

KOL HALEV  
*CLEVELAND'S JEWISH  
RECONSTRUCTIONIST  
COMMUNITY*

YOUTH AND  
FAMILY EDUCATION  
HANDBOOK  
2019-2020/5780

ANNUAL THEME:

Living the Dream  
Recon Style



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**Kol HaLev**

# WELCOME

Dear Kol HaLev Family,

*Bruchim HaBayim!* Welcome to Youth and Family Education (YFE) at Kol HaLev, a program built upon an informal and intergenerational learning model. We have multiple programs, some of which are on-going, such as Hagiga, Nesiya and Tot-Shabbat, and some that take place intermittently throughout the year, which include intergenerational holiday celebrations, youth group, Hagiga retreats, family programs, and social activities for youth in all age groups.

Our goal is to provide a range of educational opportunities for the entire community that are content rich, community building, social, fun, dynamic and, at the core, Reconstructionist. As it states in our 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.”

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 engagement along each person’s Jewish journey, and fulfilling the mission of “recognition of the importance of life-long questioning and Jewish learning.”

The year will kickoff with a special program –**THE SHOFAR FACTORY**- on **Sunday, September 8th at 1pm**. At the program we will learn a bit about Hagiga, get to meet new friends, visit with old friends, have a nosh, and make our very own shofar! Everyone will have an opportunity to blow shofar on Rosh Hashanah. It will be a very fun and exciting day! Please note that this is included as one of the 16 Hagiga sessions for Hagiga for the year.

Another special program will be the **Sukkot Intergenerational** program which will take place on **Friday, October 18th**. In recognition of everyone’s busy schedules, there will not be Hagiga on Saturday, October 19th.

We hope you find this handbook useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. We look forward to engaging all members 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

While many programs do not require preregistration, the Hagiga and Nesiya programs both require enrollment. Please find enrollment forms for those programs enclosed. Hagiga will begin with a special kickoff program on **Sunday, September 8th from 1-3 pm at The Ratner School with the Shofar Factory!** The Youth and Family Education Committee has been debating the most effective strategies for continuity within the ongoing programs. They have determined that **learners should participate at a minimum 75% of the time.** Please make every effort to attend Hagiga and Nesiya on a regular basis. Please complete the enrollment forms, sign, and return them to the office so we can best prepare. Learners need not be registered 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*



# 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 celebration at 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 a range of Hebrew learning including 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 *hevruta* (small group) learning, project based learning, individual areas of concentration, and community-wide learning. 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*. 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 on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon in Cleveland Heights. **Nesiya participants will be co-leading Shabbat morning services with Rabbi Steve on Saturday, April 25, 2020.**

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 weekly, either via a technological means (telephone, Skype, FaceTime, etc.) or in person. Participants will be provided with materials and families will be responsible for the partners connecting.

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 in Kindergarten-grade 8. The program meets on the first and third Shabbat mornings of each month from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. The curriculum is formed around our annual theme, *Living the Dream Recon Style*, which will explore avenues of Reconstructionism including the importance of Scientific Thought, Social Justice, as well as the 4 Bs of Reconstructionism – Believing, Behaving, Belonging and Becoming. We will be exploring the theme through a variety of means.



Hagiga begins promptly at 10:30 with participants going to their individual classrooms for age specific - *cohort* - programming . After cohort learning, participants will go either to services (just in time for the Torah service) or to *chuggim* - creative programming workshops, such as music, cooking, games or art. The goal is to be in the service half the year and participate in a *chug* half the year. This will be followed by snack.

For preschool children and younger, there is Family Tot Shabbat from 10:45-11:15 am. This is a family program led by a member of the community 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 youth community within Kol HaLev. In an effort to accomplish this goal, Hagiga is for enrolled children only and ongoing participation of at least 75% (12 sessions throughout the year) is highly encouraged. 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: ***Magshimim*★Achievers** (Grades 6-8)  
***Bonim*★Builders** (Grades 3-5)  
***Zorim*★Planters** (Kindergarten-Grade 2)

Shabbat Morning Schedule:

10:30-11:40 Program  
11:40-12:15 Service or *chug* (workshop)  
12:15-12:30 Snack

**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

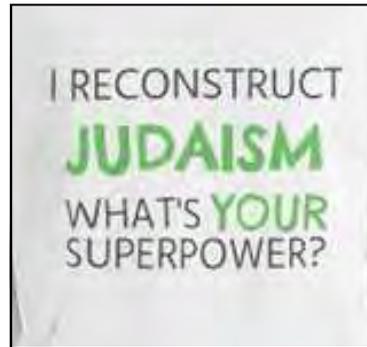
Communication between parents, the director, and the madrichim (volunteer teacher-leaders) is an important part of the success of Hagiga. The following represent the many opportunities for communication within our education community.

- ◆ 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 a Hagiga update during announcements at Shabbat services each week Hagiga is in session.
- ◆ Do not hesitate to contact Robyn Novick, [robyn@kolhalev.net](mailto:robyn@kolhalev.net) or (216) 320-1498.

# 2019-2020/5780 HAGIGA CALENDAR

Sessions will take place on Saturday mornings from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm,  
with other special programming as noted

- Session 1: SUNDAY, September 8 at 1 pm - Special Kickoff Program
- Session 2: September 21
- Session 3: November 2
- Session 4: November 16
- Session 5: December 7
- Session 6: December 21
- Session 7: January 4
- Session 8: January 18
- Session 9: February 1
- Session 10: February 15
- Session 11: March 7
- Session 12: March 21
- Session 13: April 4-Bat Mitzvah Lilah Raddock
- Session 14: April 18-Bat Mitzvah Gwen Williams
- Session 15: May 2-Senior Siyyum
- Session 16: May 16-Madrachim Appreciation



- ⇒ Please note there will NOT be Hagiga on October 5 or 19
- ⇒ Sukkot Intergenerational program on Friday, October 18 will take the place of regular Hagiga weekend meeting
- ⇒ Zorim & Bonim Family program at Museum of Natural History on Sunday, February 23
- ⇒ Bonim & Magshimim Retreat at Common Ground Center on Sunday, April 26
- ⇒ Havdalah Community Programs at Members Homes:
  - ⇒ Zorim & Bonim on Saturday, January 25
  - ⇒ Magshimim on Saturday, March 28

## TEEN 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, participating in recreational activities, and social events - including Fun N'Stuff, corn maze, zip-lining, escape rooms, movie nights, Cavs game, Dave & Busters, doing chesed (kindness) projects, volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank, 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!



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

## B'NAI MITZVAH

Aviv Logsdon Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - August 24, 2019

Eilan Oster Bar Mitzvah Ceremony - November 9, 2019

Lilah Raddock Bat Mitzvah Ceremony - April 4, 2020

Gwen Williams Bat Mitzvah Ceremony - April 18, 2020

Morgan Meacham Bat Mitzvah Ceremony - June 27, 2020



## 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. In past years we had potluck dinners, whirlyball, picnics, geocaching, roller skating and canoeing, to name a few. If you have any questions or are interested in organizing an event, please contact Robyn.

## INTERGENERATIONAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

This year we will have six intergenerational holiday programs.

- ◆ Sunday, September 22
  - Rosh HaShanah Apple Picking
- ◆ Friday, October 18
  - Sukkot
- ◆ Sunday, December 22
  - Hanukah
- ◆ Sunday, February 9
  - Tu B'Shevat
- ◆ Monday, March 9
  - Purim
- ◆ Tuesday, May 12
  - Lag B'Omer



## SCIENCE & JUDAISM - MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

We are so excited (especially Rabbi Steve) for this fun, interesting and innovative family program for Zorim (K-2) and Bonim (3-5) families at the Museum of Natural History on **Sunday, February 23, 2020**. The program will focus on the importance and integration of science in Reconstructionist Judaism. Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructing Judaism, believed that there should be an integration of scientific thought into religious awareness. There will be learning with Rabbi Steve, activities throughout the museum, projects in our own special space, and time to hangout with Kol HaLev friends.

## 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 3rd** from 9:30 am-12:00 pm. Last year there were about 100 6th graders that participated! There will be 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 3rd program. More details will be provided closer to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn.



**Common Ground**  
*The Cindy Nord Center for Renewal*

## BONIM & MAGSHIMIM RETREAT

On **Sunday, April 26, 2020** the Bonim (grades 3-5) and Magshimim (grades 6-8) will board a bus for the Common Ground Center in Oberlin. For more than 20 years, Common Ground has been providing innovative programs that nurture the body, challenge the mind, and renew the spirit. We will spend the day learning about each other and from each other while exploring the low and high ropes courses. It will be a very fun and rewarding day!

## **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 *Living the Dream Recon Style* theme, and in accordance with the vision of the Hagiga program, we will be doing several creative projects this year.

These projects will focus on the 4Bs of Reconstructionism—Believing, Behaving,

Belonging, and Becoming and will include The Shofar Factory

(Believing), Shabbat Kits (Behaving), and Havdalah programs

(Belonging) and Social Justice, namely projects for local agencies. 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.

Participants 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 towards the end of oneg (1-2 pm) in the art room on every Hagiga Shabbat. Please grab a nosh from the oneg and bring along. 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 eretz*, 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).



*Hagigat Limmud* - January 19, 2019



**Youth & Family Memories 2018-2019/5779**





# Kol HaLev

**CLEVELAND'S JEWISH  
RECONSTRUCTIONIST  
COMMUNITY**

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