18/25 ANNIVERSARY EDITION: A NEWSLETTER HISTORY OF KOL HALEV

By Lila Hanft, Newsletter Editor

Starting a newsletter wasn’t the first thing on the minds of the group of people who met in late 1992 in Rabbi Jeff and Deb Schein's and became "The Reconstructionist Havurah of Cleveland." But it was the second. First they formed a Mazkirut (steering committee). And the Mazkirut begat the newsletter as a way to speak unto the multitudes (or dozens). The first issue, edited by Bill Harzoff, Elisabeth Koss and Fern Levy, was called The Chaverah Times and began like this:

Fern, Bill and I (Elisabeth) . . . had a great time sitting in the garden, sipping bubbly water, and coming up with topics and columns. So we thought that, first things first, we should brag about our children and the achievement[s] of our members. Then, maybe we should keep everybody abreast of decisions to be made, directions to be taken, etc. You get the idea. The serious stuff may be found under the rubric "Musing from the Mazkirut" (Fern is responsible for the catchy alliteration). Then we would like to comment on significant past events for the Chavurah and, last but not least, w[hat]ever everyone's appetite about upcoming events.

The early newsletters were typed, printed and mailed, of course. As I pored over printed issues (thoughtfully collected in binders by an unsung hero), I felt nostalgia for the tactile pleasure of a format you could put down and pick up again easily, read anywhere, and annotate. But my editor's eye also caught reminders that a medium without instantaneous correction could be challenging. (Please note this masterful example, right, of the lost art of correcting on the platen, the typewriter carriage suspended and the letters squeezed in so the whole page wouldn't have to be retyped).

I was struck, above all, by the tone of those earlier newsletters which seem friendlier and warmer than our current newsletters. It's easy to see that they were written by and for a small group of people who knew each other well and were excited about joining together in a creative exploration of Judaism. I imagine the excitement and communal feeling stemmed in large part from the intellectual and emotional generosity of Rabbi Jeff and Deb.

Part of the energy of the early newsletters arose from the excitement of building something new; each new member brought a new set of interests, passions and skills. Earlier newsletter issues were likely to contain invitations from individual members to the entire community related to a whole range of activities:

- Social gatherings ("All are invited to a potluck in our sukkah")
- Tikkun olam projects ("Leah Kami
  onkowski is collecting winter clothing to ship to Georgian Jews in the former Soviet Union," Nov. 1996)

FROM THE ARCHIVES
from November 1996
MAZEL TOV
To Steve Segar and his new wife, Andrea, who were married October 20. We welcome Andrea to Cleveland and to the Havurah.

continued on page 6

Rabbinic Corner 3 Book Group 4
Hesed 4 Board Report 5
Contributions 5 Posner/Skarin B’nai 10
Mitzvah notice 12 Our Seniors 12
Madrichim 12 Calendar 13

18/25 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
May 5, 2018
8:00 p.m.
The Ratner School
Tickets & donations form on page 11 or order online
**DIRECTORY**

**SERVICES & PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT:**
The Lillian and Betty Ratner School  
27575 Shaker Boulevard  
Pepper Pike, OH 44124  
[http://www.kolhalev.net](http://www.kolhalev.net)

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**OFFICE MANAGER:**  
Deb Senor  
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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OFFICERS:**
- President Karly Whitaker  
- Vice President Mattuck Meacham  
- Secretary Deena Epstein  
- Treasurer David Conn  
- Past President Halle Barnett

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- Celia Jennings  
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- Learning Bill Scher-Marcus  
- Involved Kirby Date  
- Democratic & Fiscally Responsible Mattuck Meacham  
- Participatory Maureen Dinner

**COMMITTEES and CHAIRS, by VALUES TEAM**

**WELCOMING & CARING**
- Hesed – Robin Holzman & Martha Schubert  
- Calendar Manager—Art Biagianti  
- Newsletter – Lila Hanft  
- Proofreader – David Roberts  
- Weekly Update – Robin Holzman  
- Website – Brian Miller, Lila Hanft, Benjamin Barnett  
- Marketing/PR – Halle Barnett  
- Tech Support – Brian Miller

**SPIRITUAL**
- Religious Practices – Bruce Fallick  
- Holidays – Amy Hogg & Adina Davidson  
- Meditation – Nancy Rubel & Allen Binstock  
- Rosh Hodesh – Kirby Date  
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- Lay Service Leader Coordinator – David Conn  
- Service Co-Leader Coordinator – Arthur Lieberman

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- Young Families/Tot Shabbat – Ben Seligman and Andy Öster  
- Child Care Coordinator – Traci Elgart  
- Book Group – Kevin Weidenbaum  
- Lunch and Learn – Alan Federman

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- GCC – Allen Binstock & Donna Weinberger

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- Fundraising – open  
- Cemetery – Mike Armin

**PARTICIPATORY VALUES TEAM**
- Membership – Maureen Dinner  
- Greeters – Deb Senor (Office Manager)  
- Kiddush – Deb Senor (Office Manager)  
- High Holy Days – Marcia Goldberg  
- Women’s Group – Happy Wallach

**DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE BOARD**
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- Ratner Liaison – Sara Prentice Manela  
- Rabbi Liaison –  
- Strategic Planning Committee – Greg Selker  
- Nominating Committee – Catherine Fallick  
- Security Corps – Bill Scher-Marcus  
- Commitment Support Volunteer – Maxine Collin

**JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MAY 15**

May 2018  
Page 2  
Kol HaLev Happenings
CONNECTING SHAVUOT AND OUR 18/25 CELEBRATION: 
THE EVOLUTION OF COMMUNITY ORIGIN STORIES

This month, there are two significant events in our Kol HaLev community calendar. One is in a category that takes place on an annual cycle and is shared with every other Jewish community around the world--namely, the second of the three pilgrimage festivals, known as Shavuot, which commemorates the story of the biblical Israelites receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai.

The second is very specific to our community, marking two life cycle moments; the completion of our first quarter century as a Reconstructionist community, and the completion of an eighteen-year period since the community felt ready to officially hire its first rabbi and I was fortunate enough to be the person who was offered that position.

At first blush, these two events appear widely divergent in focus and intention, but if we look below the surface, I think we will actually find a powerful resonance between them. If we reflect on Shavuot, we give special attention to the myth that describes the birth of our people’s collective religious understanding symbolized by Divine revelation of the 10 commandments or utterances. However, the main way we engage that idea is to study a range of Jewish texts, that are certainly grounded in the earliest layers of our people’s religious life, but by no means limited to that. Over the years that we have celebrated this holiday together, we have studied texts from every part of the Hebrew Bible, from the Rabbinc tradition, from Kabbalah, from the medieval Jewish philosophers and from more modern Jewish thinkers, to give a broad, but not exhaustive set of examples.

Now, if we turn our attention to the 18/25 celebration, we will (I imagine!) be giving attention to the story of how we came into existence and how we developed as a community and organization over the years, but also to where we may be headed over the course of the next quarter century. What both of these celebrations have in common is the recognition that it is crucial to remain connected to and honor the spirit of our origins, and that it is equally crucial to acknowledge and lift up the processes by which we have engaged that spirit from new perspectives and under new circumstances and found ways of transmitting it to those who arrive and want to participate further down the line. There will be people at our 18/25 event who have been members of Kol HaLev at various points in our history, and I am confident that they will feel both a sense of continuity and evolution compared to what they remember of their time with our community. In the same way, if it were possible to bring the medieval rabbis who created the all-night study session held on Shavuot, forward in time, I believe that they too would feel both a sense of continuity and change. I have no doubt that those rabbis would struggle much more with the change dimension than I expect our Kol HaLev members from the past would, but I think even they would admit, if pushed, that ultimately, the only way for a new enterprise to thrive over the long term, is to embrace the paradoxical necessity of both continuity and evolution. May we at Kol HaLev continue to show appreciation for both these dimensions as we prepare to enter our second quarter century!

Rabbi Steve
We send wishes for a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy healing, to Anita Cohn; Julie Handler; Jayne Jones; Ron Kohn; Pauline Raymond; Margy Weinberg and Eda Weiss. 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 Andy Getz, who was the April Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members provided meals and rides and sent cards.

If you wish 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.

The May meeting is Thursday, May 24, at the home of Anita Cohn. We will discuss *An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic* by Daniel Mendelsohn. (321 pages, a Kindle version is available).

A preview from Amazon: When eighty-one-year-old Jay Mendelsohn decides to enroll in the undergraduate *Odyssey* seminar his son teaches at Bard College, the two find themselves on an adventure as profoundly emotional as it is intellectual. For Jay, a retired research scientist who sees the world through a mathematician's unforgiving eyes, this return to the classroom is his "one last chance" to learn the great literature he'd neglected in his youth—and, even more, a final opportunity to more fully understand his son, a writer and classicist.

But through the sometimes uncomfortable months that the two men explore Homer's great work together—first in the classroom, where Jay persistently challenges his son's interpretations, and then during a surprise-filled Mediterranean journey retracing Odysseus's famous voyages—it becomes clear that Daniel has much to learn, too: Jay's responses to both the text and the travels gradually uncover long-buried secrets that allow the son to understand his difficult father at last.

As this intricately woven memoir builds to its wrenching climax, Mendelsohn's narrative comes to echo *The Odyssey* itself, with its timeless themes of deception and recognition, marriage and children, the pleasures of travel and the meaning of home. Rich with literary and emotional insight, *An Odyssey* is a renowned author-scholar's most triumphant entwining yet of personal narrative and literary exploration.


The book for June is *The Best Place on Earth: Stories* by Ayelet Tsabari.

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

**HESED**

**HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING!**

New date: **June 10**  ●  New time: **2-3:30 p.m.**  ●  New place: Heights Library on Lee Rd.
The Kol HaLev board met April 9 at the home of Mattuck Meacham and discussed proposed changes to our bylaws and the draft 2018-2019 budget.

Halle Barnett re-iterated earlier board discussions about our bylaws needing revisions due to many inconsistencies. As we are currently studying alternatives to our current governance structure, a few changes to the bylaws should be considered immediately. With input from the executive committee, Halle presented a proposal to amend those provisions needed to facilitate potential future governance changes.

Discussion focused on the fact that current bylaws define a quorum as 33% of adult members—a very large (and difficult) number of members to get to any meeting. No electronic or absentee ballots currently are permitted, except for board elections. Reconstructionist movement consultants with expertise in governance recommended that our quorum be reduced to 20% of adult members and that absentee or electronic voting should be permitted. These suggested changes are in line with Ohio law as well.

There was considerable discussion about proper quorum size. Halle will take that discussion into account in editing the proposed bylaws revisions. That proposal will be presented for board approval in May. The board’s recommendation will then be put to a vote of the membership at the June 10 annual meeting. Publicity and personal outreach will be used to encourage greater member turnout at the annual meeting.

The board also discussed the initial draft of a budget presented by David Conn, Kol HaLev treasurer, and made suggestions that will be used in a revised budget that will be presented at the May meeting.

President Karly Whittaker also said it has become difficult to find members who are willing to host Kiddush after Shabbat services and asked for suggestions on ways to encourage members to accept this responsibility of membership.

The May 14 meeting will be at the home of Anna Kelman. All members are welcome.

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges these contributions:

- Molly Berger in memory of Halle Barnett’s father, Fred Eichenbaum
- Anita Cohn in memory of Halle Barnett’s father, Fred Eichenbaum
- Toby Trevis in honor of Hugo Howard’s 90th birthday
- Toby Trevis in honor of Molly Brudnick receiving the National Association of Social Workers Lifetime Achievement Award

Make a donation to Kol HaLev in honor of a simcha, in memory of a loved one, in commemoration of a yahrzeit, or just because. You can donate by check or online, whichever is more comfortable and convenient for you. Find out how at http://kolhalev.net/giving_opportunities.

Share your joy! If you’re kvelling, we want to, too!

Milestones, birthdays, anniversaries, births, b’nai mitzvah, graduations, weddings

Send news, hot tips, announcements or pictures to newsletter@kolhalev.net
**NEWSLETTERS, continued from page 1**

Jewish learning ("Anyone interested in learning more about [Yiddish, Maimonides, Eco-Judaism, etc.] should contact . . . ").

I imagine today that new members today would appreciate these kinds of low-pressure opportunities to engage with other members. Havurah leadership regularly invited the entire community to participate in new endeavors in those days, too; their invitations aimed for inclusion of all members over selective recruitment:

*The Havurah is organizing volunteer choir for the High Holidays. Interested? Call Irv Miller. Singing experience and the ability to read music are pluses but not necessary. All are welcome.*

(July 1997)

Many members have found in Kol HaLev an outlet for beloved avocations that can't be their full-time jobs: music, writing, organization, caregiving, etc.

Participation is a foundational concept in Reconstructionism. It applies to every aspect of communal life, from the invitation to participate actively in your own Jewish education and the formation of new traditions to the responsibility for sharing to the work -- planning, fundraising, recruitment -- that keeps the community going. In the second year of the newsletter, we see the first call from the steering committee for community participation:

*Important Announcement*

*As the Havurah moves into its second year of activities, it is crucial that all members put their heads together and decide on future directions. . . . All members are strongly encourage to attend and share their views. . . . New energy is needed!"

Over the years, calls to participate in governance, policy-making, programming, administration and fundraising have been frequent and sometimes urgent, which suggests that we're still struggling to find the right balance.

**NOTABLE ITEMS**

There is an official history of Kol HaLev on our website (http://kolhalev.net/full_history). What follows are excerpts from past newsletters revealing some of the personalities, processes, debates and and growing pains which got us here.

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**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**from December 1996**

**RING-A-DING-DING**

The Havurah now has its own post office box and phone number (complete with message services).

**OUR FIRST BABY:** In our second newsletter, August 1993, the editors 

[welcome[d] Yael Shvima, the newest member of the Chavurah, and the youngest!]

**THE STRUGGLE IS REAL:** A January 1994 article reported:

Havurah members have responded enthusiastically to the monthly Shabbat dinner as a way to wind down after a busy week, celebrate the Shabbat in a meaningful way and get to know other members better:

On the same page, a report from Ray Levy, chair of the Shabbat committee, explains, while "the dinners were very successful . . . the organization is quite complex."

**EMERGING TRADITIONS:** An article in May 1996 summarized some of the Havurah's emerging Shabbat traditions.

- **Welcoming newcomers to our group by introducing ourselves before services begin**
- **Including Oscar the Grouch in our family services.**
  - Oscar carries his trash can through the congregation, symbolically collecting all the bad things from the previous week and leaving us free to enjoy Shabbat.
- **In-service participatory d'var Torah, presented by the leader for group discussion**
- **Balance: Between Hebrew and English, singing and reading, responsive/communal and individual participation.**
- **Mourner's Kaddish: Mourners and those observing yahrzeit stand and daven through the end of the first paragraph; leader invites each person to share who they are standing for. The rest of the congregation then rises and helps finish the Mourner's Kaddish.**
- **Announcements: Made after the Mourners' Kaddish and before the closing song.**
- **Kiddush and Ha-Motzi:** Done from the front before people have moved from their seats for the oneg.

**WHO'S A RECONSTRUCTIONIST?** The January 1997 newsletter contains the results of the first-ever survey of the movement's members, conducted by the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. Some highlights:

- **Members are drawn evenly from all ages**
- **In 41% of households, at least one adult has a Ph.D. medicine or law degrees.**
- **About a 1/3 of all member households have at least one person not born Jewish, but half of all those members in the 40s and younger were inter-..."**

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continued on page 7
married.

• Top three most important reasons for they joined their Reconstructionist congregation:
  o commitment to being as inclusive as possible
  o commitment to egalitarianism
  o commitment to ongoing study and learning.

Love and Growing Pains: A March 1999 member survey to which 40 of the Havurah’s 71 member households responded reveals that:

Overall satisfaction with the Havurah is high. Our warm welcoming ambiance and sense of community and connectedness were cited by 24 member units as what they liked most, while 7 units expressed concern about retaining this quality as our Havurah grows. . . . Those who experienced lifecycle events all expressed appreciation for the terrific support they received from Rabbis Jeff and Steve.

Steve Segar stays: From the March 2000 newsletter:

Rabbi Steve Segar, who has serviced us so well with just a small fraction of his time the last two years, will become the Havurah Rabbi next year and will serve us 2/3 time. This is a very important change for the Havurah and for Steve and his family. The concerns for next year, a natural consequence of any search process such as ours, have been replaced by enthusiasm about what our members can look forward to nex year and in the years ahead.

Thrilling Havurah Happening:

Members will long remember the Shabbat Service of May 20, 2000. But none more than the Millas family . . . [when] Pam . . . delivered their second child, Esther Aviva, at Agnon School during our services. . . . The story in the Cleveland Jewish News describes how many members, thankfully led by Chip May, helped Pam and the baby through the delivery . . .

Art Lieberman and Rabbi Steve led the service, much of the time with Gabe on Steve's knee while his mother, Andy Getz, was helping Pam. Steve's announcement of the blessed event thrilled the congregation.

Oops! A Correction: An article by Rabbi Jeff and Deb Schein in the January 2001 issue announces their upcoming sabbatical year in Philadelphia and this important correction:

We would like members to be aware that the recent story in the Cleveland Jewish News about Jeffrey being interested in and being offered (and then having [had] retracted) an offer from B'nai Jeshurum was simply wrong. The CJN writer confused Jeffery with a "Rabbi Scheim" from another city and never checked the facts with B'nai Jeshurun of Jeffery. As you know, Jeffrey is quite happy as an "academic/teaching" rabbi [and] there is only one havurah or congregation he could imagine working for: The Reconstructionist Havurah of Cleveland

The State of the Havurah: In the November 2003, board president Deena Epstein, having spoken by phone with at least one and often two members of all Havurah households, offered this snapshot of our congregation:

Our members do care. This is their Havurah. They feel a sense of ownership and have thoughts on everything from the length and number of services to children's babysitting. Despite our growth, most people still feel that we are a warm and caring community, and they value us for that. Several people cited the nonjudgmental aspect of the Havurah and felt welcomed no matter where they were on their Jewish journey. However, a few of the long-term members feel badly that they no longer know everyone in the Havurah as they once did and worry about maintaining our sense of community.

. . .

It also came through loud and clear that people love Rabbi Steve and his warmth, down-to-earth nature and sympathetic ear. Many said how lucky we were to have found someone like him for our rabbi.

continued on page 8
GROWING PAINS, FINANCIAL: The December 2003 newsletter presents what seems to be the Havurah's first significant budget crisis. In her president's column, Deena Epstein "asks for your help in closing the gap in our $150,000 budget."

The shortfall, which at this moment is estimated to be approximately $23,000, is not a surprise. Nor is it the result of any mismanagement or extravagant spending. It is simple: dues, at the present level, do not cover expenses. 

In addition, the board anticipated that membership growth would yield increased income, but we now stand at 100 members rather than the 120 that had been projected.

TREASURER CHEERED: That story was followed by this article in the February 2004 newsletter:

Board members cheered when treasurer Pam Millass announced at the January board meeting that nearly 40 contributors had helped meet the end-of-year challenge.

More details appear in the treasurer's report:

We raised $8,961 from those who responded to the $4,000 challenge by two other members, for a total of $12,961. Donations ranged from $3 to $1,000, and several contributors wrote that they were happy to help this wonderful community.

. . . As a result of our members' sense of community and responsibility, we are within range of meeting our budgetary needs this year.

MEMBERSHIP HITS NEW HIGH (December 2005):

Membership in Kol HaLev has reached a record high of 113 households. Our membership committee, headed by Judy Vida, has done a great job of introducing members to Kol HaLev, but now the committee is asking the rest of Kol HaLev to join them in making sure our new members feel welcomed and connected to our community.

B’NAI MITZVAH YEAR: In 2006, Kol HaLev celebrated its Bnai Mitzvah year with a gala evening much like our 18/25 gala, with desserts, music, a silent auction. The event honored the six women who had served as Kol HaLev president since the founding (Allen Binstock became our first male president in July 2007). To promote the event, the board offered these "13 Ways to Celebrate":

1. Share what you learned at our scholar-in-residence weekend
2. Have fun at the summer Shabbat picnic
3. Be part of a special adult education event
4. Attend the Women’s Retreat
5. Take a tour of members’ sukkas
6. Dance with us on Simchat Torah
7. Come along on a Kol HaLev family outing
8. Attend the JRF convention
9. Host or be a guest at a Shabbat dinner Nov. 17
10. Join us for worship at a special Shabbat service and potluck Nov. 18
11. Watch our children in their special Shabbat activity Nov. 18
12. Dine on delectable desserts, bid on silent auction items, enjoy a musical presentation and be prepared to have fun at our Saturday night gala on Nov. 18
13. Contribute to the President’s Fund.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Judy Vida, December 2005
In a sense, everyone in Kol HaLev is part of the membership committee. We all need to make our new members feel at home. There are so many little things each of us can do—greeting people at Shabbat services, introducing ourselves [at Kiddush] . . .

This photo of the ex-presidents, taken at the B’Nai Mitzvah Gala, did not appear in Kol HaLev Happenings. The first photo did not appear until July 2011.

This isn’t a thorough history of Kol HaLev’s newsletters—just a somewhat idiosyncratic survey of the paper issues you won’t see unless you visit the Kol HaLev office. In 2009, when Sue Weidenbaum was editor, we began to send the newsletter out via email as PDFs which members could print out or read on the screen. The primary motivation for the switch was financial, but it had the added benefit of making the newsletter easy to archive online. In fact, you can find all the newsletters from October 2009 to the current issue on our website at kolhalev.net/newsletter_public.

WARM AND FRIENDLY

Before closing, I want to revisit some of the ways previous newsletter editors were able to make their newsletters continued on page 9
friendlier and warmer, and see if it's possible to revive any of those features.

MORE COMMUNITY STORYTELLING

We used to tell more stories in the newsletter. There were personal accounts of members' experiences (for instance, in the January 1995 issue Fran Zamore and Barbara Epstein each wrote accounts of a convention they attended). There were also accounts of community events, such as Happy Wallach's account of the 2003 Women's Retreat:

It was a time of slowing down and settling in, of receiving sustaining energy from each other as we set aside expectations and heeded intuitive voices . . . sharing stories in small groups, conceding that we were "recovering perfectionists," laughingly rebelling in the guise of "recovering conformists," then rejoining as a group to learn of others' insights.

Or how about this story, from the "Honorable Menschens" column in August 2007 issue:

Imagine Vicki Grace's surprise when she arrived at Horseshoe Lake for the Kol HaLev picnic in June. Backhoes, bulldozers hills of dirt and debris and a huge pile of scrap metal were all around the picnic area. Once again Kol HaLev came together a as community! Rabbi Steve and Art Biagianti found another site in the area that would be much safer for picnicking families. Rabbi Steve, Art, Ben Miller, Vicki, Andy Getz, Fran Zamore, Leah Kamionkowski and the Grace children helped move the other picnic supplies. End of story: a good and safe time was had by all.

My favorite newsletter story is this one from January 2004 newsletter, written by Chip May titled "Screaming Down the Chutes with the Shorashim:"

That is, screaming in the sense of both going really fast and making a lot of noise. Members of the Shorashim, parents and other assorted adults took a trip to the Metroparks Chalet toboggan chutes . . . My good friend Melissa Koppel [z"l] overcame her fears and went down. Melissa and steep scary fast stuff don't really mix, so this was a huge achievement for her -- and for our own group for helping her get the nerve to go down.

Not FROM THE Archives

Send me your personal news—your milestone birthdays, the achievement of your kids and grandkids, your new job, your new house, whatever is making you happy. The community wants to know you. If you're shy, ask a friend to do it. Lila newsletter@kolhalev.net

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Old newsletters contained a healthy serving of just the kind of information you'd want to know about other members if you wanted to start a conversation at Kiddush:

- Ray Lesser was profiled in a recent Northern Ohio Live article about local "media moguls." Ray is editor and publisher of the Cleveland Heights-based humor review, The Funny Times. (April 2005)
- Congratulations to Jane and Ernie Logsdon on their adoption of a son. (April 2005)
- Mazal tov to Arthur [z"l] and Ruth Ness [z"l] on their 50th wedding anniversary. Their children, Leah and Ron Gilbert, and their friends, Anne and Charles Adamson [z"l], will host an Oneg in their honor. (2000)
- Members of Kol Halev were honored at graduation ceremonies at the Siegal College of Jewish Studies. Barbara Epstein received an award for excellence in scholarship [and] Fred Chenin received a certificate in Jewish Studies. (August 2004)

"HONORABLE MENSCHENS"

Almost everything we enjoy about Kol HaLev is brought to us by volunteers. The "Honorable Menschens" column, written by Faith Claman, began in the January 2005 newsletter as an effort by the membership committee "to acknowledge members each month who contribute their skills time and energy to the community." Here are some of the volunteers honored that month:

- Jill Bieler, who organized the black cupboard in our Agnon Sanctuary. This cupboard hold Kol Ha-Lev's supplies for kiddush. Jill labeled so clearly that even first-time kiddush sponsors will find whatever they need in the black cupboard . . .
- Peggy Sugarman for doing such a great job in planning the games and activities for the Hanukkah party, and the Saltz-Sunshine family for hosting.
- Kirby Date, Emory Petrack, Barry Stern and Rabbi Jeff for facilitating the education paln parlor meetings. And Heidi and Pete Robertson, Barry and Petey Stern, Glenda Weinberg and Carol and David Bortz for hosting the meetings.

continued on page 10
COMMUNICATION OF THE FUTURE

Admiring the newsletters of our first decade or so has inspired me to make today's newsletter:

- friendlier, warmer and more interesting
- fun to read
- a reliable way to stay connected the community
- more than a vehicle for official Kol HaLev business

Communication has changed dramatically over 25 years. The phone was once the most effective way for members to reach one another in a hurry, but today, many of us have gotten rid of our landlines and don't answer our phones unless we recognize the number. Kol HaLev relies primary on email, but we know that there is one cohort of members who never became comfortable with email and another cohort of (younger) members don't bother checking email unless warned to expect something in their inbox. (How do they communicate with more than one person at a time?).

We estimate, optimistically, that about half of all 2-person household read the newsletter regularly.

What would make you more likely to read the newsletter? Watch for future discussions of this topic, coming soon.

Lila Hanft has been a member of Kol HaLev and the newsletter editor since 2011. She was a regular visitor for 6 years before she felt ready to join. Currently a freelance writer/designer, Lila has been professor of English literature and feminist theory, a psychotherapist, the senior UI editor for a major website and a newspaper reporter, among other interesting but rarely profitable things. She

IN HONOR OF

The newsletter editors:
Deena Epstein
Marcia Goldberg
Bill Harzoff
Elisabeth Koss
Fern Levy
Jean Miller
Rob & Joan Skeist
Sue Weidenbaum

B’NAI MITZVAH

Please share our joy as our sons

OLIVER POSNER
WYATT SKLARIN

are called to the Torah as B’nai Mitzvah

Saturday May 26 at 10:00 a.m.

at Shabat in the Park
River Grove Picnic Area
North Chagrin Reservation

A Kiddush luncheon will follow

Alexis, Chris, Gillian & Elliot

RSVP: chris.sklarin+rsvp@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR

ANNUAL MEETING

NEW DATE
SUNDAY JUNE 10
NEW TIME
2:00-3:30 p.m.
NEW PLACE
Heights Library
on Lee Rd.

Vote on the slate of board members and officers
Learn what our committees have achieved this year
Say todah to outgoing president Karly Whitaker

NEWSLETTERS, continued from page 9

- Sam Kelman [z”l] and Nancy Rubel, who took on the tasking of explaining the proposed educational plan.
- Our Torah leyners for last month: Barbara, Nathan and Jacob Messinger Rapport, Isaac Miller, Lynn Liebling, Ari Sunshine, Glenda Weinberg, Rebecca Lieberman, Gabe Pincus, Simcha Leavitt, and Judy Vida.
Don't miss the fun as we honor and celebrate Rabbi Steve's 18th year as our rabbi and spiritual advisor and the 25th anniversary of Kol HaLev's founding.

The festive evening includes a short tribute program with musical entertainment, Havdalah (led by Rabbi Jeffrey Schein), a lavish dessert reception, a silent auction (nearly 100 items!), a 50/50 raffle and more surprises!

Deadline to buy tickets online at kolhalev.net/anniversary: Friday May 4, 5pm. Tickets will be available at the door as well. (Donations in honor of these auspicious milestones are welcome at any time, online or by mail.)
With great pleasure we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating high school seniors and send blessings as they continue on their journey. Please join us for the

Senior Siyyum Service
Saturday, May 5, 2018/20 Iyar 5778
Parshat Emor

Nathalie Conn—Kent State
Esther Millas—Rochester Institute of Technology
Sarah Moritz—Kent State
Caleb Segar—Ohio University

Please join us in honoring our Madrichim at the
Madrichim Appreciation Service
May 19, 2018/5 Sivan 5778

Zorim (K- grade 2)
Traci Elgart
Andy Getz
Renee Siegel

Bonim (grades 3-5)
Benjamin Barnett
Elana Richter
Laurel Simkoff
David Steinweg

Magshimim (grades 6-8)
Kelvin Arthur
Elise Hagesfeld

Chalutzim (High School)
Mark Davidson

Tot Shabbat
Andy Oster
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., May 5</td>
<td>9:15-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry (5th - 7th graders)</td>
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<td>9:15-10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Torah Discussion in Ratner Library led by Rabbi Steve (note different time)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Speciall 18/25 Anniversary Shabbat Service and Senior Siyyum in the Ratner Chapel; <em>Emor</em>; Service leaders: Rabbi Steve and Gabe Segar; Bill Marcus (Torah Service); See page 12 for more information about the Senior Siyyum. Kiddush Sponsors: The ex-presidents; Greeters needed; sign up here</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hagiga</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot-Parent Shabbat Program</td>
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<td>7:30-11:00 p.m.</td>
<td>18/25 Anniversary Gala at the Ratner School. Kol HaLev celebrates “18/25” – Rabbi Steve's 18th year as our rabbi and spiritual advisor and the 25th anniversary of Kol HaLev's founding. The festive evening includes a short tribute program with musical entertainment, Havdala (led by Rabbi Jeffrey Schein), a lavish dessert reception, a silent auction (nearly 100 items!), a 50/50 raffle and more surprises! Deadline to buy tickets online at kolhalev.net/anniversary: Friday May 4, 5pm. Tickets will be available at the door as well. (Donations in honor of these auspicious milestones are welcome at any time, online or by mail.) More on page 11</td>
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<td>Sun., May 6</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya at Beth El-The Heights synagogue</td>
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<td>Mon., May 7</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 12</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Member-led Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. <em>Behar-Bechukotai</em>, Service leader: David Conn; Kiddish sponsors: Louise Elkind and Peter Imrey; Greeters needed; sign up here</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., May 14</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting at the home of Anna Kelman. All members are welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue., May 15</td>
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<td>Deadline for the June issue of <em>Kol HaLev Happenings</em>. Send newsletter items to <a href="mailto:newsletter@kolhalev.net">newsletter@kolhalev.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., May 16</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-noon</td>
<td>Governance Working Group at Starbucks, 12405 Cedar Rd, Cleveland Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu., May 19</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Practices Study Group at the home of Connie Friedman in Shaker Heights</td>
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<td>Philosophical Inquiry (5th - 7th graders)</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service/ Madrichim Appreciation at the Ratner School; <em>Bamidbar</em>; Co-leaders: Rabbi Steve and Kevin Weidenbaum; Kiddush Sponsors: Abe Chasin; Tamar &amp; Amitai Shapira-Koren and Gregory and Lois Selker; Greeters needed; sign up here</td>
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<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot-Parent Shabbat Program</td>
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<td>1:15-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Mindful Jewish Practice in the Ratner library.</td>
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<td>8:00-10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Erev Shavuot Service and Late Night Torah Study in the Ratner Chapel. Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Torah study leaders: Alan Federman &amp; Leah Kami-onkowski; Kiddush sponsors: Bruce and Catherine Fallick and Scott &amp; Traci Elgart; Greeters needed; sign up here</td>
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*continued on page 14*
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<tr>
<td>Sun., May 20</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-noon</td>
<td>Shavuot Service. Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush sponsors: Tamara Duvval. <strong>One additional kiddish host is needed</strong>; <strong>sign up here</strong>; Greeters needed; <strong>sign up here</strong></td>
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<td>Thu., May 24</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Book Club at the home of Anita Cohn. More information on page 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., May 25</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Potluck at the home of Irwin Weinberger &amp; Meg Manny; Service leader: Irwin Weinberger; Kiddish hosts: Irwin and Meg. Potluck information: Dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or pareve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10. Month of May potluck assignments: A-H - Dessert or Drink; I-P - Main Dish; Q-Z – Appetizer or Salad</td>
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<td>Sat., May 26</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat in the Park/Oliver Posner and Wyatt Sklarin B’nai Mitzvah at River Grove Picnic Area in the North Chagrin Reservation; Naso. Service co-leaders: Rabbi Steve, Oliver Posner and Wyatt Sklarin; A kiddush luncheon will follow the service hosted by The Posners and Skarins. See announcement on page 10</td>
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**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING!**

- **New date:** June 10  •  **New time:** 2-3:30 p.m.  •  **New place:** Heights Library on Lee Rd.

**ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER CALENDAR**

*We make every effort to ensure that the newsletter calendar is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. Events can change, so please check the calendar on our website to be sure you have the most recent information. Calendar corrections may be sent to calendar@kolhalev.net*

**ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER**

*Kol HaLev Happenings* is the newsletter of Kol HaLev, Cleveland’s Reconstructionist Jewish Community.

Please email newsletter@kolhalev.net with comments, complaints, corrections, suggestions, or content for upcoming issues. *Back issues of Kol HaLev Happenings* can be downloaded from the *Kol HaLev website*. 