

Kol HaLev Happenings

Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community

February 2011

What is CBCO?

Don't be surprised if you suddenly get a call from a KHL member, asking to have a conversation with you, or you are invited to a house meeting – just to get to know you better. Congregation Based Community Organizing (CBCO) proceeds from the premise that social action only takes place when people connect on a personal level, sharing experiences that have formed their world views.

Once we find out what matters to our members, we will join members of other congregations from all faiths to develop a consensus on doable social action to improve life in Cuyahoga County.

Even if social action is not your focus, you will find that relating in a new way to a member whom you hardly know is rewarding in itself.

Please join the conversation.

Editor's Note: To learn more about CBCO, go to <http://jrf.org/rt> and click on the Summer 2007 issue of *Reconstructionism Today*.

What has Hagiga been doing?

Our education director, Robyn Novick, is a very busy person, but she regularly takes time to share the interesting activities that our children are doing in the Hagiga program. Currently they are exploring what it means to observe Shabbat. To see what each age group is doing, go to http://kolhalev.net/hagiga_updates

Bar Mitzvah

Please join us as our son

Gabriel Joseph Segar

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.

The whole Kol HaLev community
is invited to join us
for a kiddush luncheon following the service.

Please **RSVP by February 25** for catering
purposes.

andygetz@bepure.com, 216-658-9996

Rabbi Steve Segar and Andy Getz

New Members

b'ruchim haba'im

Please welcome new members

Brynna Fish

Sarah Sobel

David Roberts and Lila Hanft
and their children
Alexander, 12
Max, 7

We look forward to seeing you at future
Kol HaLev events

DIRECTORY

Office 2245 Warrensville Center Road, #215 University Heights, OH 44118, www.kolhalev.net		Office Manager Judy Herdering 216-320-1498
Officers President Greg Selker First Vice President Barb Truitt Administrative Vice-President Alan Weinstein Secretary Molly Berger Treasurer Ami Kopstein	At-Large Board Members Leah Gilbert Linda Gross Elise Hagesfeld Greg Millas Robin Shell Ex Officio Board Members Past President – Allen Binstock Rabbi Steve Segar Founding Rabbi Jeffrey Schein Director of Youth and Family Education Robyn Novick	Value Team Leaders 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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Deadline for the March newsletter is Tuesday, February 15, 2011		

Indexes Now Available for KHL Cookbook

Looking for a new dessert to provide the perfect ending for a Shabbat dinner? Trying to find the recipe for that wonderful salad you had at the last Kol HaLev potluck?

Your job has just been made easier with publication of two new indexes for *Cooking with Kol HaLev*, 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 <http://www.kolhalev.net>

If you have not purchased your copy, books are still available for \$18 and can be ordered by contacting Leah Kamionkowski (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.

Rabbinic Corner – Rabbi Steve Segar

One of the aspects of Reconstructionist Judaism that has energized me from early in my adult Jewish life has been its embrace of musical creativity, especially musical creativity within the context of traditional liturgy. This of course is not unique to Reconstructionist Judaism, although I think that it has been developed as fully here as it has anywhere else in the Jewish world.

This past month we lost the person who did more than anyone else to create the environment that has allowed musical creativity to flourish in our movement, as well as across the liberal Jewish world in general. Although I never knew Debbie Friedman personally, her music and her spirit have been a part of Jewish life for me ever since my religious school days. Initially I only knew of her as a talented song writer and guitar player whose melodies made up a very high percentage of the worship services we would conduct in the youth group at our Reform synagogue.

But as I myself became a Jewish professional, I have come to understand how pivotal a role Debbie played in driving a whole new stance towards liturgical music among liberal Jews in our society and around the world. Debbie was the Nachshon who parted the seas of clergy-controlled music and who empowered several generations of lay musicians to explore the language of the prayer service from new musical perspectives.

Prior to Debbie's arrival on the scene the bulk of new liturgical music came exclusively from official Jewish institutional settings. Without rejecting the importance of inherited musical tradition, Debbie pushed us to broaden our horizons, redefining what could qualify as authentic Jewish music, especially in the context of communal worship. And it was not only a broader range of melody that she offered, but also a new level of communal musical engagement that brought services to life in a way that had not previously been the case. At first this happened at Jewish summer camp, but it was not long before her music found its way into synagogues as well.

On a personal note, I recall that as I was preparing to become a bar mitzvah at our synagogue, we were told that the cantorial soloist would be out of town and unavailable. We would have to make other arrangements. After an initial reaction of panic, we were guided towards the local youth group song leader whose repertoire was heavily based on Debbie's material. It turned out that my ceremony was the first to use this kind of music in our synagogue, but nearly every family that came afterwards chose to head in a similar direction due to the heightened engagement that became evident among those in attendance.

Truly, we have lost a gem in the Jewish world, but surely one whose light will continue to shine for many years to come. May her memory and her melody be a blessing.

Rabbi Steve

Editor's Note: A free community concert and sing-along celebrating the life and music of Debbie Friedman, z"l, will be held 2 p.m., Sunday, February 6, at Temple Emanu El, 4545 Brainard Road. Rabbi Steve and KHL members Beth Friedman-Romell and Brynna Fish will be song leading.

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

From Our President – Greg Selker

While January marks the New Year in the Gregorian calendar, it marks the mid-point in our fiscal and programmatic year as a community. This year we began our annual fundraising drive earlier than ever before to coincide with the beginning of the High Holy Days. This fundraising continued to the end of the calendar year in order to take advantage of the generous Challenge Grant put forth by two member households.

While we have not yet achieved the 100% level of participation we had hoped for, I am very pleased to say that we did meet and exceed the Challenge Grant. In doing so, we significantly reduced our deficit for this fiscal year. I want to thank all of the members who participated in this fundraising effort. No matter what level of financial commitment, your participation and contribution is valued and has made a substantive difference.

I also want to remind those member households who were not able to contribute to this fundraising effort that a contribution within the next six months will still make a difference. Every contribution counts, no matter its size, and allows us to operate and deliver our services to our community.

In addition to ensuring our community's financial operations, the Kol HaLev Board of Trustees is very engaged in helping to drive the strategic direction and growth of our community. Most board members wear multiple hats, with duties as Value Team Leaders or responsibility for other specific tasks. Our overriding strategic imperative is eloquently expressed in our vision statement:

Kol Halev is a sacred Jewish community that celebrates the Divine, builds meaningful human connections and repairs the world.

You could say that our financial health as a community is akin to a temperature reading on this vision. The healthier we are financially, the more wherewithal we have to deliver on this vision. As in a human body, one's temperature, while being critically important, is only one indicator of overall health and vitality. Perhaps our heartbeat or pulse can be measured by the level of participation across all of the areas of our programming.

Our Vision, Values and Mission Statement spells out the three fundamental pillars on which a sacred Jewish community is built:

Creating a culture wherein we have the opportunity to explore our individual and collective relationship to the creative force in the universe.

Creating opportunities for us to engage in, learn about and explore our Jewish tradition in ways that bring it meaningfully into our lives today.

Providing opportunities where, as individuals and as a community, we can take actions that can tangibly make a difference in the lives of our families, our community, our region and the world.

Over this next half of our fiscal year I will use this President's Forum to report to the Kol HaLev community on the efforts being undertaken in each of these three critical areas. Similar to our financial thermometer, I will describe the metrics we are using to gauge our health and vitality, distinguish our current prognosis, and define both individual and collective opportunities for us to drive Kol HaLev to even greater strength.

As always, I welcome and encourage feedback, discourse and interaction. Please feel free to reach out to me personally with any questions or concerns about Kol HaLev. In order to help with this process, I can now be reached via email at president@kolhalev.net.

I look forward to speaking with as many Kol HaLev members as possible throughout the remainder of the year as we all participate in building our sacred Jewish community.

Board Report

At the December Board meeting Greg Selker presented a fundraising idea he had heard about at the JRF convention. It features a mock trial based on a story from the Torah. Participants include an experienced judge, prosecuting attorney, and defense attorney, preferably people well-known to the local community. The audience serves as the jury. Executed with intellectual rigor, the trial lasts about 45 minutes. While votes are being tabulated, a panel of rabbis or other religious scholars will discuss the relevance of the arguments for Jews and Americans today. The event would also offer continuing education credit for lawyers. The plan is to solicit local law firms as underwriters. The board supported the idea with a unanimous vote.

Greg also provided an update on merger talks between JRF and RRC. There are currently serious differences between two proposals submitted by the two organizations.

KHL has a core team that is attending training for the CBCO initiative (Congregation-Based Community Organization). There are about 50 congregations of all faiths involved. The goal is to create an ecumenical organization that will improve life for people in Cuyahoga County. The group will first create the organization and then identify 3-5 issues to work on. Ten members from KHL are active in initial activities. This activity will not only build the social action program, but also will contribute to strengthening the KHL community.

Negotiations are ongoing with Ratner for continued use of their building. A key issue will be a new relationship that Ratner is pursuing with the Japanese Cultural School, their use of the building, and how it might impact our use.

Robin Shell reported that holding the kiddush in the front hall presents challenges. It is uncomfortable, cold, there's no place to sit, and it is not near the supplies.

About \$1000 is available for first-time campers to Camp JRF. People should contact Alan Weinstein. Campers need to register before they can apply for camp scholarships.

At the January Board meeting the treasurer reported that our financial position for this year is good; but we will be facing a bigger deficit next year, so we need to build a cushion. Participation in the High Holy Day fundraising drive reached 50% by the end of December, and the challenge grant was met. Efforts will be made to contact members who have not yet contributed.

As part of the treasurer's report, b'nai mitzvah fees were discussed. The revised b'nai mitzvah guidelines should be ready for publication shortly. These will include a disclosure of b'nai mitzvah financial responsibilities and a letter of commitment, both to be signed by the families.

People are working on the Mock Trial fundraiser, putting the budget and a pitch document together. A tentative date of November 12, 2011 has been chosen.

The next Board meeting will be held on February 14, 2011 at the home of Greg Millas. All members are welcome to attend.

<p style="text-align: center;">PURIM IS COMING</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Watch for the Kol HaLev email regarding Shalach Manot baskets for Purim.</p>

Women's Group to Explore Cleveland Jewish History

The Women's Group will visit the Western Reserve Historical Society on February 12 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for a guided tour of their Jewish archives. There will also be a talk on Jewish religious and charitable institutions. There is no cost, but a \$5 donation is suggested, which Maureen Hack will collect.

For those who are interested, we will meet at noon for lunch at the art museum before the tour. If you only plan to come for the tour, meet in the lobby of the Historical Society shortly before 2.

If you plan to come, **please RSVP** to Maureen Hack (216-831-0997 OR mxh7@case.edu)

Kol HaLev Men's Group

The new Kol HaLev men's group will be holding our second meeting on Shabbat afternoon, February 5th, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at the home of Arthur Lieberman, 4125 Giles Rd in Moreland Hills. You are welcome regardless of whether you were able to attend our first meeting in November. The theme of our discussion will be thinking about the impact of competition within male culture.

Contributions

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges the following contributions from:

- Judy Harris in memory of her father, Sol Fink, and her grandmother, Jenny Kramer
- Andrew and Francine Katz to the Rabbi's Discretionary fund in memory of Shirley Brick
- Marguerite Manny in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Mary R. Manny

Kol HaLev thanks the following members for their contributions to the High Holy Days Appeal:

Mike and Kareen Caputo
Abraham and Muriel Chasin
Dick and Deena Epstein
Juanita Fish
Bill Foust and Mimi Plevin-Foust
Ron and Leah Gilbert
Nancy Hecht
Steven Kanner and Karly Whitaker
Eric and Sue Kisch
Neil and Diane Korman
Ernie Logsdon and Jane A. Logsdon
Chip May
Mordechai and Sue Pelleg

Gloria Plevin
Kevin Rahilly and Margaret Cohen
Charles Rosenblatt and Deborah Gross
Allan and Sandy Rosenfield
Dave and Martha Schubert
Greg and Lois Selker
Chuck Sheehe and Marianne Lax
Howard Sobel and Joanne Federman
Larry and Jodi Solomon
Mario and Roberta Tonti
Happy Wallach
Shawn and Simcha Zevit

Mazel Tov!



Mazel Tov to the families of the 5771 Hagigat Limud children!
L-R: Zachary Kornspan, Joseph Moritz, Max Roberts, Louis Rahilly and Evan Brodsky.

Torah Study

Wisdom literature is a path to reflecting on everyday life. It can be puzzling, humorous, helpful or anger - provoking. All this and more is discussed in the Torah Study Group's sessions on the Book of Proverbs from the *Tanach*. Come join the group for a delightful Shabbat afternoon study time.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, February 19, at 3:30 p.m. at the home of Maureen Hack, 17 Dorset Court, Beachwood, 216-831-0997.

Hug HaSefer – Book Discussion Circle

The next book group meeting will be Thursday, February 24, at 7:30 at the home of Anita Cohn. The group will discuss *The Little Disturbances of Man*, a collection of short stories by Grace Paley. In exploring the “little disturbances” that lie behind our everyday lives, Paley captures the loneliness, poignancy, and humor of human experience. Whereas some of her collections are uneven, these stories are uniformly droll and wise. (from Amazon reviews)

The book for March is Victor Perera’s *The Cross and the Pear Tree: A Sephardic Journey*.

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).

Israel Past and Present

The first of four meetings focusing on the history and current situation in Israel will be held Sunday, February 20, 7:30 p.m., at Mike Armin’s home. Art Biagianti will lead a discussion on the founding of Israel and the nationalistic movement of the Jewish people. It is recommended that participants read the Introduction and Afterword of Arthur Hertzberg’s *The Zionist Idea*, one of the major books for understanding Zionism. (Note: Some earlier editions will not have the Afterword.)

The second meeting (time and place TBA) will look at the history of Israel from 1948 to the present day. We will use a different book for that meeting. At the third and fourth meetings we will look at present day Israel in relation to several topics, including religion, minority rights, the economy, and the political system.

SAVE THE DATE RETREAT 2011 for ALL Kol HaLev Women Theme: “Everyday Courage”

What do we identify as courageous in our society or societies? Is this what courage really is? What enables someone to act in a “courageous” manner? How does this fit in with Judaism? What woman is a role model of everyday courage for you? How are courage and empowerment connected? When is courage linked to compassion? Is it possible to acknowledge in-the-moment that you yourself are acting courageously, or only after-the-fact?

Using this year's theme "**Everyday Courage**" as a focus for discussion and meditation, we will have the opportunity to share laughter, insights, and stories, while making new discoveries about each other and our lives.

When: Sunday, March 6, 9:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m

Where: The home of Donna and Dick Weinberger, 32090 Woodsdale Lane, Solon (very near the S.O.M. Ctr. entrance to the South Chagrin Metropark)

Watch for an invitation in your e-mail.

For more information Happy at HappyHKW@aol.com or 216-283-4058.

Deadline for Camp Scholarships for Summer 2011 is NOW

Kol HaLev and the JECC will again provide grants of up to \$1,000.00 to help families defray the cost for children currently in grade 3 or above attending qualifying Jewish summer camps for a minimum of 19 days. Please note that first priority will be given to children enrolled in the Kol HaLev education program who plan to attend Camp JRF. Camperships are available to enrolled children in their **first or second** year at Camp JRF and children in their **first year only** at a non-denominational camp.

If you are interested in applying for one of these camperships, you first need to enroll your child in Camp JRF or another qualifying camp (see list below).

Next go to the One Happy Camper website (www.onehappycamper.org) and register your child for the campership incentive. If your child is in a Jewish day school, you will be instructed to click on the link to the JECC's website (www.jecc.org/youthopportunities/CampFunding1.htm) to enter your data. **Enrollments at Camp JRF are up substantially again this year, so if you are interested in your child's attending this summer, you need to try to enroll them now.**

When you have completed the above registration process, please be sure to contact Alan Weinstein (216-687-3758 or alan.weinstein@law.csuohio.edu) to confirm that you have registered your child. This is an important step that will allow Kol HaLev to track our financial obligation of \$250 for each registered camper.

In addition to Camp JRF, the following non-denominational camps qualify for camperships: B'nai B'rith Beber Camp, B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp, Camp Wise, Emma Kaufmann Camp, Habonim Dror Camps, and Young Judea Camps.

Camp JRF: Quick Facts

Started in 2002, Camp JRF has grown from 39 campers from 12 JRF communities in Summer 2002 to an expected 400 campers from almost 50 communities in Summer 2011. This growth in enrollment has also included a broadening of ages: Camp JRF now has programs for youngsters between 8 and 17 years of age. Energetic and creative staff members come from the United States, Canada, and Israel; and Camp JRF senior staff includes students from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

In 2006, Camp JRF moved to its new permanent facility located on 130 acres of beautifully wooded land in the Pocono Mountains. Cabins for campers are equipped with toilets and showers, and each cabin has a porch. Campers take their meals in a newly renovated dining hall (capacity of 400 people) with a fully equipped kosher kitchen. In the event that a camper requires medical assistance, there is a 24-hour health clinic within 5 minutes of the camp and the Scranton Community Medical Center is within 20 minutes of the camp.

The campsite's features and amenities include:

- heated six-lane pool with attached changing area and hot tub
- private four-acre lake with sandy beach, water trampoline, and small boats
- arts center with individual rooms for pottery, crafts, cooking, cloth screening, industrial arts, and more
- indoor/outdoor theater with seating for 360, dual-level stage, and adjoining classrooms
- large outdoor pavilions for gymnastics, dance, sports, and education
- sports fields for baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and group games
- basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, tennis courts, and roller hockey rink
- indoor facility with theater, gymnastics, and skating equipment
- high and low ropes course elements
- multiple streams and hiking trails
- fully equipped health center

For more information about Camp JRF visit their web site at www.campjrf.org

Volunteers Needed

Translate your commitment to Kol HaLev into participation. Volunteers are needed for several important roles in our community:

Event Coordinator
Holidays Coordinator
Adult Education Co-Chair

Tikkun Olam Co-Chair
Assistant Treasurer
Sound/Audio Setup

If you are interested in finding out more information, please contact Judy Vida, 440-646-1390, Leah Kamionkowski, 216-464-2940 or Greg Selker, 216-406-4789.

Yahrzeits

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

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

Ruth Armin – wife of Mike Armin, mother of Rachel Williams, and grandmother of Gwen and Clay Williams

Lisa Goldstein – mother of Anita Cohn

Ruth W Goodman – stepmother of Bruce Goodman

George Smith – father of Barbara Truitt

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 .

FEBRUARY 2011 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

Saturday 5 10:15 a.m. – **Evolution Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Terumah*; Service leaders: Barb Truitt and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush co-hosted by Dave and Martha Schubert in honor of Martha's 40th birthday and in commemoration of Martha's grandmother, Edith Berger's, yahrzeit and by Ken and Barbara Messinger-Rapport Post-kiddush discussion led by Rabbi Steve on our vision for raising the quality of life in northeast Ohio (see article on page1 – What is CBCO?)

Saturday 5 10:15 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 5 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. – **Kol HaLev Men's Group Meeting** at the home of Arthur Lieberman, 4125 Giles Road, Moreland Hills, 440-893-0712

Sunday 6 2:00 p.m. - **A free community concert and sing-along celebrating the life and music of Debbie Friedman, z"l**, at Temple Emanu El, 4545 Brainard Road. Rabbi Steve and KHL members Beth Friedman-Romell and Brynna Fish will be song leading.

(continued on page 11)

FEBRUARY 2011 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

(continued from page 10)

- Tuesday 8 8:00am - 9:00am - **Shmooze With the Rabbi** at the Stone Oven on Lee Rd.
- Saturday 12 12:00 noon – **Women’s Group Lunch at the Art Museum**
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. – **Women’s Group Western Reserve Historical Society Tour**
See article on page 1
- Monday 14 7:30 p.m. - **Board Meeting** at the home of Greg and Pam Millas, 23208 East Baintree Road, Beachwood, 216-382-5029; All Kol HaLev members are welcome
- Saturday 19 10:15 a.m. – **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Ki Tissa*; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Discussion leader: Fred Chenin; Kiddush co-hosted by Rob Pliskin, Peter Imrey, and Joe Mendes and Cynthia Larsen
- Saturday 19 10:15 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 19 3:30 p.m. - **Torah Study (Proverbs)** at the home of Maureen Hack, 17 Dorset Court, Beachwood, 216-831-0997
- Sunday 20 7:30 p.m. - **Israel Past and Present** (first of four meetings) at the home of Mike Armin, 4344 Baintree Road, University Heights, 216-381-6424
- Wednesday 23 7:30 p.m. – **Mindful Jewish Practice** at the home of Molly Berger, 19744 Chagrin Boulevard, Shaker Heights, 216-752-5434; Both novice and experienced meditators are welcome to attend
- Thursday 24 7:30 p.m. - **Book Group** at the home of Anita Cohn, 2112 Acacia Park Drive, Apt. 106, Lyndhurst, 440-446-9336
- Friday 25 6:30 p.m. - **Musical Kabbalat Shabbat** at Ratner Chapel followed by Oneg hosted by Marsha and Fred Chenin
- Saturday 26 10:00 a.m. - **Musical Service** with Torah Study at Ratner Chapel; *Vayakhel*; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Discussion leader: Barb Truit; potluck co-hosted by Charles Rosenblatt and Deborah Gross and by Linda Gross
Potluck assignments:
A-H - Dessert or Drink
I-P - Main Dish
Q-Z – Appetizer Salad
- The dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or parve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10. In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck.

Save the date – Joint Kol HaLev/Ratner Shabbat on Friday night March 4th and Saturday morning March 5th.
More information to follow in the weekly updates.

See our website calendar and weekly email for additions and changes

Kol HaLev Happenings

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216-320-1498

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Kol HaLev

Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community

An egalitarian, participatory spiritual community

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

Visit our website at www.kolhalev.net