

Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community

JULY 2013

THE POWER OF MOURNING ON TISHA B'AV

BY RABBI STEVE SEGAR

For the vast majority of occasions on the Jewish sacred calendar, it is not difficult to make a compelling case for their importance or their continued observance. There is often a significantly joyful dimension to celebrating holidays such as Passover, Sukkot or Purim. In the case of holidays like Rosh Hashanah, Shavuot and Hanukkah, there are often aspects of the holiday's themes which are inherently meaningful to our lives, or with which we continue to wrestle.

In the upcoming month, however, we will encounter the sacred occasion which generates the least amount of enthusiasm and recognition within the contemporary Jewish community: the fast of Tisha b'Av. Instead of occasioning celebration, this day invites and even demands a confrontation with many of the most painful and upsetting episodes in Jewish history: the destruction of the First and Second Temples and



the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492, just to name a few.

Since the advent of the modern period, there have been numerous Jewish thinkers who have questioned the relevance of continuing this tradition for those who do not actively hope for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem and the reinstatement of the sacrificial cult. Furthermore, even for those who might find meaning within that type of interpretation, some have made the

[continued on page 3](#)

TISHRI MEMBERSHIPS

The High Holy Days are early this year, and once again it's Kol HaLev's pleasure to offer Tishri memberships, a warm and welcoming way to invite nonmembers to share the month of Tishri and the High Holy Days with us. Tishri members can participate in all Kol HaLev services and events during the month of Tishri, which runs from *S'lichot* (Aug.31) through *Sukkot* (Sept. 26). To have a Tishri member packet sent to family or friends, contact Maureen Dinner at maureendinner@gmail.com with the recipient's name and email or mailing address. (More High Holy Days information on [page 9](#).)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Hagiga Happenings	4
From Our President	5
Summer Notes	6
Operation: Yahrzeits Update	7
July Yahrzeits	7
Board Report	8
High Holy Days Info	9
Kvells	11
Hug HaSefer	12
Hesed Committe News	12
Greeter Sign-up	13
Connections	14
Contributions & GCC Report	15
Calendar	16

DIRECTORY

SERVICES & PROGRAMS:

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

OFFICE ADDRESS:

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 ADMINISTRATOR:

Kelli Birch
kelli@kolhalev.net

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT
Barb Truitt
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Halle Barnett
SECRETARY
Molly Berger
TREASURER
Pete Robertson

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

PAST PRESIDENT Greg Selker
RABBI Steve Segar
FOUNDING RABBI Jeffrey Schein
EDUCATION DIRECTOR Robyn Novick

AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

Elise Hagesfeld
Margaret Cohen
Kirby Date
Julio Pelsmajer
Lynn Liebling

VALUE TEAM LEADERS:

DEMOCRATIC & FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE
Barry Epstein
INFORMED & INVOLVED
Karly Whitaker
LEARNING TEAMS
Sue Kisch
PARTICIPATION & VOLUNTEERISM
Leah Kamionkowski
SPIRITUAL
Bill Scher-Marcus
WELCOMING & CARING
Jean Miller

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS:

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Sue Kisch
Art Lieberman
BOOK GROUP
Kevin Weidenbaum
CEMETERY
Mike Armin
CHILD CARE COORDINATOR
Traci Elgart
FUNDRAISING
Barry Epstein
Mimi Plevin-Foust

FINANCE

Dick Epstein

HESED

Robin Holzman
Martha Schubert

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Claudia Weissman
Marcia Goldberg

HOLIDAYS

Amy Hogg

INTERFAITH

Dick and Donna Weinberg

ISRAEL

Mike Armin

KIDDUSH COORDINATOR

Robin Shell
LUNCH AND LEARN
Kara Stern
MARKETING/PR
Halle Barnett
Deena Epstein
MEDITATION
Nancy Rubel
Karly Whitaker
MEMBERSHIP
Jean Miller
Maureen Dinner
MOCK TRIAL
Glenda Kupersmith

MUSIC

Sue Pelleg
Bruce Jennings
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Lila Hanft
NEWSLETTER PROOFREADERS
Marcia Goldberg
Deena Epstein
NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Allen Binstock

RABBI LIAISON

Selma Gwatkin
RATNER LIAISON
Mike Caputo
RELIGIOUS PRACTICES
Kara Stern
STRATEGIC PLANNING
Greg Selker
TECH SUPPORT
Brian Miller
TIKKUN OLAM
Greg Millas
TORAH STUDY
Ralph and Selma Gwatkin
USHERS & GREETERS
Anita Cohn
WEBSITE
Benjamin Barnett
Brian Miller
WEEKLY UPDATE
Robin Holzman
YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION
Lynn Liebling
YOUNG FAMILIES/TOT SHABBAT
Rachel Williams

AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUE. JULY 16

[continued from page 1](#)

case that with the modern founding of the State of Israel and the regaining of access to the Temple Mount in the Six Day War, there has been a significant mitigation of the need for the expression of collective mourning that has characterized this day for millennia.



Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, by Francesco Hayez, 1867

To my mind, however, the power of this day transcends the specific memories of past oppression of our people in the same way that the power of Passover transcends the specific memories of the Exodus from Egypt. Over the centuries, our tradition has developed lines of interpretation for Passover that focus on the theme of liberation in our personal lives, and in the modern period, that theme of liberation has been extended beyond the Jewish community to include situations of oppression and the struggle for liberation wherever they may be occurring around the world. There has been a similar process taking place in connection with Tisha b'Av through which the rabbinic tradition has identified the intra and inter-personal dynamic of causeless hatred as playing a key role in the emergence of the historical catastrophes commemorated on Tisha b'Av. And there are some Jewish thinkers in the modern period who have begun to extend the mourning for our people's suffering to the mourning for suffering as it exists among the human population as a whole.

So, in light of these developments, I personally continue to be moved by the observance of Tisha b'Av each year. I think there is something powerful and important about dedicating one day a year to a "workshop" on collective grief and mourning on the many levels that we can unfortunately access that reality. We can continue to mourn for the immense amount of violence and hatred that has been directed towards our community throughout most of our history. We can mourn for all the ways that we and most human beings do not recognize the link between the hatred and fear in their own hearts and the violent oppression that takes place on a much larger scale. And finally, we can mourn for the vast numbers of people, living all over the world in our own time, who suffer many of the same horrors that have been perpetrated on our people as far back as we can remember.

Here at Kol HaLev, we will be observing Tisha b'Av this year. We will hold an Erev Tisha b'Av service and study session on Monday evening, July 15, at 8:00 p.m. at the Ratner School, and then we will conclude Tisha b'Av together on Tuesday evening, with a short late afternoon service, at 6:45 p.m. at the home of Sam and Anna Kelman, 2072 Campus Road in South Euclid. I invite you to consider attending one or both of these events.

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

What a year we had in Youth and Family Education! We have had several new additions this year thanks to some generous new funding from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland (JECC). This funding made it possible for us to enhance our Hagiga program through Congregation Enrichment Funds, subvent the cost of the Shabbaton with money from the Retreat Institute, promote summer camps with a grant from One Happy Camper, reformulate our high school youth group with subvention and Youth Opportunity Financial Incentive (YOFI) grants and offer a ground-breaking one-of-a-kind Hebrew/T'filah (prayer) program thanks to a Partially Funded Position Grant. I believe most will agree that all this programming advanced our educational offerings. It is amazing what you can do with an extra \$26,000!

Among the highlights of the Hagiga year were making kaleidoscopes to go along with our "Kaleidoscopes of Yisrael" theme, exploring the foods and rituals of Jewish communities around the world, learning about Israel with Yuval (our Israeli emissary), and touring Jewish Cleveland on Lolly the Trolley. Our children learned about the diversity of the Jewish community locally, nationally and internationally. It was precious to hear the Zorim explain that people can look, dress, pray, speak and live in many different ways, languages and places while still being members of the Jewish community. We have some very insightful participants in the Hagiga program!

The Shabbaton this year was the largest that we have ever had. One hundred and eighteen participants joined us at Punderson State Park for a weekend of learning, sharing and community. According to the evaluations we received, by the end of the weekend participants felt they had a much richer understanding of the Omer period as well as a greater connection with our community. As a personal high note, it meant a great deal to me that the community was very accommodating. We had several members with severe (life-threatening) food allergies which impacted the menu of the entire weekend (and the menu of the other group that was eating at the Lodge). Some were initially unhappy with the food choices, but once explained, everyone was supportive and understanding.

After a year's hiatus, the youth group reformulated this year with Ma'ayan Schur-Marcus at the helm. About 20 middle and high school students came together for social events throughout the year. It was wonderful to watch how these children bond and bring their friendships to new levels as they mature into young adults. Ma'ayan will not be with us next year as she is focusing on her studies, but we're excited that Zach Pekarsky, an Oberlin student studying computer science, will be our youth group leader next year. "I want to work with kids because I feel strongly that education is a powerful way to shape the world," says Zach. "I truly enjoy working with youth and find that working with youth helps positively shape the rest of my life." Welcome Zach!

We have already shared a great deal about the *Nesiya* (Journey) Hebrew/T'filah program this year. I just want to add two highlights from the end of the year which serve as a testament to the richness of the educational experiences this past year. First, two families nominated *Nesiya* teacher JodiLyn Solomon for the prestigious Libbie L. Braverman Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Their investment of time and energy to share the wonderful experience that their children have had speaks volumes. Second, we held a *siyyum* (concluding event) for *Nesiya* families on a beautiful Sunday in June. All families, with the exception of one that was traveling out of town with extended family, attended the *siyyum*. We seldom have 100% attendance for Kol HaLev events, but this community of learners is so strongly connected and enjoys being together so much, they chose to be there on that

[*continued on page 6*](#)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Kol HaLev, Cleveland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Multiple images come to mind when I think about what "Voice of the Heart" means to me. The first image is the sound of singing together. There are magical times during a service when our voices come together in harmony that transports a song into a prayer. We stop and the moment hangs in the air, reverberating through the room and in our hearts.

Another image comes of the voices heard during Torah study. Voices based on study and voices based on experience mingle with voices filled with questions. I always come away from Torah study filled with awe of the multiple layers that are revealed from thoughtful discourse.

The involvement of our members in the Greater Cleveland Congregations organization is another instance where our voices are making a difference in bringing awareness of and solutions for the problems shared by the broader community in education, health and economics.

The voices of our youth resonate through the hallways and in the classrooms during Hagiga. A new method, philosophical inquiry, has engaged some of the youth and will be continued this coming year. The shouts and laughter heard during our holiday celebrations energizes me. A child's innocent voice during the Amidah has always increased my awareness of the meaning of *l'dor v'dor* – from generation to generation -- and intensifies my prayer experience.

We are each a part of a community, with differing levels of engagement. We have members who come to Torah study and then leave the building. We have members who come for services and are there every week. We have members who come more infrequently. We are all important members of our community. It is a community that welcomes and is glad to reconnect with members who have moved away both physically (think California, Maryland, Switzerland...) and those who live nearby but come less frequently. The services end and our community eats together, sits down and talks. The connections flow through the week as we go about our work and lives. A phone call or email draws us back together. There is a sense that the Voice of the Heart also refers to the connections that form between people.

During the next year, we will be exploring the connections we have to the Torah. Our Torah is in need of repair and so we will focus on the meaning of the Torah to us as Reconstructionist Jews and to our community. Rabbi Kevin Hale is a Reconstructionist Rabbi who is a trained sofer stam, a scribe who is able to repair a Torah. He has the ability not only to repair a Torah, but to communicate his love for the sacred scribal tradition. He has examined our Torah and has sent us a proposal for bringing our Torah into better shape.

Our community requires not only personal investment, but also financial investment. If you have not already done so, please return your dues commitment to the office. Consider ways that you can contribute your time and energy to our incredible community. Explore your connection to the larger Cleveland community by becoming involved in the GCC. Explore your connection to the inspired

[*continued on page 6*](#)

SUMMER NOTICES

Rabbi Steve will be out of town with his family from Sun., June 30 through Sun., July 7. In the event of an emergency during this time, please be in touch with Kol HaLev president, Barb Truitt at 216-258-7825; immediate past president, Greg Selker at 216-406-4789; vice president Halle Barnett at 216-291-4313; or any other member of the Executive Committee, all of whom have contact information for local rabbinic support and for Rabbi Steve if necessary.

NO SUMMER AFTERNOON TORAH STUDY

There will be no Shabbat Afternoon Torah study in July and August when many of us will be on vacation. Afternoon Torah study will resume in September, hopefully in the sukkah. Time, topic and location to be announced.

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT

Did you attend any of the Adult Education programs this year -- Recon 101/102, Wrestling with Prayer or the Jewishness of Jesus (in conjunction with Olivet Institutional Baptist Church)? The Adult Education Committee is seeking feedback on this year's programs as well as suggestions for Adult Education Programming for the coming year. What topics would you like to discuss or study in greater detail? Send responses to Arthur Lieberman at a.lieberman@roadrunner.com

HAGIGA HAPPENINGS, [continued from page 4](#)

beautiful Sunday. We are excited to share that we received funding for next year and the program will be continuing.

We are presently working to put pieces together for next year's Hagiga programming around our "Year of the Torah" theme. We will be working with Rabbi Kevin, the Reconstructionist *sofer* (scribe) who will be repairing our Torah and leading some adult education sessions as well. Looking forward to sharing the details of next year in the near future! Have a great summer!

Kol tuv,
Robyn

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, [continued from page 5](#)

writings of our tradition through Torah study and adult education. Explore your personal inner self by joining our meditation group. Join us in exploring together.

OPERATION: YAHRZEIT UPDATE

It's come to our attention that Kol HaLev's yahrzeit database is not as complete as it should be and that some members have submitted yahrzeits over the years which were never entered into our office database. As a result, some members have been understandably disappointed when their family yahrzeits have not been published in the newsletter.

So, if the yahrzeits you've submitted to the office in the past aren't appearing in the newsletter, or if you have newer yahrzeits you're yet to submit, or if you're just not sure whether all your yahrzeits are currently in our database, please participate in Operation: Yahrzeit Update by sending the following yahrzeit information to Kelli at kelli@kolhalev.net.

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

Thanks for your patience and your assistance. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Kelli Birch, Office Manager (kelli@kolhalev.net)
Lila Hanft, Newsletter Editor (newsletter@kolhalev.net)

YAHRZEITS

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

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

Ethel Calvert - mother of Julie Handler
Anne Chabot - mother of Audrey Warner
Arthur Cowles - stepfather of Kirby Date
Albert Lawrence Dangler - father of Roberta Tonti
Allen Fallick (Avraham) - father of Bruce Fallick
Ralph L. Gwatkin - father of Ralph Gwatkin
Minnotte Kohn - mother of Ron Kohn
Boris Pelsmajer - father of Julio Pelsmajer
Herbert Rubel - father of Nancy Rubel
Julius Hirsh Smilg (Yehudah) - father of Maureen Dinner

Kol HaLev members may include the yahrzeit of family members in *KHL Happenings* by submitting the name of the deceased, the relationship to the member, and the date of death, including the year, in either the secular or Jewish calendar to kelli@kolhalev.net

BOARD REPORT

MOLLY BERGER, SECRETARY

The Board met at the Epstein home on Mon., June 10. After the D'var Torah, the board approved the minutes of the May meeting. Pete Robertson, treasurer, reported that in his continuing effort to clean up existing databases and accounts, he reviewed nearly 150 open member invoices. Many of these will be resolved through reconciling the membership lists, but members who still show balances on their 2013 dues are encouraged to contact Pete. A continuing task is to update member contact information so that addresses, telephone numbers, and particularly email addresses are current. Members who need to update their information should contact Kelli in the office (kelli@kolhalev.net) or (216) 320-1498. Members should also contact Kelli with Yartzheit information, if they wish to remember their loved ones' Yartzheit dates (see more on [page 7](#)).

The By-laws will be under review this year and a committee will be formed to do this. Barb distributed a number of documents and encouraged board members to keep a notebook of these, which included the By-laws, Kol HaLev Values, Vision, and Mission statements, the Governance model, and Basics for Board Members.

The Rabbinic Task Force's recommendations on improvements to the Kol HaLev organizational structure were read aloud and the floor was opened for questions. The recommendations outlined five areas of structural organization for scrutiny and recommended hiring a time-limited consultant to proceed with the work. These areas include leadership cultivation, committee processes, membership engagement, volunteer recruitment and training, and managing core services such as education, religious services, and security. A call will go out to the community asking for help with various aspects of the work. Elise Hagesfield suggested that we change the name of the task force to be more representative of the committee's proposed work, which focuses on organizational structure and process rather than Rabbi Steve's duties.

After an extended discussion, a motion to form a small committee to define the desired work, estimate its cost, detail the deliverables, and negotiate the contract was proposed and passed unanimously. This proposal will be brought back to the board. If the board approves this first step, a larger committee will be formed to work on implementation. Members interested in participating in this process should make their interest known to Barb Truitt.

The next Board meeting will be held on July 9, 2013, at the home of Margaret Cohen. All Kol HaLev members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly W. Berger
Secretary



GRADUATIONS | ANNIVERSARIES | BIRTHDAYS | NEW GRANDKIDS | AWARDS . . .

Send email & photos to newsletter@kolhalev.net

Share the news! **Kvell!** Spread the joy!

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS ARE APPROACHING

The Kol HaLev community will be gathering to celebrate Rosh Hashanah the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 4. Kol Nidre starts Yom Kippur on the evening of Friday, Sept. 13. All services and programs will be held at Ratner School. High Holy Days information and registration packets will be mailed and emailed to members in July and will include details about the times and locations of services and related events. Please contact Kelli Birch in the office (216-320-1498 or kelli@kolhalev.net) if you do not receive your packet by the end of July. If you have any questions, please email or call one of the chairs of this year's High Holy Days committee:



- Marcia Goldberg (marcia.goldberg@gmail.com or 216-321-1840)
- Claudia Weissman (cweissman@overdrive.com or 216-321-2774).

During the High Holy Days, Kol HaLev members draw together to reaffirm our community and to welcome others who would like to join us during this season. As always, we will host a kiddush after each Rosh Hashanah service and after the final Yom Kippur service. Once again this year we will host a Rosh Hashanah “Potluck-Plus-Catered” luncheon after services on the first day (Thursday, Sept. 5). The Tashlich service will follow the luncheon, and maps to the site will be available at Thursday’s Rosh Hashanah services.

As the weeks go by, watch for additional information about the High Holy Days on the Kol HaLev website (<http://kolhalev.net>) and in emailed Weekly or Special Updates.

HIGH HOLY DAYS PRAYER BOOKS

Kol HaLev members are expected to own their HHD mahzorim (prayer books). Those that Kol HaLev owns are reserved for Tishri members and our guests. Mahzorim may be purchased from the Reconstructionist Press (<http://stores.jewishreconbooks.org> or 215-576-0800).

TISHRI MEMBERSHIP



Our Tishri membership is a warm and welcoming way to invite nonmembers to share the month of Tishri and the High Holy Days with us. A description of what a Tishri membership comprises will be included in your High Holy Day packet. If you know anyone interested, please contact Kelli Birch at the Kol HaLev office, 216-320-1498 or kelli@kolhalev.net.

HIGH HOLY DAYS CHILDREN’S PROGRAMMING

All children’s programming on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will begin at 10:30 a.m. Tot-parent programming will start at 11 a.m. Parents, please bring games, toys and books to Ratner for children to enjoy while they’re not in services. And please also bring parve snacks and beverages

[continued on page 10](#)

[continued from page 9](#)

for the children.

HIGH HOLY DAYS INFORMATION TABLES

Any team leader, committee chair or other member who would like to display or distribute information on tables set up for the High Holy Days should contact Marcia Goldberg (contact information above). Mazon envelopes will be available on the information table for those wishing to make a financial contribution to combat hunger.

HIGH HOLY DAYS FLOWER FUND

The High Holy Days are an appropriate time to honor loved ones and memorialize those who are no longer with us. A contribution in honor or in memory of someone can help cover the cost of flowers for our bima. Please mail your donation, along with a note about your loved one, to Kol HaLev, 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 215, University Heights, OH 44118. All donations will be acknowledged in a fall issue of this newsletter.

HIGH HOLY DAYS KIDDUSHIM AND ROSH HASHANAH LUNCHEON

Our High Holy kiddushim will be organized again this year by Maureen Hack. Volunteers are needed to provide hallah, apples, honey, wine, juice and desserts or snacks for all three Rosh Hashanah services and for the conclusion of Yom Kippur. In addition, every other member of the congregation is asked to bring at least ONE finger-food treat or snack on at least ONE day. We have never let each other down, but please let Maureen know when you will be bringing something (maureen.hack@case.edu).

The congregational luncheon following services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah has become a Kol HaLev tradition. This year we are planning to once again combine our very best potluck contributions with some purchased or catered food. If you would like to serve on the luncheon committee, please contact Claudia Weissman or Marcia Goldberg (contact information above).

BREAKING-THE-FAST INVITATION



Kol HaLev would like to invite you to a potluck dinner in a member's home for the Break-the-Fast meal after Yom Kippur services. If you are interested, please indicate this on your registration form and please also indicate whether you prefer an early meal or one that begins after the conclusion of the Neilah service. You will be notified about which host home to contact.



KVELLS

Note: The editor accidentally omitted Sarah Klein from last month's round-up of graduation kvells.

Sarah Klein, daughter of **Nancy Rubel and Dan Klein**, graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in a June 3 ceremony which included the presentation of the Sarah Meredith Wensell Memorial Scholarship award to Sarah, the student with the highest GPA. Sarah, who graduated with a 4.86 GPA, received a scholarship to attend Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, and is planning on majoring in biochemistry and neuroscience. She was also selected to receive the Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship Award based on academic achievement and scholarship



Finally, Sarah was also chosen for the Ohio Lottery/WKYC “Best of Class” commercial, shown throughout the month of June. “It’s campy but sort of fun,” Nancy writes. The ad can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMlpl3JYZ0Q>.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

The following Kol HaLev members graduated from Woodbury Elementary School in Shaker Heights: **Katy Foust**, daughter of **Mimi Plevin-Foust** and **Bill Foust**, and granddaughter of **Gloria Plevin**; **Sophie Olsen**, daughter of **Jennifer Finkel** and **Eric Olsen**, and granddaughter of **Ginny Nadler**; and **Harlan Friedman-Romell**, son of **Beth and Frederick Friedman-Romell**.

Rabbi Steve gave the commencement blessing at The Agnon School’s graduation on June 13, where several Kol HaLev members were graduating eighth-graders. **Julian Barnett**, son of **Halle and Benjamin Barnett**; **Sascha Roberts**, son of **Lila Hanft and David Roberts**; **Ilana Solomon**, daughter of **Jodilyn and Larry Solomon**; **Gabe Sugerman**, son of **Peggy and David Sugerman**, and **Gilda Weinstock**, daughter of **Kate and Brent Weinstock**. Other highlights of the graduation ceremony included the one-minute speeches each graduate gave; the “Parents’ Letter” to the graduates composed and delivered by Peggy and David Sugerman; recognition of Julian’s grandmother, **Sharon Eichenbaum**, a former Agnon Head of School; and the singing of the school song, for which Agnon alumni -- including Halle and **Maxwell Barnett**, **Eli and Simon Sugerman**, and Brent Weinstock -- were asked to join the graduates on stage



HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The July book group meeting will be Thurs., July 25, at the home of Ruth Ness. We will discuss *Major Farran's Hat: The Untold Story of the Struggle to Establish the Jewish State* by David Cesarani. (320 pages counting 72 pages of notes, bibliography, index, etc.; a Kindle version exists)

From a review by Dr. James R. Vaughan: David Cesarani's stylish book unravels the often sordid details of what might at first seem a relatively minor incident in the decline and collapse of British rule in Palestine. It tells the story of abduction and murder of Alexander Rubowitz, a teenage activist affiliated to the extremist Zionist paramilitary organization, Lohamei HaHerut b'Yisrael (better known in Britain as the 'Stern Gang'), and reveals how the British imperial establishment subsequently sought first to cover up the crime and subsequently to pervert the course of justice in order to protect the commander of the covert police 'hit squad' responsible for the murder. Skillfully combining a scholarly reading of the archival record with a story-teller's feel for drama and narrative development, Cesarani's account of the events surrounding Rubowitz's disappearance and his analysis of the implications of the case, cast fascinating light on the reasons for British failure in Palestine and draws interesting, if less developed conclusions in relation to the broader history of British counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.



The book for August is *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* by Nathan Englander. The calendar of books for all of 2013 is listed at the web page shown below. All KHL members are welcome to attend. For more information about the group, look at our web page (http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group) and contact Kevin Weidenbaum (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the group's email list.

HESED COMMITTEE NEWS

We want to send a huge Yasher Koach to **Jane Arnoff Logsdon** for the incredible job she has done in revitalizing the Hesed committee over the last several years. Jane instilled a true sense of loving-kindness and responsibility for the care of one another in the Kol HaLev community. We believe that the relationships we have within our community are the heart and soul of Kol HaLev and the foundation of all our work.

With that in mind, we encourage anyone who wants to be involved, at any level, on this committee to be in touch with us. Whether it is offering a ride, providing a meal, calling someone who is not well, or taking on the co-ordination of Hesed for a month or two, please contact us and we will give you more information and add you to the Lotsa Helping Hands website so you will be get notification of any needs that come up. For those of you who are already signed up, we will be contacting you to update your information.

Thank you for all the work you do to make Kol HaLev such an amazing community.

Robin Holzman robinholzman@gmail.com
Martha Schubert schuberge@roadrunner.com
Co-chairs, Hesed committee

IT'S TIME FOR GREETER SIGN-UP

It is the custom at Kol Halev to provide greeters for our Shabbat service. There are two greeters – one at the main entrance to the Ratner School and one at the doors to the Sanctuary – in attendance for the FIRST, SECOND (September – June) and THIRD Shabbatot of the month.

Please sign up for a date to serve as a Greeter (in the same way that you sign up to host a Kiddush). Choose from the available dates listed here: <http://tinyw.in/iKTK>; then RSVP your selection to Anita Cohn at iccohn@roadrunner.com. If you don't sign up, you will be assigned a date. **Note that special events may require adjustments to this schedule.**

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN KIDDUSH SIGN-UPS

We are in need of Kiddush hosts for these upcoming Kiddushim:

- July 26 (Kabbalat Shabbat/Potluck)
- July 27 (4th Shabbat)
- August 10 (2nd Shabbat)
- August 17 (3rd Shabbat)

Please contact Kelli at kelli@kolhalev.net if you are able to host one of these Kiddushim. Beginning next month, the open sign-up dates for Kiddushim will appear in the 3rd Update of the month as well as in the monthly newsletter.

Save the dates!

THE PEOPLE VS. ABRAHAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013 7:30 PM

The father of two of the world's major religions has made a choice with enduring consequences ... Guilty or Not Guilty?

The audience-as-jury will decide!

Tickets on sale early September • Sponsorship Opportunities Available

and

a special adult education session exploring the parshiot and commentaries related to the trial and charges

Sunday, October 20

Time, location, and speaker TBA – Stay tuned!

WHAT'S IN *YOUR* DRIVEWAY?

As a benefit to employees like myself on long-term overseas assignment, my company has negotiated a special deal on leased cars with a local dealership. Here in Switzerland we can choose cars from exactly two brands: Audi and Volkswagen.

There seems to be a general lack of comfort in the Jewish community with driving German cars, perhaps for obvious reasons. In my own experience, avoiding German cars has been more a “behavioral norm” than a topic of conversation per se. An unscientific driveway survey shows that a modest percentage of my Jewish friends drive German cars; most do not. Among this latter group, some are adamantly opposed to it.

I have read through long internet chat room debates on this topic. Mostly the arguments fall into two groups.

One group feels that buying German products—particularly an expensive branded product like a car—in some way rewards Germany for or at minimum turns a blind eye toward the horrors and destruction wrought during the first half of the 20th century. The appropriate response by this view is a permanent boycott that reinforces our collective memory and denies benefits to any person or entity possibly connected with that era.

The other dominant viewpoint holds that today’s German manufacturers, workers, management and ownership—particularly in the auto industry—are not and should not be considered legal, financial or ethical descendants of the companies that operated during that period. According to this perspective, a boycott accomplishes nothing beyond keeping fresh and raw a link to our tragic past and, in doing so, reinforces overly simplistic and obsolete notions of collective and perpetual culpability.

In the chat rooms, the first view seemed dominant among those identifying as Jewish, the latter among those who identified as non-Jews.

Depending on how this issue registers on your radar, it may or may not be a factor in your car buying or leasing decisions. In my own case, my employer made the choice and is ultimately paying the bill. While I wish my coworkers and I had more latitude in our choice of manufacturers, we simply do not. And while I am not completely comfortable with my choices, I do not feel compelled to decline our company car allowance. For better or worse, I can rationalize (conveniently) that someone else made the decision and “kick the can down the road” indefinitely on taking a clear position. Our modern lives present many such dilemmas, do they not?

Regardless of one’s own position on the matter, I think it is a huge credit to our Kol HaLev community that there seems to be no “presumed” norm of behavior on this topic--and so many others. Many of us have experience with communities in which violating some unwritten rule results in immediate disapproval, suspicion and ostracism. I am both pleased and proud that we at Kol HaLev accord one another the respect and give each other the “space” to resolve deeply personal and sensitive issues with full communal support and without communal expectations or pressure.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Frederick and Beth Friedman-Romell** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Beth's father, Seymour Friedman
- **Dick and Deena Epstein** in memory of Lynn Leibling's mother, Helen Zipper
- **Dick and Deena Epstein** in honor of the births of Jeffrey and Deb Schein's grandson and Leah Kamionkowski's granddaughter
- **Dick and Deena Epstein** in honor of Esther Millas's Bat Mitzvah
- **Renee Siegel** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her husband, Martin Siegel
- **Meg Manny** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her father, James Manny
- **Karal Stern** in memory of Lynn Liebling's mother, Helen Zipper; in memory of Paul Gellman; and in memory of her grandmother, Nina Kroll
- **Karal Stern** in honor of Robyn Novick's inspired work with the Hagiga program
- **Ralph Gwatkin** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his father, Ralph L. Gwatkin



GCC Criminal Justice Committee: At the most recent criminal justice committee meeting, Rev. Colvin of Olivet Church announced a U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (DOJ) investigation of the Cleveland Police Department. The investigation, which is currently underway, focuses on possible systemic abuses with a goal of evaluating and righting any wrongs that occur going forward.

This investigation has an important community listening phase coming up in the fall. Rev. Colvin asked us to please ask our congregation if anyone has any stories or anecdotes of personal experiences with the Cleveland Police Dept. that they would be willing to share. You do NOT have to be a city of Cleveland resident to participate. These stories can go back many decades and they can be positive, negative or both. The main idea is that the DOJ needs to hear a variety of stories from a variety of people. Very high level people will be listening, so there's an opportunity for people who share their stories to help the community as well as possibly experiencing healing and closure.

These DOJ reviews have had a huge impact on other cities, greatly improving police-community relations. Since we have so many social workers and therapists in the Kol HaLev community, we are also asking people to reach out to their clients with this request.

Contact Mimi Plevin-Foust at mimiplev@msn.com with questions and/or suggestions for how to spread word of the upcoming DOJ review to our larger community.

CALENDAR

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

Mon., July 1	7:30– 8:30 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting.
Sat., July 6	10:30 a.m.	Member-Led Shabbat Service at Ratner Chapel; <i>Matot-Masse</i> ; Service and Discussion Leader: Beth Friedman-Romell; kiddush hosted by Happy Wallach and by Chip May and Audrey Warner.
Mon., July 8	7:30 - 8:30 p.m	Board Meeting at the home of Margaret Cohen, 2701 Eaton Road, Shaker Heights, 216-752-0254. All Kol HaLev members are welcome to attend.
Sat., July 13	10:30 a.m.	Member-Led Shabbat Service at Ratner Chapel; <i>Devarim</i> ; Service and Discussion Leader: Larry Solomon; The Torah discussion will take place within the service; kiddush hosted by Barry and Barbara Epstein
Mon., July 15	8:00-10:00 p.m..	Tisha B’Av Service (see page 1 for more information)
Mon., July 16	6:45-8:45 p.m.	Mincha Service for Tisha B’Av at the home of Anna and Sam Kelman at 2072 Campus Road in South Euclid, 216 297-9490.
Deadline for the July issue of <i>Kol HaLev Happenings</i>.		
Wed. July 17	7:30-9:00	GCC Core Team Meeting. For more information, contact Karly Whitaker at karlywhitaker@yahoo.com
Sat., July 20	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service at Ratner Chapel , preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m.; <i>Va’etchanan</i> ; discussion leader: Kevin Weidenbaum; service leaders: Fred Chenin and Rabbi Steve; kiddush co-sponsored by Kevin and Sue Weidenbaum and by Pete Robertson and Heidi Gorovitz-Robertson in honor of their 20th wedding anniversary and Isabel’s birthday
Tue. July 23	7:00 p.m.	Membership Committee Meeting. We warmly welcome and encourage members to become active with this vital committee’s planning and work. Please call Leah Kamionkowski at 216-464-2940, or just come to the meeting: 9 Chelsea Court, Beachwood.
Wed., July 24	7-8:30 p.m..	Mindful Jewish Practice at Nancy Rubel’s office, 24755 Chagrin Blvd., #305. Please RSVP to karlywhitaker@yahoo.com
Thu., July 25	7:30-9:00	Hug HaSefer Book Group at the home of Ruth Ness, 2328 Miramar in University Heights, 216 932-5579. Discussion of <i>Major Farran’s Hat: The Untold Story of the Struggle to Establish the Jewish State</i> by David Cesarani (more information on page 12)

CALENDAR

Fri., July 26	6-8:30 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck at Ratner. Kiddush sponsored by Ami Kopstein and Glenda Kupersmith. Details will follow in the weekly update.
Sat., July 27	10:30 a.m.	Musical Shabbat Service at Ratner Chapel; Eikev; Service leaders: Sue Pelleg and Larry Solomon. Kiddish sponsored by Sue and Mordy Pelleg.

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

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

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

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

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

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community

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>