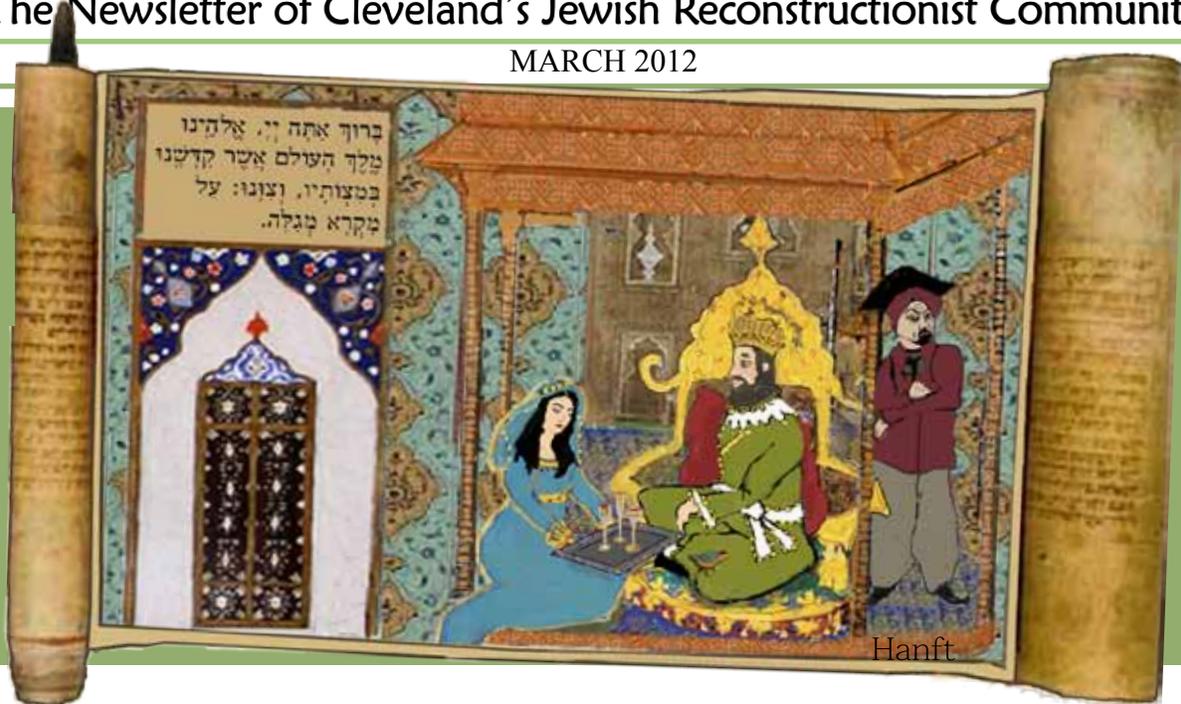


Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

MARCH 2012



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A KOL HALEV PURIM!

In keeping with the anarchic spirit of the holiday itself, Kol HaLev's Purim festivities vary from year to year, depending on who organizes it, which members of Kol HaLev volunteer to present a portion of the Megillah story, and whether it falls on a school night.

In recent years, our Purim festivities have a theme, loosely or well defined, depending on the year. Two years ago, Shushanaluau featured a luau theme; last year's Fiesta Purim, presided over by Rabbi Estevan, had a Latin American theme. The Manot Shaloach fundraiser is a relatively recent but very important addition to KHL's Purim.

Purim Intergenerational Service
Wed., Mar. 7, 6:45-8:30 p.m. at Ratner
[More on page 6](#)

This year the theme is "Mordy Gras" (for the Mordecai in the Purim story and not, as some have speculated, Sue Pelleg's husband!), and as I write this, Rabbi Steve is calling for volunteers to act out a section of the Megillah. There won't be a post-Megillah caberet this year (Purim falls on a school night), but there other ways to share your talents and enthusiasm -- contact [Rabbi Steve](#) for more information.

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Mike Armin

WEBKEEPER

David Conn

WEEKLY UPDATE

Ron Kohn

Art Lieberman

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Lynn Liebling

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 15

RABBINIC CORNER

SPEAKING UP FOR OURSELVES

The story of Purim in the book of Esther (and subsequent interpretations over the course of Jewish history) has provided an opportunity for Jews to explore a variety of themes that run from the sublime to the ridiculous and back, ranging from the theme of masks and hiddenness to the paradoxical transformation of the starkest contrasts into deep-seated connections (further discussion of Purim on page 4).

This year, however, as this holiday falls merely one day after the Ohio primary elections, it occurs to me that there is an overarching lesson in the Purim story which isn't often explored: the importance of seizing opportunities to have an impact on the larger cultural processes. Our participation in a larger dialogue can take place when opportunities present themselves to us and even when they don't, just as Mordechai and eventually Esther chose to participate in the Purim narrative.

In our context, one of the most concrete ways in which we can have an impact on our larger cultural environment is to exercise our right to vote. Although on the surface it may appear that only those invested in the Republican presidential race have good reason to go the polls on primary day, there are in fact two very significant ballot questions whose outcomes will have profound effects on life in our region over the next several years and as such cry out for our attention.

The first of these is the renewal of the Health and Human Services levy, which provides essential funding for the physical and emotional well-being of the most vulnerable members of our community and the second is the selection of a new county prosecutor, who will have a profound influence over the ways in which issues of criminal justice are handled in this region.

Greater Cleveland Congregations (read more in the [GCC Report on p. 9](#)) has identified both of these ballot issues as being official projects of the organization and is encouraging as many members as possible to participate in the decision regarding these significant questions. We are encouraged to vote for the renewal of the levy and we are encouraged to pay close attention to how much each of the candidates for prosecutor seems willing to adopt many of the best practices in the arena of criminal justice that have been identified around the country. If we take up this challenge, we can feel that at least in one significant way, we are living out the spiritual message of our upcoming holiday's raucous but profound tall tale.

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.

HESED

We send condolences to Kol HaLev members **Vicki Sussman, Carlee, and Kai Grace** on the loss last Friday of Vicki's uncle, Charles Crawford Baird, may his memory be for a blessing. May Vicki and her entire family find comfort at this time of loss along with all those who are in mourning among the Jewish people and the world as a whole.

Refuah Shleimah to **Judi Dash's** mother, Sara Goldhirsh Dash, in Maryland.

PURIM: A TIME TO CHALLENGE DISTINCTIONS

Purim appears to be straightforward on the surface, but in fact may be the most enigmatic day in our entire calendar.



What is enigmatic about Purim? In modern times it, along with Hanukkah, has been considered the quintessential children’s holiday. With its boisterous reading of the scroll of Esther and its costumes and general all-around hilarity, it does not seem to be an obvious candidate for containing hidden profundities. However, there are a couple of things said in the Talmud that imply that Purim is actually the most important holiday of the year. In one place the Talmud states that Purim is the only holiday that will continue to be celebrated after the coming of the messiah, and in another it notes that an alternative name

for Yom Kippur is Yom Hakippurim, which can be understood to mean “the day that is similar to Purim,” thus leading us to the conclusion that Purim is the day against which all other holy days, including and especially Yom Kippur, are measured.



How are we to make sense of this idea? How can a holiday which seems to be filled with frivolity, and associated with a story that ends in an amazing amount of bloodshed, have the potential to take us higher than other observances? One possible answer resides in yet another very unusual Talmudic dictum that states that on Purim, one should drink until one is unable to distinguish between the phrases “cursed by Haman” and “blessed be Mordechai.” Many of us may have adverse reactions to a sacred text recommending intoxication. However, the deeper teaching of this admonition is that Purim is about the resolution of opposites.



It is the day on which we confront ourselves with the fact that we are sometimes limited by the roles we play. If we are challenged to see the artificiality of the distinctions we create, we might be better able to see and bear witness to the underlying unity of all creation. Perhaps it is for that reason that Purim alone, of all our holidays, is the only holiday the Talmud claims will be celebrated in a post-messianic world.

Editor’s note: This D’var Torah by Rabbi Steve was written circa 2006 and can be found in the Purim section of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation website at <http://jrf.org/purim>. (Scroll down for news story parodies like “Reconstructionist and Chabad Movements to Merge”; and “A Sumptuous Palace Feast ‘To Die For,’” a short article “reported to have been written by the wife of King Ahasuerus’ Chamberlain Hatach, food editor of the The Persian Village Voice.”)

21ST CENTURY CHOCOLATE HAMANTASCHEN

The hamantaschen of my childhood, made by beloved Grandma Gussie ז'ל (may her memory be a blessing), were dry as chalk and filled with things I believed should only be ingested for their medicinal value -- prunes, sesame seeds, cherry cough syrup goo and, well, prunes. But I always choked one down (with a full quart of milk) just to be polite.

Today's children expect holiday sweets to be *sweet*, preferably filled with chocolate or marshmallow fluff or crushed up M&Ms or any other filling so sweet it makes grown-ups' teeth ache just to think about it. And forget your traditional yeast-based hamantaschen dough; 21st-century hamantaschen have to be made with the sweeter, fattier and highly delicious cream-cheese based dough used in rugelah. or with the chocolate dough below, which most closely resembles cookie dough.

Chocolate Hamantaschen Dough

3/4 cup unsalted butter or pareve shortening	2-1/2 cups flour
3/4 cup sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
2 large eggs	pinch of salt
1 tsp. vanilla	1/4 cup cocoa powder

In large bowl of an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, and then vanilla. When well-mixed, add the dry ingredients -- flour, baking powder, salt and cocoa powder -- and mix until a ball of dough forms.

Remove the dough from the mixing bowl and shape into two logs. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for a minimum of 1 hour.

Once the dough has chilled, roll out one section about 1/4" thick on a well-floured workspace. Use a cutter to cut approximately 3" circles.

Place about 1 tsp. of a filling of your choice in the center of each section. Bring three sides of the dough together to make a triangle. Pinch the three corners together and place on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet.

Place in a preheated 350° oven for 9-12 minutes, until the bottom turns golden.

Fillings for Chocolate Hamantaschen

- A tsp of Nutella spread
- Reese's Mini Peanut Butter Cups, one mini-sized or a quarter of a full-sized
- 2-3 Hershey's Kisses
- A tsp. of marshmallow fluff (I confess I've never tried this, but it did come recommended)
- A tsp. of flavored chocolate chips you can now find in the baking aisle: caramel, peanut butter, peppermint and white or dark chocolate
- Slightly crushed M&Ms or Junior Mints
-

Yes, I know that these hamantaschen are essentially candy bars wrapped up in cookies. Just be glad they're not deep-fried and dusted with powdered sugar on top.



Join us for

MORDI GRAS

**Wednesday,
March 7, 2012/14 Adar 5772
6:45 pm at
The Ratner School**

Join us for an oneg following
the megillah reading!

A-H ~ Treats

I-P ~ Hamantaschen

Q-Z ~ Drinks



Pick up your
mishloach
manot before
the megillah
reading!



Don't forget to bring *Matanot L'Evyonim* - gifts for the poor!
Canned goods will be collected for
the Heights Emergency Food Center.

Questions? Contact Robyn, robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498

The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland (JECC) holds a wonderful annual meeting celebrating the magnificent educators of Cleveland. It is amazing to be surrounded by hundreds of Jewish educators from day schools, congregational supplemental schools, preschools, camps, youth groups and community organizations. What touches me even more deeply is the pluralistic nature of the event, as there are educators from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, non-denominational and community institutions. It is truly a cornucopia of Jewish life.

Every year the JECC brings in a dynamic speaker who highlights an element of interest in Jewish education. This year the speaker was Dr. Barry Holtz, who is a leader in the field of Experiential Education (formerly known as Informal Education). Jewish educators have long been aware that life experiences, particularly the experiences of camp, youth group and Israel trips, have a greater impact on Jewish identity than formal classroom education. The field of Experiential Education seeks to enrich formal education by bringing some of the methods and benefits of real-life learning into the classroom.

In his speech, Dr. Holtz shared recent research which demonstrates that the programs which achieve their long-range goals were those utilizing Experiential Educational methods to bring study outside the classroom and to establish external connections which made the material relevant to the participants.

I am proud to say that Hagiga was developed using Experiential Educational methods. It is also an emergent course of study focused on topics tailored to our community, which ensures their relevance.

This year we launched a new high school program, Chalutzim Chai, designed specifically to take place outside of our building, in various places in the community, as a contrast to the frontal teaching teens typically receive in a classroom. The topics were chosen because they seem meaningful to the teens of our community, then are delivered in experiential format. The program will be evaluated at the end of the year so it can be made even more relevant and meaningful next year.

As an educator I can speak of the educational opportunities which can be offered to the youth of our community, yet I know that the greatest experience our youth can have is the one offered by their families. Hagiga, or any educational experience, can only be effective because we have families that are dedicated to participating. When parents say to their children that being a member of a Jewish community is a priority, our job is easy. Thank you for partnering in the education of our youth and making it possible.

Kol Tuv!
Robyn

Kol HaLev is a growing community, and while our growth may not be meteoric, it has been steady. Our monthly board meetings always begin with a D'Var Torah given by the board member hosting the meeting, followed by our Treasurer's Report. At last month's board meeting, I couldn't help but remember a point seven and a half years ago, when my wife Lois and I were the new co-treasurers of Kol HaLev. At that point, we had just reached a milestone of exceeding 110 member households. Today we exceed over 145 member households!

It is truly astounding when I think back to how much we have grown and evolved over the past seven years, and in the past year and half during my term as president of the board of trustees.

The good news is we are still growing and evolving. The better news is that the heart of our congregation remains true to the values of seven years ago, and even to the first service held in 1994. We are still a congregation where, at Shabbat services, you may be surprised by a new poem, song, rhythm, service leader, Torah reader or Torah study leader.

In addition, no matter where your Jewish journey starts, Kol HaLev either has an avenue through which you can connect to your Jewishness, or encourages you to create your own path. If you forge a new path at Kol HaLev, you will probably pick up a few fellow travelers open to new experiences.

It is easy to forget how extraordinary our community is. Congregants who experience illness or the death of a loved one will find the comfort and help they need. Any of us who have been in this situation knows the outpouring of support from the Kol HaLev community. In addition, the relationships among our Rabbi, our Educational Director, and our members are symbiotic and supportive. While at any given point, there may be small complaints (part of the job of the President is to be the person to whom many of these complaints are directed), as a community our communications and interactions with each other are largely respectful and caring.

You may not realize that not all religious communities are this way. Even at our most rancorous, we are a highly functional group of people who respect one another's opinions, even when those opinions differ. I have written in past columns about how we might measure our success; certainly, two of the strongest measurements of our success are the degree to which we volunteer within Kol HaLev, and the degree to which we participate as a community in larger movements.

At a quick glance at our membership roster, I can count close to 100 member households where one or more individuals actively participate in the Kol HaLev community by serving on a committee or task force, leading services, being a Hagigah Madrachim, chanting Torah or leading Torah study, or volunteering to coordinate or provide Hesed services. A remarkable percentage of our membership is actively involved in giving of ourselves to each other, and in the process creating the myriad unique experiences that define who we are as a community.

At our board meetings, which are open to all members, we have started a practice of taking a few min-

[continued on page 13](#)

When Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald looked out at the 950 people from 40 different Christian, Jewish and Muslim congregations in attendance at the Feb. 20 action event sponsored by Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) at Fairmount Temple, he was somewhat awestruck. FitzGerald had been a speaker at GCC's Founding Assembly at Masonic Auditorium last June 6 to a huge crowd of 2000 people. At the time, he has remarked to the Rev. Tracey Lind of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, a co-chair of GCC, that while he was excited about the event, he doubted that GCC could keep this kind of enthusiasm going. On Feb. 20, FitzGerald said he was pleasantly surprised to admit that he was wrong.

While the founding assembly was a unique event that may never be duplicated, the GCC is still bringing out people in mass numbers to make their voices heard by the political and other leaders of our community. The agenda of the Feb. 20 event was focused on GCC's endorsement of the Mar. 6 Human Services levy (Yes on Issue 15) as well as the race for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, the third most powerful position in the county. GCC has pledged to rally the members of its constituent congregations to vote and to work for the levy, which is critical to funding the county's social safety net. Ed FitzGerald's appearance at the event was to thank GCC for its efforts on behalf of the renewal levy and to encourage us to continue to work hard for it. The main part of the agenda for the event, however, was to present to the five candidates for County Prosecutor the reforms the GCC wants to see in our criminal justice system and to get commitments from them to act on these issues. While GCC cannot endorse a candidate because of its non-partisan status, it can ask the candidates to commit to changing the system in a way that promotes safety and justice at the same time. The Feb. 20 action event was attended by 21 Kol HaLev members who all felt the energy and excitement of the evening.

The Feb. 20 event reflected the hard work already done by the GCC action teams, particularly the criminal justice team. The latter group invited the candidates, researched and developed criminal justice issues to confront them with and organized witnesses to present testimony at the event. The four criminal justice issues presented to the candidates were: 1) adequate legal representation, 2) the abuses of over-charging, 3) racial disparity in prosecutions, and 4) expanding the use and availability of diversion programs. For each issue, GCC presented testimony from a member of one of our congregations who had personally been adversely affected by the system.

For example, Larry Heller, a member of Fairmount Temple, spoke courageously about his many incarcerations that resulted from his serious bout with alcoholism. He begged judges to be given the option of a treatment program but was denied until a few years ago. Once given the option of treatment, he was able to rehab himself and stay sober and out of the system for the past three years. He argued that more people need to be given this opportunity.

At the Feb. 20 GCC event, the five candidates for Prosecutor saw more people in one place than they had previously seen combined in all the other forums they have held. Whether they were being candid or not, each one of them proclaimed his support for GCC's reform agenda

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Helen Zipper** for prayer books
- **Nancy Myers** in memory of Leila Brooker
- **Sarah Littlefield** in appreciation of Rabbi Steve's help with the funeral for her husband, Rabbi Bruce Abrams
- **Sam & Anna Kelman** in commemoration of yahrzeits of Anna's parents, Jakob Festinger and Sarah Altenberg Festinger
- **Anita Cohn** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her parents, Harry Goldstein and Lisa Goldstein
- **Abe & Muriel Chasin** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Abe Ritz, father of Muriel Chasin
- **Aurelia & Julio Pelsmajer** in honor of granddaughter Neera Gitanjali Pelsmajer and the birthday of Barry Epstein
- **Herb & Marsha Chenin** to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in thanks to Rabbi Steve for his help and consideration during the recent illness and after the death of Marsha's brother, Norman Segel

JOIN THE KOL HALEV USHER CORPS!

Kol HaLev Ushers are "Wandering Jews" who patrol the Ratner School during services. We help anyone as needed, ensure everything is in order and everyone is where they need to be and handle any out-of-the-ordinary situations promptly and properly. If you do not mind missing a few minutes--or a few hours--of a Shabbat morning or evening service periodically, serving as an usher is a great way to help the Kol HaLev community! To volunteer, contact David Conn at david@estophile.com or (724) 982-0505. Operators are standing by to take your call.

YAHRZEITS

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

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

George Smith – father of Barbara Truitt

Della London Gorovitz – paternal grandmother of Heidi Gorovitz Robertson

Donald J Goodman – father of Bruce Goodman

Marvin Abrams – father of Sue Pelleg

Samuel Gold (Simcha) – father of Irene Immerman

Ruth W Goodman – stepmother of Bruce Goodman

Aaron Kopstein – father of Ami Kopstein

Herman Weinberger (Nehemiah) – father of Irwin Weinberger

Israel Chasin (Israel) – father of Abraham Chasin

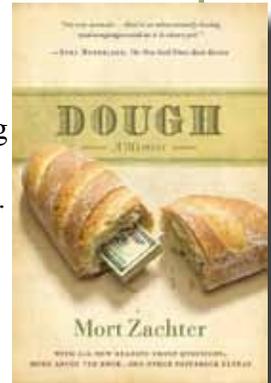
Henry Binstock – father of Allen Binstock

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.

HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The March book group meeting will be Thu., Mar. 22, at 7:30 at the home of Muriel and Abe Chasin. We will be discussing [*Dough: A Memoir*](#) by Mort Zachter (194 pages, a [Kindle version](#) is available).

Amazon's description: Mort Zachter's childhood revolved around a small, struggling shop on Manhattan's Lower East Side that sold bread and pastries. His was a classic story—a close-knit, hard-working family struggling to make it in America. Only they were rich. Very rich. At age thirty-six, after struggling to work his way through night school, Zachter discovered that his bachelor uncles, who ran the shop, had amassed millions of dollars in stocks and bonds. As he starts to clean out their apartment, Zachter discovers clues to their hidden lives that raise more questions than they answer. And in the end, he comes to realize that although he may not understand his family—and maybe never will—forgiveness and acceptance are what matter most.



The book for April is [The Blue Mountain: A Novel](#) by Meir Shalev.

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 group's e-mail list.

GCC REPORT, [continued from page 9](#)

and committed, if elected, to meet with GCC on this agenda shortly after taking office. Their agreement demonstrates the power of the GCC to bring people together to press an agenda designed to make this county a better place to live for all of its people. The GCC's power was also evident two months ago, when some 800 GCC members, including 11 from Kol HaLev, held a rally at Olivet Baptist Church to celebrate having successfully pressured the Mayor, Cleveland School Board and Cleveland Teachers Union to reach an agreement that averted severe budget cuts in the second semester of this school year.

So, contrary to Ed FitzGerald's fear that the momentum and enthusiasm of Jun. 6 could not be sustained, GCC is stronger than ever and already making a real difference in our community. Kol HaLev is a proud member of GCC and an integral part of the community organizing for social justice that it is doing.

In the coming months I'll be reporting on GCC's long-term agenda as well as on our GCC Core Team within Kol HaLev. So stay tuned and contact me at abinstock@aol.com if you want to talk or get more information about GCC.

VOTE YES ON MARCH 6 FOR ISSUE 15!

Allen Binstock
Kol HaLev GCC Coordinator

I AM JOE'S KIPPAH

I am Joe's kippah. That's my name in Hebrew; some people call me a *yarmulke*, often pronounced "YAH-ma-kah," which is my Yiddish name. Joe wears me on his head at services. I myself am suede but many of my cousins are cotton, satin or velvet. We come in many colors, sizes, patterns, styles and can even have design themes like the IDF or popular sports teams!

Sometimes Joe's wife wears a sort of kippah made of beautiful wire and shiny colored stones. Other times she wears a "regular" kippah. Some women pin a lace doily in their hair to cover their heads. Others wear hats, scarves, snoods and wigs. Others wear no head coverings at all.

Some of Joe's friends at his synagogue do not wear kippot, even during prayer services. That's OK. At many synagogues Joe would be out of place not wearing one, at others out of place actually wearing one. Joe used to belong to a "Classical Reform" temple. I spent most of my time in Joe's dresser drawer! Many Reform communities actually banned head coverings during prayer services. They called us anachronistic, superstitious or simply an obsolete and unwanted cultural tradition. Harrummph!

Happily for me, that began to change in the 1970s, but the practice varies widely today. Many liberal communities simply leave the subject of head covering up to the individual. Conservative and Modern Orthodox Jews tend to wear them more frequently in general and always at services; Traditional Orthodox, virtually all the time. There is a lot of debate around the halacha (Jewish law) of wearing a kippah. Kippot are not mentioned in the Torah but have become a minhag (custom) with the force of law in many communities.

Why does Joe like to wear me? I remind Joe that he is part of the earthly realm and subject to a Higher Authority. I am his link to our Jewish past, present and future. I am his signal to the community and to the world that he is a Jew and is simultaneously mindful, humble and proud of it. Other times a kippah even helps him express his individuality. In a sea of plain kippot, Joe might be wearing my cousin crocheted from yarn dyed in every color of the rainbow: his Technicolor Kippah! He has a whole stack of us in his drawer. Some were bought on trips. Others are on long-term loan from friends. Several are souvenirs from weddings or b'nai mitzvah services.

Many of Joe's friends wear kippot only at prayer services in the sanctuary. Others wear us on the way to and from services, too. Some don a kippah at home for Shabbat and yom tov rituals like reciting Kiddush, or when studying Torah. A few wear us to Jewish community functions and meetings. One or two seem to wear us all the time...and they are not even rabbis! Job security for me!

When do YOU wear a kippah? Why do you wear one? Do you do it for one of the reasons Joe wears me, or for other reasons? A kippah—like any ritual object—can serve as a way to enhance your connections to G-d, our Jewish traditions and our Jewish community. Experiment with us...anytime, anywhere. You might just find that you like the way you look...or the way you feel inside!

Help "Connections" become a monthly column! What rituals and observances connect YOU to the Jewish community, traditions and to the Divine? E-mail them to me at david@estophile.com or whisper in my ear after Kiddush. I may incorporate them into future columns!

BOARD REPORT

MOLLY BERGER

The board met on Mon., Feb. 13, at the home of Barb Truitt. The meeting began with members participating in an exercise to speak powerfully about KHL using the brand descriptors (mindful, abundant, co-creative, and spirited) from the marketing plan.

The treasurer reported that we are down to about \$65,000 in accounts receivables. Monies will come from current dues, receivables due in the next fiscal year, fundraisers, and pledges due this year.

It is time to begin work on the next fiscal year's budget. Based on input from the Value Team Leaders, the finance committee will work with Ami to create the new budget and then present it to the board for approval. Ami has prepared a document that outlines the treasurer's functions in anticipation of turning things over to the next treasurer.

The JRF needs to raise money to bring its debt down before the merger with RRC. JRF will create a legacy book with a page for every congregation. Each congregation is asked to have a house party by Mar. 31 that will serve as a JRF fundraiser. The board agreed that it is important for the congregation to support the parent organization in that it has been of great benefit to us and others. Barb Truitt moved that we host a JRF benefit event, details to be determined. It will be \$25 per person to attend. The motion passed.

Finally, Greg Selker asked to have the board work on harmonizing documents from the strategic plan, governance documents, and value teams so that we can move forward with a refreshed strategic plan and coherent governing documents. The board agreed to try to do this before the end of the fiscal year. The next board meeting is on March 12 at Leah Kamionkowski's home. All members are welcome to attend.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, [*continued from page 8*](#)

utes to meet small groups to share an anecdote about a special and meaningful experience each of us has had at Kol HaLev. This sets a positive tone for the meeting by reminding us that we are an extraordinary community.

Yes, we are a successful community that continues to evolve and grow, but I am confident that no matter the level of our growth, the song of our heart will remain strong.

WEEKLY UPDATE NOW AVAILABLE TELEPHONICALLY

If you've ever found yourself in need of the date, time or location of a Kol HaL event, but away from your computer or unable to access your email, you'll be glad to know there's another way to find out timely information.

We now have an audio recording of the Weekly Update available on the phone system in the Kol HaLev office. To hear the audio recording of the Weekly Update, call 216-320-1498 and press 3 The recordings will be updated on Thursdays.

KOL HALEV IS A SPONSORING SYNAGOGUE!



HaMakom, the Mandel JCC, and Synagogue Co-Sponsors present*
Journey to Freedom:
Preparing for Passover in a Whole New Way!
A workshop with visiting scholar Estelle Frankel

March 25th 10:00 am—12:30 pm Mandel JCC

*Estelle Frankel is a practicing psychotherapist and spiritual advisor who blends depth psychology with the healing wisdom and spiritual practices of the Kabbalah. She is the author of **Sacred Therapy: Jewish Spiritual Teachings on Emotional Healing and Inner Wholeness**, which was chosen as Best Spirituality Book on Transformation, by Spirituality and Health Magazine. Estelle has taught Jewish studies in Israel and throughout the U.S. for over thirty years and is a popular public speaker across the country. See www.sacredtherapy.com for more information on Estelle's work.*



The liberation of our people and our personal journey to freedom

The biblical story of the Exodus, which is retold and re-enacted each year during the holiday of Passover, is an archetypal tale of healing and transformation. Like many great stories, it lends itself to infinite levels of meaning, offering us access to new dimensions of our own personal stories. The seder night, according to Kabbalah, is designed to give each of us not just an "idea" of freedom, but actually a "taste of freedom," a first-hand experience of our true nature, which is boundless and free.

Through contemplative study, meditation, music, movement, and playful ritual, we will explore creative ways to enliven our seders and enlist the ancient biblical tale of liberation to midwife us on our own journeys of transformation.

REGISTER at www.HaMakomCleveland.org

Workshop Registration is \$25.00
Discounted Registration for Synagogue Co-Sponsors* and HaMakom Supporters is \$18.00
Registration FREE to members of the Mandel JCC

* SYNAGOGUE CO-SPONSOR LIST COMING SOON!

KOL HALEV IS A SPONSORING SYNAGOGUE!

Programs with Estelle Frankel March 23rd—25th are offered with gratitude to the FGI Foundation, a supporting Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

CALENDAR

Sat. Mar. 3	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; <i>Tetzaveh</i> ; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Discussion leader: Rabbi Steve; kiddush co-hosted by Maxine Collin in memory of her mom, Shirley Brick's birthday and by Art and Sue Biagianti
	10:30 a.m.	Hagiga
	10:45 a.m.	Tot-Parent Shabbat Program for families with children in preschool and under in Rooms 113 & 114. The program is about a half an hour, led by Rachel Williams. Babysitting is available before and after Tot Shabbat, also in Rooms 113 & 114.
	1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch and Learn – Mark Davidson will be leading on the topic of “Heschel and Prayer.” Childcare will be available. The lunch will be potluck. People whose last name begins with G, H, I or J should bring drinks or a dessert; everyone else should bring a main course or side dish
Wed. Mar. 7	6:45 – 8:30 p.m.	Purim Intergenerational Service and Oneg at Ratner; kiddush co-hosted by Lee and Karen Lazar and by Rachel Kay A-H – Treats I-P – Hamantashen Q-Z - Drinks NO NUTS PLEASE
Mon. Mar. 12	8:30 a.m.	Schmooze With the Rabbi at the Stone Oven on Lee Road
	7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting at the home of Leah Kamionkowski, 9 Chelsea Ct., Beachwood, 216-464-2940; all Kol HaLev members are welcome
Sat. Mar. 17	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; <i>Vayakhel-Pekudei</i> ; Service leaders: Happy Wallach and Jane Arnoff Logsdon; Discussion leader: TBA; Kiddush co-hosted by Dave and Martha Schubert and by Molly Berger
	9:45 a.m.	Family Service
	10:30 a.m.	Hagiga and Magshimim Family Day
	10:45 a.m.	Tot-Parent Shabbat Program for families with children in preschool and under in Rooms 113 & 114. The program is about a half an hour, led by Rachel Williams. Babysitting is available before and after Tot Shabbat, also in Rooms 113 & 114.
	3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Torah Study at the home of Leah Kamionkowski, 9 Chelsea Ct., Beachwood, 216-464-2940; The topic will be the Book of Genesis in Midrash.

CALENDAR

Thurs. Mar. 22	7:30 p.m.	Book Group at the home of Muriel and Abe Chasin, 120 Fox Hollow Drive, #403, Mayfield Heights, 440-646-9959. We will be discussing <i>Dough: A Memoir</i> by Mort Zachter. (194 pages, a Kindle version is available).
Fri. Mar. 23	6:00 P.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck at Ratner Chapel; kiddush co-hosted by Kate and Brent Weinstock and by Ben Lewis and Bellamy Printz
Wed. Mar. 28	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Mindful Jewish Practice at the Shaker Library, Bertram Woods Branch, Community Room, 20600 Fayette Road, Shaker Heights; We will begin with a short 10-minute sit, move to an optional “check-in” from participants, then move to a 30-minute sit. Afterwards, we will read and discuss a short passage from Rami Solomon’s “The Way of Solomon,” a translation and interpretation of Ecclesiastes. We will end with a 10-minute sit. You do not need to purchase copies of the book. As always, we welcome everyone who is interested, whether or not you have any meditation experience. Please RSVP to karlywhitaker@yahoo.com to let us know if you will be able to attend
Sat. Mar. 31	10:30 a.m.	Experiential Shabbat at Ratner Chapel; Tzav; kiddush co-hosted by Lynn and David Liebling and by Ernie Logsdon and Jane Arnoff Logsdon in honor of the coming spring

This calendar is accurate as of the time of publication. Changes are published in the Weekly Update emailed on Thursdays and in Kol HaLev’s [website calendar](#).

CEMETERY UPDATE

Did you know Kol HaLev still has nine cemetery plots available at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Bedford Heights? They are available to Kol HaLev member families at discounted prices. For more information, contact Mike Armin (RMArmin@sbcglobal.net).

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Kol HaLev Happenings is the newsletter of Kol HaLev, Cleveland’s Jewish Reconstructionist Community. Our new digital format, part of our movement toward more environmentally friendly communications, 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

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egalitarian, participatory spiritual community.
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