We are delighted to be welcoming and dedicating our new Torah scroll on Sunday, June 7, prior to our annual meeting. We hope the entire community can participate in the joyful marching, singing and dancing and the dedication ceremony. The last time we had the chance to do this as a community was 18 years ago when we dedicated our current Torah scroll.

If you'd like to participate in the Torah procession, you have a couple options. You can be present at 1:00 p.m. at Cedar Sinai Synagogue (23749 Cedar Rd., Beachwood) when we pick up the new scroll. Or you can wait until we've driven it to the parking lot of B'nai Jeshurun (27501 Fairmount Blvd., Pepper Pike) where, at 1:30, we'll begin our musical progression (bring your instruments) down Brainard Rd. to the Ratner School. The Torah scroll dedication, dancing and Ketubah ((literally, "written thing"; a contract of commitment) signing will take place at Ratner from 2:00-2:30 p.m. See you there!

Please join us as our son

CLAY MANUEL ARMIN WILLIAMS

Is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah Saturday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Kiddush and luncheon to follow

David & Rachel Williams

Please join us as our sons

KYLE JACOB BRODSKY & TYLER MITCHELL BRODSKY

are called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah Saturday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Kiddush and lunch to follow

Jack & Amy Brodsky

(RSVP to yupimany@gmail)

Please join us as our daughter

MAYA RACHEL ABRAMSON SKLARIN

Is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah Saturday June 27 at 10:00 a.m.

A kiddush of challah and wine to follow

Please let us know if you'd like to join us for a picnic lunch at our home—all are welcome—with an RSVP to alexis.abramson@gmail.com by June 10

Chris Sklarin & Alexis Abramson

IN THIS ISSUE

Rabbinic Corner 3  Yahrzeits 11
Torah Dedication 4  Schein donations 12
Absentee Ballot 5  Board Report 13
Hagiga Happenings 6  Book Group 14
Hesed 7  GCC Report 15
Contributions 7  Shabbat in the Garden 16
News/Announcements 8  Calendar 16
From Our President 10
**DIRECTORY**

**SERVICES & PROGRAMS:**
- The Lillian and Betty Ratner School
  27575 Shaker Boulevard
  Pepper Pike, OH 44124
  [http://www.kolahalev.net](http://www.kolahalev.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 MANAGER:**
- Kelli Birch
  kelli@kolhalev.net

**Board of Trustees**

**OFFICERS:**
- President Halle Barnett
- Vice President Karly Whitaker
- Secretary Karal Stern
- Treasurer Bruce Fallick & Catherine Fallick

**VALUES TEAMS, COMMITTEES and THEIR LEADERS**

**WELCOMING & CARING** – Lila Hanft
- Hesed – Robin Holzman & Martha Schubert
- Hhevra Kadisha – Lois Selker & Rachel Kay
- Calendar - Itsik Kittila & Kelli Birch
- Newsletter – Lila Hanft
- Proofreaders – David Roberts, Deena Epstein, Marcia Goldberg, Itsik Kittila
- Weekly Update – Robin Holzman
- Website – Benjamin Barnett & Brian Miller
- Marketing/PR – Deena Epstein & Halle Barnett
- Tech Support – Brian Miller

**SPIRITUAL** – Bill Scher-Marcus
- Religious Practices – Karal Stern & Open
- Holidays – Amy Hogg
- Meditation – Nancy Rubel & Karly Whitaker
- Music – Open
- Security Corps – Open

**LEARNING** - Leah Kamionkowski & Glenda Kupersmith-Kopstein
- Youth & Family Education – Sue Pelleg
- Adult Education – Maureen Hack
- Young Families/Tot Shabbat – Rachel Williams & Josh Chefitz
- Child Care Coordinator – Traci Elgart
- Torah Study – Ralph and Selma Gwatkin
- Book Group – Kevin Weidenbaum
- Lunch and Learn – Open

**INVOLVED** - Karly Whitaker

**VALUES TEAMS, COMMITTEES and THEIR LEADERS**

- Greater Cleveland Congregations – Allen Binstock, Dick & Donna Weinberger
- Interfaith Hospitality Network – Nancy Dudwick
- Israel Dialogue Group – Karly Whitaker & Mike Armin
- Environmental Sustainability – Miriam Geronimus

**FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY** – Open
- Fundraising – Margaret Cohen, Barry Epstein & Greg Selker
- Mock Trial – Open
- Cemetery – Mike Armin

**PARTICIPATORY** – Miriam Geronimus
- Membership – Itsik Kittila
- Greeters – Kelli Birch (Office Manager)
- Kiddush – Kelli Birch (Office Manager)
- High Holy Days – Marcia Goldberg
- Women’s Group – Happy Wallach
- Interfaith Families – Leah Kamionkowski
- Leadership Development – Greg Selker & Leah Kamionkowski

**COMMITTEES DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE BOARD**
- Finance – Pete Robertson & Greg Selker
- Ratner Liaison – Mike Caputo
- Rabbi Liaison – Selma Gwatkin & Barry Epstein
- Strategic Planning – Greg Selker
- Nominating – Sue Pelleg

**JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 15**
WHY DO WE DEDICATE SPECIAL RITUALS, THINGS AND TIMES?

This year at our upcoming annual meeting, in addition to approving our new board and hearing a recap of our past year and a look ahead to what’s coming, we will hold a dedication ceremony for our new Torah scroll that is coming to our community from the Cedar-Sinai congregation. This event has lead me to reflect on the whole concept of “dedication” or “consecration” that is so pervasive in our own religious tradition and in many others as well.

The first category that comes to mind when thinking about this, is the sanctification of holy time. This is the most familiar type of dedication to many of us in the liberal Jewish world. Whether thinking about the weekly arrival of Shabbat or the annual cycle of the holidays, the vast majority of us have participated in, if not personally practiced, the consecration of these holy times through the rituals of blessing candles and wine and of gathering together with family, friends and community. Another important and well known category of sanctification consists of the rituals we enact around significant transitions in our lives; brit milah ceremonies, baby namings, b’nai mitzvah ceremonies, weddings and funerals. However, the dedication of something physical, a place or an object, is less familiar to many of us. This type of dedication explicitly points towards and underscores the intended use and/or meaning of a particular object or structure.

In Jewish tradition, the most common example of ritual dedication is connected with moving into a new home and the ritual of securing a mezuzah to the front doorpost of the house. This ceremony, called in Hebrew, Hanukkat Habayit, or home dedication, provides an opportunity for the new residents to publicly express their hopes and intentions regarding the physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions of the home they will inhabit. This can also be a time when family and friends of the new residents offer blessings to support the intentions of their loved ones. On a communal level, there is traditionally a process of dedicating a plot of land that will serve as the community’s cemetery. In this case, the function of the dedication is to officially demarcate a property that will have the sacred purpose of holding the physical remains of deceased members of the community.

David went and brought up the Ark of God . . . into the City of David, with joy . . . David and all the House of Israel brought up the Ark of God with shouts and with the sound of the shofar.


We at Kol HaLev are approaching now a collective life cycle event of welcoming a new Torah scroll into our midst. When gather to celebrate this moment and to dedicate or consecrate the scroll itself, we will have the opportunity to articulate to ourselves our hopes and intentions for the impact studying together can have on our community. We will have the chance to envision what the next stage in the development of our community might be. I look forward to sharing this celebration and dedication with many of you on the afternoon of June 7.

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 at 216-320-1498 or at rabbisteve@kolhalev.net.
Calling all members!

JUNE 7
ANNUAL MEETING
& TORAH DEDICATION

1:15 p.m. Gather in the B’nai Jeshurun parking lot
1:30 Musical procession to Ratner (bring your instruments!)
2 p.m. Torah scroll dedication, dancing and Ketubah signing
2:30 Annual meeting begins

Coming to the meeting? Check out the Treasurer’s budget report at kolhalev.net/content/fiscal-year-2016-budget

Can’t attend the annual meeting?
June 3 is the deadline to send in your

ABSENTEE BALLOT on page 5
Kol HaLev Absentee Ballot for Board of Trustees Election 2015-2016

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on June 7th at 2:30 pm at Ratner, but if you can’t make the meeting, please return this absentee ballot to the office either by email to kelli@kolhalev.net or by snail mail. This file can be filled in, then saved and sent. It must be saved after filling in the ballot.

Slate of Officers and Board Members

New Board Members

Values Team Leader Fiscal Sustainability – David Conn for first year of two-year term
Values Team Leader Welcoming and Caring – Lila Hanft for first year of two-year term
Member at Large – Louise Elkind for first year of two-year term
Member at Large – Celia Jennings for second year of two-year term, replacing Liz Meachum
Member at Large – Kirby Date for first year of second two-year term

Continuing Board Members

President – Halle Barnett for second year of two-year term
First Vice President – Karly Whitaker for second year of two-year term
Secretary – Karal Stern for second year of two-year term
Treasurer – Bruce and Catherine Fallick for second year of two-year term
Immediate Past President – Barbara Truitt
Values Team Leader Learning – Leah Kamionkowski and Glenda Kupersmith-Kopstein for second year of two-year term
Values Team Leader Participatory – Miriam Geronimus for second year of two-year term
Values Team Leader Spiritual – Bill Scher-Marcus for second year of two-year term
Values Team Leader Involved – Karly Whitaker for second year of second two-year term
Member at Large – Kareen Caputo for second year of two-year term
Member at Large – Barry Epstein for second year of two-year term

Ex Officio Board Members

Founding Rabbi – Rabbi Jeffrey Schein
Rabbi – Steve Segar
Educational Director – Robyn Novick

________ I vote in favor of Nominating Slate

________ I vote against Nominating Slate

Member Name (s)__________________________________________________________________________________________

Submit this absentee vote by June 3, 2015 by

1. Emailing this ballot, after filling in and saving, to Kelli Birch at kelli@kolhalev.net after filling in and then saving or

2. Mailing a paper copy of this ballot to the Kol HaLev office at 2245 Warrensville Center Rd Suite 215, University Heights, OH 44118

Nominating committee: Sue Pelleg, Barb Truitt, Robin Shell, Bellamy Printz, Karly Whitaker
As the programmatic year is coming to an end, I am busy completing evaluations for all the different grants that we receive. Not only are we extremely fortunate to receive funds to create fun and creative programming (or make more affordable in the case of the Shabbaton), but the evaluation process facilitates a deeper reflective practice than would otherwise take place. I feel particularly lucky to have such an opportunity to look back over the past year and note the journey that we took as a community of learners.

When we began this past Rosh HaShanah, not many (or perhaps any) of the children in our community knew of Mordecai Kaplan or the 4 Bs of Reconstructionism. Numerous individuals came up to me at the Shabbaton in April to share in their appreciation (or perhaps surprise) that the children were well versed in the Bs – Belonging, Behaving, Believing and Becoming. Although it is always a pleasure to watch children grow, something greater, something that touches the heart takes place when you can see children embody learning. This is what occurred this past year.

We began this year by discussing Believing. I personally have the hardest time in this category, but it seemed apt to discuss around the high holidays. Not only did they wrestle with beliefs, they then created shofarot (the plural of shofar) which could be heard en mass at our Rosh HaShanah service calling our attention and kavanah (intention). The journey started with such energy, which continued through each leg.

The next step was Behaving, where each group engaged in tikkun olam (repairing the world) projects. The groups learned about issues in our community, middot (Jewish values) that reinforce why we should be acting, as well as things they can do to help. The groups made Birthday Bags (elements necessary to make a birthday party) for children in the Hebrew Shelter Home (fleeing domestic violence), hygiene bags for the Homeless Stand Down, breakfast bags for Ronald McDonald residents, dog biscuits for the South Euclid Humane Society and hygiene bags for the Homeless Youth Program at Bellefaire JCB. All of these projects put our learning into action and positively impacted those who were in need.

Our journey continued with Belonging, which we explored in two projects. The first was a mural inspired and facilitated by our youth director and artist, Emily Gross-Rosenblatt. We are looking forward to seeing the completed project which we'll be sure to display. The second Belonging project was Shabbat dinners with different age cohorts and their families. What could be a stronger representation of belonging than breaking bread together? Not only were the erev-Shabbat services lovely, the warmth of the community and the opportunity to sit and have the space to connect with one another was moving.

The last leg of our journey focused on Becoming. It was a wonderful way to end the year, allowing for much reflection of where we have been, where we are and where we would like to go. I am truly proud of our young Reconstructionists who are constantly evolving and becoming individuals that grapple with difficult questions, search for new meanings and act on what they have learned.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Kol Tuv,
Robyn
We send wishes for a refuah shleyma, a complete and speedy healing, to Abe Chasin, Louis Handler, Sam Kelman, Ron Kohn, Ben Lewis, Jean Miller, Pauline Raymond, Jeff Sunshine and Roberta Tonti. We would love to hear from you if you or another Kol HaLev member you know of would like to be included on this list.

Thanks to Martha Schubert, who was the May Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members cooked and delivered meals, made phone calls, sent cards and visited. We thank all who extended themselves this month.

If you are able to participate in the work of the Hesed Committee, or if you know of anyone who may need the support of our committee, please contact Rabbi Steve or Robin Holzman (robinholzman@gmail.com) and Martha Schubert (marthaschubert@mac.com), Hesed Co-Chairs.

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- Anita Cohn, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. in honor of her birthday
- Karal Stern, in memory of Gilbert Sunshine and to commemorate the yahrzeit of her grandmother, Nina Kroll
- Phyllis Maris, in honor of Anita Cohn's 80th birthday, in honor of Nathan Gilbert's graduation and in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Earl Dresden
- Maureen Hack, in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of her father, Phillip Hack
- The Friedman-Romells, in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Seymour Friedman
- Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer, in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Julio's mother, Dora Pelsmajer
- Judy and Len Malamud, in honor of Barbara Katz Epstein's 70th birthday

Make a donation to Kol HaLev in honor of a simcha, in memory of a loved, or for any reason you'd like by check or online -- whichever is more comfortable and convenient for you! You can also pay for dues, Hagiga tuition, Mishloach Manot and many other things online as well as by check.

♦ Pay by check. Just drop a check in the mail to: Kol HaLev | 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 215 | University Heights, OH 44118 You'll receive a confirmation that your payment was received.
OR
♦ Make an online donation. You can pay safely and securely by credit card or electronic check at Kol HaLev's PaySimple page at http://kolhalev.net/pay_simple (Note: Kol HaLev pays a small fee for transactions processed through PaySimple).
**NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IT'S A MITZVAH! SIGN UP TO HOST A KIDDUSH THIS YEAR**
**VISIT SIGN-UP GENIUS NOW TO RESERVE YOUR FIRST CHOICE OF DATE**

The new sign-up genius for Kiddush is ready! If you would like to sign up to host a Kiddush between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, please click [here](#).

If you have a particular date you would like to host (for example, in honor of a family simcha), please try to sign up soon. If you don't know your schedule very far in advance, no worries — Kelli will be sending out quarterly reminders. Thank you in advance for volunteering to host a Kiddush and helping to create sacred community! If you have any questions, please contact Miriam Geronimus ([mgeronimus@gmail.com](mailto:mgeronimus@gmail.com)).

Additionally, we know that not everyone is aware of the changes the Membership Committee made to Kiddush since we held the Kiddush Conversations last winter. For more information, see Miriam's article in the [March newsletter](#).

---

**BESHAH TOVAH! KELLI'S MATERNITY LEAVE STARTS JUNE 15**

Our terrific office manager, Kelli Birch, will be on maternity leave June 15 - October 15. During her absence, we will have very part time office help, both professional and member-volunteer. We ask for your extra patience and understanding regarding administrative matters during this interlude, and your collective good wishes for Kelli and her family. Beshaah tovah (may all proceed smoothly)!

---

**THE ETHICS OF COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY SESSION JUNE 28**

The Adult Education committee presents "The Ethics of Communal Responsibility: Traditional Jewish Approaches to Living in Community" on Sunday, Jun 28, 7:30-9:00 p.m. The panel discussion, which will include Rabbi Steve and Leah Kamionkowsk, will be held at the home of Sue and Eric Kisch in Shaker Heights. RSVP to Sue Kisch at 295-1324 or Sek423@yahoo.com.

---

**TORAH DISCUSSION GROUP WILL GO ON SUMMER HIATUS**

The members of the Torah Discussion group, which normally meets once a month, have decided not to meet during the summer and to resume after the High Holidays. The next session will be on October 10, at the home of Selma and Ralph Gwatkin in Beachwood, at the usual time of 3:30-5:00 p.m. The topic is the *Apocrypha*; Ralph will lead readings and a discussion of the *Book of Tobit*. 
WOMEN'S SHABBAT DINNER TO BE HELD JUNE 12

All women of Kol HaLev are cordially invited to our Kabbalat Shabbat Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 12, at the home of Audrey Warner in Beachwood. Our Shabbat dinners are lovely gatherings of the women of our community which provide a wonderful opportunity to share time in a relaxed environment.

Food categories are unassigned. However, if you are able to do so, please let Audrey know what you will be bringing. This will be useful if others inquire about what they might bring to "fill in the gaps."

Food contributions can be parve or dairy and "allergy aware" (no tree nuts or peanuts). It is most helpful to the hostess when you also bring serving dishes and utensils for your food contributions, and if you prepare the items so they are ready to serve.

Please RSVP to Audrey at audreyawarner@gmail.com no later than Thursday, June 11. To RSVP by phone, please call Happy Wallach at 216-283-4058.

TIKKUN OLAM CORNER: THE LEWISES' BOOK & TOY DRIVE

John and Celia Lewis, who became b'nai mitzvah at the end of May, are asking for help with their tikkun olam project, a toy and book drive for the children and families who come through the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court, Domestic Violence Department. These children often must travel under an extreme amount of duress on public transportation to the courthouse, and sit all day in an office, facing an uncertain future at home. The staff at the Court have a practice of giving children who come through the court with a toy when they leave, and they provide toys and books to engage them while they are waiting for their parent or guardian.

The Department can accept new or gently used toys and books, including stuffed animals. John and Celia will be collecting items through the month of June. After the toy and book drive ends, John and Celia will collect and deliver the donations via public transportation (to experience the obstacles that these victims experience as they try to work within the system) to the courthouse where they will meet with Monica Christofferson, the Domestic Violence case manager, to learn more about the system that works with these abuse victims.

To donate a book or toy, or to get more information, contact Bellamy Printz at bfprintz@gmail.com.

CELL PHONE LISTINGS & A WEBSITE TUTORIAL

As you know from our recent email, cell phone numbers will now be available on our password-protected membership list on the Kol HaLev website. If you need help logging into the Kol HaLev website, try this useful, illustrated tutorial.
Let’s just say it together: Whew. What a year this has been. One of the busiest in Kol HaLev’s history, this past year has also been challenging for many of us personally, both for better and for not-so-hot.

My own year was spent learning to find balance. Acclimating to my new Kol HaLev hat while managing health challenges, family shifts, business growth, other community roles, and the occasional enormous monkey wrench, made for an interesting study of what my sons’ generation sometimes refer to as “O.M.G.,” (full stop in between each letter when said aloud.) I admit there were days when just thinking about impending preparations for the next Kol HaLev event or meeting was overwhelming.

And yet, I knew in my heart that the work was important. In context of our communal life and the expansive potential for joy and meaning it affords, a meeting agenda is more than a meeting agenda. A full kiddush cupboard is more than a full kiddush cupboard. From a songbook to a budget proposal, from a check-in with a new member to the deploying of a creative curriculum with our youngest members, every little personal to-do item is an opportunity to build connections. That tuna salad you made for the potluck? That carpool to the GCC rally? Each signposts of belonging. I – we each – do our piece to create Kol HaLev.

I don’t think I can say thank you enough. To all of you. For the tuna salad. You know what I mean . . .

In my very first column last June, I reflected on the nuanced response to the Pew study on trends in Jewish American community by Rabbi Deborah Waxman, the then-new President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and our movement. I talked about what our collective ownership of this community meant to me, and how the investments we each make in the whole, from our own unique places and perspectives, are truly spiritual assets. Our own deep dive into the “Four Bs of Reconstructionism” at the recent Shabbaton mirrored Rabbi Waxman’s comments that “belonging” is a more expansive notion than what is simply reflected in synagogue membership numbers, or an end in itself, but a means to being deeply human, and deeply interconnected.

This coming year, as we continue to explore together what it means to belong to Kol HaLev, we may talk equally about the reasons for and choices we make in coming together, and each of our responsibilities to that whole. We may talk equally about wisdom, creativity, and engagement, and standards and expectations – how we agree to behave together, in order to “become” together.

Our Torah is our kemach (sustenance), but we also need every member’s wisdom and inspiration and action and commitment. It’s all of our energy and creativity and heart, and yes, dollars, that keep Kol HaLev running. It’s the ruach (spiritedness) and the intention underneath – the tuna salad and the time, so to speak.

Shortly you will be asked to make your financial commitment to Kol HaLev for the year. In order to plan effectively and manage our budget responsibly, we need to hear from you. We fully respect each

continued on page 11
member household’s needs and ability to make a responsible financial commitment to Kol HaLev within their means. We also expect your response – your acknowledgement of your desire for the opportunity of membership by way of formal reply to the forthcoming commitment letter. That behavior is part of belonging.

You will also be asked to think more about the opportunities of membership, and of leadership, this year. There are some really exciting conversations blossoming that will feed our community’s future well, in which you’ll be asked to participate. I don’t want to spill all the beans, but every time I think about the breadth of our offering, I am reminded of the incredible depth with which we do this work together, and that continues to excite me, incite me, and drive me to find that important balance so that I can be both my best “me” and give my best to Kol HaLev. I remain humbled by and immensely grateful for the opportunity to co-create this amazing community with all of you.

Todah rabah m’od (thank you very, exceedingly, much). For the tuna salad. It’s so good.
**DONATIONS IN HONOR OF RABBI JEFF AND DEB SCHEIN**

*Thank you so much for your generosity!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anonymous</th>
<th>Anonymous</th>
<th>Greg &amp; Lois Selker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adina &amp; Norm Newberg</td>
<td>Alan Weinstein</td>
<td>Halle, Benjamin, Maxwell &amp; Julian Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Steinberg</td>
<td>Allan &amp; S&amp;y Rosenfield</td>
<td>Happy Wallach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvin &amp; Marilyn Mars</td>
<td>Ami Kopstein &amp; Glenda Kupersmith</td>
<td>Jesse &amp; Maris Krasnow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp;y &amp; Joanna Laytin</td>
<td>Anita Cohn</td>
<td>Jill Cahn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anne Adamson</td>
<td>Jonathon Kligler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Antoinette Miller</td>
<td>Joseph Kanfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art &amp; Sue Biagi anti</td>
<td>Joyce Goldstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barb Truitt</td>
<td>Judy &amp; Rick Schiller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara &amp; Barry Epstein</td>
<td>Judy Harris &amp; Alan Lipson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara &amp; Bruce Rose</td>
<td>Julie Raskind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brian &amp; Jean Miller</td>
<td>Julio &amp; Aurelia Pelsmajer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chip May</td>
<td>Karal Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connie Friedman &amp; David Shutkin</td>
<td>Kate &amp; Natan Milgrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dan &amp; Ronna Askin</td>
<td>Kay Ariel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Klein &amp; Nancy Rubel</td>
<td>Kevin Rahilly &amp; Margaret Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Cedarbaum</td>
<td>Laurie Hardesty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David &amp; Elizabeth Conn</td>
<td>Leah Kamionkowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David &amp; Lynn Liebling</td>
<td>Lee DeAngelis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deena &amp; Dick Epstein</td>
<td>Lori Goodman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dick &amp; Jayne Jones</td>
<td>Marlene &amp; Steve Hilkowitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Harry &amp; Rabbi Enid Lader</td>
<td>Marsha Azorsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Maxine Collin</td>
<td>Martha, Dave, Max &amp; Alice Schubert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edwin &amp; Carol Petersen</td>
<td>Maureen Hack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen &amp; Franklin Toker</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Karen Caputo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen Greenberg &amp; Fran Seidman</td>
<td>Mike Armin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eric &amp; Rosanna Caplan</td>
<td>Miriam Geronimus &amp; Itsik Kittila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eric &amp; Susan Kisch</td>
<td>Mordechai &amp; Susan Pelleg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ester &amp; Jay Leutenberg</td>
<td>Nancy Dudwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evan &amp; Tracy Segal</td>
<td>Paula Klausner &amp; Jonathan Gordon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fran Zamore</td>
<td>Phyllis &amp; Frank Maris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fred &amp; Beth Friedman-Romell</td>
<td>Rabbi Barbara Penzner &amp; Brian Rosman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gail Howard &amp; Michael Seidman</td>
<td>Rabbi David &amp; Sandy Brusin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gil &amp; Marcia Goldberg</td>
<td>Rabbi Elliot &amp; Julie Skiddell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Hillel &amp; Rita Cohn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Ilyse S. Kramer &amp; Rabbi Sonya Starr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Ivan &amp; Deborah Caine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Jason &amp; Mrs Eva Edelstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Jeffrey Eisenstat &amp; Sarah Messinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Lee Friedler &amp; Rabbi Meryl Crean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Michael Swarttz &amp; Rabbi Carol Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Moshe Adler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Robert Tabak &amp; Ruth Loew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Seth Riemer &amp; Barbara Checknoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Sharon Marcus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Shoshana Nyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Sid Schwarz &amp; S&amp;y Perlstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Steve &amp; Sabina Sager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Steve Segar &amp; &amp;y Getz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbi Toba Spitzer &amp; Gina Fried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbis Dennis &amp; S&amp;y Sasso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbis Shawn &amp; Simcha Zevit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ralph &amp; Selma Gwatkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Renee Siegel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Litwin &amp; Kirby Date Litwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Robin Holzman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Robyn Novick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ronna Kaplan &amp; David Biegel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruth Ness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sam &amp; Anna Kelman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Schein Kids &amp; Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Agopian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shelley &amp; Mark Assel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sherri Kaufman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Siri-Dya &amp; Kathy Khalsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stanley &amp; Mimi Winikoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Steve &amp; Ellen Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sue &amp; Kevin Weidenbaum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Kosoffs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gratitude and heartfelt thanks for the many generous donations in honor of Rabbi Jeff and Deb Schein.

Donations still accepted at [kolhalev.net/schein](http://kolhalev.net/schein)

Gifts in honor of the Scheins support the Kol HaLev Schein Fund for Fostering the Spirituality of Children and Families and the Mordechai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood.

* as of 5/21
The Kol Halev Board met at the home of Karly Whitaker on May 11.

**Treasurer's report:** Bruce Fallick provided highlights of financial information as of April 30, 2015. Compared to this time last year, there is a slight increase in total income receipts and a slight decrease in total expenditures. Once Shabbaton expenses, rental costs for Ratner, and JRC dues are paid in full these numbers will be less favorable.

Bruce projects our net income for FY’15 is to be $-7,000, a smaller deficit than estimated at this time last year. This includes an additional expense to be made for purchase of the second Torah scroll, but excludes income from the Schein event.

Counting income from the Schein event, we should essentially break even for the year. However, next year does not look as favorable if nothing changes. In addition, we really need positive net income in order to build our reserves to a reasonable level. Therefore, improving our fundraising is a key issue for next year. Board members discussed ways to improve the way the budget is presented to the Board and members in general. An open, inclusive approach is needed as we educate members about the financial needs of our community.

"Commitment follower-upper" proposal: Bruce presented the need to appoint a designated person or agent from the membership dedicated to following up with members about their membership commitments and other financial responsibilities. As of now the treasurer, current and past presidents are the designees making it difficult to devote the necessary time and energy for such calls and/or in-person contact. The position was discussed in terms of important qualities of this person, whether or not it is a Board position, the need for confidentiality, and liability considerations. It was hoped that this person will be in place and able to assume the position in the fall.

**FY16 Budget second read and vote:** Bruce reviewed recommendations made to the proposed budget since the last Board meeting. A motion to pass the proposed FY’16 Budget was made by Lila Hanft seconded by Glenda Kupersmith. The Budget was unanimously approved.

**Educational Director contract update:** Board president Halle Barnett provided a brief update on contract negotiations. Some issues are still being clarified and it is expected that the contract will be presented at the next Board meeting.

**Board nominations - slate announced:** The nominating committee, co-chaired by immediate past president Barbara Truitt and Sue Pelleg, proposed the following slate to be voted on at the Annual Meeting:
- Participatory and Democratic VTL – David Conn, for second year of two-year term, replacing Margaret Cohen
- Welcoming VTL - Lila Hanft, for the first year of a two-year term
- Member at Large - Kirby Date for the first year of a two-year term
- Member At Large - Celia Jennings for the second year of a two-year term, replacing Liz Meacham
- Member at Large – Louise Elkind for the first year of a two-year term

**Second scroll event / annual meeting:** Vice-president Karly Whitaker presented details about this dual event planned for Sunday, June 7. At 1:00 p.m. the Torah will be picked up at Cedar Sinai Synagogue. Rabbi Truboff will give a brief presentation. The Torah will be transported by car to B’nai Jeshurun where most members will meet for the processional to Ratner School from 1:30-2:00 p.m. There will be a brief ceremonial celebration. Members will have an opportunity to sign the Ketubah. The Annual Meeting will be held from 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

**Joint Shavuot program:** Rabbi Steve discussed this year’s plans for celebrating Shavuot which falls on Memorial Day weekend. Four members will present at the community Tikkun Leil Shavuot. Plans to hold a joint Sunday morning holiday Yizkor service with Temple Emanuel are being explored since we anticipate a very small
The June book group meeting will be Thursday, June 25th, at the home of Selma and Ralph Gwatkin. We will discuss *An Introduction to Islam for Jews* by Reuven Firestone. (304 pages, a Kindle version exists).

A brief description from Amazon: Muslim-Jewish relations in the United States, Israel, and Europe are tenuous. Jews and Muslims struggle to understand one another and know little about each other’s traditions and beliefs. Firestone explains the remarkable similarities and profound differences between Judaism and Islam, the complex history of Jihad, the legal and religious positions of Jews in the world of Islam, how various expressions of Islam (Sunni, Shia, Sufi, Salafi, etc.) regard Jews, the range of Muslim views about Israel, and much more. He addresses these issues and others with candor and integrity, and he writes with language, symbols, and ideas that make sense to Jews. Exploring these subjects in today’s vexed political climate is a delicate undertaking. Firestone draws on the research and writings of generations of Muslim, Jewish, and other scholars, as well as his own considerable expertise in this field. The book’s tone is neither disparaging, apologetic, nor triumphal. Firestone provides many original sources in translation, as well as an appendix of additional key sources in context. Most importantly, this book is readable and reasoned, presenting to readers for the first time the complexity of Islam and its relationship toward Jews and Judaism.

The book for July is *The Betrayers: A Novel* by David Bezmozgis.

All Kol HaLev members are welcome to attend book group meetings. For more information about the group, including a calendar of the book selections for this year, look at our web page ([kolhalev.net/book_group](http://kolhalev.net/book_group)) and contact Kevin Weidenbaum ([KJW@oberlin.net](mailto:KJW@oberlin.net)) to be added to the group’s e-mail list.

---

gathering and the church made a request to use the Sanctuary at Ratner.

Barry Epstein proposed that we hold a joint Shavuot Yizkor service with Temple Emanuel. Miriam Geronimus seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Plenum report:** Halle provided an update of the Reconstructionist Movement’s efforts to gather input from member congregations and individuals concerning the proposed change of the RRC admission policy which states that the college “does not ordinarily admit or graduate as a rabbi, a student married or in a committed relationship with a non-Jew.” Congregations have been engaged in a process of educating and soliciting feedback from members similar to what was done in Kol HaLev.

Currently there are 19 congregations in favor of the change, four opposed, seven unable to reach consensus, three wanting a clause with an explicit commitment to raise the children Jewish, and three others proposing other modifications. More discussion will occur and faculty will vote in August. Within the next few weeks, this material and general updates will be available to Kol HaLev members.

The next meeting will be at the home of Barry Epstein in Beachwood. It will be on June 15 and both the old and new members of the Board will be present.

Respectfully submitted,
Karal Stern, Secretary
Editor's note: This article is based in part on a mass email from the GCC Criminal Justice Committee which went out shortly before, and in anticipation of, the Brelo verdict. I’ve updated it with the most recent news.

This last week has seen a lot of progress on Criminal Justice issues, including the inclusion of several of GCC's recommendations in the consent decree agreement between Cleveland and the Department of Justice. According to cleveland.com, GCC, "the interfaith advocacy group which represents more than 40 congregations and 20,000 people, recommended Cleveland and the Justice Department implement "bias-free" policing and better data collection, both of which were included in the consent decree. . . . The Rev. Ben Guess, executive minister of the United Church of Christ's Local Church Ministries, said the agreement "gets to the heart of our request," by requiring the formation of the Community Police Commission. The commission, a 13-member-citizen group that will be appointed by the mayor, will provide oversight and input on the police department's efforts to draw up new policies." (More coverage at http://greaterclevelandcongregations.org/content/media-roundup-greater-cleveland-unite-we-cant-wait)

On Tuesday, May 26, the same day that Mayor Jackson accepted the consent decree with the Justice Department and 72 hours after the announcement of office Michael Brelo's acquittal, GCC held a peaceful march in downtown Cleveland. According to Cleveland.com, some 600 people followed leaders of area churches on a march that ended at City Hall (http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/05/cleveland_congregations_march.html). Several members of Kol HaLev participated in the march (see pictures below).

If you'd like to become involved in GCC, contact a member of Kol HaLev's core GCC team: Karly Whittaker, Sue Pelleg, Donna Weinberger or Allen Binstock.
KABBALAT SHABBAT IN THE GARDEN!
FRIDAY JUNE 26, 6 P.M.

AURELIA AND JULIO PELSMAJER
invite you to their home for Kabbalat Shabbat and a potluck shabbat dinner in their garden, weather permitting.*
Services will be short and there will be ample room for kids to run around and play. Feel free to bring along a musical instrument!

Kiddush host: Dorinda Gershman

Please bring potluck dishes (serving 8-10) which are vegetarian/dairy or pareve and DO NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Potluck assignments:

A-H - Appetizer or Salad; I-P - Dessert or Drink; Q-Z – Main Dish

Please also bring folding chairs if you have them.

*Please check the weekly update for an alternate location in case the weather is inclement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jun. 5</td>
<td>6:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Madrichim Potluck</strong> at the Novick-Oster home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jun. 6</td>
<td>10:00-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Bar Mitzvah of Clay Williams</strong>, at Ratner. Parsha: <em>Beha’alotcha</em>; Service Leaders: Clay Williams and Rabbi Steve. Kiddush Hosts: David and Rachel Williams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Jun. 7</td>
<td>1:00-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>New Torah Procession and Dedication</strong> - details: At 1 PM we will meet at Cedar Sinai to pick up the new scroll, and then drive to B’nai Jeshurun; at 1:30 PM Meet at the parking lot of B’nai Jeshurun and process scroll to back entrance of Ratner; 2 PM Torah scroll dedication, Dancing and Ketubah signing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting</strong> at Ratner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jun. 8</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee Meeting</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Jun. 10</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>GCC Core Team Meeting</strong>. Contact Allen Binstock for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jun. 12</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Women’s Shabbat Dinner</strong> at the home of Audrey Warner. See page 9 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jun. 13</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Member Led Shabbat Service</strong> at Ratner. Parsha: <em>Sh’lach</em>; Leader: Larry Solomon; Kiddush Host: David Roberts and Lila Hanft in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary and Sandy and Allan Rosenfield.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jun. 15</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting</strong> at the home of Barry and Barbara Epstein. All members welcome to attend. See the weekly update for the agenda.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Jun. 16</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Deadline for the May Issue of Kol HaLev Happenings</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Jun. 18</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Rosh Chodesh: Rhythm of the Months: Walking Meditation</strong> at Horeshoe Lake, Shaker Heights. (meet on the bridge at the lake outlet – west end of the lake) Join us on the first morning of every Hebrew month as we spend time outdoors to reflect on the cycles of nature, the rhythms of the Jewish calendar. For information contact Kirby Date, <a href="mailto:kdate@sbcglobal.net">kdate@sbcglobal.net</a> Free, no pre-registration required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jun. 20</td>
<td>10:00-12:30</td>
<td><strong>Bar Mitzvahs of Kyle and Tyler Brodsky</strong> at Ratner. Parsha: <em>Korach</em>; Service leaders: Kyle and Tyler Brodsky and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Host: Jack and Amy Brodsky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Mindful Jewish Practice</strong> in the Ratner Library. Nancy Rubel will lead an hour of a combination of sitting practice and brief conversation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Jun. 25</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Book Club Meeting</strong> at the home of Ralph and Selma Gwatkin. We will discuss <em>An Introduction to Islam for Jews</em> by Reuven Firestone. For more information, see page 14 or go to <a href="http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group">http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jun. 26</td>
<td>6:00-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Kabbalat Shabbat in the Garden!</strong> Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer invite you to their home for Kabbalat Shabbat and a potluck shabbat dinner in their garden, weather permitting. Services will be short and there will be ample room for kids to run around and play. Feel free to bring along a musical instrument! Dorinda Gershman will host Kiddush. Potluck dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or pareve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10. In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reuseable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck. A-H - Appetizer or Salad; I-P - Dessert or Drink; Q-Z – Main Dish Please also bring folding chairs if you have them. We will need volunteers to help set up and clean up. Please check the weekly update for rain location and other information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jun. 27</td>
<td>10:00-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Bat Mitzvah of Maya Sklarin</strong> at Ratner. Parsha: <em>Chuckat</em>; Service Leaders: Maya Sklarin and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Host: Chris Sklarin &amp; Alexis Abramson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jun. 28</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Adult Ed: The Ethics of Communal Responsibility</strong> at the home of Sue and Eric Kisch. See page 8 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Right now!</strong> Sign-up to host a kiddush in the coming year. To celebrate a birthday, anniversary of other simcha, choose your date now! Use the link on page 8.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**June 2015 Kol HaLev Happenings**
Kol HaLev Happenings
2245 Warrensville Center Rd., #215
University Heights, OH 44118
216-320-1498

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.