the most powerful and positive leadership experiences for people in leadership roles. We asked people to draw upon their experiences both in and out of leadership roles, both within Kol HaLev and in other parts of their lives. We've collected the insightful, reflective and creative ideas that resulted, and we're now in the process of synthesizing a lot of information (look for a report on our findings within the next couple months).

One disadvantage to our initial approach was that it required participants to commit to four hours on a Sunday afternoon, a big commitment of time during a time that's often filled with family activities. As a result, Kol HaLev members with school-age (and younger children) were, not surprisingly, under-represented in the conversations.

Celia Jennings, who took the lead in framing these conversations, and Rabbi Steve are reaching out now to members who could not make our community conversations, particularly those with children. We are hoping that if you could not make the community conversations, you would be willing and able to meet with Celia, Rabbi Steve, or another member of the LTF for a shorter version of this conversation -- only an hour or so -- sometime over the next couple of weeks. Ideally this conversation would take place in person, but even a phone call would work if face-to-face isn't possible. Celia's schedule is particularly flexible at the moment and she could meet you at a place and time of your convenience.

One idea we had was to invite parents with kids in the Nesiya Program at Ratner on Sunday mornings to meet with us while their children are in Hebrew classes, but many other times and locations are possible. If you are interested and/or willing to participate in a Sunday morning meeting or in getting together at some other time more convenient to you, please email Celia (celiakjennings@gmail.com) to set up a convenient time to meet.

Thanks very much for considering this request.

BOARD REPORT

The Kol HaLev board met on Monday, November 9, 2015 at the home of Lila Hanft. Rabbi Steve acknowledged the difficult week with the passing of Sam Kelman, noting the parallel themes in parsha *Chayei Sarah* as he offered a Bracha for the work of the Board on behalf of the community.

Appreciation: Board President Halle expressed appreciation for the depth of interpersonal support during this challenging week, and for the Leadership Task Force's coordination of the recent Leadership Ideas Exchange sessions.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bruce Fallick reviewed the October Treasurer's summary and other materials sent to Board members in advance. Net income is positive, but running behind last year. Reminder emails have been sent to 43 households who have not yet made dues commitments for FY'16. The PaySimple credit card acceptance page has been updated for user-friendliness.

Fundraising campaign update: Values Team Leader David Conn reported that the Fall fundraising letter has been mailed and expressed appreciation for the work of the committee responsible for planning the campaign: Karly W., Deena E., Lila H., Leah K., Margaret C., Barry E., David C., and Halle B. A discussion followed emphasizing the need for Board support of the campaign to encourage members to participate and to become educated about the community's finances. Possible sources of funds to match members' contributions to the campaign are being investigated.

New office lease review: We have been offered a new five-year lease for the administrative office with modest rent increases. Halle asked for Board input on several provisions in order to clarify our responsibilities and the landlord's, and to evaluate our comfort with a lease of this duration, to assure we can live up to the lease terms, and to maintain and improve our relationship with the landlord. Discussion points included difficulty projecting our space and financial needs beyond a couple of years, and the relative merits of negotiating the rates. The board voted unanimously to empower Halle to sign a five-year lease at the proposed rates that would permit us an early out after year three, or alternately, a three year lease. She will ask for more board input if those options are not available or, if, after meeting with the landlord, other provisions require more discussion.

Leadership Task Force (LTF) update: Board member Celia Jennings of the Leadership Task Force shared positive feedback from members of the congregation who participated in last month's Leadership Ideas Exchange sessions, noting that younger-to-middle-aged members with children were a largely absent demographic. The LTF will meet in December to review and summarize the results, and share timely feedback with the community. A quantitative survey will also be sent to the membership to gather input from those unable to attend the live sessions.

Bylaws work: A few Kol HaLev bylaws need updating to better support the board's ability to act responsibly on behalf of the community, including on issues that affect board composition, which should be addressed before spring elections/Annual meeting. Halle and VP Karly Whitaker will continue their review with guidance from RRC and member resources, and bring a proposal to the Board. While ideally the full document should be reviewed, a comprehensive process is outside priorities for the fiscal year, and premature prior to any recommendations that may come from the work of the LTF.

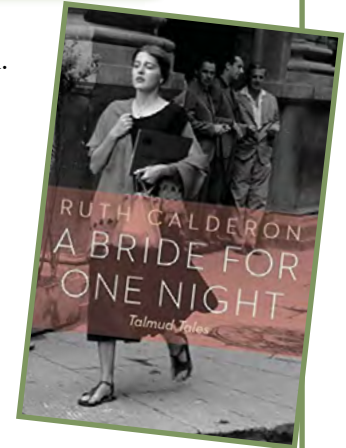
Informed and Involved Values Team report: Values Team leader Karly provided an overview of activities, including expanded opportunities for Tikkun Olam, and increased activism through our affiliation with Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), through which our members work on criminal justice, gun violence, education, health care access issues. GCC is undergoing a reorganization and recently hired a full-time lead organizer. Our internal efforts will be stepping up as well, with house parties to broaden awareness, increase connectedness, and encourage involvement in social issues. The first one will focus on criminal justice, continuing the discussion at the heart of the Tikkun Olam session with guest speaker Ed Little, and Rabbi Steve's sermon, on Yom Kippur.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, at 7:30 at the home of Leah Kamionkowski. As always, all Kol HaLev members are invited to attend.

HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The December meeting will be Thursday, December 17, at the home of Anita Cohn. We will discuss *A Bride for One Night* by Ruth Calderon. (184 pages, a Kindle version exists). Note that this is the THIRD Thursday of December.

A review from Amazon: Ruth Calderon has recently electrified the Jewish world with her teachings of talmudic texts. In this volume, her first to appear in English, she offers a fascinating window into some of the liveliest and most colorful stories in the Talmud. Calderon rewrites talmudic tales as richly imagined fictions, drawing us into the lives of such characters as the woman who risks her life for a sister suspected of adultery; a humble schoolteacher who rescues his village from drought; and a wife who dresses as a prostitute to seduce her pious husband in their garden. Breathing new life into an ancient text, *A Bride for One Night* offers a surprising and provocative read, both for anyone already intimate with the Talmud or for anyone interested in one of the most influential works of Jewish literature.



The group's first meeting in 2016 will be in March. We are currently voting on the books that we will read next year. Our selections will be posted mid-December in the calendar on our webpage listed below.

All KHL members are welcome to attend the book group. For more information about the group, including a calendar of the book selections for this year, look at our web page (kolhalev.net/book_group) and contact Kevin (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the group's e-mail list.

YAHREZITS

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

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

- Doris Kittila—grandmother of Itsik Kittila
- Charles Edward May—paternal grandfather of Chip May
- Mary R. Manny—mother of Meg Manny
- Marguerite Dresden—aunt of Phyllis Maris
- Adolph Kohn—father of Ron Kohn
- Joseph Peter Vainner, Jr.—father of Joseph Vainner
- Jerome Pincus—father-in-law of Joyce Goldstein
- Charles R. Friedman—father of Joyce Wolpert
- Alfred Rosenberg—father of Sue Biagianti
- Julius Kelman—father of Sam Kelman, grandfather of Adina Davidson
- Eli Samplin Marks—father of Phyllis Maris
- Jo Hana Goldberg—daughter of Judy Vida

Kol HaLev members may include the yahrzeit of loved ones in *KHL Happenings* by submitting the name of the deceased, the relationship to the member, and the date of death, including the year, in either the secular or Jewish calendar to kelli@kolhalev.net. (Please specify whether you're observing the secular or the Hebrew yahrzeit date. You can find a calendar converter at <http://www.hebc.com/converter/>).

CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Dick and Jayne Jones** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Allan and Sandra Rosenfield** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Karal Stern** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Sandra R. Goldman** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Dick and Deena Epstein** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Kevin and Sue Weidenbaum** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Anita Cohn** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Sharon Agopian** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Happy Wallach** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Susan Wolpert** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Barry and Barbara Epstein** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Daniel Klein and Nancy Rubel** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Suzanne Schneps** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Alan Lipson and Judy Harris** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Arnold Berger** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Sara Evans** in memory of Sam Kelman
- **Art and Sue Biagianti** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Sue's father, Alfred Rosenberg
- **Karal Stern** in memory of her brother, James Stern
- **Happy Wallach** in honor of Kol HaLev caring during her illness



Make a donation to Kol HaLev in honor of a simcha, in memory of a loved one, in commemoration of a yahrzeit, or just because. You can donate check or online, whichever is more comfortable and convenient for you! You can also pay for dues, Hagiga tuition, Mishloach Manot and many other things online as well as by check.

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

OR

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

UPDATES FROM THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

Jewish Movers and Shakers

RRC President **Deborah Waxman** was named to the *Forward's* Top 50 list, along with luminaries Jon Stewart, Bernie Sanders, Emma Sulkowicz, Jeffrey Tambor and Jill Soloway, and second cousins once-removed Charles and Amy Schumer. Read more at www.rrc.edu/news-media/news/shaking-jewish-world.

Download Our New Ebook on the World Zionist Congress

In a new ebook, the President of Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., writes about representing Reconstructionist Judaism at the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem. Check it out at www.rrc.edu/dispatches-from-israel.

CALENDAR

Sat., Dec. 5	9:15-10:15 a.m.	Philosophical Inquiry with the Parsha in the Ratner Art Room. For 5-7 grade Hagiga students; Light breakfast will be provided, please be prompt.
	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Torah Study in the Ratner Library. Parsha: <i>Vayeshev</i> ; Discussion leader: Rachel Davidson.
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: <i>Vayeshev</i> ; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Host: Mike Raddock and Christina Antenucci, and Dave and Martha Schubert.
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	Hagiga
	10:45-11:15 a.m.	Tot-Parent Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.
Sun., Dec. 6	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Nesiya at Ratner.
	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Hanukkah Intergenerational Program at Ratner. See page 1 for more information.
Sat., Dec. 12	10:30-12:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service in the home of Liz and David Conn. Parsha: <i>Miketz</i> ; Service Leaders: Josh Chefitz and Sue Pelleg.
Sun., Dec. 13	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Nesiya- Chaverim B'Telefon Kick Off
	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Women's Brunch at the home of Sue Pelleg. In addition to fun socializing, this get-together will also be a "Listening Meeting." We would like to hear what you would change to improve life in Cleveland for families and for the community. More info on page 6.
Mon., Dec. 14	7:30-9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting at the home of Leah Kamionkowski. All members welcome to attend. See weekly update for agenda.
Wed., Dec. 16	7:00-8:30 p.m.	GCC Core Team Meeting. Contact Itsik Kittila for more information.
Thurs., Dec. 17	Deadline for the January Kol HaLev Happening's Newsletter.	
	7:30-9:00 p.m.	Book Club Meeting at the home of Anita Cohn. We will discuss <i>A Bride for One Night</i> by Ruth Calderon. Contact Kevin Weidenbaum, see oage 8 or visit http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group for more information.
Sat., Dec. 19	9:15-10:15 a.m.	Philosophical Inquiry with the Parsha in the Ratner Art Room. For 5-7 grade Hagiga students; Light breakfast will be provided, please be prompt.
	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Torah Study in the Ratner Library. Parsha: <i>Vayigash</i> ; Discussion leader: David Conn
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	Human Rights Shabbat in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: <i>Vayigash</i> ; Service leaders: Allen Binstock and Rabbi Steve; Kiddish hosts: Deena and Dick Epstein
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	Hagiga
	10:45-11:15 a.m.	Tot-Parent Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.
	1:00-2:00 p.m.	Mindful Jewish Practice in the Ratner Library. Nancy Rubel will lead these for an hour of a combination of sitting practice and brief conversation.
	7:00-9:00 p.m.	No'ar Hadash event: Animal Toy-Making for the Animal Human Society at the home of Brian and Jean Miller. Contact Emily Gross-Rosenblatt for more information.
Sun., Dec. 20	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Nesiya at Ratner.
Sun., Dec. 27	No Nesiya - Winter Break	

We try to make this calendar as accurate as possible, but last-minute additions, cancellations and venue changes DO sometimes occur. To ensure you have the most up-to-date information, check your email for the most recent Weekly Update or visit the [calendar on the Kol HaLev website](#).

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

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

Place
stamp
here

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