HIGH STAKES: LOOKING AT OUR STORY IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT
IS IT MOSES ON TRIAL, OR OUR WORLD VIEW?

BY HALLE BARNETT

Put aside your assumptions for a moment – about Moses, about the formation of the Jews as a people, and about the utility of retelling the Exodus tale each year.

We all think we know the substance of the Passover story pretty well. What if, this year, you had the opportunity to really wrestle with the birth story of the Jewish people on a new level? How would that impact your seder rituals? More importantly, how would that impact your own sense of responsibility to the causes of freedom and justice?

As Jews, our tradition of questioning is well entrenched. The Passover seder is but one manifestation of this quintessential Jewish behavior. And yet, there are plenty of formative examples of our forebears choosing unquestioning acceptance of the paths before them! Doubtless, we learn from each story about the power (and complications) of accepting duty ostensibly given by God. Metaphors clearly understood, it is also incumbent upon us to question the morality, both explicit and implicit, in our bible stories: Taking our formative stories at face value does not get us terribly close to understanding the depth of obligation we have to each other as human beings.

And so it seems quite apt that, one week before Passover this year, Kol HaLev will be holding Moses up as an example of moral ambiguity.

Our theatrical mock trial and interfaith panel discussions are designed to look at some of our most revered in a new light, in order to grow our understanding of what it means to be Jewish. To formulate new questions about our history, our relationships with other cultures, our individual roles in the world. To unpack who we are at our core, and how we can use that knowledge to impact a positive common future for all.

The charge against Moses – accessory to the deaths of...continued on page 5

Please join us as our son
ZACHARY DAVID SEGAR
is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m.
Kiddush and lunch to follow
Rabbi Steve Segar and Andy Getz
Mailing Address & Offices:
Kol HaLev
2245 Warrensville Center Rd. Suite 215
University Heights, OH 44118
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MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 15
CHALLENGING THE TRADITIONAL PESACH NARRATIVE

Jews rightly prides ourselves on the central place that asking questions holds in our tradition. From the time of the early rabbis, rarely has there been a question that hasn’t led to an argument that yields multiple authentic answers. Even the most traditional among us cannot be defined as “fundamentalists” in the way that many American Christians are. Religious uniformity, where it exists within the Jewish world, is restricted to behavior, rather than specific beliefs. As long as the motivation for questioning comes from a place of authentic moral or spiritual concern (unlike Korach’s motivation, as he pretends to challenge Moses on principle, but really wants the leader position for himself), our tradition absolutely celebrates questioning. And there is no moment that celebrates it more intentionally than the Passover Seder.

Built right into the Haggadah, we find both implicit and explicit encouragement to engage in debate around the content and meaning of the Exodus story. And I imagine many of us could easily point to many wonderful, enriching conversations around Seder tables at which we have sat over the years.

There are many different categories of questions apt to be asked at a typical Seder. There are more traditional questions, like those that deal with the symbolism of the special foods we consume, and more contemporary kinds of questions, like those that revolve around using the core Pesach themes of freedom and justice as a prism to explore the present conditions of our world. But if we truly embrace the idea that these themes are not just at the core of the Passover story, but at the very core of Jewish tradition writ large, then, ultimately, we must confront another category of question that is rarely if ever asked, but which cuts to the core of traditional understanding of the Exodus narrative in a very challenging way.

This question turns the story back upon itself, and asks whether the collective suffering of the Egyptians resulting from the plagues (in particular, that which is inflicted by the tenth plague) can be morally justified as the price to pay for breaking Pharaoh’s will and paving the way for his agreement to let the Israelite slaves go free.

We are so used to the flow of this story – the entrenched brutality and hubris of the Pharaoh, leading to his ever harsher treatment of the enslaved – all reinforced by the millennia of commentary that has viewed the plagues as everything from just desserts to an unfortunate spiritual and political necessity.

But: Were we to relax, for a moment, our tradition-inspired identification with the slaves, might we not be moved to wonder whether some significant portion of Egyptian society was being unjustly punished in response to the ruthlessness of their leaders?

Yes, we have the tradition of spilling a drop of wine as we recall each plague. And yes, many of us are aware of the midrash in which God rebukes the angels celebrating as the Egyptian army is drowning in the sea. These elements of the Exodus tradition form the beginning of what Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sachs refers to as a “counter-narrative” in his recent, powerful book, Not in God’s Name. They can help us overcome our instinctive willingness to negate the value of those who reside outside the boundaries of our community. However, these features of the Exodus narrative represent just the beginning of a process that calls us to confront the theological difficulty built into the story of our birth as a people. Many within our community already recognize a number of other texts in the Torah that get categorized as “difficult”. The binding of Isaac, and the Divine exhortation to wipe out the seven nations of Canaan come to mind.

Perhaps it is time for us to add the narrative of the ten plagues to this list. Our tradition’s core values of Justice and Freedom would demand no less.
We send wishes for a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy healing, to Molly Berger, Abe Chasin, Margaret Cohen, Adina Davidson, Nancy Frazier, Selma Gwatkin, Dick Jones, Itsik Kittila, Ron Kohn, Ben Lewis, Marilyn Litvene, Pauline Raymond and Linda Sylte. 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 Kareen Caputo for serving as the March Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members cooked and delivered meals, provided rides, sent cards and attended shiva minyanim.

**Conversations**

In the last few weeks, we have been making phone calls to members who have signed up with the Lotsa Helping Hands website with the goal of expanding the group of people who are able to commit to being Monthly Coordinators for the coming year. These calls have been so instructive to us about the role of Hesed in our community and how we connect with our membership base.

For the past few years, we have used a web-based technology to communicate with our committee membership. It has been an extremely useful tool to get the word out when needs arise and to coordinate the support that is offered.

But it has become clear to us that there is a trade-off when using this technology, and that with it we have lost what is at the heart of our Hesed work, the personal connections that are the foundation of community.

We started this process from a place of frustration and disappointment in the lack of response to our articles, emails, and announcements looking for more volunteer commitments. With much humility, we now are aware of the missing piece – our reaching out in a personal way to the community and taking the time to listen and be informed about the many factors that are obstacles to folks being more involved.

Our frustrations have been transformed into great appreciation and respect for the many of you who have taken the time to converse with us and honestly share your situations. We have found, through these conversations, several new people willing to take on the role of Monthly Coordinator, either for the first time or again, after a long hiatus. We have learned that we need to adjust the way we do our work based on the feedback we have received.

We are so grateful for the new energy in the Hesed Committee and for this amazing community of people helping us improve the way we do our work.

Robin and Martha

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.
all the first born of Egypt as a result of the 10th plague – goes to the heart of our collective story in a way that no previous trial has. From the nature of the charge, there’s no denying that the Biblical character of God is also on trial. While the prosecution has intimated this at our past mock trials, there’s no getting around it this time.

“To me, so much of this is about point of view,” says former U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach, our prosecutor for this year’s mock trial. “We’ve spent our entire lives hearing about this story from the Jewish point of view, as descendants of those who were mistreated and enslaved in Egypt. But thinking about this from the point of view of the people who weren't passed over, it can seem quite different. This trial is about the cold, hard facts of what happened to the Egyptians, and whether or not any person or entity is above the law.”

Further examination of this defendant’s choices, and in light of them, our own, might suggest that we, too, may be culpable here. Much like all Jews (from all times, past and future) are considered to have been “at Sinai” when the Torah was given, to what extent are all Jews collectively responsible for the suffering of our fellow human beings in Egypt?

“This question of conscience comes up in a few ways in our tradition – the spilling of 10 drops of wine at the seder, and the fast of the first born as repentance – because it’s critical to acknowledge the problematic aspects of our having been freed at the expense of others’ lives,” says Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Director of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and one of our discussion panelists at this year’s trial.

“That terrible things are still being done in the name of religion is something we have to grapple with more directly,” says Rabbi Nancy. “The Reconstructionist Hagaddah talks about how people can be enslaved in different ways ... being shackled by fear or intolerance or hatred, for example, is a form of slavery. At Passover, we’re reminded that no one is free until everyone is free. And at this moment in American history, it is particularly apt that we’re joining in a dialogue about what it really means to live in an interfaith community.”

Our sister religions have a lot to say here as well. The stakes this high, the need for understanding has never been more clear. While many of our past trials were educational and entertaining, “The People vs. Moses” will offer a robust, challenging set of legal arguments, substantive intellectual content, and important spiritual, ethical, and socio-cultural food for thought. I cannot imagine a more important defendant and topic to tackle this year.

Here’s something we can assume: Like the sensibility that we were all at Sinai, we can all acknowledge a collective responsibility to our fellow human beings. A great place to start is with a willingness to engage in deep questioning and dialogue. A great place to dip your toes in those waters, is a wonderful, community-building, creative, exhilarating event like “The People vs. Moses”.

Please join us on Sunday April 17, 7:30 for “The People vs. Moses”, at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Moot Court Room on the campus of Cleveland State University. Tickets are now on sale: Buy online at kolhalev.net/trial, or use the mail-in ticket order form in this newsletter.

(For more on the nature of the mock trial event, and our dynamic cast and panelists, please see the page one article in the March 2016 issue of Kol HaLev Happenings.)

Like “The People vs. Moses” on Facebook to learn more about our stellar cast, and the social, ethical and legal ideas underlying this year’s choice of defendant. And please share widely!
The People vs. Moses

Sunday, April 17, 7:30pm
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Moot Courtroom on the CSU Campus

Were the lives of thousands of Egyptians too high a price for freedom?

Join Kol HaLev and a cast of legal, religious, and academic all-stars* for this live court room drama, and YOU, the audience, will decide!

Then, join a rousing interfaith discussion on the ethical implications of Moses’ actions, still intensely relevant in our own times.

Tickets $30 - $125††
on sale at kolhalev.net/trial

Or use the mail-in order form in this newsletter

††$125 = best seats + pre-trial private hors d’oeuvres reception with the cast. Student prices & attorney CLEs available!

*Siring: Steven M. Dettelbach, Partner, BakerHostetler and former U.S. Attorney • Charna Sherman, President, Charna E. Sherman Law Offices • The Honorable Michael J. Ryan, Judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas • The Reverend Richard M. Gibson, Pastor, Elizabeth Baptist Church • Natalie Kertes Weaver, PhD, Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Ursuline College • Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, PhD, Director, Department of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Sponsors (to date):

The Leon and Gloria Plevin Fund

Kol HaLev Happenings
Orders must be received BY APRIL 12, 2016. If the event is sold out prior to receipt of your order, you will be contacted and your money returned. Otherwise, all sales are final; tickets are non-refundable. To pay with Mastercard or Visa, visit www.kolhalev.net/trial. Kol HaLev does not take orders or reservations by phone.

• All tickets will be held at the door. Doors open at 6:45 pm. (6pm for private reception ticket holders)
• If you provide an email address above, you will receive an email confirmation of your order.
• A portion of your contribution may be tax-deductible; please consult your tax advisor.
• Attorneys requesting CLEs must arrive by 7:00 pm and check in at Continuing Ed table to receive proper forms.

THANK YOU!
PURIM PUNIM!
Ed. Note: As soon as Sue posted this on Facebook a couple weeks ago, I asked to include it in this month’s newsletter. The idea of freeing water (as we free slaves or prisoners) brought Pesach to mind, with its exploration of freedom, gratitude and importance of recognizing that the personal is always also political. ~LH

MAYIM HAYIM – LIVING WATERS

BY SUE WOLPERT

In August of 2014, I went to Lake Erie and immersed myself in the water, and I spoke to the lake about my love of fresh water and my shame at having neglected the problems that our waters face every day. Though I cared about the lake, the problems seemed too big for a person like me to tackle. As the lake got ickier, I just stayed away. Sort of like not visiting a sick person because you can’t be with their suffering. So I told the lake I would be listening for how I could help.

In June of 2015, I joined a team of Cuyahoga Water Walkers on a 4 day, 88-mile journey from the clean headwaters of the Cuyahoga River in Geauga County to Lake Erie. Water walking is a kind of prayer with and for the water, for our ancestors, and for the people in our lives who need our prayers. Clean water is taken in a pail and carried by the walkers in a relay fashion. The core team stays together day and night. This walk is part of an Ojibwa movement of grandmothers coming forward to be a stand for the living water’s health and happiness. I also participated in a water walk at Seneca Lake last August. At Seneca Lake, the community is fighting to prevent the plan to build a liquid petroleum storage facility in abandoned and unstable salt mines under Seneca Lake.

I have been so moved by these experiences that I have since August, gone daily to pray at the water’s side near my house at the Doan Brook or Dugway Stream. I pray out loud (hitbodedut) and sing to the water (a favorite is "Shalom Aleichem"), and listen. Now I find myself involved in numerous projects to clean up and build community in my watershed. I plant trees, I plan to disconnect my down spouts and be responsible with the water that comes my way. I have realized the profound connection between all the people that live in my watershed. This includes the folks in the Heights and the folks that live in the lake plains of Cleveland and East Cleveland. I am at work creating a Water and Watershed Learning Center at the East Cleveland Library and more. Every day I pray by the water and the water tells me to connect with all the people in my watershed. The people, who live in the lake plain areas of the Dugway watershed, do not have the benefit of seeing the living water sparkling in the light because the water has been culverted and is underground. The following is what came to me in prayer earlier this month. As we head toward our Passover holiday and think about our own times as slaves, I invite you to remember the living waters that are hidden away underground and the people hidden away in our prison system.

IMPRISONMENT AND FREEDOM – A WATER PRAYER

Today I was thinking about how we channel the living water underground into culverts and tunnels. Cut off

continued on page 10
from the sky and all of the living plants and animals that naturally live by her side. It is a kind of imprisonment. It is interesting to me that it passes, in that imprisoned underground state, through communities which have higher rates of incarceration than where the waters run free.

Why do we put the water underground? Why do we put people in prison? Why do we feel the need to separate ourselves from the living nature of water and remove from our presence, into prisons, so many of our citizens?

Yesterday there was a big rain here. The Doan and Dugway Watersheds where I live are flowing with storm water. Because we cut down the forests and covered the ground with our houses, because we covered the ground with our streets, the water, which never stops, goes where we have channeled it . . . into the culverts, into the stream bed, maybe to the treatment plant, and then to Lake Erie. Horseshoe Lake is muddy today, her waters filled with everything that has washed down from how we live.

Over at Dugway in Forest Hills Park the stream is flowing fast, the smell of the water when it comes out of its culvert is not pleasant. There must be sewage finding its way into the underground system up stream. As soon as the water comes to the East Cleveland line, down she goes again into the underground prison, not to be seen again until she reaches Bratenahl. Cut off from the sky, cut off from the sun, cut off from her friends. The people in the communities where she travels underground are separated from her living nature. So too, people in our prisons are cut off from that which gives them life, and we are cut off from the life force of them.

You can see why people who live where the water stinks want to cover it up. Our culture doesn’t teach us how to be responsible with our water and our waste. But that cover-up of the consequences of how we live our lives does not heal the situation, it doesn’t heal the waters’ home in the watershed. The prisons where we put our people don’t heal the situation. We have to look upstream to discover: What is coming to us from the past, what is coming to us from how we live right now?

What if we freed the water from her underground imprisonment and freed the cast off people from our prison system? What if we made welcome the injured water and the people we have locked away with love and song and all the good medicines of our world?
NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEDER OPPORTUNITIES

We want to make sure that any member who would like to be at a seder for Passover has the opportunity to do so, and we are wanting to hear from Kol HaLev members who are hosting a seder who might have a space or two at their table as well from members who are looking for a seder to attend. If you are in either of those groups, please be in touch with the Membership Committee before April 8, by contacting Leah Kamionkowski at leah@bepure.com and she will work to put people in touch with one another. Thank you for your help with this initiative!

CALLING FOR KOL HALEV BOARD NOMINATIONS

Kol HaLev's Nominating Committee is at work securing candidates for board positions for two-year terms beginning June 2016, and invites nominations from the membership. We are looking for action-oriented people with a service mindset. Many positions will be available, including officers, Values Team Leaders, and board members-at-large. Some positions require certain skills; mentoring is available.

Do you have skills, passion, and time to share to help guide Kol HaLev and help our community thrive? To nominate yourself (or another member who may be well-suited and interested) for consideration for Kol HaLev board service, (or if you would like to learn more about other non-board leadership opportunities) please email or call Nominating Committee co-chairs, Sue Pelleg (suelisw@aol.com) or Catherine Fallick (catherinefallick@gmail.com).

THIS SUMMER, FINANCIAL AID FOR CAMP JRF

This summer there's an unusual opportunity for your children to experience our movement’s camp, Camp JRF. If you have been thinking about Reconstructionist Summer camp and waiting for the right time to give it try, this summer may be the best bet. There are still spaces available for second session across all age groups. In addition, Robyn Novick will be at camp for a week during second session serving as a member of the faculty. The Jewish Federation of Cleveland offers a baseline camp scholarship of nearly $2,000 per child for the first two years of attending a movement summer camp. In addition to that, for this summer, Kol HaLev has been offered a one-time additional contribution from the Federation to honor the memory of Kol HaLev member Sam Kelman, who passed away last fall, and who was the founding chair of the movement camp committee, which would allow several families to receive up to an additional $1,500 towards camp tuition. These two sources of support would mean that a child could attend a three week session of Camp JRF for just about $1,000. While this is certainly still not a small amount of money, it represents nearly an 80% discount off the regular cost of attending. If anyone is interested in discussing this further, please be in touch with Rabbi Steve at rabbisteve@kolhalev.net.
The Kol HaLev Board met at the home of Celia Jennings on March 14, 2016.

**Treasurer’s Report:**
A discussion occurred about a revised budgetary projection for FY ’16 that is slightly lower. This was a positive development but it is still a deficit budget. The need to reduce expenses and/or increase revenue, as discussed in February remains, and Board members were encouraged to continue to send suggestions to Bruce Fallick, treasurer.

The CSV, Maxine Collin has been contacting families who have not yet made commitments for FY’16 dues and Hagiga. Leah volunteered to assist Maxine with the calls. Following the commitment calls, calls to members with past due payments will be made.

**Budget update:**
The Finance Committee is working on the proposed FY ’17 Budget and it will be presented at the April Board meeting for a first read. The early draft will be based on this revised deficit.

**Fundraising update:**
The Mishloach Manot Exchange is underway. Board members were urged to support it and encourage members to participate in this mitzvah that also serves to raise money for the community. A celebration is being planned for Rabbi Steve on the anniversary of his smicha lerabbanut (rabbinical ordination). It will be similar to the Schein event and include a fundraising component. Tentatively, it is being planned for the end of June.

**Dialogue: The Torah of Money:**
There is a need to engage the membership in a broader discussion about the financial health of Kol HaLev. Board president Halle Barnett shared excerpts from Rabbi Shawn Zevit’s book, *Offerings of the Heart: Money and Values in Faith Communities*. It provided context by recalling the framework this board strives to keep top of mind in its overall work: Fostering both a deeper appreciation for and connection to each other, and a communal responsibility for managing our money and priorities.

The discussion yielded a number of ideas and practical questions with which to frame the all-community discussion. Emphases: Being clear about our situation and the collective responsibility for a solution, setting priorities, measuring the impact of decisions (programmatically as well as financially), and assuring we stay grounded in our relationships and our sense of spiritual abundance while working toward a solution.

Community meeting(s?) are projected for September and should not compete with other events.

**Email group proposal review:**
Board members discussed and reviewed the following proposal:

> Create a moderated, opt-in e-mail group for use by Kol HaLev members, to facilitate informal gatherings, organize carpools, and arrange other instances of resource sharing

The email group, designed to foster a greater sense of community and belongingness, is to operate for a six-month trial period. The scope and moderation of the group is designated. The executive committee recommended approval pending the addition of a “hold harmless” disclaimer suggested by our insurance company. It passed unanimously.

**Mock trial update:**
Tickets have gone on sale. Board members were urged to support the trial and encourage participation of others inside and outside of the Kol HaLev community. Rabbi Steve will be giving the pre-trial education session on March 28.
Bylaws update: Committee work on the limited review and revision has begun and first read of proposed changes will be at April Board meeting.

Nominating committee update and job descriptions: The committee has begun to meet and have had some success interesting members in some positions. Many positions are available including officers, at large members and Values Team Leaders for five of the six Values Teams. Board members were asked to send in job descriptions to Halle to facilitate the nominating committee process.

The next Board meeting for Monday, April 11, 2016, 7:30 pm is at the home of Karal Stern. All members welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Karal Stern, Secretary

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges these contributions:

In memory of Julio Pelsmajer’s brother, Lou Perles, from
- Bobbi Sedley
- Barbara and Barry Epstein
- Karal Stern

In memory of Fred Chenin’s sister, Ellen Deutsch, from
- Barbara and Barry Epstein
- Karal Stern

In honor of Zach Segar’s bar mitzvah, from
- Sue and Kevin Weidenbaum
- Happy Wallach

To the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund, from
- Anonymous
- Fred and Marsha Chenin in thanks to Rabbi Steve during the illness, funeral and shiva of Fred’s sister, Ellen Deutsch.

And from:
- Allen Binstock in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his father, Henry Binstock
- Anna Kelman in memory of her husband, Sam Kelman
- Abraham Chasin in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his father, Israel Chasin
- Ruth Ness In memory of her husband, Arthur Ness
- Judith Solonche to the General Fund

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 check or online, whichever is more comfortable and convenient for you! You can also pay for dues, Hagiga tuition, Mishloach Manot and many other things online as well as by check.

♦ Pay by check. Just drop a check in the mail to: Kol HaLev | 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 215 | University Heights, OH 44118 You’ll receive a confirmation that your payment was received.

OR

♦ Make an online donation. You can pay safely and securely by credit card or electronic check at Kol HaLev's PaySimple page at http://kolhalev.net/pay_simple. (Note: Kol HaLev pays a small fee for transactions processed through PaySimple).
The April meeting will be Thursday, April 28, at the home of Anita Cohn. We will discuss *Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind* by Sarah Wildman. (400 pages, a Kindle version exists).

A review from Amazon: Years after her grandfather’s death, journalist Sarah Wildman stumbled upon a cache of his letters in a file labeled “Correspondence: Patients A–G.” What she found inside weren’t dry medical histories; instead what was written opened a path into the destroyed world that was her family’s prewar Vienna. One woman’s letters stood out: those from Valy—Valerie Scheftel—her grandfather’s lover, who had remained behind when he fled Europe six months after the Nazis annexed Austria.

Valy’s name wasn’t unknown to her—Wildman had once asked her grandmother about a dark-haired young woman whose images she found in an old photo album. “She was your grandfather’s true love,” her grandmother said at the time, and refused any other questions. But now, with the help of the letters, Wildman started to piece together Valy’s story. They revealed a woman desperate to escape and clinging to the memory of a love that defined her years of freedom.

Obsessed with Valy’s story, Wildman began a quest that lasted years and spanned continents. She discovered, to her shock, an entire world of other people searching for the same woman. In the course of discovering Valy’s ultimate fate, she was forced to reexamine the story of her grandfather’s triumphant escape and how this history fit within her own life and in the process, she rescues a life seemingly lost to history.

The May book will be *The UnAmericans: Stories* by Molly Antopol.

All KHL members are welcome to attend the book group. 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 (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the group’s e-mail list.

**HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

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

- Herman Weinberger (Nehemiah)—father of Irwin Weinberger
- Carl Cohen—brother of Margaret Cohen
- Henry Binstock—father of Allen Binstock
- Harry Litwin—father of Richard Litwin
- Deborah Susan Raddock—mother of Mike Raddock
- Molly Schwartz Hochman—maternal grandmother of Chip May
- Donald Harris—husband of Ellen Harris
- David Fink—brother of Judy Harris
- Rudolf Bender II—maternal grandfather of Kelvin Arthur
- Robin Manela (Reuven)—father of Aaron Manela
- Nathan Schatz—father of Selma Gwatkin
- Arthur Ness—father of Leah Gilbert and husband of Ruth Ness

Kol HaLev members may include the yahrzeit of loved ones 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/](http://www.hebcal.com/converter/).
Kol HaLev
Bonim & Magshimim Retreat
Sunday, May 1, 2016 at Hiram House Camp

Embracing the Mosaic:
Being an Upstander

Join us as we explore another avenue of embracing the Mosaic at the beautiful Hiram House Camp. It will be a day of fun, challenges and adventure as we take on the ropes course! All this and your Kol HaLev friends, too!

Meet at Hiram House Camp (33775 Hiram Trail, Chagrin Falls—just 7 minutes from Ratner!) at 10 am and pick up at 4 pm. Cost is just $5 per person, which includes all activities, snacks and lunch. Amazing programming led by Dassi Shtern, Director of Segula & B’Tzelem (JECC) and Ken Fortuna, Director Hiram House Camp.

Please return completed registration form and payment by Monday, April 18th.

Open to KHL Bonim & Magshimim (grades 3-8)

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

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges the Retreat Institute (RI) of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland (JECC) for financial and programmatic assistance. The JECC’s Retreat Institute is supported by the Fund for the Jewish Future of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.
because I said I would.

*Because I said I would* is a social movement and nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity. Its mission is to strengthen humanity’s will. *Because I said I would* encourages and supports making and keeping promises to end suffering, establish peace and build happiness.

The world faces many challenges. In this adversity, we often hope for miracle solutions; an incredible new technology, a huge policy change or billions in funding. What if we really just needed to keep our promises?

Report child abuse. Volunteer. Stay in rehab. Graduate from high school. Recycle. Sometimes we don’t need a miracle solution. Sometimes we just need people to do what they said they were going to do.

**Make and keep a promise** to improve yourself, your family or your community. The world needs you.

-hhttp://becauseisaidiwould.com

Amanda Messer of because I said I would will be joining us for an intergenerational lunch and learn following services on

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**

1:00—2:30 pm

Be inspired by this amazing message and see evidence of the movement of good that it has produced. If you would like lunch, please register at robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498

FREE to members of Kol HaLev

*This program is being conducted under a grant from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland’s Congregational Enrichment Fund and the Fund for the Future of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.*
### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., April 2</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry with the Parsha in the Ratner Art Room for 5-7 grade Hagiga students; light breakfast will be provided, please be prompt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Zach Segar. Shmini. Service Leaders: Rabbi Steve and Zach. Kiddush Sponsors: Rabbi Steve and Andy Getz, in celebration of their simcha, Greeter: Happy Wallach.</td>
<td>Additional greeter needed; sign up here</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hagiga</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot Parent Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., April 3</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>No'ar Hadash: J-Serve. Teens should register online at <a href="http://akivacleveland.org/jserve/">http://akivacleveland.org/jserve/</a> and then email Emily Gross-Rosenblatt with their chosen location. More information on page 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., April 9</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>Member Led Shabbat Service at Ratner. Tazria. Co-leaders: Rachel Davidson and Greg Selker; Kiddush Sponsor: Barry and Barbara Epstein. Greeter: Joe Vainer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., April 10</td>
<td>10 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m.–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Bonim Hike in Squaw Rock Picnic Area, Bedford Chagrin Pkwy, Bentleyville, OH. Contact Robyn at <a href="mailto:Robyn@kolhalev.net">Robyn@kolhalev.net</a> for details</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., April 11</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting at the home of Karal Stern. All members welcome to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., April 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline for the May issue of Kol HaLev Happenings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., April 16</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry with the Parsha in the Ratner Art Room for 5-7 grade Hagiga students; light breakfast will be provided, please be prompt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Torah Study Leader: Rabbi Steve</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service at Ratner. Metzona. Leader: Rabbi Steve. Kiddush Sponsor: Margaret Cohen and Kevin Rahilly and Happy Wallach. Greeter(s) needed; sign up here.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hagiga</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot Parent Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Because I Said I Would Intergenerational Program at Ratner. See more on page 16 or contact <a href="mailto:Robyn@kolhalev.net">Robyn@kolhalev.net</a> to register</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 p.m.–2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Mindful Jewish Practice in the Ratner Library. Nancy Rubel will lead an hour's combination of sitting practice and brief conversation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., April 17</td>
<td>10 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The People vs Moses mock trial and interfaith panel discussion at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, 1801 Euclid Ave, Cleveland. More info on page 6. Buy tickets and find more information online at kolhalev.net/trial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., April 22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Registration deadline for Bonim &amp; Magshimim Retreat at Hiram House Camp. See page 15 for details or contact Robyn at <a href="mailto:Robyn@kolhalev.net">Robyn@kolhalev.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., April 22</td>
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<td>Erev Passover; First Night Seder</td>
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### CALENDAR

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<tr>
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| Sat., April 23 | 9:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m. | Mindful Jewish Practice  
The sessions begin with a few minutes of a talk to offer a *kavannah* or intention for the sitting practice of 30 minutes, and end with an opportunity for informal sharing about meditation and spiritual practice. |                                                                                  |
|             | 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. | Passover Shabbat Service. Service leader: Rabbi Steve. Kiddush hosts needed: [Click here to sign up.](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2) | Greeter(s) needed: [sign up here](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev3). |
| Sun. April 24 |               | *No Nesiya* - Passover Break                                                                 |                                                                                  |
| Tue., April 26 | 7:30 p.m.–9 p.m.  | GCC Core Team Meeting. Contact Allen Binstock for more information                                |                                                                                  |
| Thu., April 28 | 7:30 p.m.–9 p.m.  | Book Group at the home of Anita Cohn. We will discuss *Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind*. Details, [page 14](#). |                                                                                  |
| Sat., April 30 | 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. | End of Passover/ Shabbat Service at Ratner. Service Leader: Rabbi Steve. Kiddush host: Leah Kamionkowski. Additional kiddush host needed: [Click here to sign up.](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2) | Greeter(s) needed: [sign up here](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev3). |
|             | 1:30 p.m.–2:45 p.m. | Lunch and Learn series on Shabbat. In this last of three session, Rabbi Steve will lead a discussion into Shabbat traditions. You need **not** have attended earlier sessions to attend this one. |                                                                                  |

### SAVE THE DATE

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun. May 1</td>
<td>10 a.m.–4 p.m.</td>
<td>Bonim and Magshimim Retreat. Full details on <a href="#">page 15</a>.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>Women's Group Brunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 14</td>
<td>10 a.m.–12 p.m.</td>
<td>Bar Mitzvah of Noah Frazierрмаיזוב נוחא</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. May 18</td>
<td>6 p.m.–8 p.m.</td>
<td>Joint Model Seder with Elizabeth Baptist Church. Details coming soon.</td>
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To sign up to host a kiddush, go to [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2)

To sign up to be a greeter, go to [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev3](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev3)

We strive to make this calendar as accurate as possible, but additions, cancellations and other changes may occur after the newsletter is published. To ensure you have the most up-to-date information, please double-check your plans in the Weekly Update (which arrives in members’ email inboxes every Thursday), or visit the calendar on the [Kol HaLev website](#).

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Kol HaLev Happenings
The Newsletter of Cleveland’s Reconstructionist Jewish Community

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