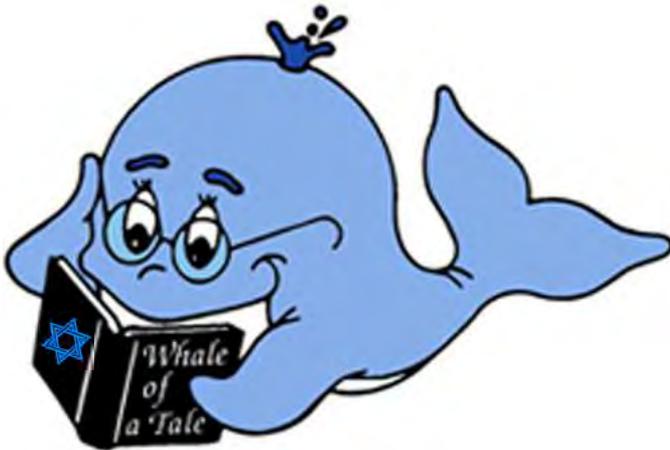


KOL HALEV  
*CLEVELAND'S JEWISH  
RECONSTRUCTIONIST  
COMMUNITY*

YOUTH AND  
FAMILY EDUCATION  
HANDBOOK  
2016-2017/5777

ANNUAL THEME:  
A WHALE OF A JEWISH TALE



Rabbi Steve Segar  
Education Director: Robyn Novick  
Youth & Family Education Committee Chair (temporary):  
Bill Scher-Marcus

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**Kol HaLev**

# WELCOME

Dear Kol HaLev Family,

*Bruchim HaBayim!* Welcome to Hagiga, Kol HaLev's education program, built upon an informal and intergenerational learning model. "Hagiga" means celebration, and that is what this program is. Hagiga celebrates learning, as it states in the program's mission and vision: "In recognition of the importance of life-long questioning and Jewish learning, our Hagiga program aims to create a range of joyous, exciting educational and social opportunities for our youth and their families."

Hagiga is for Kindergarten - grade 12 and meets on the first and third Shabbat mornings of each month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Our first Shabbat meeting this year will be on **Saturday, September 17** and the program will continue through the month of May. Please note that there will not be Hagiga or Nesiya the weekend of October 1st & 2nd. There will be special sessions on Rosh HaShanah (October 3rd) and Yom Kippur (October 12). There will be many special programs throughout the year during Hagiga, details of which can be found on pages 12-14.

Hagiga is overseen by the Youth and Family Education Committee, which is also responsible for youth group, Family Tot Shabbat, family education and intergenerational programming. Youth education does not have its own committee as Kol HaLev's vision is to provide a holistic approach to education within our community. In doing so, it is clear that all educational experiences are important. The education program for youth and families has been created in a manner that allows for a symbiotic relationship between all the components, offering multiple avenues for education along each person's Jewish journey.

We request all parents of children in grades K-12 to fill out the Enrollment Form enclosed in this handbook. Your registering your children in a timely manner helps the process greatly, as one element of cohort division is the group size. Nitzanim, preschoolers, need not register as Family Tot Shabbat is a drop-in program.

We hope you find this handbook useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Bill Scher-Marcus, the Youth and Family Education Committee Chair, with any questions or concerns. We look forward to engaging all of our children in Reconstructionist learning experiences and dialogue.

*Kol Tuv*, All my best, Robyn

# MISSION, VISION AND GOALS OF THE HAGIGA PROGRAM

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Congregation Kol HaLev's Educational Program is to provide a range of joyous, exciting educational and social opportunities for all members of Kol HaLev, especially the congregation's youth and their families. The opportunities will foster a desire to become committed Reconstructionist Jews who identify with Kol HaLev, the Cleveland Jewish Community, the American Jewish Community and *k'lal yisrael* (The Jewish People). The program will provide participants with a strong Jewish knowledge base and recognition of the importance of life-long questioning and Jewish learning.

## **Vision Statement**

This educational program will be an informal, intergenerational education model where there is an inherent learning partnership between the teacher, the learner and the subject matter. The students will be brought into the learning process as active, valued participants. The subject matter will be linked to the real life situations of the learners. The learning spaces will be flexible and there will be cooperative learning groups engaging in experiential activities which include drama, art, music, dance, games, creative writing, role-playing and activities outside the walls of the classroom. Learning will involve families and at times other members of the Kol HaLev community. Madrichim shall be volunteers, if possible, trained and supervised by our director of education. Where possible, this program will be coordinated with the educational products/efforts of JRF, Noar Hadash, and Camp JRF. We envision that Kol HaLev will attempt to engage our youth from preschool through the college years.

## **Overarching Goals**

- Developing a positive Jewish and Reconstructionist identity
- Developing a sense of community
- Viewing Jewish learning as a life-long process
- Developing an understanding of the Jewish Reconstructionist approach to Jewish living

## Reconstructionist Educational Values

The Values of Spiritual Peoplehood will be integrated with the overarching goals of the program. These values will be part of the subject matter and the experiences, and of all units of learning.

They are:

Wisdom *Hohmah*

Creativity *Hiddur Mitzvah*

Spirituality *Kedusha*

Peoplehood *Tziyonut*

Repairing the World *Tikkun Olam*

Character *Dereh Eretz*

Hebrew and Prayer Exploration

## Shabbat Statement

*Developed and approved by Hagiga participants May 21, 2011*

Shabbat is a special time that should be recognized as different from the rest of the week. We recognize that there are multiple avenues to celebrate Shabbat and everyone should have the opportunity to celebrate in a way that is comfortable. Therefore, any activity which is done at Hagiga should reflect the spirit of Shabbat and be embraced, as long as it is not an obstacle for another's Shabbat observance. We must take steps to be an open community where everyone can share their feelings and be respectful that we each take our own path, but be aware to not take away from our community Shabbat celebration.

## ENROLLMENT & PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

A Hagiga Enrollment Form is enclosed within this handbook. Our year will begin on Saturday, **September 17th at 10:30 am at The Ratner School**. The Youth and Family Education Committee has been debating the most effective strategies for continuity within the Hagiga program. They have determined that **learners should participate in the Saturday morning Hagiga program at a minimum 75% attendance, which is 12 sessions annually**. Please make every effort to attend Hagiga on a regular basis. Please complete the Enrollment Form, sign, and return it to the office so we can best prepare. Learners need not be registered for Hagiga to participate in all-community, intergenerational or youth programs.

## SHABBAT PRINCIPLES

The Kol HaLev community made a conscious choice to hold Hagiga on Shabbat. While we have lessons on Shabbat, the community has taken steps to ensure that Shabbat is a holy day and is distinguished from the other days of the week, which is stated in the following principles:

1. Many of our members are committed to having an experience of Shabbat that is special, holy, sacred, joyous and is differentiated from the rest of the week. Others wish to have an experience of Shabbat which while differentiating it from the rest of the week, is focused on establishing a connection of community with other members of Kol HaLev and more broadly with the Jewish people. As an overall congregation, we're committed to these experiences, and to creating a space and structure which makes it easy for other people to share these experiences of Shabbat.
2. Offering a rich, expressive and expansive educational experience is critically important for us. It's also essential, given that we've chosen Shabbat as the day in which we're going to offer this educational experience, that the educational program is planned with the *kavannah* of promoting and creating access to these experiences of Shabbat to which we're personally and communally committed. This holds regardless of the form and structure the educational program and activities take.
3. We know and understand each one of our members is on an ever evolving pathway in his or her personal Jewish journey, and that a good part of this pathway is the personalization of what being a Jew is for each individual. In this sense, each one of us is simultaneously a creator, interpreter and transmitter of Judaism. We also understand there is a natural tension and balance point constantly being discovered for each individual on this evolving pathway between our collective past, present and future as individuals, a community and a people. It is our heartfelt belief the struggle with this tension, and the natural actions which occur as a result of this struggle, represent an opportunity for the ordinary to reveal the extraordinary, the extraordinary to reveal the ordinary and thus for the individual and community to experience growth, learning and development. Our commitment is that whatever structure and format the educational programming takes, it incorporates this struggle and as a result, encompasses this inherent opportunity for growth, development and learning.

4. Because our members are on different and evolving pathways on their own Jewish journeys, it is critical that each of us brings to our relationship with the other a profound respect for the unique Jewish journey of each individual. This then can lead to an understanding of the range of ways in which each person chooses to create and have a meaningful experience of Shabbat. Our intention is that the educational programming incorporates our community commitments to experience the power, sacredness and holiness of Shabbat, the experience of Shabbat as being distinct from the rest of the week, and the experience of Shabbat as a vehicle to create community within Kol HaLev and more broadly the Jewish people. And just as each member of Kol HaLev is on a different and evolving pathway on their own Jewish journey, the form and structure of our educational programming should acknowledge the reality of these different pathways and the different “routes in” which create these experiences.
5. We also understand the educational process itself is one that leverages different modalities of teaching and of learning, and that by choosing to have our educational programming on Shabbat, we potentially could place ourselves inside a structure which would limit certain modalities of learning and teaching to be explored. While we are not committed to throwing caution to the wind and opening up the total exploration of these different modalities of teaching and learning, we equally are not committed to the total restriction of these modalities. Therefore, we’re committed that our educational programming embark on a mindful exploration of these varied modalities, and that there are processes put in place which both evaluate and adjust the effectiveness of the tools and methodologies deployed in this intentional, mindful and careful exploration.
6. We understand that in order for these principles to tangibly exist in the structure and format of our educational programming, it will require creativity, out-of-the-box thinking, and for both the planning of the programming and the programming itself to be undertaken and implemented with both tremendous *kavannah* and *ruach*. It is our intention these principles are used as both a source and influence for our educational programming, sparking individual and collective *ruach* and sharpening individual and collective *kavanah*.

*Approved by the Board in June 2005. Posted July 29, 2005*

שבת שלום  
*Shabbat Shalom!*

# B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM



Every candidate for Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the Kol HaLev community must satisfy the following three requirements:

- ◆ *Participating in the Kol HaLev community*
- ◆ *Receiving a foundation in Judaic and Hebrew education*
- ◆ *Participating in activities that develop one's Reconstructionist identity*

Families have multiple options to fulfill these requirements. For families with children in grades 4-6, a copy of the Policy for Celebrating Bar/Bat Mitzvah will be sent separately to your home. If you have a child outside of grades 4-6 or would like another copy, the Policy can be found on the Kol HaLev website, [www.kolhalev.net](http://www.kolhalev.net) or you can request a copy from the office. The Annual Checklist for Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Kol HaLev has been enclosed in this handbook. This checklist notes the various options to assist families in planning their child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. Please review these materials and complete the Checklist for all children in grades 4-6 and return it to the Kol HaLev office. Families enrolled in Rabbi Steve's B'nai Mitzvah Family Cohort will receive a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook, which has more in depth information about the B'nai Mitzvah process.

Our requirements for Bar/Bat Mitzvah state that one must participate in Judaic, Reconstructionist, AND Hebrew education programs. Hagiga is meant to satisfy the Judaic and Reconstructionist requirements. For day school students, the Hebrew requirement is clearly satisfied by day school education. For those not in day school, Kol HaLev endorses private tutoring or enrollment in the Kol HaLev T'filah/Hebrew program, Nesiya. For a list of the schools and programs that Kol HaLev endorses, please contact Robyn. If your child is in grades 3-6 and does not attend day school, please enroll your child in Hebrew for the coming year. If you would like help determining the best option for your family, please contact Robyn. There are a great many wonderful choices for Hebrew education available to the youth of Kol HaLev - an option for every learning style and personality.

# NESIYA

The Nesiya program is generously funded by the Jewish Fund for the Future of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. Nesiya is a *T'filah* (prayer)/Hebrew program that is open to members in grades 3-7.

“Nesiya” means journey and focuses on the *t'filah* (prayer) experience, both in decoding (recognizing and sounding the aleph-bet and vowels), as well as the spiritual and intellectual elements of *t'filah*. The lessons are a combination of *chevruta* (small group) learning, project based learning, individual areas of concentration and technology. The goal is that a graduate of this program will be able to comfortably participate in a Kol HaLev worship service and find it to be a meaningful experience.

There are four levels to the Nesiya program - *aleph, bet, gimel and dalet*, based on the journey of the individual learner. Each level will meet once a week for two hours. To determine the best fit for each student, there will be a short assessment at the beginning of the year. The program meets at the Ratner School on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon.

As Nesiya meets for a limited amount of time, there is an expectation that families will participate in reinforcement activities. One activity is Chaverim B'telefon (Friends on the phone). Each student will be paired with a member of the community who they will connect with via a technological means (telephone, Skype, FaceTime, etc.) or in person weekly. The students and their partners will be provided with materials, and the families will be responsible for the partners connecting.

Another avenue for out of the classroom reinforcement is utilization of the PrayerTech program, an online learning program through fun and games. Through this program participants can play, practice and share feedback on their own time frame. Our goal is to create a Hebrew learning experience that will engage our children, as well as produce a love of learning.

Kol HaLev does not require attendance at Nesiya and recognizes that there are many different learning needs and styles. If the Nesiya program does not meet your family's needs, there are several options available. Kol HaLev endorses congregational, private groups and individual learning of Hebrew. If you would like a list of congregations, tutors and tutoring groups in the area, please contact Robyn.

## HAGIGA PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

Hagiga is a non-traditional, informal learning program for all children at Kol HaLev. The program meets on the first and third Shabbat mornings of each month from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm and is open to children in Kindergarten through grade 12. This year, the curriculum is formed around our theme, A Whale of a Jewish Tale, where we will look at Jewish wisdom through stories. We will be exploring the theme through a variety of means.

Shabbat morning begins together as a community at 10:30 am in the main service for *Birchot Hashachar* (Morning Blessings), with our families. At the conclusion of this part of the service, around 10:45 am, children will join their respective age groups for Hagiga programming. Toward the end of the morning, the Bonim and Magshimim will gather together for *Z'man Ruach*, Spirit Time, a time for creative programming, such as singing, dancing, cooking, games and art in a camp-like atmosphere.



This year we have the great fortune to have a shinshin, an Israeli emissary, leading our teen (high school) Saturday morning program. Teens will have the opportunity to learn about Israel, as well as topics of their choosing. Participant input is highly encouraged.

For the preschool children and younger, there is Family Tot Shabbat from 10:45-11:15 am. This is a family program led by Rachel Williams and Josh Chefitz and children are to be accompanied by their parents. There is also *Chaverim B'Yachad*, Friends Together, (babysitting) during Shabbat morning services (10:30 am–12:30 pm), outside of Family Tot Shabbat times.

One goal of Hagiga is to create a community. In an effort to accomplish this goal, Hagiga is for enrolled children only. However, if a member family would like their child to visit Hagiga to assist in their decision making process, they are welcome to do so. Please let Robyn know of your visitation plan, as it is important that we are aware of visitors to properly plan for the lesson, as well as for safety reasons.

Age groups: **Chalutzim★Pioneers** (Grades 9-12)  
**Magshimim★Achievers** (Grades 6-8)  
**Bonim★Builders** (Grades 3-5)  
**Zorim★Planters** (Kindergarten-Grade 2)

Shabbat Morning Schedule:

10:30-10:45 Community Shabbat Service  
10:45-11:45 Program  
11:45-11:55 Snack  
11:55-12:25 *Z'man Ruach*, Spirit Time/Service  
12:25-12:30 Community Shabbat Service

**Nitzanim★Buds** (Preschool & under accompanied by parents)

10:45-11:15 Family Tot Shabbat

**Chaverim B'Yachad★Friends Together**

(Babysitting)

Chaverim B'Yachad/Babysitting is available from 10:30 am-12:30 pm for all children not in Hagiga or the main service. All visitors to Kol HaLev are welcome to utilize the babysitting services.



## COMMUNICATIONS

Communication between parents, the director, and the madrichim (volunteer teacher-leaders) is an important part of the success of Hagiga. The following represent the many opportunities for communication within our education community.

- ◆ Parents receive emails before each session highlighting the material.
- ◆ Hagiga Happenings is a monthly column about Youth and Family Education, which can be found in the Kol HaLev newsletter.
- ◆ There is an update during announcements at Shabbat services each week Hagiga is in session.
- ◆ Feel free to contact Bill Scher-Marcus, (temporary) Chair of the Youth and Family Education committee, [scher.marcus@gmail.com](mailto:scher.marcus@gmail.com); 216-212-6652.
- ◆ Do not hesitate to contact Robyn Novick, [robyn@kolhalev.net](mailto:robyn@kolhalev.net) or (216) 320-1498.

# 2016-2017/5777 HAGIGA CALENDAR

All sessions will take place on  
Saturday mornings from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- Session 1: September 17
- Session 2: October 15
- Session 3: November 5 - Joseph Moritz Bar Mitzvah Ceremony
- Session 4: November 19
- Session 5: December 3 - Making of a Mensch
- Session 6: December 17
- Session 7: January 7 - Matt Bar of The Bible Raps
- Session 8: January 21 - Camp JRF Day
- Session 9: February 4 - *Hagigat Limmud* Welcoming Ceremony
- Session 10: February 18
- Session 11: March 4 - Noah Epstein Bar Mitzvah Ceremony
- Session 12: March 18
- Session 13: April 1
- Session 14: April 15
- Session 15: May 6
- Session 16: May 20 - Senior *Siyyum* & Madrichim Appreciation

\*Please note there will NOT be Hagiga on October 1



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

### NO'AR HADASH

*No'ar Hadash*, New Youth, the Youth Group for 8th - 12th graders, promotes and fosters creative, innovative and fun Jewish youth programming from a uniquely Reconstructionist perspective. In past years, activities have included volunteering at local agencies, attending cultural events and participating in recreational activities, as well as social events. Highlights for this coming year include participating in the Cleveland Museum of Art's annual Chalk Festival, seeing an IMAX movie at the Great Lakes Science Center, going on a scavenger hunt, and working with other youth groups at local agencies at this year's J-Serve (International Day of Jewish Youth Service). Looking forward to another year full of fun and exciting activities!



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

No'ar Hadash North American Teen Kallah  
March 3-5, 2017 in New York City



## B'NAI MITZVAH

Nadiv Brenner Ballin Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - October 22, 2016

Joseph Moritz Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - November 5, 2016

Noah Epstein Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - March 4, 2017

Louis Rahilly Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - June 3, 2017

Bennet Meacham Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - June 17, 2017

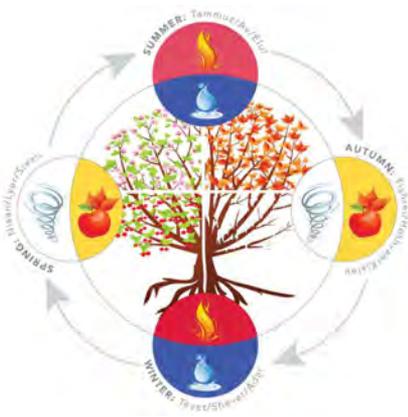


## SOCIAL PROGRAMMING

This year there will be social events for each cohort organized by members of the community. Details will be distributed throughout the year. If you have any questions or are interested in organizing an event, please contact Robyn and she will get you in touch with the appropriate person.

## INTERGENERATIONAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

This year we will have six intergenerational holiday programs.



Sunday, September 25

-Rosh HaShanah

Apple Picking

Sunday, October 16

-Sukkot

Friday, December 30

-Hanukah

Friday, February 10

-Tu B'Shevat

Saturday, March 11

-Purim

Saturday, May 13

-Lag B'Omer

## **BIBLE RAPS**

Bible Raps is a unique way to approach Torah learning! On Saturday, January 7 the Magshimim & Chalutzim will be joined by Matt Bar of the Bible Raps Experience. Participants will create an original piece of music—from lyrics to beat to visual effects—using text they have learned and internalized. We will learn Torah, about rap, hip hop & rhyme, and transform text in rap. Then we will record our final product and produce a video of our experience! A live performance may follow for the community. For more information about Bible Raps, please see <http://bibleRaps.com>. This program is financially sponsored by @Akiva.



## **COUNT ME IN**

Count Me In is a program for all Jewish 6th graders in the Cleveland area. 13 different communities (Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist) will come together for a wonderful day of learning, as well as getting to know each other. As this program is for those who are in the process of becoming a bar/bat mitzvah, the day will be centered upon learning about what it means to be counted as a member of the community. The community program will take place on **Sunday, November 13** from 9:30 am-12:00 pm. Last year there were about 200 6th graders that participated! There is a prep session, which will take place the week before at a mutually agreed upon time. There will be a special parallel parent session during the November 13th program. More details will be provided closer to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn.

## **INTERGENERATIONAL SHABBATON**

Kol HaLev holds an intergenerational Shabbaton biannually. This year the Shabbaton will be held, **Friday, April 28-Sunday, April 30** at the Manor House at Punderson State Park. We will celebrate Shabbat as a community in this beautiful location, as well as learn from one another as we delve into a wonderful learning experience about Jewish stories.



## **THEME INSPIRED SPECIAL PROJECTS**

This year we are again the grateful recipients of generous enrichment funding from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. Inspired by our A Whale of a Jewish Tale theme, and in accordance with the vision of the Hagiga program, we will be doing several special projects this year. These projects include cooking projects inspired by Jewish stories, a program by Project Love, special guests and participating in Tikkun Olam projects. Each project will have an educational component, as well as a creative aspect.



## **PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY**

Benjamin Barnett will be leading a community of learning applying principles of Philosophical Inquiry (also called Philosophy for Children) to Jewish texts. Philosophical Inquiry engages participants with questions of meaning arising from the core texts of our tradition, connecting Jewish learning and the development of personal Jewish identity. Kids explore philosophy as a group collaboration in which they unpack questions of meaning together in order to make deeper sense of their experiences of the world. Participants are encouraged to raise meaningful and nuanced questions that relate directly to their own lives.

This optional enrichment program is for children in the grades 5-7. Seventh graders in Rabbi Steve's B'nai Mitzvah cohort will find this group to be a great opportunity to deepen their engagement with Torah texts and to develop peer mentoring relationships with younger individuals in the group.

Lessons convene promptly at 9:30am in the art room on every Hagiga Shabbat; please arrive at 9:15am to enjoy a light nosh before lessons begin. Ongoing participation is requested. For more information, contact Benjamin, [shmedia@aol.com](mailto:shmedia@aol.com) or 216-291-4313.

## DERECH ERETZ: GUIDELINES TO LIVE BY

At Kol HaLev, *kavod*, respect and *kehillah*, community, are two of our most important values. According to Jewish tradition, we are all created *b'tzelem elohim*, in God's image; therefore, the way in which we treat each other is central. Our goal is for all of the learning community to behave with *derech erez*, common decency, as well as acceptance and inclusivity. Please note, while these overarching guidelines apply to everyone at Hagiga, individual groups will affirm their own guidelines which will direct their experience. Let us be mindful of the following guidelines as we learn and pray together:

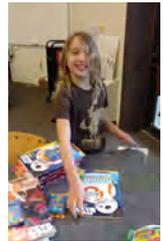
1. We are respectful to each other.
2. We respect our environment and the property in it.
3. We cooperate with our fellow students and madrichim.
4. Words can hurt and words can heal; we are careful to use appropriate language.
5. We speak kindly to each other and don't bother our neighbors.
6. We participate in and contribute positively to the learning and community atmosphere.
7. We strive to have a good time and help others have a good time also.
8. We each strive to be a *mensch* (a good person).



*Haggigat Limmud, January 23, 2016*



# Youth & Family Memories 2015-2016/5776



Be present with those around me more  
because I said I would.





# Kol HaLev



**CLEVELAND'S JEWISH  
RECONSTRUCTIONIST  
COMMUNITY**

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