DRAWN TO PRAYER, BUT NOT NECESSARILY TO SHABBAT SERVICES?

by Rabbi Steve Segar

One of the things that I’ve always felt most proud of within the context of our Kol HaLev community is that relatively speaking, within the liberal Jewish world, we get a nice amount of attendance at our Shabbat services. By “nice” I’m talking 20-30% of our adult membership that is in attendance at least one Shabbat per month. For comparison’s sake, that number is below 10% in most other synagogues.

I also believe that a majority of people who attend Kol HaLev services do so because they actually want to be there, because they actually get something out of it, as opposed to many other congregations where there can be a strong element of guilt that motivates many to attend, even when they do not feel engaged by what is taking place.

Having said that, I’m also aware that we nevertheless have a significant majority of our community who vote with their feet and who do not regularly decide to attend Shabbat services, and I imagine, that there are many reasons why that might be the case.

Reason number one would be that there are some people for whom the activity of prayer or meditation in any form is simply not meaningful. Their spiritual energy is inspired by other kinds of activities, such as study, or tikkun olam, or the beauty of the natural world.

However, for a sub-group of those who are not regular Shabbat attendees, it is not the case they feel put off by continued on page 3
**DIRECTORY**

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

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Robyn Novick  
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**OFFICE MANAGER:**  
Kelli Birch  
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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OFFICERS:**
- **President** Karly Whitaker  
- **Vice President** Mattuck Meacham  
- **Secretary** Deena Epstein  
- **Treasurer** David Conn  
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**AT-LARGE MEMBERS**
- Art Biagianti  
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- Louise Elkind  
- Robin Holzman  
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**VALUES TEAM LEADERS**
- **Welcoming & Caring** Lila Hanft  
- **Spiritual** open  
- **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 — Robin Holzman & Kelli Birch  
- 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  
- Leyning Coordinator – Connie Friedman  
- Lay Service Leader Coordinator – David Conn  
- Service Co-Leader Coordinator – Arthur Lieberman

**LEARNING VALUES TEAM**
- Youth & Family Education – Bill Marcus, interim  
- Adult Education – open  
- Young Families/Tot Shabbat – Ben Seligman and Andy Oster  
- Child Care Coordinator – Traci Elgart  
- Torah Study – Ralph and Selma Gwatkin  
- Book Group – Kevin Weidenbaum  
- Lunch and Learn – Adina Schoem

**INVOLVED VALUES TEAM**
- GCC – Allen Binstock & Donna Weinberger

**DEMOCRATIC & FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE**
- Fundraising – open  
- Mock Trial – Jennifer Finkel  
- Cemetery – Mike Armin

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

**DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE BOARD**
- Finance Committee – Alan Weinstein  
- Ratner Liaison – Sarah Prentice Manel  
- Rabbi Liaison – Selma Gwatkin & Barry Epstein  
- Strategic Planning Committee – Greg Selker  
- Nominating Committee – Catherine Fallick  
- Security Corps – Bill Scher-Marcus  
- Commitment Support Volunteer – Maxine Collin

**JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FRI, JUNE 16**
prayer in general, but rather that the ways in which our community has typically organized or framed the prayer experience has not worked for them.

Recently, I’ve had the opportunity to speak with several members who would likely identify themselves as part of this Kol HaLev sub-group; people who are drawn to the idea of prayer, meditation, introspection but who find that our current range of communal prayer practice does not support their ability to engage in those practices.

So, it seems to me that it could be useful and interesting if we could call together a group made up of individuals who identify with this challenge and engage in conversation and dialogue around which elements within our current service seem to create road blocks to prayer and how we might go about designing another model that might work better for them.

I want to be clear that I am not suggesting that we dismantle our entire prayer structure and start over from scratch, but if this group of people could come up with an additional model that works better for them, I would be interested in finding opportunities to make that approach to prayer more widely available to the members of our community for whom our standard services are not compelling.

So, I would like to ask that those of you who feel personally addressed by this article get in touch with me by email at rabbisteve@kolhalev.net, and we will find a time to come together and see how much interest there is in establishing this exploratory conversation.

Rabbi Steve

While GCC continues to have a number of important, ongoing initiatives including efforts to transform the local educational and criminal justice systems and to reduce the danger of gun violence, the one at the top of the agenda for the past several months has been the effort to modify the Quicken Loans Arena renovation deal so that it includes the creation of a community equity fund that would target the poorest neighborhoods in the county for the creation of resources to support critical areas of need such as mental health, job creation and the rehabilitation of blighted housing.

This project has been an uphill battle from the beginning, as many of the most powerful individuals among the local business and political leadership have come out in opposition to GCC’s appeal to find a way of including the most vulnerable people of our region as additional beneficiaries of this major fiscal investment. However, for me, it’s been inspirational to see how, even in the face of such powerful opposition, the community organizing model is able to profoundly impact the trajectory and momentum of a major economic proposal.

Journalists for important local news organizations such as the Plain Dealer, Crains Cleveland and the Cleveland Scene have reported on the many ways that the pressure and attention brought by GCC to this initiative has already...
We send wishes for a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy healing, to Abe Chasin; Anita Cohn; Ann Epstein; Josh Gippen; Robin Holtzman; Jayne Jones; Ron Kohn; Marilyn Litvene; Pauline Raymond; 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 Adina Davidson, who was the May Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members cooked meals, sent cards, made phone calls and visits and provided rides.

I want to thank all of my Kol HaLev community for the overwhelming support you have shown me following the death of my mother, Elaine, from coming to the shiva minyan to sending cards and donations, making calls, spending time walking or having coffee with me, providing meals, giving hugs and listening while I move through this time of mourning. I have felt held and carried along in a way I never anticipated.

Although I have been involved with the Hesed committee for many years, it is only through my recent experience of being the recipient of support that I have come to understand the real power that this work brings to heal and support and the sacred symbiotic relationship that exists between those needing and those offering support. I have never felt so cared for, so appreciative of the loving community we are creating or so grateful for the incredible net of support that arises at a moment’s notice. I know I am just at the beginning of my journey through grief, but I also know that I am not alone and my way will be eased because of that.

In gratitude, Robin Holzman

CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges these contributions:

- In memory of Jeffrey Schein's mother, Rose Schein
  - Dick and Deena Epstein
  - Katie and Dennis Cahn
- In memory of Happy Wallach's mother, Reverand Anne L. Kinney
  - Dick and Deena Epstein
  - Maureen Dinner
  - Nancy Dudwick
- In memory of Robin Holzman's mother, Elaine Holtzman
  - Maureen Dinner
  - Happy Wallach
  - Kevin and Sue Weidenbaum

- **Joe Vainner** in appreciation of Rabbi Steve and the congregation on the occasion of his conversion
- **Nancy Dudwick** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Ida G. Dudwick
- **Ralph and Selma Gwatkin** in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Ralph's mother, Ada Gwatkin and Selma's sister, Sylvia Oken
- **Robin Holzman** in gratitude for all the community support she has received following her mother’s recent passing
- **Allen Binstock** in appreciation of Rabbi Steve, Robyn Novick, GCC and Mindful Jewish Practice
- **Jayne and Dick Jones** in memory of Jonathan Roberts
- **Maureen Dinner** in memory of Dudley Dinner

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).
HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The June book discussion meeting is Thursday, June 22, at the home of Anna Kelman. We will discuss *All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir* by Shulem Deen (288 pages, a Kindle version is available). This book was the 2015 National Jewish Book Award Winner in the category of contemporary Jewish life and practice.

A preview from Amazon: Shulem Deen was raised to believe that questions are dangerous. As a member of the Skverers, one of the most insular Hasidic sects in the US, he knows little about the outside world—only that it is to be shunned. His marriage at eighteen is arranged and several children soon follow. Deen's first transgression—turning on the radio—is small, but his curiosity leads him to the library, and later the Internet. Soon he begins a feverish inquiry into the tenets of his religious beliefs, until, several years later, his faith unravels entirely.

Now a heretic, he fears being discovered and ostracized from the only world he knows. His relationship with his family at stake, he is forced into a life of deception, and begins a long struggle to hold on to those he loves most: his five children. In *All Who Go Do Not Return*, Deen bravely traces his harrowing loss of faith, while offering an illuminating look at a highly secretive world.

The book for July is *Tevye the Dairyman and Motl the Cantor’s Son* by Sholem Aleichem.

All Kol HaLev members are welcome to attend the book group. For more information about the group 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.

BOARD REPORT

DEENA EPSTEIN, SECRETARY

At the Kol HaLev May board meeting at the home of Louise Elkind, Catherine Fallick, nominating committee chair, outlined tasks the nominating committee would like to undertake in addition to its traditional duty of presenting a slate of candidates for board positions.

The first task, which was enthusiastically received by the board, was for the committee to develop job descriptions for board positions and committee chairs.

She also said committee members would like to hold conversations with members to begin developing information about member interests and skills. The need for this also has been identified by the membership committee and those attending Leadership Taskforce workshops. It was suggested that the membership and nominating committees work together to develop a protocol for the conversations and a way to capture the information so it can be easily accessed.

David Conn presented a budget to be approved by members at the June 3 annual meeting. A major fundraising event in the spring of 2018, celebrating Kol HaLev’s 25th anniversary and Rabbi Steve’s 18th year as a rabbi, will replace the mock trial next year.

David said it is too early to accurately predict, because of timing of payments and receipts, whether the current year will end with a deficit (as originally projected), and if so, how much. Next year’s proposed budget also includes a projected deficit, but it remains less than 5% of the budget, adhering to an informal limit agreed to by the board. There also was discussion of ways to make the ways expenses are attributed to various line items in the budget more transparent as well as the possibility of exploring alternatives for online payments that may carry lower fees.

Celia Jennings reported that the Leadership Taskforce in reviewing and analyzing information from the recent community workshop and will present a final report to the board in June.
They are now a part of us, as we remember them

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

• Charlotte Davidoff Dangler- mother of Roberta Tonti
• Leon Sidney Imrey- father of Peter Imrey
• Marie Armin- mother of Mike Armin
• Nina Kroll- grandmother of Karal Stern
• Samuel Dash (Shmuel)- father of Judi Dash
• George Moon- uncle of Miriam Geronimus
• Carol Asnien- sister of Phyllis Asnien
• Betty Resnick- grandmother of Linda Gross
• Dorothy Schwartz- grandmother of Itsik Kittila
• Sharon Chaiken Symanski- cousin of Chip May
• Rose Lasky- mother of Renee Siegel
• Dora Pelsmajer- mother of Julio Pelsmajer
• Morris Ehrlich- grandfather of Barry Epstein
• Ruth S. Friedman- mother of Joyce Wolpert
• James D. Manny- father of Meg Manny
• Janet Mirow- mother of Deena Epstein
• Robert Singer- father of Nancy Frazier
• Rae Ehrlich- grandmother of Barry Epstein
• Maurice Epstein- father of Barry Epstein
• Seymour Friedman (Zalman)- husband of Elinor Friedman and father of Beth Friedman- Romell
• Rose Brudno (Shoshana)- grandmother of Joshua Gippin
• Lena Chasin (Leah)- mother of Abraham Chasin
• Emil Brand (Meir)- father-in-law of Maxine Brand
• Anna Goldhirsh (Hannah)- grandmother of Judi Dash

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.

GCC REPORT, continued from page 3

changed the conversation, raised consciousness in the region and generated concrete results that simply would not have come about in the absence of GCC’s efforts. Some of these results include the agreement between the City of Cleveland and the Cavaliers to repave basketball courts across the city, the decision of Mayor Jackson to invest money from a special fund into supporting some of the most troubled areas of the city, and the forced delay of the county issuing bonds that would allow work to begin on the project, due to the success of the signature gathering initiative whose intent is to allow the residents of Cleveland to decide the question of investing local tax dollars into the arena renovations through a referendum on the fall ballot.

As of this moment, the leadership of Cleveland City Council has taken a stand against the legal right of city residents to proceed in this direction, though there are many who believe that ultimately, the city will not end up with the law on its side. And, who knows, maybe even as this question is getting clarified, the consistent pressure being brought to bear by the GCC and its allied organizations may yet move this conversation forward and avoid the resource consuming step of having to resolve this disagreement in a court of law. Such an outcome would represent an achievement of which our ancient prophets would be proud.

~ Rabbi Steve Segar
Kol hakavod to Halle and Benjamin Barnett and their daughter Eve and son Maxwell. Eve Barnett is graduating from Beachwood High School and will attend Washington University in St. Louis next fall, with plans to study physics. Maxwell Barnett graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in politics and is moving Ann Arbor with his longtime girlfriend who begins dental school at the University of Michigan in the fall.

Mazal tov to Nancy Rubel and Dan Klein on the graduation of their daughter Sarah Klein from Macalester College in St Paul, MN. Sarah, who graduated summa cum laude, majored in biology and minored in chemistry & psychology. She begins a job as a Research and Development Technician at Rebiotix, St Paul where she will be working on microbiome restoration therapies for gastrointestinal diseases such as C diff.

Congratulations to Johanna Litwin, daughter of Kirby Date and Richard Litwin, who received her BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) from Ursuline College’s Breen School of Nursing.

Yasher koach to Lila Miller and her parents Brian and Jean Miller. Lila is off to the College of Wooster in the fall. Lila graduated from a homeschooling program which included courses at Lakeland Community College, where she has made the Dean’s List for the past 2 years.

Mazal tov to Michael Raddock and Christina Antenucci on the graduation of their son, Will Raddock, from Shaker Heights High School. Will will be attending the University of Vermont this Fall, where he’s a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship and the College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship.

Kol hakavod to Michal and Bill Scher-Marcus on the graduations of their daughter, Hadas Scher-Marcus, from Shaker Heights High School, and their son, Nadav Scher-Marcus, from Goucher College with a degree in Peace Studies. Hadas will attend The Ohio State University in the fall.

Mazal tov to Lila Hanft and David Roberts on the graduation of their son Alex (Sascha) Roberts from Shaker Heights High School. Alex will attend DePaul University in Chicago in the fall, where he’ll study video game design.

Congratulations to Maxwell Schubert, son of Martha and Dave Schubert and grandson of Molly Berger, who is graduating from The Montessori High School at University Circle and will be attending Colorado College beginning in January 2018.

Kol hakavod to Peggy and David Sugerman and their sons Gabe and Simon. Gabe Sugerman, who graduated from Orange High School with Highest Honors and the 2017 Scholar Athlete Award, is headed to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in the fall. Simon Sugerman is graduating from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor of Arts in economics.

Yasher koach to Gilda-Weinstock, daughter of Kate and Brent Weinstock. Gilda graduated from Cleveland Heights High School and will be attending Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, in the fall.
Call to order:

The 2016 annual meeting was held in the Ratner School chapel. Thirty-six members attended. President Halle Barnett called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

Blessing and D’var Torah:

Rabbi Steve noted that KH board meetings now start with a prayer because gathering to do the business of the community can be considered a holy activity, and he led those attending the annual meeting in reciting this prayer. In his D’var Torah he noted that the parsha of the week was B’Midbar in which a census of each tribe was completed and rules established for how each group would be arranged around the Holy Tabernacle. He noted that the Exodus, like most movements, began with little structure but at a certain point began to need more structure and rules to grow and move forward. He noted the parallel to Kol HaLev. He also noted that the parsha reflected the need for both diversity and inclusion, another Kol HaLev value.

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting:

Secretary Karal Stern read the minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting. Aurelia Pelsmajer made a motion, seconded by Lila Hanft, that the minutes be approved. Minutes approved by acclamation with one abstention from a member who was not at the 2015 meeting.

President’s Report:

Halle Barnett reflected on the fourth “B” Becoming which Rabbi Jeffrey Schein has added to Mordechai Kaplan’s “B’s” of Belonging, Behaving and Believing. She noted that it is “what we do best” and said that in the past year Kol HaLev has done a lot of reconstructing as part of its Becoming. She listed the expanded role of lay leadership in services, the creation of the hesed fund, more creativity in fundraising, a banquet of educational opportunities, exploration of leadership development and strides in social action activity.

She also noted that KH signed a new four year contract with Robyn Novick as director of youth and family education; agreed to a new five year lease, with minimal rent increases, for our administrative offices; examined our bylaws and determined that they needed significant revision which will take place with guidance from Rabbi David Teutsch; started negotiating a new contract with Rabbi Steve; and continued work with the leadership development taskforce.

The coming year will include discussion about the opportunities and responsibilities of Kol HaLev membership, focusing on the fourth “B” of belonging.

She thanked all who have supported her during her term as president.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Bruce Fallick presented his annual report. He said the approved budget for 2016-2017, with expenses of $281,000, is similar to the past year’s budget, noting that most of our expenses, such as payroll and rent, are fixed items.

He said our income is moving in a positive direction, and that the deficit for 2015-2016, which had originally been projected at $20,000, likely will be between $7,000 and $10,000. He said this is largely because of higher than projected collection of dues commitments. He attributed this to improved procedures, including the appointment of a volunteer to focus on calling members, and the improved economy. The annual fund yielded about $35,000, about the same as last year. The trial raised $10,000, instead of the $13,000 projected, and the Purim Mishloach Manot exchange raised almost $5,000 instead of $4,000.

In response to a questions, he projected KH will have about $145,000 in the bank at the end of the fiscal year. In response to another questions, he also noted that funds are not invested since current short-term CD interest rates are low, and we would not have needed liquidity with longer-term investments.

Lila Hanft commended outgoing treasurers Bruce and Catherine Fallick for making budget information understandable and clear so that board members could get accurate “snapshots” of KH’s financial situation.

Values Teams Reports:

Spiritual – Bill Scher-Marcus

The religious practices committee has been restructured to allow for greater participation and fewer meetings. The second Shabbat morning service is running smoothly with volunteer leaders.

Meditation has shifted to Shabbat morning or afternoon at Ratner on third and fourth Shabbat.

The size of the holiday committee, chaired by Amy Hogg and Adina Davidson, has doubled, and community meetings were held to determine what members would like holiday celebrations to include.
There has been greater community preparedness concerning security through engagement with Federation.

**Informed and Involved – Karly Whitaker**

KH involvement with Greater Congregations continues to be significant and meaningful. GCC’s new lead organizer attended services in May to start discussion around a new Jobs Initiative. Other involvement has been on gun control, criminal justice reform and police accountability campaigns. KHL members also attended a fundraising workshop presented by GCC.

Other projects during the year included food collection for AIDS Taskforce, Mazon and HIAS on Yom Kippur; house meetings discussing refugee support; Operation Warm up clothes collections; an interfaith seder with Elizabeth Baptist Church and Human Rights Shabbat.

**Democratic and Socially Responsible—David Conn**

A great deal of thinking and effort has gone into “relanguaging” community conversations about finances in order to nurture a culture of broad-based member giving from a place of emotional investment and belonging rather than treating the topic as either a taboo or the domain of only a handful of members. Our “suite” of fundraising program will be under continual review to ensure effectiveness and a suitable return.

The fall fundraising campaign raised pledges of $33,134, close to original goal of $35,000. Several anonymous member families provided a total of $16,000 in matching challenge grants.

The Purim Mishloach Manot Exchange was successful, thanks to Bill Scher-Marcus and the Kol HaLev Men’s Group, and a procedures and practices guide has been developed for use in future years.

**Learning – Glenda Kupersmith (Sue Pelleg reporting)**

Youth and intergenerational education programs have gone well, helped by funding from the Congregational Enrichment Fund of the JECC. The theme for this year was Embracing the Mosaic. Hagigah held a retreat at Hiram House Camp, and we have a new prayer text and a Hebrew computer program to reinforce prayer skills. Both Zorim and Bonim had social programs outside of Hagigah.

In the coming year, KH will launch a new high school program that will be run by Itamar Meromi, a teen ambassador from Shinshinim. We also will have a scholar-in-residence, Matt Bar, who does Bible Raps.

**Participatory – Miriam Geronimus**

The women’s group held a number of successful Shabbat dinners and Sunday brunches.

The Leadership Taskforce is continuing its work. Two sessions were held for members to share volunteering experiences, and committee is analyzing this information. Future community meetings are planned.

There have been 22 new members since last June, and there has been a focus in membership this year has been integrating new members, including a new buddy system.

**Welcoming and Caring – Lila Hanft**

There have been improvements in internal communications, calendaring and caring. KH is now using Google Calendar, as a result of work done by Itzik Kitilla, which has made maintaining an accurate, consistent calendar much easier, particularly in terms of the newsletter calendar. An administrative calendar is being developed which should be helpful to committee chairs and others.

The Hesed system, managed by Martha Schubert and Robin Holzman, of monthly coordinators has been successful, with members in need receiving meals, rides and cards. The Hesed committee is also evaluating the use of the Helping Hands website. Several recipients of Hesed assistance have donated to create a Hesed Fund which will be used on the rare occasions when members cannot provide volunteer services.

A new project, Kol HaLev Connects, uses Google group as an online way for members to informally share information that is not appropriate for the update or the Facebook page. It currently has 30 members.

**Adult Education—Halle Barnett reporting for Leah Kamionkowski**

The year’s programming included ongoing Torah study on Saturday mornings, a series on Jews and Music, a series on The Ethics of Community and Belonging, three Lunch and Learn programs on Exploring Shabbat, a three-part Reconstructionism 101, and presentations on The Violins of Hope and Horses and Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

**Nominating Committee report – Election of New Officers and Board Members:**

Halle acknowledged members of the Nominating Committee (Catherine Fallick, Sue Pelleg, Bellamy Printz, Rachel Armin Williams and Leah Kamionkowski) for their hard work in putting together the new slate of officers.
Catherine Fallick, who co-chaired the committee with Sue Pelleg, presented the slate as follows:

**Slate of Officers and Board Members (*VTL = Values Team Leader):**

- President: Karly Whitaker for first year of two-year term
- Vice President: Mattuck Meacham for first year of two-year term
- Secretary: Deena Epstein for first year of two-year term
- Treasurer: David Conn for first year of two-year term
- Immediate Past President: Halle Barnett for first year of two-year term
- VTL Democratic and Fiscally Responsible: Mattuck Meacham for first year of two-year term
- VTL, Learning: Bill Scher-Marcus for first year of two-year term
- VTL, Participatory: Maureen Dinner for first year of two-year term
- VTL, Welcoming and Caring: Lila Hanft for second year of two-year term
- Members at Large –
  - Louise Elkind for second year of two-year term
  - Celia Jennings for first year of second two-year term
  - Nurete Brenner, replacing Kirby Date for second year of two-year term
  - Robin Holzman, for first year of two-year term
  - Art Biagianti, for first year of two-year term

**Ex Officio Board Members:**

- Founding Rabbi—Rabbi Jeffrey Schein
- Rabbi Steve Segar
- Education Director – Robyn Novick

Nancy Dudwick moved to accept the slate of nominations for the 2016/2017 Board and Louise Elkind seconded the motion. The motion carried by acclamation.

**Installation of Board of Trustees:**

Rabbi Steve invited all new and continuing members of the board to the Bimah. Members of the community read the communal charge to the new board. The board read the new board commitment, and the congregation read the blessing for the new board and sang the Shehecheyanu.

**Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board Members:**

Halle Barnett expressed gratitude for the many contributions made by the outgoing Board. Gifts were handed out to those members who will no longer be on the Board, Margaret Cohen (present), Molly Berger and Liz Meachum. (not present).

**Remarks by new president: Karly Whitaker**

Karly began by thanking Halle for her dedicated service as Board President and presented her with a gift. She thanked the community for its support over the past year after losing Steven and noted it was an honor to be able to serve as president.

The meeting concluded with a closing song led by Rabbi Steve.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m. Sue Pelleg moved to adjourn and Aurelia Pelsmajer seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Deena Epstein, Secretary
Todah Rabah! THANK YOU! to our wonderful madrichim (educational guides)!

Zorim (K–grade 2)
Traci Elgart
Nancy Rubel
Renee Siegel

Bonim (grades 3-5)
Benjamin Barnett
Sara Prentice Manela
Elana Satin
Jonathan Wilhelm

Magshimim (grades 6-8)
Kelvin Arthur
Maxine Collin
Larry Solomon
Margy Weinberg

Chalutzim (High School)
Mark Davidson
Itamar Meromi

Tot Shabbat
Andy Oster
Ben Seligman

Mazel Tov to our high school graduates! Blessings on the next steps of their journeys!

Eve Barnett – Washington University in St. Louis
Hadas Marcus – The Ohio State University
Lila Miller – College of Wooster
Will Raddock - University of Vermont
Sascha Roberts – DePaul University
Max Schubert – Colorado College
Gabe Sugerman – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Gilda Weinstock – Willamette University
Jewish Reconstructionist Communities (JRC) is partnering with IsraelExperts to offer an Israel trip open to all members of Reconstructionist communities in March 2018. IsraelExperts is a leader in designing Israel itineraries that are not your typical “Disneyland” trip to Israel. They’ve proposed an itinerary for us that emphasizes art, music, and politics, taking us off the beaten path and into face-to-face conversations with Jewish-Israelis and Palestinian-Israelis, including musicians, educators, activists, journalists, and politicians.

After floating the prospective itinerary we received to a half-dozen of our affiliates, we already have 7 people strongly interested in going, and we only need to reach a minimum of 20 participants for the trip to be a go. A PDF of the proposed itinerary can be found at https://goo.gl/OPXVWg. Pricing (excluding airfare) is on the last 2 pages. The itinerary is not finalized, so please think of it as a work in progress, and please feel free to share thoughts or feedback as well.

If you are interested in the trip, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P9NSXH2 and answer a few short questions so we can keep you posted. You’re also welcome to contact me, Maurice Harris, in the Department of Affiliate Support, at mharris@rrc.edu or 215-576-0800 x.118.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Jun 4</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting and Potluck at the Ratner School</strong>. Note: In a departure from tradition, we will not read the minutes from last year’s meeting aloud. If you’d like to read them ahead of time, they’re printed on pp. 11-13. Potluck: The dishes 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. A-H - Appetizer or Salad  I-P - Dessert or Drink  Q-Z – Main Dish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Jun 5</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Jun 10</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Member Led Shabbat Service at the Ratner School; Behaalotecha</strong>; Leader: Jane Arnoff-Logsdon; Kiddush sponsor: a.m.y and Jack Brodsky in honor of Kyle and Tyler’s birthdays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Jun 12</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting at the home of Deena Epstein</strong>. All members are welcome to attend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Jun 14</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Adult Education Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Jun 17</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Service at the Ratner School; Shelach</strong>; Co-leaders: Rabbi Steve and Connie Friedman; Kiddush sponsors: To be determined</td>
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<td>1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Mindful Jewish Practice at the Ratner School</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Jun 18</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Practices Working Group</strong>. Contact Connie Friedman for more info.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Jun 22</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Book Club Meeting at the home of Anna Kelman</strong>. The book is: <em>All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir</em> by Shulem Deen. More information on page 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Jun 23</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat in the Garden at the home of Julio and Aurelia Pelsmajer</strong>. Kiddush Sponsors: Mario and Roberta Tonti and the Pelsmajers. Potluck information: The dishes 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. A-H - Appetizer or Salad  I-P - Dessert or Drink  Q-Z – Main Dish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Jun 24</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Mindful Jewish Practice at the Ratner School</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Musical Shabbat Service at the Ratner School; Korach</strong>; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve and member musicians. Kiddush sponsor: Maureen Dinner.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>No’ar Hadash Gladiator’s Game</strong>. Contact Robyn Novick for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Jun 25</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Womens Brunch</strong>. For more information, contact Happy Wallach.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To sign up to **host a kiddush**, go to [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev5](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev5)

To sign up to **be a greeter**, go to [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev4](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev4)

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.