PLANTING IN PALESTINE

Kol HaLev member David Shutkin is just back from a "journey to the West Bank, to a farm just south of Bethlehem to replant an orchard of fruit trees because Palestinian lives matter." Before he left, he wrote a piece for the newsletter explaining what he'd be doing and why he was going. You can read that piece on page 10, and follow David's journey on his blog at davidcivildisobedience.wordpress.com

A HESED CONVERSATION
SUNDAY MARCH 1, 10:30-12:00

The Hesed committee is hosting an informal conversation at Molly Berger's home in Shaker Heights. Committee co-chairs Robin Holzman and Martha Schubert are interested in your ideas for improving the ways we meet the needs of our community and creating opportunities for more people to be involved. Read more about the meeting on page 8.

COMMUNITY MEETING
MARCH 8, 2-4 PM., HEIGHTS LIBRARY, LEE RD
Special guest Dr. Tamar Kamionkowski, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College's current Partner Status Policy states that the College "does not ordinarily admit or graduate as a rabbi a student married to, or in a committed relationship with, a non-Jew." The RRC faculty plan to drop this policy and want to hear our thoughts. Read more about the issue in the President's Column on page 7.

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**Services & Programs:**
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27575 Shaker Boulevard
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**Values Teams, Committees and Their Leaders**

**Welcoming & Caring** – Lila Hanft
- Hesed – Robin Holzman & Martha Schubert
- Hevre Kadishah – 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

**Voting members of the board of trustees: officers, at-large members and the Values Team leaders**

**April Newsletter Deadline:** Monday, March 16
As I sit here near the end of what will likely be the coldest month of February on record in northeast Ohio, it is a little difficult to imagine that in just a month from now, we will be getting ready to gather around a seder table, celebrating the arrival of spring and re-engaging with the most fundamental narrative in our tradition, a narrative that at its core is about remembering the ever-present possibility of moving towards a more redemptive future. As Mordecai Kaplan understood so well, we in the American Jewish community are heirs to two traditions that place a vision of redemption at the center of how they understand themselves. However, over the past year, the many ways in which American society is yet unredeemed has been made all too clear, especially in the arena of inter-ethnic respect and understanding.

Our Kol HaLev community has been blessed with the opportunity to take some small steps in the direction of increasing inter-ethnic and inter-religious understanding in our region through our connection to Pastor Richard Gibson of Elizabeth Baptist Church and to his congregation.

In December, we were fortunate to receive Pastor Gibson and over 40 of his congregants as guests at our Shabbat service, and soon, we will have the opportunity to repay their openness to us by visiting their church on Wednesday evening, March 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Pastor Gibson has invited me to bring a group of Kol HaLev members to Elizabeth Baptist so that we can take the next step in getting to know one another as human beings and fellow citizens of Greater Cleveland. This evening will begin with me offering an overview of the diversity within the Jewish community and then will proceed with members from the two congregations having the chance to explore that notion of diversity within our respective traditions on a personal level.

I would very much like to bring a good-sized group of Kol HaLev members to this joint event. I realize that the time slot may be complicated for some, but I hope that a number of us will be able to make the effort to overcome the complications in service of the unique opportunity to spend time with the community of Elizabeth Baptist.

My hope and prayer is that this event will further strengthen the connections between our two communities and lay the groundwork for future collaborations at even deeper levels. And I have no doubt that for those who are able to participate in this visit, you will also come away with some very inspiring stories to share a couple of weeks later when the time for seder conversations finally arrives.

Rabbi Steve

Ed.’s Note: Rabbi Steve first wrote about Elizabeth Baptist Church’s inspiring visit to a December Shabbat services in the January newsletter, available here.

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.
REGISTER FOR OUR UPCOMING SHABBATON!

This month Robyn gives her column space over to spreading the word about our Intergenerational Shabbaton taking place April 24-26. Below, you’ll find an explanatory letter. On the following pages you’ll find the Shabbaton flyer and registration form. Registration must be turned in by March 15!

Dear Kol HaLev Member,

It is with great joy that we invite you to the 5775/2015 Kol HaLev Intergenerational Shabbaton, which will take place Friday, April 24 -Sunday, April 26, 2014. For the past sixteen years, it has been a Kol HaLev tradition to hold a biennial retreat. The initial vision for holding a retreat was to provide an opportunity for Kol HaLev members to spend an entire Shabbat together in a fun and beautiful location, to enhance our connection to one another and the experience of Shabbat itself. This has in fact turned out to be the case, and so our commitment to this experience has strengthened over time.

This year we are once again the beneficiaries of generous financial support from the Retreat Institute. With their support we are able to hold our Shabbaton for two days, at the beautiful Manor House at Punderson State Park at a fairly reasonable cost. Without the support of the Retreat Institute of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, the cost would have been greatly increased, and most likely even prohibitive to holding a Shabbaton as we have in years past. We are greatly appreciative of the support.

We are excited to have this time to spend with the community and to have the opportunity to learn focusing on our annual theme Mordecai Kaplan and the 4 Bs of Reconstructionism (Belonging, Behaving, Believing and Becoming), specifically their connection with the natural world. Lucky for us we have several experts in the community and they have graciously agreed to be a part of the planning committee in addition to serving as program leaders. We note with sadness that this will be Rabbi Jeff and Deb’s last time with us before their move this summer to Minneapolis, but we also see their presence as an opportunity to add to the already substantial number of great memories we will carry of their inspiring and fun approach to learning. We will draw upon, as we always do, the talents and insights of our members to help us further our understanding of these intriguing theme.

Please look over the enclosed information, which includes the registration form with financial information and the sign up for our Saturday evening Kol HaLev talent show. As has become our custom, the Saturday evening program will be a participatory program, where members of all ages can share with the community. We need you! Please sign up and return your information with your registration form.

We understand that Kol HaLev is a diverse community made up of individuals with a range of needs and preferences. Our committee has worked hard to foresee many of those needs. In order to keep costs down, we will not be able to make special requests of the chef. Please let us know of your needs and we will do our best to accommodate. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Novick (robyn@kolhalev.net).

We look forward to sharing this wonderful experience with you,
The 2015 Intergenerational Shabbaton Committee
WHEN:  
Friday, April 24–Sunday, April 26  
WHERE:  
Punderson State Park Manor House  
DEADLINE:  
Registration due by March 15  

Questions? Ask Robyn@kolhalev.net. For a registration form and more information, go to http://kolhalev.net/shabbaton-2015.
Kol HaLev Intergenerational Shabbaton
Friday - Sunday, April 24-26, 2015/5-7 Iyar 5775

Family Name ______________________________________________________________________________________
Names of family members attending _____________________________________________________________
Mobile Phone___________________________________ email_____________________________________________
Emergency Contact________________________________ phone__________________________________________

If you are coming alone, do you wish to have a roommate? ____________________________
If you have arrangements to share a room, please provide name_________________________________

Meals will be dairy/vegetarian. Please list any special dietary needs____________________________
Please note we will do our best to make accommodations, but cannot guarantee that every need may be met.

The cost covers 2 nights of lodging, all meals and programming. If all rooms are being used in the Manor House, cabins will be used.

Cost:  $170 per adult in double occupancy room ($340 per couple)
       $260 per adult in single occupancy room/single parent
       $65 per teen (13 - 18 years old)
       $30 per child (4 - 12 years old)
       Free for children 3 and under
       $375 cap per family

Please contact Robyn for day rate or single night stay.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 15, 2015

☐ Tax deductible donation to defray the cost of others is included.
☐ I am in need of financial assistance. Please have Rabbi Steve confidentially contact me.
☐ I am paying by check, which is included.
☐ I am paying by credit card on the KHL website (www.kolhalev.net). Click on the “Support KHL” menu and then “Make a Payment”. Be sure to note that payment is for “Shabbaton” on the “payment type” menu

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☐ I wish to perform at the Saturday night talent show! My act is ____________________________

Questions? Please contact Robyn, robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498
Please send completed form to:
Kol HaLev ♦ 2245 Warrensville Center Road ♦ Suite 215 ♦ University Heights, OH 44118
ABOUT OUR MARCH 8 COMMUNITY MEETING

As mentioned in my January column, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) faculty has proposed a change to the college’s admission and graduation policy regarding the religious status of students’ life partners. RRC currently “does not ordinarily admit or graduate as a rabbi a student married to, or in a committed relationship with, a non-Jew.” In the throes of an intensive Values-Based Decision Making process, the RRC faculty is considering a proposal to eliminate that policy, believing that it no longer supports the Reconstructionist mission and values of the college.

The proposed change has won preliminary passage. While the faculty has full jurisdiction over all decisions regarding admissions and graduation requirements, they also fully understand the broad implications – for the movement, for our rabbis, for our individual communities, for the Jewish People as a whole – of both the existing policy and potential changes, and have asked for feedback from the broader movement membership, feedback that will figure prominently in a second round of deliberations.

Each of us surely has feelings, and questions, about the policy and about the proposed changes. And each of our voices are important in this dialogue.

Kol HaLev will be holding a community meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2 - 4 p.m. at the Heights Main Library (2345 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights). RRC faculty member Dr. Tamar Kamionkowski will be here with us to facilitate the conversation and answer questions.

To help affiliated communities better understand the issue in preparation for these local conversations that are taking place across the movement, RRC has put together a substantive set of documents for our review, including the origins of the current partner status policy, and Reconstructionist rabbinical perspectives both for and against the proposed change. They can be found here: http://tinyurl.com/lfszp65

As part of this movement-wide dialogue, the college also recently held a learning session by conference call on the topic of Jewish Peoplehood, from the perspectives of Mordecai Kaplan as well as subsequent Reconstructionist thinkers and communities, and how these ideas relate to the multiple expressions of Jewish identity articulated by contemporary Jews. An audio recording of that learning session is also available at the link above.

This is a quintessentially Reconstructionist opportunity, folks. We grow in strength as a community when we engage in the ideas and with the tools of our collaborators in this dynamic civilization. Please take this important request to heart; delve into the linked document, and plan to be at the meeting on March 8. I look forward to seeing you there.
We send wishes for a refuah shleyma, a complete and speedy healing, to Abe Chasin, Fred Chenin, Ron Kohn, Dorinda Gershman, Sam Kelman, Ben Lewis, Frank Maris, Jean Miller, Pauline Raymond, Roberta Tonti and Barb Truitt.

We would love to hear from you if you or another Kol HaLev member you know of would like to be included in this list.

Thanks to Nancy Rubel, who was the Monthly Coordinator in February. This month, members provided several meals, and we thank all who extended themselves to support members in need.

A HESED CONVERSATION

The Hesed committee is hosting an informal conversation about the work of the Hesed Committee on Sunday March 1, just as this newsletter goes to press. It will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Molly Berger's home.

There will be no structured agenda; our goal is to listen to the needs of the community and share the types of support we provide. We invite you to share your questions, ideas, concerns and experiences. We are very interested in exploring ways to improve the ways we meet the needs of our community and create opportunities for more people to be involved.

If you are reading this too late to attend, we still want to hear from you!!

Please contact us with any questions, ideas, recommendations or just to hear about the gathering. We are always available to talk. Contact Hesed Co-chairs Robin Holzman at robinholzman@gmail.com or 216-371-5238 or Martha Schubert at marthaschubert@mac.com or 216-214-4791.

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:

• **Abe Chasin** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his aunt, Gussie Friedman
• **Elinor Friedman** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Helen Yosowitz
• **Anita Cohn** in commemoration of the yahrzeits of her parents, Harry Goldstein and Lisa Goldstein and also to remember all those murdered in the pogroms that killed her father's family in Tetiev, Russia
• **David and Carol Willen** in honor of Fred and Marcia Chenin's milestone anniversary
• **Ami Kopstein and Glenda Kupersmith** in honor of Purim and the great leadership team of Kol HaLev

Contributions for the Purim mitzvah of *Matanot la’evyonim* (Gifts to the Poor):

• **David and Elizabeth Conn**
• **Leah Kamionkowski**
• **Pete and Heidi Gorovitz Robertson**
• **Phyllis and Frank Maris**
• **Peggy and David Sugerman**
• **Dave and Martha Schubert**
• **Allen Binstock**
• **Brian and Jean Miller**
• **Louis and Julie Handler**

The following donations were inadvertently omitted from the December newsletter:

• **Greg and Pam Millas** on memory of Greg’s father, Alan Miller, and in appreciation of the services of Bill Scher-Marcus at Alan’s memorial service
• **Sharon Agopian**
• **Irwin Weinberger and Meg Manny** in honor of Rabbi Steve
• **Arthur Lieberman** to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
• **Juanita Fish**
• **Mike Armin** in memory of his wife, Ruth Armin
• **Sue and Art Biagianti** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Sue's father, Alfred Rosenberg
• **Chris Sklarin and Alexis Abramson**
• **Alan Weinstein**
• **Barry and Barbara Epstein**
• **Gil and Marcia Goldberg**

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](http://kolhalev.net/pay_simple) (Note: Kol HaLev pays a small fee for transactions processed through PaySimple).
PALESTINIAN LIVES MATTER

by David Shutkin

[Then the lives that do not matter so much, or do not matter at all, can be killed or lost, can be exposed to conditions of destitution, and there is no concern, or even worse, that is regarded as the way it is supposed to be. — Judith Butler, 2015]

The preceding quote came from a recent New York Times interview with philosopher and political activist Judith Butler. She was asked to extrapolate -- from her well-known writings on 9/11 and the US military presences in the Middle East -- a critique of racism in the U.S. and the recent killings of unarmed African-Americans by police officers. As an American and a Jew, I read her response in the context of my imminent journey to Israel and the West Bank to protest peacefully against the subjugation of Palestinian people by their Israeli occupiers. Spontaneously, at that moment, I recognized that I am leaving on a journey because Palestinian lives matter!

Welcome to my first letter to the Kol HaLev community documenting my participation in the initial delegation of North American Jewish activists and the Center for Jewish Nonviolence. I will arrive in Jerusalem at the end of the week, just before Shabbat begins. (Ed.’s note: David left for Israel in early February; because the newsletter comes out monthly, David will have already returned by the time this column is published.)

Please follow my blog and join me as I travel to Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Hebron. Kneel with me as I replant trees in the orchards of a Palestinian owned farm. Here is the address to my blog: https://davidcivildisobedience.wordpress.com/. I invite you to share your thoughts and comments as I replant orchards on this farm just outside of Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank, and meet with Israeli and Palestinian activists committed, as I am, to a nonviolent resolution to the Israeli Occupation. These orchards were destroyed by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) following the “extra-legal” activity by the Israeli government to ready the land for the expansion of Jewish settlements. I am not an apologist. Instead, as an activist, I believe that the political process to resolve the Occupation has failed and that new strategies and tactics are essential if we are to put an end to needless cycles of violence.

My son Tal recently wrote an essay on environmental activism in which he refers to Henry David Thoreau’s treatise of 1849 on Civil Disobedience. In this treatise, Thoreau famously describes the role of the “good citizen” to pursue justice regardless of the voting record or opinion of the legislative majority. It is my belief that the means of that pursuit inform the subjectivity of that “good citizen.” Whereas the tools and techniques of violence create violence, non-violent civil disobedience discloses a different realm of possibilities. In this realm we are hailed to interrupt enmity, greed, hatred, and violence.

Inspired by the good work of organizations such as Combatants for Peace and B’Tselem, it is time to build an international movement of Israelis, Palestinians and other cosmopolitans dedicated to the pursuit of Palestinian and Israeli bi-national coexistence through non-violent methods.

Checkpoint 300 Near Bethlehem, Occupied West Bank

continued on page 11
As a decidedly Jewish organization, the Center for Jewish Nonviolence has intentionally chosen to plant trees as its inaugural action just a few days following the Jewish holiday of Tu b’shvat, the new year of the trees. It is customary for Jews to celebrate by planting trees in observance of this joyous holiday. Indeed, I have fond childhood memories of receiving a certificate in the mail from the Jewish National Fund (JNF) acknowledging my efforts to make it possible for a tree to be planted in a new Israeli forest.

It wasn’t until very recently though, that I learned that many of these forests, funded by the efforts of young children like myself, were planted over the ruins of former Palestinian villages following the expulsion of the indigenous people from their homes. In one instance, the Ben Shemen Forest was planted over former Palestinian villages including Jimzu, Dayr Abu Salama, al-Duhayriyya, Khirbat, and Zakariyya.

When I was a foreign exchange student living in Israel just prior to the 1979 peace settlement between Egypt and Israel, I spent the summer studying Hebrew and working in the fields at K’far No’ar Ben Shemen / the Ben Shemen Youth Village. As a planned community for children orphaned during WWII, Ben Shemen has an uneven history marked both by the idealism of twentieth century Labor Zionism and the eventual expulsion of the indigenous Palestinian people just before the War of Independence in 1948. I have a faded photograph of myself from 1978 exploring the ruins of a raised village in a forest just outside the youth village. At the time, I didn’t give it a second thought but today the image signifies something contradictory and difficult for me to comprehend.

It is not uncommon for the Israeli Government to destroy Palestinian orchards, often as a form of collective punishment. For me, this is a profoundly troubling practice. It is explicitly written in the Torah, that destroying the orchards of your enemies is strictly forbidden. Bal tashchit (“do not destroy”) is a basic ethical principle rooted in Jewish law (Deuteronomy 20:19–20); in the context of war it is forbidden to cut down the fruit trees of your enemy.

And so I journey to the West Bank, to a farm just south of Bethlehem to replant an orchard of fruit trees because Palestinian lives matter.
THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER CAMPERS FOR CAMP JRF!

There is still time to register your child between the ages of 7 and 17 for Camp JRF this summer! Campers can swim and play sports while exploring the arts in a Jewish Reconstructionist environment. They learn from visiting artists, scholars and rabbis, as well from talented specialists and dedicated college-age counselors. Our campers make lasting friendships, experience a safe and fun summer, explore Jewish tradition, forge their own Jewish identity, and participate in creating a Jewish culture in which our values are lived each day.

Located on the Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman Campus in the Pocono Mountains, the camp is within easy driving distance of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Maryland. The beautifully wooded campus in South Sterling, PA, includes a waterfront with canoes and kayaks; a low and high ropes course and climbing wall; a heated swimming pool; endless hiking trails; a baseball diamond, tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, and archery and athletic fields; a state-of-the art theater; an arts and crafts center; an indoor athletic facility; and a complete wellness center. For more information or to register, please visit http://campjrf.org.

REGISTRATION FOR HEVREH: AN ADULT JEWISH LEARNING COMMUNITY!

HEVREH is an opportunity to study with master teachers of Judaica to reflect and rejuvenate to pray, sing and dance to reconnect with friends and make new ones to encounter nature to celebrate Shabbat.

Hevreh is sponsored by TriBraining Inc., a not-for-profit educational foundation, in partnership with the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities / Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Staying in the new retreat center at Capital Camps in Waynesboro, PA, participants will have access to state of the art accommodations and conference facilities located on a beautiful site with walking trails and many other extras. The retreat will take place this summer from July 15-19.

There will be opportunities for intensive study with RRC faculty members Rabbi Jacob Staub, Ph.D., Elsie Stern, Ph.D., Rabbi David Teutsch, Ph.D., and other Jewish scholars and artists.

Registration has been opened early for members of Reconstructionist communities, because spaces are limited. Registration will open to the public on March 1, so be sure to register soon if you plan to attend.

Register now for this amazing opportunity.
YAHARZEITS

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

Members of Kol HaLev will mark the following yahrzeits during the next month:

- Lee Brooker—late Kol HaLev member and friend of Ernie Logsdon and Jane Arnoff
- Della London Gorovitz—paternal grandmother of Heidi Gorovitz Robertson
- Harold Edward May—father of Chip May
- Donald J Goodman—father of Bruce Goodman
- Marvin Abrams—father of Sue Pelleg
- Ruth W Goodman—stepmother of Bruce Goodman
- Aaron Kopstein—father of Ami Kopstein
- Herman Weinberger (Nehemiah)—father of Irwin Weinberger
- Carl Cohen—brother of Margaret Cohen
- Israel Chasin—father of Abraham Chasin
- Henry Binstock—father of Allen Binstock
- Harry Litwin—father of Richard Litwin
- Deborah Susan Raddock—mother of Mike Raddock
- Mollie Schwartz Hochman—maternal grandmother of Chip May
- David Fink—brother of Judy Harris

Kol HaLev members may include the yahrzeit of family members in KHL Happenings by submitting the name of the deceased, the relationship to the member, and the date of death, including the year, in either the secular or Jewish calendar to kelli@kolhalev.net. (Please specify whether you're observing the secular or the Hebrew yahrzeit date. You can find a calendar converter at http://www.hebcal.com/converter/).

SAVE THE DATE

Be part of a festive farewell reception honoring

RABBI JEFFREY AND DEB SCHEIN

as they prepare to move from the Cleveland area to Minneapolis.

Celebrate the many ways in which they have helped shape Kol HaLev and the profound impact they have had on the greater Cleveland Jewish community.

SUNDAY MAY 31, 2015
4:00—7:00 P.M.
(PROGRAM AT 5:30)
The March book group meeting will be Thursday, March 26, at the home of Maureen Hack. We will discuss *Disobedience: A Novel* by Naomi Alderman. (240 pages, a Kindle version is available).

A brief book description from Amazon.com: *Disobedience* is Naomi Alderman's richly told, endearingly evocative tale of two women and the choices they make as they come to terms with their identities in a traditional Orthodox Jewish community. In this groundbreaking debut, Alderman puts her characters to work, forcing them to confront issues of rebellion, isolation, loneliness and self-acceptance in a place where deviating from the norm often results in cold stares and hushed whispers at the kosher butcher shop.

Ronit Krushka is a lapsed Orthodox Jew, who fled the confines of Hendon, England, and her traditional upbringing for a secular lifestyle on Manhattan's Upper West Side. When her father, the community's revered Rabbi passes away, Ronit returns home to retrieve her mother's precious Shabbat candlesticks and to revisit her troubled past. She reconnects with Esti, a former lover, whose choices have left her unsure and unfulfilled. As Ronit and Esti navigate through the demons of their past, each woman is forced to decide what kind of life she wants to lead and with whom she wants to share it.

Alderman alternates between a lyrical and familiar style, introducing each chapter with a page of religious commentary that relates directly to the novel. While the commentary is interesting, readers may find themselves skimming it as the plot thickens and these introductions become more like diversions from the story's main message. Still, interruptions aside, *Disobedience* marks an important debut, and one that extends outside the lives of these characters to personify the struggle between conformity and individualism for everyone who has felt like an outsider. --Gisele Toueg

The book for April is *Bridges Across an Impossible Divide: The Inner Lives of Arab and Jewish Peacemakers* by Mark Gopin.

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.

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**AT AMAZON, EARN MONEY FOR KOL HALEV (WITHOUT EVEN TRYING)**

If you shop at Amazon.com, there are two ways your purchases can raise money for Kol HaLev, *at no cost to you.*

- **Kol HaLev's Affiliate Link:** Kol HaLev is an Amazon.com affiliate, which means that when you access [Amazon.com through our unique link](http://kolhalev.net/kol-halev-amazon-referral-program), then make a purchase, Amazon gives Kol HaLev 4% of your total sale. (For more on how affiliate links work, see [http://kolhalev.net/kol-halev-amazon-referral-program](http://kolhalev.net/kol-halev-amazon-referral-program).)

- **AmazonSmile Foundation:** Start your Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and 0.5% of your purchase total will be donated to Kol HaLev. Just log into your account and choose Kol HaLev as your charity (make sure you pick the Kol HaLev in *University Hts. OH*). You can read more about this program at [smile.amazon.com/about/](http://smile.amazon.com/about/).
February was an exciting month for Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC).

**Criminal Justice**: A major GCC action was held at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church on February 3. Over 1100 people came out in bad weather to support our action, "Transforming the Criminal Justice System of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County." Over 20 members of Kol HaLev were present at this event to lend our support to the effort. The recommendations made to Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, United States Attorney Steven Dettelbach, and Chief Jonathan Smith of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice were presented to them that evening.

There were four recommendations made: 1) Constitutional Policing 2) Reorganization Internal Accountability 3) Community engagement: Permanency, Transparency, and Accountability 4) Financial Sustainability. (You can read GCC's complete set of recommendations [here](#).)

The meeting was very exciting. It was especially nice to see all the leadership guests present. When 1100+ people get up and cheer, it makes quite a noise and impression on those of us in the audience. Hopefully GCC's recommendation will be studied and incorporated into the DOJ – Cleveland Consent Decree, which is intended to provide a the blueprint for fixing our broken justice system here in Cuyahoga County.

**Medicaid Expansion** in back in the news. The state legislature has to recommend adding Medicaid Expansion funds into the new 2 year state budget to start in 2016. GCC has joined together with our hospital partners to advocate for continuation of the very successful Medicaid Expansion program.

For information on any part of the GCC programs please contact a member of our core GCC team: Karly Whittaker, Sue Pelleg, Donna Weinberger or Allen Binstock.

**KOL HALEV KVELLS**

Mazal tov to Rachel Davidson, daughter of Adina and Mark Davidson, on her graduation from Oberlin in January, and on her new job as a Women's Advocate for the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center in Cleveland, working in their women's shelter. Rachel "hopes to be able serve the women and children there with humility and compassion, knowing that each person can only make decisions for themselves, and that I am only there to support them in their own processes."
Kol Halev's board of trustees met on February 9 at the homes of Bruce and Catherine Fallick.

**Board Retreat Conceptual Review:**
Board president Halle Barnett invited feedback and reflections of the January 25 Board Retreat. Board members appreciated the discussion of the inherent challenge of sustaining community -- the need for members to feel nurtured and connected to one another -- while supporting the needs of a growing spiritual community.

**Treasurer's Report:**
Bruce provided a monthly overview of the budget. In a discussion of the estimated funds needed to meet the total income projected for the FY15 budget, board members shared a range of concerns and suggestions related to urgency, strategies, and process. There was collective agreement that there will be a need to raise more funds and/or find other sources of income. Board members will be making it a priority going forward in planning activities and programs. The Finance Committee will be devising a comprehensive strategy to address this issue.

**Policy for Proposing Agenda Items:**
The board discussed a policy, previously unknown to many current board members, for bringing proposals to the board. According to this policy, committees or members first submit proposals to the executive committee for review prior to being added to the board agenda. Halle explained that the intent of the executive committee review was to make better use of board meeting time by optimizing proposals before they're presented to the board.

Several board members expressed concerns about the transparency (as executive committee meetings are closed) and the consistent enforcement of this policy. Members objected that the current wording of the policy makes it possible for the executive committee to quash a proposal without the board knowing the proposal existed. Suggestions were made for rewording the policy, and the executive committee agreed to produce a list of the criteria used to determine whether a proposal is ready for board review.

**Approval of the Nominating Committee:**
Barb Truitt, nominating committee chair, presented a proposed slate of members for the nominating committee, comprised of Barb, Karly Whittaker, Sue Pelleg, Bellamy Prinz, and Robin Shell. The proposal was passed.

**High Holy Days Coordination Report:**
Bill Marcus reported on a recent debriefing of KHL members involved in this year's High Holy Days. Lila Hanft will compile a timeline of tasks as part of the VTLs attempts to preserve collective knowledge, make transitions between volunteers run more smoothly and support new volunteers.

**Community Meeting on Proposed RRC Policy Change:**
Halle shared that Tamar Kamionkowski, Ph.D, will be a resource guide for our March 8 community meeting addressing the proposed RRC admission policy change. (Read more in this month's From the President column.)

**Schein Celebration:**
The celebration honoring Jeffrey and Deb Schein will be held on May 31 at the Shaker Lakes Nature Center. Board members discussed the plan for fundraising including the establishment of a new “Kol Halev/Schein Fund for Fostering the Spirituality of Children and Families”.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9 at the home of Kirby Date. All members are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Karal Stern, Secretary
In our year of Mordechai Kaplan and the 4 Bs of Reconstructionism, we are excited for this opportunity to experience “Belonging” by celebrating Shabbat as a community.

**Magshimim** (Grades 6-8) **Shabbat**

*Friday, March 27, 2015*

6:00 pm Service (modified) & 6:45 pm Kiddush & dinner

Thanks to a generous grant from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland main course will be provided. Families are asked to bring:

**A-L Salad or Side Dish & M-Z Dessert or Drink**

Please let Robyn know how many from your family will be attending by 3/23 so that we can prepare accordingly.

Direct questions & RSVP to Robyn robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498
A Night in Shushan

Purim Celebration

Long ago
in a land
far, far
away...

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 6:45 pm
at the Ratner School

Join us for an oneg following
the megillah reading!
  A-H ~ Drinks
  I-Z ~ Treats

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@kolhelev.net or 216-320-1498
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 1</td>
<td>9:30-12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Nesiya</strong> at the Ratner School.</td>
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<td>10:30-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Hesed Conversation</strong>, at the home of Molly Berger. More information on page 8.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 2</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee Meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., Mar. 3</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>GCC Criminal Justice Team Meeting</strong> at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland. Contact Itsik Kittila (<a href="mailto:itsik.kittila@gmail.com">itsik.kittila@gmail.com</a>) for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 7</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Philosophical Inquiry</strong> for 5th-7th grade Hagiga students. Light breakfast will be provided; please be prompt.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Torah Study</strong> in the Ratner Library. <strong>Parsha:</strong> <em>Ki Tisa</em>; Discussion leader: David Shutkin.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Service</strong>, in the Ratner Chapel. <strong>Parsha:</strong> <em>Ki Tisa</em>; Service leaders: Miriam Geronimus and Rabbi Steve; Musical Co-leader: Miriam Geronimus; Kiddush Sponsor: David Shutkin and Connie Friedman.</td>
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<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Hagigat Limmud</strong> at the Ratner School. The Hagigat Limmud ceremony will take place during the Torah service.</td>
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<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Parent-Tot Shabbat</strong> in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.</td>
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<td>1:00-2:45 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>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 8</td>
<td>9:30-12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Nesiya</strong> at the Ratner School.</td>
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<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Community Meeting</strong>, at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, 2345 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. See page 7 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 9</td>
<td>7:30-9:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting</strong> at the home of Kirby Date. All members are welcome to attend. See weekly update for agenda.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Mar. 11</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Visit to Elizabeth Baptist Church</strong>, at 6114 Francis Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44127. See Rabbi Steve's column on page 3 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 14</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Member-Led Shabbat Service</strong> in Ratner Chapel. <strong>Parsha:</strong> <em>Vayakhei-Pekudei</em>; Leaders: Larry Solomon and Leah Kamionkowski; Kiddush Sponsor: Martha Schubert and Molly Berger.</td>
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<td>3:30-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Torah Study</strong> at the home of Ralph and Selma Gwatkin</td>
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<td>Sun., Mar. 15</td>
<td>9:30-12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Nesiya</strong> at the Ratner School.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 16</td>
<td>Deadline for the April Issue of Kol HaLev Happenings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Mar. 18</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>GCC Core Team Meeting</strong>. Contact Allen Binstock or Donna Weinberger for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 21</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Rosh Chodesh: Rhythm of the Months: Walking Meditation</strong> at Horseshoe Lake, Shaker Hts. For information contact Kirby Date.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Philosophical Inquiry</strong> for 5th-7th grade Hagiga students. Light breakfast will be provided; please be prompt.</td>
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<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Torah Study</strong> in the Ratner Library. Parsha: <em>Vayikra</em>; Discussion leader: Rabbi Steve.</td>
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<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>New Member Shabbat Service</strong>, in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: <em>Vayikra</em>; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Sponsors: Phyllis Maris and last year's new members.</td>
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<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Hagiga</strong></td>
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<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Parent-Tot Shabbat</strong> in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.</td>
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<td>Sun., Mar. 22</td>
<td>9:30-12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Nesiya</strong> at the Ratner School.</td>
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<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Adult Education Panel on The Ethics of Community</strong>. Location TBA. Panel Leader: Leah Kamionkowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 23</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>GCC Education Team Meeting</strong> at Elizabeth Baptist Church, 6114 Francis Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., Mar. 26</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>GCC Delgate Assembly</strong> at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave (parking lot off Prospect Ave). All GCC members are welcome to attend. Contact Sue Pelleg or Karly Whitaker for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Book Club Meeting</strong> at the home of Maureen Hack. We will discuss <em>Disobedience: A Novel</em> by Naomi Alderman. See page 15 for details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., Mar. 27</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Magshimim Shabbat and Kabbalat Shabbat</strong> at Ratner. There will be a service at 6 pm and Kiddush will be at 6:45 pm. Kiddush Sponsor: Irwin Weinberger and Meg Manny. Non-Magshimim families and individuals please bring: A-H - Appetizer or Salad; I-P - Dessert or Drink; Q-Z – Main Dish. Magshimim families, see the flyer on page 16, and please RSVP by 2/23 to Robyn Novick at <a href="mailto:robyn@kolhalev.net">robyn@kolhalev.net</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 29</td>
<td>9:30-12:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Nesiya</strong> at the Ratner School.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Apr. 4</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Pesach Holiday Service</strong> in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: <em>Pesach I</em>; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve.</td>
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</table>

LOOKING FOR A MEMBER’S ADDRESS OR CONTACT INFORMATION? Refer to the Membership List on the [Kol HaLev website](http://www.kolhalev.org) (NOTE: login is required).
Kol HaLev Happenings
The Newsletter of Cleveland’s Reconstructionist Jewish Community

2245 Warrensville Center Rd., #215
University Heights, OH 44118
216-320-1498
Let me begin with an anecdote.

The first time I came to Kol HaLev, I was searching for spiritual community, but I was scared. I wanted nothing more than to attend shabbes (Shabbat) services and then disappear into the crowd. I wanted to be invisible. But that’s not how Kol HaLev works. Someone invited me to Kiddush – I figured I’d stay for the blessings, grab a piece of challah, and duck out. But then people started talking to me. Part of me wanted to run and hide – there were so many new people – but it was also incredibly refreshing to feel so welcome and to be seen. I had enjoyed the services, but it was the combination of that and the welcoming community that drew me back.

Ideally, this is the type of function Kiddush serves every week. Whether this is our first time to Kol HaLev or we’ve been members for years, we all have a desire to be seen and to connect. At Kiddush we can nosh and shmooze, catch up with old friends, and make new ones. This is community building at its most basic.

Over the past several months, the Membership committee has been discussing the structure of Kiddush and seeking input from the community. We’ve learned that many members feel overwhelmed by Kiddush, not knowing what to do when they host or how to sign up. We also learned that many members find Kiddush burdensome or don’t understand its purpose. We’ve done our best to come up with a system that maintains the community-building aspect of Kiddush without putting too much stress on the members who host.

One way we are trying to make hosting easier is by creating a Kiddush Coordinator position. The Kiddush Coordinator will be checking in with people who have signed up to host to see if they have questions, and contacting people who have yet to sign up this year to see if they would be willing and able to host. We would love it if everyone hosted Kiddush but we understand that may not be possible for everyone. If you receive a call and are unable to host, just let the Coordinator know that. Additionally, our office administrator Kelli Birch will be sending out quarterly reminders with a link for signing up to host Kiddush. I have also included the link here: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev1.

The Membership Committee hopes that these changes will make Kiddush a more meaningful and less overwhelming process for everyone. This is a work in progress and undoubtedly we will have bugs to fix. Please let me (mgeronimus@gmail.com) or Itsik Kittila (itsik.kittila@gmail.com) know if you have any questions or concerns.

Friendlier, Easier & More Rewarding:

The Evolution of Our Kiddush Policy

by Miriam Geronimous, Participatory Values Team Leader

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