At a hastily-convened meeting last night, the Kol Halev board voted to purchase our current building from the Ratner School.

"The opportunity presented itself and it seemed to be beshert (fated)" said board president Karly Whitaker. "We'll move the offices from Warrensville Rd. to Ratner, and have access to the building whenever we need it."

Bruce Fallick, chairman of the Religious Practices Committee, noted that 24/7 access to the building "could open up the possibility of holding services on yom tov sheni shel galuyot (the second festival day in the Diaspora) or even daily shacharit, mincha and maariv services."

A long, fierce financial discussion took place before the board reached a consensus around 3 a.m. The proposal approved by the board covers both the purchase of the building and an innovative fiscal plan to re-allocate funds for building expenditures. "The savings on rent wasn't going to be enough, so we needed to think creatively about our resources," treasurer David Conn confirmed. "I can't say too much at this point, but we're considering the "mark-to-market" accounting system popularized by Enron, as well as some surprisingly high-yield investments in Nigeria."

The New Parsonage
In exchange for reduced salary, Rabbi Steve and his family would take up residence in the building in the former gym pod, which will be renovated, enlarged and renamed The Parsonage. "The bonus is that Rabbi Steve would be in the building and available to the congregation pretty much all the time," says Conn. Education Director Robyn Novick and her family would also move in, "possibly to the renovated art room," confirmed board secretary Deena Epstein, who said that several empty-nesting board members are considering selling their homes to take up residence in condos on the second floor, overlooking the stage.

Maintenance Issues
Epstein explained that the board must still vote on whether to hire a full-time facilities manager, or make do with a volunteer team led by Rabbi Steve and member Brian Miller. The new maintenance committee will research the number of hours maintaining the building will require and will contact the RCC about best practices for recruiting members for weeknight and Sunday cleaning shifts. Committee chair Celia Jennings admits that, "Our community includes very few electricians, plumbers or roofers. But we're a participatory community and there's no reason a social worker or law professor can't pick up a hammer or a voltage meter."

Some members have already offered help. The Women's Group will brace the ladders when Steve and Andy need to change the light bulbs in the auditorium’s 50-foot ceiling, says Happy Wallach. Traci Elgart, childcare coordinator, said she'd been approached with a proposal to train our youngest members to spread salt on icy sidewalks, "The thought is that since they're closer to ground, they're less likely to be hurt if they slip on the ice."

Tenants
Attracting new tenants is crucial to the building's success. One potential tenant is Be'tei'avon!, a new restaurant open to the public featuring Kol HaLev potluck delicacies.

ThoughtTalk, LLC, a new private practice formed by several Kol HaLev members in the mental health profession, has shown interest in tenancy, says Whitaker. "We need to resolve acoustic issues, including one in which sound uttered in one spot in the circular building travels with perfect clarity to the opposite spot, despite closed doors."

"We're still in the early stages," admits Whitaker. "Steve and Robyn have yet to agree to the trade, but we're optimistic."

At press time, neither Rabbi Steve nor Robyn had responded for requests for comment.

Turn the page for the newsletter's REAL front page!
February 3-4 Saturday - Sunday

Schein Intergenerational Learning Weekend

SUN. FEB 4 2:00-4:00

Adult Ed: “Conversation in the Digital Age: Perspectives from Jewish Tradition”
At the home of Dick & Deena Epstein

Communication is like an accordion. Sometimes we compress our ideas and language to get to the heart of things. Sometimes we expand our descriptions to account for richness and complexity. In 2018, Twitter, Facebook, and social media platforms add huge doses of steroids to this natural compression-expansion continuum. Jewish tradition addresses how we might reclaim conversation in the digital age.

Learn about Jeff’s program for Siegal Lifelong Learning on Thurs. Feb 1, 7:00 p.m. at https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/upcoming-events/
DIRECTORY

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

MAILING ADDRESS & OFFICES:  
Kol HaLev  
2245 Warrensville Center Rd. Suite 215  
University Heights, OH 44118  
(216) 320-1498

RABBI:  
Steve Segar  
rabbisteve@kolhalev.net

EDUCATION DIRECTOR:  
Robyn Novick  
robyn@kolhalev.net

OFFICE MANAGER:  
Deb Senor  
debs@kolhalev.net

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

AT-LARGE MEMBERS:
Art Biagianti  
Nurete Brenner  
Kelvin Arthur  
Celia Jennings

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

VALUES TEAM LEADERS
Welcoming & Caring Lila Hanft  
Spiritual Adina Davidson & Anna Kellman  
Learning Bill Scher-Marcus  
Involved Kirby Date  
Democratic & Fiscally Responsible Mattuck Meacham  
Participatory Maureen Dinner

OFFICE MANAGER:
Deb Senor  
debs@kolhalev.net

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

February 2018  
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Kol HaLev Happenings
It’s no secret that tension and conflict within and between societies around the world has been on the upswing over the past several years. Within our own country, there are many family members and groups of friends who now limit their contact with one another, and/or the topics they’re open to discussing because of their deep seated political or religious disagreements and their inability to find a pathway to communicating about them in civil and non-defensive ways.

For quite a long time, I have been personally interested in learning more about the dynamics of conflict as well as how to work with conflict situations that are veering in a toxic direction such that they can become more constructive and transformative. Among my more recent efforts to pursue this goal was my attendance at a workshop for rabbis on constructive conflict that took place last June in Baltimore sponsored by the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution (PCJC).

It was at this workshop that I learned about the PCJC’s goal to create a new curriculum on constructive conflict, to be used by American congregations who would like to increase their understanding and skills in the arena of facilitating healthier conflict dynamics and outcomes. I also learned that the Center was looking for congregations who would be willing/interested in piloting the curriculum to help move it from a draft version to a final form. I indicated that I thought the Kol HaLev community would be very intrigued with such an opportunity, and was told that we merely had to say the word, and we would be included in the pilot program.

Part of the motivation for the development of this curriculum grows out of the awareness that Jewish tradition has a lot to say and teach about the constructive uses of conflict, but that these resources, while often referenced in an abstract way, are rarely brought to bear even with conflicts in the Jewish community, let alone to those that occur beyond its borders. Many of us are known to trot out the example of rabbis Hillel and Shammai, but seldom to think more deeply about why it was that they almost always were able to disagree respectfully and in a way that shed more light rather than merely heat on the topic at hand.

I am delighted that we’re going to be offering this six-session pilot course beginning Sunday evening February 18, and hopeful that we’ll have a good number of our members who choose to participate. Through a combination of text study, group discussion and experiential exercises, those who attend will have the opportunity both to dig into thinking about the most important distinctions between constructive and destructive conflict as well as practicing the skills that contribute to the potential for a constructive conflict, achieving these goals by way of exploring some of the more complicated issues of our times.

In addition to this, those who participate will have the additional satisfaction of knowing they’ve helped out in the development of the final version of this curriculum. I look forward to sharing what I have every expectation will be a useful and thought provoking series of conversations with many of you.

~Rabbi Steve

What: "Embracing Constructive Conflict," a 6-week class starting Sun., Feb. 18

When: Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 4, 25, April 15 & 29

Who: Led by Rabbi Steve & 2 Kol HaLev members with training in conflict resolution, Talia Master and Alan Federman.

Details: This pilot program, designed by Rabbinis Amy Eilberg & Daniel Roth of the Pardes Institute, examines the way political discourse in this era of bitter polarization can be transformed into something sacred and constructive.

Register via email to Alan Federman
(alanf7010@gmail.com)

N.B.: A commitment to attend all 6 sessions is requested.
DOOR L’DOOR PROGRAM (YES, YOU READ THAT RIGHT)

On January 20, the Zorim (Kindergarten – Grade 2), the Bonim (Grades 3-5), and the Magshimim (Grades 6-8) participated in a special all-Hagiga program. The program is Door L’Door – a play on the Hebrew words l’dor v’idor (from generation to generation), and effort to bring mezzuzot (door to door) to families in Houston and California who have lost their homes due to natural disasters. The organization was started by Chava Gal-Or a Reconstructionist educator who is presently living in Houston.

The Jewish community in Houston was hit particularly hard by Hurricane Harvey, The floods affected the Jewish Community Center, several synagogues, Jewish learning centers, Jewish elder care community, and the neighborhoods where much of the Jewish community lives. Out of the roughly 1,000 Jewish homes devastated by Harvey, there were 29 families in Chava’s own congregation who lost their homes to flooding. The Jewish community jumped into action right away to help secure housing, meals, childcare and other immediate needs. Thinking about the long process of rebuilding the Houston Jewish community, Chava decided that one way to help was to provide mezzuzot to those who had lost their homes, as a means to provide hope for a brighter future.

We decided to make and contribute mezzuzot for Door l’Door using the process provided by artist Gary Rosenthal, whose work is a fusion of glass and metal. Each Hagiga student created a design with glass pieces, which we sent to his studio to be fused to the metal mezuzah in a kiln. They should be fired and returned within a few weeks. We will share the completed projects before we send them on to Houston.

This was a beautiful opportunity to perform a mitzvah, which our children did with open and joyful hearts. To learn more about Door L’Door, visit https://www.door-ldoor.org/. You can read about the mezzuzah-making process at http://www.hiddurmitzvah.org/

Kol Tuv - All my best,
Robyn
We send wishes for a *refuah shleimah*, a complete and speedy healing, to Anita Cohn; Judi Dash; Ralph and Selma Gwatkin; Jayne Jones; Ron Kohn; Pam Millas; 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 Robin Shell, who was the January Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members provided meals and rides.

**Monthly Coordinators Needed**

We are looking for volunteers for the Monthly Coordinator role for the remaining months of this calendar year. It may require several hours of time commitment, depending on situations that arise during any given month. Computer skills are helpful, but not necessary. It is a wonderful way to meet new people and deepen personal connections with both those needing support and those offering it.

Robin and Martha are always available for support and back up during the month. We are happy to tell you more about this role and answer any questions you may have if you are interested in exploring signing up.

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](mailto:robinholzman@gmail.com)) and Martha Schubert ([marthaschubert@mac.com](mailto:marthaschubert@mac.com)), Hesed Co-chairs.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges these contributions:

- **Barry and Barbara Epstein** in memory of David Shutkin's father
- **Barry and Barbara Epstein** in memory of Amy Hogg's mother
- **Irwin Weinberger and Meg Manny** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Irwin's mother, Irene Weinberger
- **Irwin Weinberger and Meg Manny** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Meg's mother Mary R. Manny
- **Connie Friedman and David Shutkin** in memory of David’s father, Joseph Shutkin
- **Connie Friedman and David Shutkin** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Arthur Friedman

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. Find out how at [http://kolhalev.net/giving_opportunities](http://kolhalev.net/giving_opportunities).
The Kol HaLev board approved creating an operating cash reserves (aka rainy day) fund at its January 8 board meeting at the home of Bill Scher-Marcus.

The fund, which will be launched as part of the celebration of Kol HaLev’s 25th anniversary, will help ensure future financial sustainability and stability for the community and better enable us to deal with situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, and unanticipated loss in funding or unexpected opportunities.

Funds would be placed in conservative investments such as money markets, certificates of deposit and/or bonds. The exact amount to be placed in the fund initially will be decided following the 18/25 celebration in May. The policy calls for an initial goal of three months of general operating expenses with a desired goal of six months of general operating expenses. Some of the funds would come from cash currently in our account, and members will have the opportunity to contribute to the fund as part of the 18/25 celebration.

The policy includes rules for accounting, managing, replenishing and requesting use of funds form the operating reserve fund.

The board also heard reports on the upcoming adult education series on Modern Jewish Spirituality and Constructive Conflict Resolution; the continuing work of the governance taskforce; membership committee plans for community-wide Shabbat dinners on March 2 and the soon-to-be-completed fall fundraiser.

The next board meeting will be February 12 at the home of Art Biagianti.

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**YAHRZEITS**

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

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

- Gussie Friedman – aunt of Abraham Chasin
- Jean Manela (Chava Esther) – mother Aaron Manela
- Israel Herman Gorovitz – paternal grandfather of Heidi Gorovitz Robertson
- Harry Goldstein – father of Anita Cohn
- Howard Stanley Robbins – father of Beth Robbins
- Helen Yosowitz (Chaya) – mother of Elinor Friedma
- David Jack Herzig – uncle of Barry Epstein
- Freda Sleser Imrey – mother of Peter Imrey
- Margaret Hochman May – mother of Chip May
- Lisa Goldstein – mother of Anita Cohn
- George Smith – father of Barbara Truitt
- Esther Scher – grandmother of Michal Scher-Marcus
- Lee Brooker – Kol HaLev member, friend of of Ernie Logsdon & Jane Arnoff Logsdon
- Fred Bass – brother of Toby Trevis
- Della London Gorovitz – paternal grandmother of Heidi Gorovitz Robertson
- Harold Edward May – father of Chip May
- Kenneth Harris – son of Ellen Harris

Kol HaLev members may include the yahrzeit of loved ones in *Kol HaLev Happenings* by submitting the name of the deceased, the relationship to the member, and the date of death including the year to kelli@kolhalev.net.
February 2018 Kol HaLev Happenings

**Purim Party**

**Super-Hero**

Intergenerational Kol Halev's

**Act in the Purim Spiel!**

**WEAR A COSTUME!**

**EAT HAMANTASHEN!**

**WEBSITE: FEB. 28 6:45-9 PM.**

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**ONE DAY IN SHUSHAN...**

**THE CHRONICLES OF QUEEN ESTHER**

---

**BIG LEAGUE PLAN...**

**OF HIM AND EVERYONE ELSE! I HAVE A HEARS A PLOT!**

**I’M GONNA GET RID OF HIM!**

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**BY LILA HAFT WITH IMAGES STOLEN FROM EVERYWHERE**
Each year, Kol HaLev members participate in an exchange of Mishloach Manot (literally “the sending of portions”), a fun way to send sweet greetings to friends while supporting our community.

- Each member/member family will receive one Mishloach Manot bag, along with a card listing all the people who ordered Mishloach Manot for them.
- In each bag: kosher parve hamantashen, baked by the Kol HaLev’s Men’s Group; fruit, sweets and other snacks.
- Mishloach Manot can be picked up at our Purim Superhero Party on Wed., February 28 at 6:45 p.m., or they can be delivered to your home by Kol HaLev members March 1-2.

How it works:

- You can order baskets for individual member families for $3.00 each
- You can send “reciprocal” baskets to everyone who has sent you one for $36.00
- You can order baskets for ALL Kol HaLev member families for $225.00 ($1.69 each)
- You can order Mishloach Manot for friends OUTSIDE Kol HaLev for $8.00 each (no delivery option).
- You may also choose to receive “No Candy” Mishloach Manot or “Virtual Mishloach Manot”
- You can fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot L’evyonim (gifts to the poor) with a tax-free donation to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund. Kol HaLev will forward all contributions to one or more of the charitable organizations that provide meals and other services to local individuals and families in need.
- All orders must be received and paid in full by Friday, February 23.

Organized by the Kol HaLev Men’s Club!
2018 MISHLOACH MANOT ORDER FORM

1. Order and Pay By Mail
   Print and complete this 2-page form, then mail it along with a check to:
   OR

2. Order by Email and Pay Electronically
   Complete this 2-page form, then scan and email it to kelli@kolhalev.net. (Alternately, you can send Kelli an email with the names of your chosen recipients.) Pay online at our safe, secure payment portal, Pay Simple. Deadline: 2/23
   1. Go to kolhalev.net/pay_simple.
   2. Scroll to Payment Method #3 and click the link “Click Here to go to Kol HaLev Pay Simple Payment site”
   3. If you’re already registered on the PaySimple site, enter your user ID and password
   4. If you are not yet registered, click the “Click Here to Pay Now” link on the left
   5. Enter your payment info; select “Purim Mishloach Manot” in the first “I am paying for” selection box

Or, if you do electronic banking, you can pay via your e-banking system (to Kol HaLev, 2245 Warrensville Ctr Rd., Suite 215; University Hts., OH 44118, 216-320-1498). Enter “Mishloach Manot” in the memo field.

Want to pay in multiple installments? You can do so through Pay Simple or through your e-banking system. Questions? Please contact Deb in the office: kelli@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED & PAID IN FULL BY Friday, February 23!

Ordering Options:
Name (as you’d like it to appear to recipients): _________________________________
Phone: ___________________________ Email: _________________________________
☐ I wish to order ________ bags at $3.00 each $__________________
☐ I wish to reciprocate to all those who have sent to me for $36.00 $ 36.00
OR TOTAL $______________
☐ I wish to send bags to ALL KOL HALEV households (includes reciprocity) $225.00
☐ I wish to order ________ bags for friends outside Kol Halev at $8.00 each (I understand that I must pick up and deliver these myself) $__________________
☐ I wish to fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot L’Evyonim with this donation $__________________

GRAND TOTAL (Mishloach Manot, Reciprocals & Matanot L’evyonim) $__________________

Delivery Options:
☐ I prefer to get “No Candy Mishloach Manot” ☐ I prefer to get “Virtual Mishloach Manot”
☐ I will pick up my Mishloach Manot at the Superhero Purim Party on Wed., Feb. 28 OR
☐ I’d like my Mishloach Manot delivered to my home on 3/1 or 3/2

Payment Options:
☐ I’m enclosing a check OR ☐ I have paid online at kolhalev.net/pay_simple OR ☐ I paid via electronic banking

Don’t forget to select your Mishloach Manot recipients!
All orders must be received & paid in full by **Friday February 23**
### February 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 3</td>
<td>9:15-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry (5th - 7th graders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 3</td>
<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. Parasha: Yitro; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Sponsors: David and Liz Conn and Sue and Mordy Pelleg; Greeters Needed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 3</td>
<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot-Parent Shabbat Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Feb. 4</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya at Beth El the Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave, Cleveland Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Feb. 5</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 10</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Member Led Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel; Parasha: Mishpatim; Torah discussion will take place within service; Kiddush Sponsors and Greeters Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 17</td>
<td>9:15-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry (5th - 7th graders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 17</td>
<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel, Terumah; Service Leaders: David Conn and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Sponsors: Barbara Abramson and Phyllis Asnien; Greeter Needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 17</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon</td>
<td>Nesiya-Mitzvah Day at Beth El the Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave, Cleveland Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Feb. 18</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Ed: Embracing Constructive Conflict; location TBD. Session one of six; for details, read the Rabbi’s column on page 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Feb. 23</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck at Ratner. Service Leader: Rabbi Steve and member musicians. The potluck contributions should be vegetarian/dairy or pareve and should not contain nuts. Please bring enough for 8-10. In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck. Kiddush Host: Elisa Waugh; Assignments: A-H - Dessert or Drink; I-P - Main Dish; Q-Z - Appetizer or Salad; Greeter Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 24</td>
<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Mindful Jewish Practice in the Ratner Library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Feb. 25</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon</td>
<td>Nesiya at Beth El the Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave, Cleveland Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Feb. 28</td>
<td>6:45-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Superhero Purim Party at Ratner. See flyer on page 8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Deadline for ordering Mishloach Manot.** Forms on pages 9-11.

**Deadline for the March Kol HaLev Happenings Newsletter**

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*Kol HaLev Happenings* is the newsletter of Kol HaLev, Cleveland’s Reconstructionist Jewish Community. This digital newsletter can be read onscreen in Adobe Reader or printed out on paper. Please email newsletter@kolhalev.net with comments, complaints, corrections, suggestions, or notices for upcoming issues. *Back issues of Kol HaLev Happenings* can be downloaded from the *Kol HaLev website*. 