

Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

JUNE 2012



CREATING COMMUNITY AT THE HAGIGA RETREAT

You couldn't have ordered a more beautiful day. The weather reports called for 60s with rain, but the day turned out to be in the 70s, with plenty of sunshine and not a cloud in the sky. It was a little nippy as 30 of us boarded the bus on April 29 and headed out to Camp Wise for the first-ever Bonim (3rd-5th grade) and Magshimim (6th-8th grade) retreat.

The retreat was a culmination of our year at Hagiga. This year's theme, Living a Meaningful Life, was divided into 4 units: *Middot* (Jewish Values), *Parshat HaShavuah* (the Weekly Torah

Portion), *T'filah* (prayer), and *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World). All these are important



avenues to meaning in our lives, and the fifth element -- community-- was the theme of the retreat.

The day started off with a bus ride full of *ruach* (spirit) and great singing! Once at camp we had a quick and tasty mixer and then separated the

BAT MITZVAH

Please join us as our daughter

GILDA MAY WEINSTOCK

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah
Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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TORAH STUDY

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USHER CORPS COORDINATOR

Mike Armin

WEBKEEPER

David Conn

WEEKLY UPDATE

Ron Kohn

Art Lieberman

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Lynn Liebling

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 15

One of the biggest hot button issues in the world of synagogues across all streams of Judaism is the issue of congregational growth. Some argue that larger memberships are the best way to solve budgetary problems (a half-truth), others feel that the value of their congregation is re-affirmed only when there is active growth taking place. On the other side of the argument, there are often members of smaller communities who take stands against growth because they fear that a larger membership will undermine the sense of intimacy and community that originally drew them to that particular congregation (also a half-truth). From my perspective, growing the size of a congregation should be viewed as a neutral process without knowing more about what is driving the growth and how the community is responding to the growth.

In addition to the need to look at the underlying dynamics of numerical growth, it is also important, when talking about the role of growth within a religious community, to realize that there are other forms of growth besides that of the numerical kind.

In his book, *More than Numbers*, Episcopal priest Loren Mead sketches out three categories of communal growth in addition to numerical growth that are important for religious communities to attend to. While this book was written within a Christian context for a Christian audience, the categories are easily translated into Jewish terms.

The first category beyond numerical growth Mead identifies as “maturational growth.” This kind of growth refers to the extent to which individual members of the community are deepening their own spiritual connection to their religious tradition the potential growth of peer mentoring that occurs as a result.



The second additional category of growth that Mead identifies is called “organic growth” and this type of growth has to do with the development of the religious community as an institution; the emergence of structures and practices that bring greater focus, efficiency and effectiveness to the collective life of the congregation.

Finally, he discusses what he calls “incarnational growth.” This kind of growth is measured in a community’s ability to have an impact on the society in which the community is situated.

I find all three of these categories compelling as lenses through which to view our own community’s growth over the past decade or so and in my column in upcoming newsletters, I plan to explore each category of growth as I have seen it manifested within Kol HaLev’s collective journey.

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

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Bonim and Magshimim. First, the Bonim dove right into creative text study. Participants were given puzzle pieces and they were charged to find their matches. The completed puzzles were Jewish traditional texts about community. Each group then created a skit explaining their text and performed the text -- really, teaching the text -- to the rest of the community. It was very entertaining and educational!



After text study, we headed out on a hike down to the lake. Along the way we stopped to talk about the importance of our senses in exploring and appreciating the world. We talked of how sometimes we have blinders or fail to notice the beauty around us due to our attention being elsewhere. The culmination of the trip was looking at a tree stump as an ecosystem. We noticed the many facets that were living together and looking at their interdependent roles that are necessary for survival. The conversation easily flowed into our understanding of community and how each part is as important for the community's survival. We have very insightful children!



While the Bonim were engaged in text study and hiking, the Magshimim participated in group building activities with a trained ropes course leader. Some of the initiatives were created to encourage members of the group to have individual accomplishments, while others focused on the success of the community. These activities were the crux of the retreat, taking a serious look at tension between the individual and the community: How do we meet individuals' needs when we are focusing on the success of the greater community? What role should take primacy? How do we ensure that we are caring for both the individual and the community? Again, our amazing children took on the challenges brilliantly!



After lunch Rabbi Steve and Beth Friedman-Romell led a spirited song session. The groups then switched programs with the Bonim doing group challenged and the Magshimim participating in text study and going on the hike. When the groups completed their activities, we put our learning into action through Tikkun Olam. Everyone decorated a tote bag which they filled with school supplies. The bags were donated to the Dignity Project of the National [*continued on page 5*](#)



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Council of Jewish Women, who gives the bags to local children in need.

After a quick summary and evaluation, it was back to the bus for more singing! The day was absolutely fantastic! We couldn't have asked for a better first Bonim and Magshimim retreat.

Much thanks to the incredible madrichim who were instrumental in building and implementing the program – Benjamin Barnett, Beth Friedman-Romell, Lynn Liebling and Rabbi Steve.

Kol Tuv,
Robyn



I have often used this forum over the past two years to talk about what it means to define and create a “sacred community”, a community built on the pillars of spiritual connectivity and relatedness, a pathway of continued and evolving learning, and dedicated commitment that leads to both individual and community activities focused on making a difference in the lives of others and in the world.

This is my last message as president of the Kol HaLev board. As such, it seems natural to comment on where I see us as a community in relation to these three pillars. Like most things in life that are major commitments extending beyond the work or actions of any one individual, I see many items that are still in progress, many that are completed and many that we have yet to really impact.

Spiritual relatedness and connectivity has always been one of the core foundational strengths of Kol HaLev. Our community has been strongly defined through both our experiences and participatory spiritual practices. This encompasses participation in services, with new service leaders continuing to step forth; service attendance which continues to thrive, bolstered by the addition of a regular second Shabbat morning service at Ratner; and our lay-led Mindful Judaism meditative practice and other creative expressions of connecting to our rich heritage and our experience of the Divine. When I look at this pillar, Kol HaLev is strong and getting stronger.

The interesting element of “spiritual relatedness and connectivity” in our community that has occurred as “work” over the past two years, has been the question of how we as a community embrace the notion that financial support of our community is also an expression of our spiritual strength. I know it requires a different perspective to look at financial support of Kol HaLev through the lens of spiritual connectivity, but this is the contextual shift we have worked on, and we have made great strides in this.

Being a community that is continually carving out new ground on the pathway of learning is also a relative strength for Kol HaLev in a big picture sense. Many of our founders had a deep intellectual yearning to explore their experience of Judaism and Reconstructionist through learning. Our Torah Study sessions before services are largely lay-led and always well attended. We have begun to leverage our own expertise within Kol HaLev and regularly offer exciting and thought-provoking speakers from within our community. We also have created a major event that combines education and fundraising in our Mock Trial.

Perhaps the biggest evolutionary steps we have taken related to this pillar of sacred community is that we have begun to expand our educational offerings outside of Kol HaLev, as with the trial, while also leveraging our own expertise more fully in forwarding a rich set of lay-led programs. At our recent board work day focused on examining and revising our strategic plan, the Learning Values Team shifted the language of the main learning goal from “become a learning community” to “build a learning community.” This exemplifies the shift in consciousness that has occurred within Kol HaLev over the past few years. We are no longer striving to become a learning community. We are a learning community that now seeks to further build and strengthen our learning capabilities and experiences. As with the spiritual pillar, while there is much work that remains, there is much that has been accomplished and is in place.

In certain businesses such as retail or real estate, there is saying: “location, location, location.” With respect to the third pillar of building a sacred community, perhaps our mantra is “timing, timing,
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timing.” When we began our strategic planning process seven years ago, highlighted Tikun Olam as vitally important and created the Informed and Involved Values Team, our Tikun Olam efforts as a community largely revolved around participation in specific events. Many of these events required significant organization and participation, such as the March on Darfur; others were more one-time events bringing spirit and kindness to others, such as the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We have been blessed over the past two years by being privileged to participate in two new community initiatives: interfaith dialogue with the mosque on the West Side of Cleveland and the Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC).

Kol HaLev has embraced both of these efforts. Their impact on us, both as individuals and as a community, has resulted in us taking new steps in making a difference to others and to the world that will continue for years to come. There is much work that will need to be done, and an increasing number of Kol HaLev members are involved in seeing it come to fruition.

That, as I come to the end of my term, is where I see us as a community in regards to these three pillars. There is much work that still needs to be done. There is much that has been done, and an increasing number of us are involved in getting this work done, individually and collectively. Similar to the paradigm shift from “becoming” to “building”, we are a sacred community today, and our efforts will be ongoing to continue to build our capabilities and strength as a sacred community into the future. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Kol HaLev over these past two years, and I thank you giving me this opportunity.

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

GCC HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES

We want to update you on new developments since the county levy initiative. Donna attended the GCC Health Care team captains meeting. The focus there was a discussion around where to put our energies given the uncertain status of the Affordable Care Act. The team agreed to explore issues around mental health care access and affordability, especially given the closing of Bridgeway. Bridgeway was a community mental health center that had provided the only crisis stabilization unit in the county and served 565 clients daily over six programs. Mental health funding in Ohio has decreased by 76% in the last decade and drug and alcohol funding by 51%.

We are interested in gathering your thoughts regarding this important issue, so please join us for a HOUSE MEETING on mental health care and access. We need your input, experiences, and ideas.

Date: Mon., June 4

Time: 7:30 – 9:00

Location: Dick and Donna Weinberger’s home, 32090 Woodsdale Lane, Solon, Ohio

RSVP to Donna: drw508@gmail.com or 440-498-1816



mazel tov
מזל טוב

*With great pleasure we celebrate the accomplishments
of our graduating high school seniors*

Zoe Berns – Indiana University
Shoshana Bieler – Yale University
Chris Conn – Fire Rescue-EMT Training
Nathan Gilbert – Case Western Reserve
Carlee Grace – Sacramento, California
Heather Hagerling – University of Chicago
Max Hersch – Michigan State – James Madison College
Rachel Lieberman - Ohio State University -
Mount Leadership Program
Moriah Lieberman - Ohio State University - Honors Program
Ian Limoli - Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Nadav Marcus - AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps,
followed by Goucher College
Josh Petrack – Harvey Mudd College
Rachel Shafran – Columbia University
Simon Sugerman – University of Vermont

May you go from strength to strength!

BOARD REPORT

On May 14, the board met at the home of Robin Shell. Barb Truitt presided in the absence of President Greg Selker. Robin began the meeting with a D'var Torah.

The April 2012 minutes were approved unanimously. Barb Truitt reported that some adjustments were made to the FY2013 budget that the board had approved at the April meeting. The adjustments corrected some errors and added the hiring of a bookkeeper for several hours per week to alleviate the commitment required by the congregation's treasurer. The board approved the motion to accept the revised FY 2013 budget. The treasurer reported that there is still about \$24,000 in accounts receivables for the current year; receivables which come in between now and June 30 will be saved or credited to next year's collections. Quickbooks software has been updated and is working fine, and commitment letters were sent out to the congregation on May 14. The board requested, with an acknowledgement that the congregation cannot rely on there being extra funds at the end of any given fiscal year, that the finance committee consider recommending a policy for funds that exceed the budget, i.e. to commit to reserves or fund items on the "wish list."

Rabbi Steve will have the Torah assessed during a two-week break this summer to learn the cost of repairing it. He suggested that we consider the Torah repair as an opportunity to engage the congregation.

The Board thanked Ami Kopstein for his service as treasurer, especially for his guidance in helping us to have a balanced budget for the past three years.

Barb Truitt reported that the Ratner lease was signed on May 1, 2012. It is at the current rent for twenty-seven months (to accommodate the nine months we have been there while the lease was being negotiated).

The Membership Committee proposed that each board member host a Shabbat dinner during the year to reach out to the community. The current board suggested that we seek approval at the old/new board seeing that the new board will be the ones to serve as hosts. The membership committee will coordinate the dinners.

The board voted to empower Leah Kamionkowski to vote in favor of the reorganization of JRF into the Reconstructionist Movement at the upcoming Plenum.

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, at Ratner. We will have bagels at 10:00 followed by the meeting at 10:30.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 13 (*note the change of date from Mon. June 11*) at Allen Binstock's home, 23701 Hazelmere, and will include outgoing, continuing, and incoming board members. There are 4 current board trustees rotating off (Greg Millas, Linda Gross, Ami Kopstein and Allen Binstock), and 6 new incoming trustees (Bill Scher-Marcus, Halle Barnett, Lynn Liebling, Margaret Cohen, Karly Whitaker and Pete Robertson).

KOL HALEV KVELLS

Mazal tov to **Bellamy Prinz**, board chair of Zygote Press, which was awarded a 2012 Cleveland Arts Prize, the Martha Joseph Prize For Distinguished Service To The Arts



The Martha Joseph Prize is awarded annually to an individual or an organization that because of exceptional commitment, vision, leadership or philanthropy has made a significant contribution to the vitality and stature of the arts in Northeast Ohio. Zygote Press, founded to provide print facilities for artists interested in creating

fine prints, is the only open studio, collaborative printshop of its kind in the Northeast Ohio area, and provides an invaluable resource for artists, students, print collectors, and the general public through its printing facilities, programming, gallery and archives.

Mazal tov to Gabriel Shell, who was inducted into the National Elementary Honor's Society on May 17. To be inducted into the Society, a student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in order to apply to be a member, and then must write an essay about explaining how he excels in leadership, service, character and citizenship. As part of membership in the Society, Gabriel has committed to performing community service throughout the next school year.



Do you know of a child or an adult with an accomplishment we should be kvelling over? We'd like to be able to congratulate them here. Email your kvells to newsletter@kolhalev.net.

YAHREZEITS

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

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

- Betty Resnick** – grandmother of Linda Gross
- Rose Lasky** – mother of Renee Siegel
- Morris Ehrlich** – grandfather of Barry Epstein
- Ruth S. Friedman** – mother of Joyce Wolpert
- James D. Manny** – father of Meg Manny
- Janet Mirow** – mother of Deena Epstein
- Rae Ehrlich** – grandmother of Barry Epstein
- Maurice Epstein** – father of Barry Epstein
- Lena Chasin (Leah)** – mother of Abraham Chasin
- Anna Goldhirsh (Hannah)** – grandmother of Judi Dash
- Phillip Hack** – father of Maureen Hack

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Bill & Michal Scher-Marcus** in honor of Mark & Adina Davidson's 25th wedding anniversary
- **Bill & Michal Scher-Marcus** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Rella Gilletz, Michal's grandmother
- **Ami Kopstein & Glenda Kupersmith** in memory of Mildred Kupersmith, Glenda's mother
- **Happy Wallach** in honor of Lila Miller's Bat Mitzvah
- **Happy Wallach** in honor of the incoming KHL board
- **Happy Wallach** in memory of Charles Adamson, husband of Anne Adamson
- **Frank & Phyllis Maris** in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Drs. Eli & Lily Marks, Phyllis's parents of Phyllis Maris and Marguerite Dresden, Phyllis's cousin
- **Dick & Deena Epstein** in honor of Lila Miller's Bat Mitzvah
- **Dick & Deena Epstein** in memory of Charles Adamson, husband of Anne Adamson
- **Dick & Deena Epstein** in memory of Martin Lax, father of Marianne Lax
- **Dick & Deena Epstein** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Janet Mirow, Deena's mother
- **Abe & Muriel Chasin** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Jean Roth, Muriel's sister

HESED

Refuah Shleimah to Nancy Hecht who is recovering from surgery.

Condolences to **Marianne Lax** on the loss of her father Martin Lax, may his memory be a blessing. May Marianne and all of her family be comforted at this painful time along with all those who mourn among the Jewish people and the world as a whole.

Condolences to **Anne Adamson** on the loss of her husband, Charles, may his memory be a blessing. May Marianne and all of her family be comforted at this painful time along with all those who mourn among the Jewish people and the world as a whole.

KOL HALEV WOMEN'S GROUP

All women in KHL are cordially invited to a Shabbat Potluck Dinner at the home of Maureen Hack on Fri. June 22 at 6:30 pm. Maureen's address is 17 Dorsett Court (inside The Village across from Beachwood Place), Beachwood. Food contributions should be dairy or parve.

Please RSVP to Maureen at mxh7@case.edu or 216-831-0997.

KIDDUSH SIGN-UP

Each Kol HaLev family is obligated to sponsor one kiddush each fiscal year (July 1-June 30), and it's time to sign up for the next year's kiddushim. Dates are assigned on a 1st-come, 1st-served basis, so please contact Robin Shell at rshell@bernssockner.com or 216-482-6100 with your top three choices for kiddush sponsorship. The deadline for requesting dates is **June 30**. If you do not voluntarily sign up by that date, a date may be assigned to you.

Important info:

1. Dates are subject to change due to ceremonies or special events not known at this time.
2. **If you are unable to fulfill your Kiddush Sponsorship, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.**
3. You will be emailed guidelines when your date is confirmed. Thank you.

2012	2013
July 7 - Sat. Kiddush	Jan. 5 - Sat. Kiddush
July 20 - Fri. Night POTLUCK	Jan. 12 - 2 nd Sat.
July 21 - Sat. Kiddush	Jan. 19 - Sat. Kiddush
July 28 - Sat. Kiddush	Jan. 26 - Sat. Kiddush
Aug. 4 - Sat. Kiddush	Feb. 9 - 2 nd Shabbat
Aug. 18 - Sat. Kiddush	Feb. 16 - Sat. Kiddush
Aug. 24 - Fri. Night POTLUCK	Feb. 22 - Fri. Night Oneg
Sept. 1 - Sat. Kiddush	Feb. 23 - Sat. REGULAR
Sept. 15 - Sat. Kiddush	Feb. 23 - (Sat.) Purim (p.m.)
Overall HHD Kiddush Coordinator	Mar. 2 - Sat. Kiddush
Sept. 16 – (Sun.) Erev Rosh Hashana	Mar. 9 - 2 nd Shabbat
Sept. 17– (Mon.) 1st Day Rosh Hashana	Mar. 16 - Sat. Kiddush
Sept. 18 - (Tue.) 2nd Day Rosh Hashana	Mar. 22 - Fri. Night POTLUCK
Sept. 28 - Fri. Night Oneg	Mar. 23 - Sat. Kiddush
Sept. 22 - Regular Kiddush	Mar. 26 - (Mon.) Passover Service (a.m.)
Sept. 26 - (Wed.) Yom Kippur Neila (p.m.)	Mar. 30 - Shabbat Kiddush (5 th Shabbat) (During Passover)
Sept. 29 - Sat. Kiddush (5 th Shabbat)	Apr. 1 - (Mon.) Passover Service (a.m.)
Oct. 1 - Mon. Sukkot (A.M.)	Apr. 6 - Sat. Kiddush
Oct. 6 - Regular Kiddush	Apr. 13 - 2 nd Shabbat
Oct. 7 - (Sun.) Simchat Torah (p.m.)	Apr. 20 - Sat. Kiddush
Oct. 8 - (Mon.) Shemini Atzat (a.m.)	May 4 - Sat. Kiddush
Oct. 13 - 2 nd Sat.	May 11 - 2 nd Shabbat
Oct. 5 - Sukkot Party helper (p.m.)	May 15 - Wed. Shavuot Service (Dairy) (a.m.)
Oct. 26 Fri. Night POTLUCK	May 18 - Sat. Kiddush
Nov. 3 - Sat. Kiddush	May 24 - Fri. Night POTLUCK
Nov. 10 - 2 nd Shabbat	May 25 - Sat. Potluck – Shabbat in the Park
Nov. 17 - Sat. Kiddush	June 1 - Sat. Kiddush
Dec. 1 - Sat. Kiddush	June 15 - Sat. Kiddush
Dec. 8 - 2 nd Shabbat	June 22 - Sat. Kiddush
Dec. 15 - Sat. Kiddush	June 28 - Fri. Night POTLUCK
Dec. 15 - Chanukah Progra.m. (a.m.)	June 29 - Small Sat. Kiddush (5 th Shabbat)
Dec. 22 - Sat. Kiddush	
Dec. 28 - Fri. Night POTLUCK	
Dec. 29 - Sat. Kiddush	

WHAT'S YOUR JEWISH TAG LINE?



Kol HaLev member Barry Epstein recently forwarded me an e-mail from his family friend Rabbi Marci Bloch of Congregation B’nai Israel in Boca Raton, Florida. In it, she cites a bit of Talmud text she had chosen to accompany a short bio in her rabbinical school ordination program:

Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone, as it is said, “From all who would teach me, have I gained understanding.” - Shimon Ben Zoma, *Pirkei Avot* 4:1.

Rabbi Bloch still finds this proverb very meaningful ten years later!

Many of us include a “one liner” as part of our e-mail signatures. These “electronic bumper stickers” are, in effect, our tag lines, reflecting our individual ethos through bits of humor, philosophy, religion or commentary that we find meaningful. Rabbi Bloch suggests picking a Jewish tag line. This can serve as a reference point or meditation of sorts, keeping us centered through continual focus on one of our key ideals...or to provide a bit of topical and reflective comic relief.

Torah--both the written (the five books of Moses) and oral tradition (remainder of the Tanach, the Talmud, Midrash Rabbah, Zohar, Tanya, etc.)-- is a giant wellspring of wisdom waiting to be tapped. Here are a few candidate tag lines from the Talmud:

- Happy is he who hears and ignores; a hundred evils pass him by. (*Sanhedrin* 7a; D. 305)
- The third tongue slays three: the speaker, the spoken to, and the spoken of. (*Erachin* 15b; D. 461)
- What is hateful to thyself, do not to thy fellow-man. (*Shabbat* 31a; D. 223...attributed to Hillel)

I prefer quotes that cite their sources so I can not only be assured they are in fact Torah, but also so I can check out the context and see where the “tentacles” lead.

What about quotes NOT from Torah? These too can be great but to qualify as a Jewish tag line, they need to embody some value or perspective that is clearly and uniquely Jewish as experienced through what Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionism, called our evolving religious civilization: Jewish history, culture, language, faith/religion, spirituality, food, the arts, etc. Whether the line is serious or funny, I think the authenticity factor is raised significantly when the source is himself/herself Jewish.

Some great potential tag lines found outside Torah:

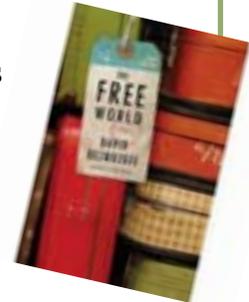
- Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind. - Albert Einstein
- Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning. - Albert Einstein
- The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been. - Henry A. Kissinger
- Courage is a special kind of knowledge: the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared. - David Ben-Gurion

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HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The June book group meeting will be Thursday, June 28th, at 7:30 at the home of Anna and Sam Kelman. We will be discussing be is *The Free World: A Novel* by David Bezmozgis (368 pages, a Kindle edition is available).

From *Publishers Weekly*: Bezmozgis follows his well-received *Natasha and Other Stories* [which the book group read in May of 2008] with a meticulous study of the capricious spaces between historical certainties. First, there's the gap that allows the Krasnansky family to flee Soviet Latvia in the late 1970s for the edge of Rome, where a population of Jewish refugees contemplate their chances of emigrating to Canada, America, or Australia while awaiting news of Israel's peace with Egypt amid widespread anti-Zionism. Then there's the generational gap between the Krasnansky patriarch, unreconstructed Communist Samuil, who only reluctantly leaves the bloc he fought and sacrificed for, and his somewhat profligate sons, Alec and Karl, keen to snatch up the opportunities—sexual, financial, and criminal—that the West affords. And finally there is the growing distance between Alec and his wife, Polina, who is fleeing an ex-husband and a scandalous abortion. Bezmozgis displays an evenhanded verisimilitude in dealing with a wide variety of cold war attitudes, and though the unremitting seriousness of his tone makes for some slow patches, the book remains an assured, complex social novel whose relevance will be obvious to any reader genuinely curious about recent history, the limits of love, and the unexpected burdens that attend the arrival of freedom. See amazon.com for other reviews of this book.



The book for July is *The Arrogant Years: One Girl's Search for Her Lost Youth, from Cairo to Brooklyn* by Lucette Lagnado.

All KHL members are welcome to attend. For more information about the group look at our web page www.kolhalev.net/book_group and contact Kevin Weidenbaum (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the e-mail list.

[CONNECTIONS, continued from page 13](#)

- How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. - Anne Frank
- To you I'm an atheist; to G-d, I'm the Loyal Opposition. - Woody Allen

Many resources exist on the Internet, but some do not cite sources. Two good ones:

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/jud/ajp/index.htm>

<http://www.jewish-wisdom.com/>

What's YOUR Jewish tag line...and how do YOU connect with our community, traditions or the Divine? Send YOUR connections to me at david@estophile.com for use in future columns!

THE KOL HALEV ANNUAL MEETING

will be held

SUNDAY, JUNE 5
AT THE RATNER SCHOOL

9:45 A.M. BAGELS AND COFFEE
10:15 BUSINESS MEETING

AGENDA:

- board elections and installations
- a budget presentation,
- a review of the past year's events by Greg Selker
- a special presentation commemorating the completion of our 18th year as a congregation.

Attendance at this meeting is a responsibility of our members and we ask all of you who can to attend.

If you cannot attend, please mail the absentee ballot sent to you in a Special Email Update to Judy at the Kol HaLev office; or if you need an absentee ballot, please contact Judy and we will mail you one.

BOOK SALE AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to generous donations from two families, Kol HaLev will be holding a book sale at the annual meeting, June 3. There a lot of books on Jewish subjects, from novels to Hagaddot, and a few other topics, too. The sale will be cash or check only, no credit cards.

You're invited to an
EREV SHABBAT GARDEN POTLUCK

*For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come,
and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land*
Song of Solomon, Ch 2:11-12

Friday, June 24, at 6 p.m.

in the beautiful backyard of
Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer
24615 Sittingbourne Lane, Beachwood 44122

There will be a short creative Shabbat service led by Steven Kanner.

Children going off to summer camp will be recognized and receive a gift & a blessing from Kol HaLev for a safe, meaningful summer experience

Bring a potluck dish to share with 8-10 people. It should be veggie, dairy (milchig) or parve. Please no meat (other than fish) or nuts. Also, if you would like, bring a beverage to share (juice, wine, etc.).

In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, members should bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to the potluck.

For more general and carpooling/bikepooling information, contact the household of Steven Kanner and Karly Whitaker at 216-382-3348 or karlywhitaker@yahoo.com.

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE

For a rain location in case of inclement weather, call the KHL office at 216-320-1498 by 4 p.m. After 4 p.m., call the Pelsmajers at 216-378-1805.

CALENDAR

Sat. June 2	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m at Ratner Chapel; <i>Nasso</i> ; Service leader: Rachel Lieberman; Discussion leaders: Rachel Lieberman; kiddush co-hosted by Julie and Louis Handler and by Kevin Rahilly and Margaret Cohen
	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Bonim Havdalah hosted by the Printz-Lewis Family at their community park, Coronado Beach Club
Sun. June 3	9:45 a.m	Kol HaLev Annual Meeting at the Ratner School (more info on page 15).
Sun. June 10	7:00 p.m	Madrichim Wine and Cheese Party at the home of Lynn and David Liebling, 32582 Springside Lane, Solon; RSVP by June 3rd to Robyn at 216-320-1498 or robyn@kolhalev.net
Tues. June 12	7:00 – 8:30 p.m	Membership Committee Meeting at the home of Anita Cohn, 2112 Acacia Park Drive, #106, Lyndhurst, 440-446-9336
Wed. June 13 New date!	7:30 a.m.	Board Meeting at the home of Allen Binstock, 23701 Hazelmere Road, Shaker Heights, 216-991-4249; All Kol HaLev members are welcome.
Fri. June 15	6:00 p.m.	Erev Shabbat Garden Potluck at the home of Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer, 24615 Sittingbourne Lane, Beachwood, 216-378-1805 (more info on page 16). <i>Children going off to summer camp will be recognized and receive a gift and a blessing from Kol HaLev for a safe and meaningful summer experience.</i>
Sat. June 16	10:00 a.m.	Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Gilda Weinstock at Ratner Chapel; <i>Sh'lach</i> ; Service leaders: Rabbi Steve and Gilda; kiddush hosted by Kate and Brent Weinstock in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Gilda
Fri. June 22	6:30 p.m.	Women's Group Potluck at the home of Maureen Hack, 17 Dorset Court, Beachwood, 216-831-0997

CALENDAR

Sat. June 23	10:30 a.m.	Musical Shabbat at Ratner Chapel; <i>Korach</i> ; kiddush co-hosted by Amy and Jack Brodsky in honor of Tyler's and Kyle's birthdays and by Lisa and Alan Kornspan
Wed. June 27	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Mindful Jewish Practice at Nancy Rubel's office, 24755 Chagrin Boulevard, #305. As always, we welcome everyone who is interested, whether or not you have any meditation experience.
Thurs. June 28	7:30 p.m.	Book Group at the home of Anna and Sam Kelman, 2072 Campus Road, South Euclid, 216-297-9490. We will be discussing <i>The Free World: A Novel</i> by David Bezmozgis.
Sat. June 30	10:30 a.m.	Experiential Shabbat at Ratner Chapel; <i>Chukat</i> ; kiddush co-hosted by Nina Glueckselig in honor of her son, Gabriel's 15th birthday and by Susan Golden

This calendar is accurate as of the time of publication, but sometimes dates, times, and locations for Kol HaLev events may change. To stay up-to-date, please read the Weekly Update emailed to you every Thursday and check Kol HaLev's [website calendar](#).

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Kol HaLev Happenings is the newsletter of Kol HaLev, Cleveland's Jewish Reconstructionist 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 Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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

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stamp
here

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