Kol HaLev is ushering in the Pesach season with some intrigue on the plate: We’re putting the Exodus’ central character on trial! The biblical Moses will be charged for his role in the slaying of the Egyptians’ first-born sons in “The People vs. Moses”, a theatrical mock trial and interfaith panel discussion, Sunday, April 17, 7:30 p.m., 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.

"The People vs Moses” is the fifth in Kol HaLev’s series of innovative, entertaining and educational events that uses some of the most challenging stories in the Bible as the basis for exploring new perspectives on contemporary issues. With the audience as jury, and a cast of professional all-stars from the legal, religious and academic worlds, the drama is high, the discussion is electric, and the insights are fresh and relevant.

From a Reconstructionist point of view, putting our biblical heroes on trial is an apt endeavor. Questioning their actions through the lens of our modern legal, ethical, and social understanding helps us better grapple with what occurred, and more directly gauge their value and relevance for us in modern times.

This year’s trial asks: Were the deaths of thousands of Egyptians worth the price of the Hebrews’ freedom? And to what extent can Moses himself be held responsible for such a massive tragedy?

As is our tradition, the jury is our audience! Attendees are participants in the proceedings and responsible for rendering a verdict to decide Moses’ fate.

While the jury’s ballots are tallied, the format changes from courtroom to conversation, in which some of our community’s most engaging religious and academic minds wrestle with the challenging social and ethical implications enmeshed in this formative tale, still intensely relevant in our own times.

Over the past four trials, we have had the pleasure of continued on page 6
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
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APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MARCH 15

MARCH 2016  Page 2  Kol HaLev Happenings
MORAL COMPLEXITY (BEYOND "THEY TRIED TO KILL US; WE SURVIVED")

I’m imagining that many of you have heard the (only partially) facetious one line thematic description that is purported to apply to almost any Jewish holiday that goes something like, “they tried to kill us; we survived; let’s eat!” While on the surface, this formula does seem to trace the broad contours of many of the stories that anchor many Jewish holidays, there are some serious problems with taking this approach to the holidays with any level of seriousness. The first is that it implicitly denigrates the time-honored Jewish conviction that there is always something new to learn from every important story, no matter how many times we have heard it before, and the ritualized retelling of these stories that is so much more than just a prelude to a meal. And the second is that the facile, “us versus them” dichotomy on which this approach relies dissipates as soon as one digs just a little more deeply into the details of just about any of the holiday narratives.

For example, while many of us learned about Hanukkah as the story of Jewish rebellion against Syrian-Greek cultural oppression, it turns out that Hanukkah is more accurately characterized as an intra-Jewish struggle between the pro-assimilationist camp based in Jerusalem and led by the priests, and the radical rejectionist faction based in the countryside and led by the Maccabees; two groups of Jews vying for the right to define what the next stage of Jewish life would look like. Similarly, we are very familiar with the Purim story in which the Persian royal leadership, and especially He Who Should Not Be Named (until the Megillah reading), meticulously and mercilessly went about planning the destruction of the Persian Jewish community in a way that's chillingly evocative of every anti-Semitic demagogue who has existed before or since. One important detail in the Purim story which we tend to overlook, however, appears in a line towards the end of the Megillah describing the massacre which the Persian Jews end up perpetrating on tens of thousands of non-Jewish Persians, ostensibly in retaliation for non-Jewish Persians' plans to make the most of Haman’s permission to massacre the Jews. It's worth noting that the Megilla provides no concrete evidence that these Persians were prepared to go through with their plans once Haman and his sons had been discredited and taken out of the picture. I'm not saying that Haman wasn't evil; I'm just suggesting that within Jewish texts, narratives tend to be less black and white than we take them to be.

Perhaps the ultimate example of this dynamic can be found in the Exodus narrative enshrined in the celebration of Passover. Here we have an arch-villain, Pharaoh, who relentlessly seeks to impose his draconian will on the Israelite slaves until God intervenes with the help of Moses and Aaron, and saves the day. One of the most dramatic parts of the Passover seder meal is the recitation of the ten plagues which afflicted all of Egypt when Pharoah refuses Moses’ request to allow the slaves to take a three day holiday in the wilderness in order to reconnect with their ancestral God. That list, of course, culminates with the tenth plague in which the first born male in every Egyptian household falls victim to the Angel of Death.

We, and the Jewish tradition in general, tend to see this story in fairly straight-forward terms, involving the unjust oppression of the Israelite slaves, and well-deserved punishment for Pharaoh and the Egyptians for the refusal to change their ways. However, we don’t often stop to consider the fact it is only Pharaoh, and to lesser extent, his advisors, who clings to his oppressive policies, not the relatively powerless Egyptian populace which also loses its first-born sons.

continued on page 4
It is with much excitement that I share that we were just awarded a “PJ Goes To School” Grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the wonderful people who support the PJ Library program. This grant provides books appropriate for Zorim (Kindergarten – grade 2) educational instruction and mentorship. Our particular grant is a joint venture of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Grinspoon Foundation, as the educational piece is uniquely Reconstructionist.

This program is perfect for our community! We have a strong emphasis on using literature to teach values, as well as utilize experiential elements to reinforce the concepts that we are learning. I believe that we, both Hagiga and PJ Library, are looking for the same outcome: moving learning into living. As the PJ Library website explains:

PJ Goes to School (PJGtS) is a companion program to PJ Library to enhance the Jewish content of classrooms. It works to strengthen the connection between home, school, and community by fostering collaboration and conversation the same way PJ Library inspires dialogue in the home.

PJGtS is in approximately 500 classrooms in 20 PJ Library communities and growing. The program works with both preschool classrooms and complementary schools for kindergarten to second grade.

PJ Goes to School is not a curriculum, and it is not prescriptive:
• We use, at our core, the creativity and spirit of each teacher.
• We weave Jewish values throughout each school's existing programs.
• We support schools as they inspire Jewish conversations in the classroom and in the home.

As each week of Hagiga is a unique and self-contained program, each meeting can utilize a new book from our growing collection. I have the great fortune to participate in an educational webinar series with nationally-renown educators, as well as eight other Reconstructionist educators participating in the program. It is truly chevruta (traditional small group learning) in which we can learn and work collaboratively with people all over North America.

This month the Zorim will read and discuss the first of our PJ Goes to Shul books, The Mitten String by Jennifer Rosner. It is a lovely book that discusses the values of Love Your Neighbor as Yourself, Hospitality, and Not Curing the Deaf, nor Placing a Stumbling Block before the Blind. It should be a wonderful lesson about how we treat others and Embrace the Mosaic.

Kol Tuv,
Robyn

RABBINIC CORNER, continued from page 3

From this perspective, it is natural to question whether the plagues -- punishments afflicting the entire Egyptian population -- is in fact morally justifiable. The fact that apparently innocent Egyptians were forced to suffer in this way significantly complicates the moral voice of the narrative.

It is my intention and hope to further explore this and similar questions at our pre-trial adult education session on Wednesday evening April 6 and we can all look forward to this argument being brought to life at the mock trial, The People vs. Moses, on April 17.

Rabbi Steve
We send wishes for a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy healing, to Abe Chasin, Fred and Marsha Chenin, Margaret Cohen, Adina Davidson, Selma Gwatkin, Dick Jones, Ron Kohn, Ben Lewis, Marilyn Litvene, Julio and Aurelia Pelsmajor, 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 Molly Berger for serving as the February Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members cooked and delivered meals, provided rides, sent cards and attended shiva minyanim.

Can We Count on You?

The work of the Hesed committee depends on the willingness of community members to say “YES” when requests for support go out. We almost always are able to be there for one another. Unfortunately, right now we are looking for more of you to be involved in order to support one another in a sustaining way. We are looking for:

- **Monthly Co-ordinators.** This role changes from month to month, depending on the particular needs of our members. In general, it usually involves a few hours of one’s time. Martha and Robin are always available to help out when needed.
- **Cooking Party Co-ordinator(s).** The board authorized a Hesed Fund to receive donations, and we hope to use these funds to prepare meals to be ready when emergency situations come up and there isn’t time for member-prepared meals. We have had a good response to previous requests for volunteers, but we are still looking for a couple of people to step forward to coordinate this event.
- **Shiva Volunteers.** We would love to see a larger pool of people who are committed to attending shiva minyanim. Often these take place with little time to rearrange schedules. The more people we have in the pool will the likelier it is that we will have a minyan for this vital support for our mourners.

If you are able to help in these specific ways or would like to talk with us about getting more involved in Hesed support, please be in touch with Robin or Martha. We are always happy to hear your thoughts and answer your questions.

Thank you so much for all you do to help create a wonderful, caring community.

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.
witnessing gifted legal talent argue against and defend the actions of King David, Eve, Abraham, and Joseph’s Brothers. This year’s legal talent is truly exceptional. A hearty welcome back to Steven Dettelbach, partner at the law firm BakerHostetler and former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, who will reprise his role as Prosecuting Attorney. Defense counsel for Moses is Charna Sherman, President, Charna E. Sherman Law Offices. We look forward to their vigorous argumentation before The Honorable Michael J. Ryan, Juvenile Court Judge for Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, whom we’re pleased to welcome as our Presiding Judge.

Our legal team brings interesting and diverse perspectives to their roles. Judge Ryan’s recently published autobiography, *The Least Likely*, chronicles how a child born to a 14-year-old mother and whose father went to prison overcame those circumstances through a commitment to education and perseverance and became a judge. Charna Sherman is recognized nationally as an advocate for breaking down the barriers women have faced in the legal profession, and recently founded the "Ruby Shoes Fund" to support new initiatives to empower women to succeed in the profession. Steven Dettelbach recently returned to his position as a partner at BakerHostetler after serving for almost seven years as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. Among Dettelbach’s major achievements as U.S. Attorney are the successful political corruption prosecutions of Jimmy Dimora and other former county officials, and negotiating a settlement with the City of Cleveland over police use of excessive force.

“I expect to see the sparks flying at this year’s trial with Dettelbach and Sherman as opposing counsel” says Kol HaLev member Alan Weinstein, who serves as the mock trial committee’s liaison with both Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and the event’s legal cast members, helping formulate the charges and instructions to the jury.

The notion of religion as a tool of, or excuse for, violence comes into sharp relief when reflecting on the story of the Exodus from Egypt. We live in a world in which horrific acts done in the name of God and religion are tragically common. While our mock trials have always highlighted our shared humanity, it has never been more important to use this forum to foster deeper understanding, connection and common ground between people across religions and beliefs.

We have chosen our panelists with this opportunity in mind. They are: The Reverend Richard M. Gibson, Pastor, Elizabeth Baptist Church; Natalie Kertes Weaver, Ph.D, Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Ursuline College; and Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Ph.D, Director, Department of Multifaith Studies and Initiatives and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. All three have done formidable work at the intersection of religion, violence and social justice.

Our theatrical format, combined with the audience participation and rousing interfaith dialogue, has served Kol HaLev well in introducing the creativity and nuanced perspectives of Reconstructionist Judaism to a diverse local audience. And as a fundraising event, it has provided substantial new means to help with the costs of operating Kol HaLev.

Our success would not be possible without support from our generous sponsors: The Leon and Gloria Plevin Fund; Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; Reminger Co., LPA; The Laura & Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve Uni-

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!

continued on page 7
THE PEOPLE VS. MOSES. continued from page 6

versity; Ursuline College Department of Theological and Pastoral Studies; J.A.C. Business Communications Inc.; and media sponsors 90.3 WCPN / ideastream® and The Cleveland Jewish News. We applaud and thank them all for modeling this community-building behavior.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available: To inquire about the benefits of promoting your business or organization before this diverse, sophisticated audience, please contact Greg Selker at 216-593-0400.

Tickets for “The People vs. Moses” are on sale NOW. Purchase online at www.kolhalev.net/trial, or use the order form in this newsletter and mail in your order. Tickets are $30 - $125; top ticket price includes seats close to the action, and a private catered hors d’oeuvres reception with the cast, immediately before the trial. Discounted tickets for students are available (students only, ID required). Continuing Legal Education credits (CLEs) are pending for attending attorneys through CSU’s Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

Please bring your friends and colleagues and join us for what promises to be a fun and transformative evening! Your participation is what makes it truly special.

MORE OF OUR MOCK TRIALS

For a taste of our past four enthralling mock trials, you can listen to audio recordings, thanks to our partnership with ideastream®, who also rebroadcasts our mock trials on 90.3 WCPN several weeks after the live events. Access the audio recordings on the Kol HaLev website at kolhalev.net/people-vs-mock-trials.)

BEFORE THE TRIAL: APRIL 6 ADULT EDUCATION SESSION

But wait — there’s more! To help us all prepare our minds and whet our appetites for the trial event, Rabbi Steve Segar will lead an adult education session on Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Siegal College’s Beachwood building, 26500 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood.

Free of charge and open to the community, the education session will focus on the range of ways Pharoah and the Egyptians have been portrayed in Jewish texts.

“The Exodus story is typically told from the solitary perspective of the Jewish people’s experience of enslavement and redemption,” says Rabbi Steve. “Pharaoh and the Egyptians are portrayed as ‘the bad guys’. Our texts and traditions often frame groups and individuals labeled as ‘enemies’ in a very black and white way; but of course there are always other sides to the story. On April 6, we’ll look at finding the humanity in our supposed enemies, to help us view the story and its characters in a more holistic way.”
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 courtroom 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!

*Sparing: 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

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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!
FROM OUR PRESIDENT

WE ARE ALL “THE LEADERSHIP”
Balancing Personal and Community Needs with Integrity

I just have to tell you how excited I am by the work our Leadership Task Force is doing.

The Leadership Task Force (LTF) was originally developed to help discern areas of Kol HaLev “business” for which our members could take more responsibility, specifically in order to give Rabbi Steve much-needed relief from administrative overload, allow him to focus on the initiatives most essential to realizing our community vision, and best afford him opportunities to develop as our spiritual leader and provide spiritual guidance to the membership.

I’m quite confident those delightful ideals will be an outcome of the LTF’s work. And – through a focused, energizing, positive process that incorporates qualitative and quantitative input from the membership, the LTF has taken the charge to a significantly more strategic level as well. It is looking at how we function as a community intentionally created and sustained by volunteerism, and identifying the areas in which we need clarity, structure and improved communication in order to retain and grow our communal sense of self-determination.

There are four related areas of focus for the LTF:

1. Volunteerism, Engagement, Motivation, Participation, Acknowledgement
2. Training, Development, Mentoring, Coaching
3. Process, Structure, Communication, Inter-Intra collaboration, Governance
4. Leadership Identification and Ladder, Succession Planning, Pathways to Participation

As a community, we do SO much. At the end of the day, HOW we do it all is at least as important as what we do.

Last month I talked about how helpful – and wise – it is to act on purpose at each phase of meeting goals, personal (like wanting to lose weight) and communal (like creating a responsible budget or planning the High Holy Days for maximal member satisfaction and minimal administrative stress). The work of the LTF takes that purposefulness to heart, and asks, in planning all the “what” that we do, how can Kol HaLev be most relevant, realistic, and sustainable, all the while focused on our relationships with each other (truly our most valuable assets)?

The LTF conversations, with community members and within the Task Force, have gotten me thinking about how we each perceive our roles in the community. Formal roles, yes – our jobs in positions of leadership, and how we mentor others to succeed us – but on a simple level, how we all hold each other’s hands to be the best intentional group we can be!

Each of us has a role to play. From breaking bread to managing finances and everything in between, each role is important. Each person’s energy and actions creates who we are as a group. “Showing up” as a representative of Kol HaLev in the way we collectively agree we want to be together sustains us in practical and deeply spiritual ways. (The opposite is true as well, of course, and each action or bit of energy counter to our zeitgeist has the potential to pull us away from our wholeness and integrity.)

When the fruits of the LTF are pluck-able, there will be clearer pathways to impacting community success for each person, each task, each role. Every member will be more fully enabled and more effectively supported to putting their energies toward those things that excite them which we agree as a community to prioritize, ultimately providing

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for a healthy, sustainable Kol HaLev. Improvement in these four key area has the potential to deepen our connections to each other as well as expand the possibilities inherent for us all, collectively and individually, including for Rabbi Steve’s personal experience as our spiritual leader.

But indeed there is no waiting! There has always been exceptional evidence (made clear again in the recent community conversations led by the LTF) that the way members “show up” in their roles every day is powerfully creative of this experience we call Kol HaLev. And as such, we are evolving as we ought. (I have a very wise friend named Lina who is phenomenal at stepping back and seeing ‘the big picture’. When someone describes a consequential, complicated new life experience they are having to Lina, one for which they may not feel prepared but which is apt for their age or stage, Lina often smiles and simply says, “you’re right on time.”)

I invite you now to consider YOUR role in Kol HaLev as it is today: What is your “job description”? There is no right answer here, except to say that I hope what you discover in asking yourself that question is something that makes you feel both personally fulfilled AND responsible for participating in enabling that kind of experience for your fellow members. But I do invite you to write that “job description” down, and think about how you show up with the kind of integrity of purpose that affords you that personal fulfillment and enables you to contribute to the community’s success in a balanced way.

With that in mind, please look forward to receiving an invitation, coming soon, to provide the LTF with more input. And consider as well what it might feel like to change or amplify your job descriptions to include more in-depth engagement in co-creating Kol HaLev. What would you, could you do that would make your experience and others’ even more exceptional?

As Reconstructionists, we’re often asked by those who do not know about Reconstructionism to define what it is, and how it is different from other denominations. Rather than provide an “official” definition, I like to share what I’m experiencing as a member of Kol HaLev. What turns each of us on as members is what’s most likely to resonate with others as a differentiator.

I’d like to share a snippet of something I wrote a few years ago as part of a formal study of the Kol HaLev “brand”:

> Every aspect of Kol HaLev is intentionally co-creative. Member participation and engagement are the very building materials of our worship, our commitment to life-long learning, our organizational structure and functions, our opportunity and imperative to repair the world. It is the bond that sanctifies our relationships. There is a palpable joy in getting to make something together that is grounded in tradition and layered with our own evolving processes of being in the world. And we wholeheartedly welcome others who seek to celebrate this gift.

> An honest intimacy is born of the co-creative and process-oriented nature of our community. Our enthusiasm and gratitude for this connection overflows; even people who attend our services or events for the first time feel like a part of the whole.

> We are committed to exploring Jewish life and a relationship with the Divine with dedication, warmth and enthusiasm, and to growing our sense of what it means to be in community. The depth of engagement expected of each member fosters an environment that uniquely empowers each of us to fully become ourselves.

Thank you all for being so present and so forward-thinking at the same time.
Mishloach Manot Exchange

Hamantashen baked by the Kol Halev Men’s Group

Send sweet greetings to other Kol Halev members while supporting our community!

See the attached order form for instructions, pricing and other information.

- Each member or member family will receive one Mishloach Manot bag with a card listing donors
- Mishloach Manot can be picked up at the March 23 Purim service or delivered to your home.

Deadline: March 21

Purim Pajama Party

Megillah reading and an oneg!

A-Q: TREATS and R-Z: DRINKS

At the Ratner School

Wednesday, March 23, 6:45 P.M.

Please bring Matanot L’evyonim (gifts for the poor!)

Nonperishable food will be collected for the Heights Emergency Food Center

Questions? Please contact Robyn at robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498

Send sweet greetings

To other Kol Halev members while supporting our community!
Be part of the Mitzvot of Purim.

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 Pajama Party on Wed., March 23 at 6:45 p.m., or they can be delivered to your home by Kol HaLev members March 24-25.

Options:

- 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
- You can order baskets for ALL member families for $225 ($1.69 each)
- You can order Mishloach Manot for friends OUTSIDE Kol HaLev for $8.00 each (no delivery option).
- 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 Monday, March 21.
Name: ____________________________________________

☐ I wish to order _______ bags at for non-Kol HaLev friend at $8.00 each $__________

☐ I wish to fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot L’Evyonim with this donation $__________

GRAND TOTAL (Mishloach Manot, Reciprocals & Matanot L’Evyonim) $__________

☐ I will pick up my Mishloach Manot at the Purim Pajama Party on Wed., March 23 OR

☐ I’d like my Mishloach Manot delivered to my home on 3/24 or 3/25

Payment Options:

☐ I’m enclosing a check with this order OR ☐ I have paid online at kolhalev.net/pay_simple

Please select Mishloach Manot recipients below

☐ PLEASE SEND MY BASKETS RANDOMLY (Do not check any names below)

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FALL FUNDRAISER FINAL UPDATE

Today Rabah! The Fall Fundraising Committee and Board of Trustees wish to thank everyone who participated in our Fall Fundraising Campaign!

Just over $33,000 was pledged toward a target of $35,000.

A special thanks goes to the anonymous member families who created the $16,000 “matching challenge” that created a lot of excitement and incentive to donate! Together we exceeded the challenge.

Excluding the matching challenges, we received pledges from 57 families (39% of our membership) and the median donation (i.e. half of individual donations were larger, half smaller) was $150.

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).

SHABBAT LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES CONTINUES

The Adult Education and Membership Committees want to help you make your Shabbat traditions more meaningful in a series of three Lunch and Learn classes with Rabbi Steve which began in February. You need not have gone to the first one to go to the remaining Lunch and Learns, which will meet at 1:30 p.m. (after services and kiddush) at Ratner on Saturday, March 5 and Saturday, April 30. For more information, contact Adina Schoem (aschoem@gmail.com).
Members of Kol HaLev will mark the following yahrzeits during the next month:

- David Jack Herzig—uncle of Barry Epstein
- Freda Shleser Imrey—mother of Peter Imrey
- Jean Manela (Chava Esther)—mother of Aaron Manela
- Lisa Goldstein—mother of Anita Cohn
- George Smith—father of Barbara Truitt
- Ruth W Goodman—stepmother of Bruce Goodman

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).

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Margy Weinberg** in commemoration of yahrzeit of her father, Herman Gordon
- **Anita Cohn** in commemoration of the yahrzeits of her parents, Harry and Lisa Goldstein
- **Anonymous** to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- **Gloria Plevin** for Mock Trial
- **Richard and Jayne Jones** in memory of Louis Perles
- **Richard and Jayne Jones** in honor of Zach Segar's bar mitzvah
- **Anita Cohn** in memory of Louis Perles, Julio Pelsmajer's brother
- **Julio and Aurelia Pelsmajer** in appreciation of the congregation and Rabbi Steve
- **Molly Chenchinsky** in memory of Ellen Deutsch

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 Kol HaLev board met at the home of David Conn on February 8, 2016.

**Treasurer’s Report:**
Treasurer Bruce Fallick reviewed the January 2016 Treasurer’s summary and additional materials. Our net income continues to be lower than this time last year. There was a brief discussion about the considerations for creating a proposed budget for FY ’17. Bruce presented the need to think creatively about ways to raise funds but also cut some costs or there will continue to be a deficit. Bruce presented some possible ways to decrease expenses and asked for board members to send him ideas. The Finance committee will begin their meetings for this budgetary process. Ideas were discussed about ways to inform and gather input from the community.

**Fundraising Campaign update:**
David Conn reported on the Fall Fundraiser. We met the the budgetary projection for this campaign and approximately 40% of pledges have been paid. David shared that this included a Challenge Match donated from some generous member households. The hard work of the Fall Fundraising Committee was also acknowledged.

Plans for the upcoming Mishloah Manot fundraiser, organized by the Men's Group were shared. Suggestions were made about possibly reframing certain endeavors such as Mishloah Manot since it raises funds but is also a mitzvah that can increase a sense of belonging.

**Mock Trial update:**
Board president Halle Barnett and Rabbi Steve presented plans for the April 17, 2016 Mock Trial, The People vs Moses. There has been enthusiasm from the legal team and panelists, especially Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Ph.D. from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, an expert in interfaith dialogue. A number of details continue to be worked out. Outreach is being made to different groups and it is hoped that the subject and panelists will draw in more people from different faith communities. Also on April 17, Education director, Robyn Novick will be representing Kol HaLev at a JECC community-wide J Discovery event, but this commitment will not interfere with the Trial.

**New Office Lease:**
Halle announced that a new five-year office lease was signed. The negotiating process with the landlord was positive and should foster a mutually supportive relationship.

**Authorization of Nominating Committee:**
Halle reviewed the criteria for the Board Nominating committee as per the bylaws, and shared that an ideal committee would be comprised of people with broad and deep knowledge of the membership and of the Kol HaLev culture, have a understanding of the responsibilities of Kol HaLev governance, or both. A motion was approved for a nominating committee co-chaired by Catherine Fallick and Sue Peleg with Leah Kamionkowski, Bellamy Printz and Rachel Williams as members.

Halle noted that the bylaws permit the president to attend committee meetings as a non-voting member. She will participate to help inform strategy in a year in which we have an unusually high number of positions whose leadership will change.

**By-Laws update:**
The limited review of the bylaws focusing on provisions that affect board composition, election and service will begin. The committee, comprised of Molly Berger, Happy Wallach, Karly Whitaker, and Halle Barnett, will meet and bring a first read of any recommended revisions to the March board meeting.

*continued on page 18*
Rabbi’s Contract Negotiation
Rabbi Steve’s contract ends June 30, 2016 and a renewal contract will need to be negotiated. Care was taken to express the need for fiscal responsibility in formulating a new agreement, providing periodic opportunities for evaluation quite separate from any negotiations. A motion was passed to authorize the negotiation of a new contract for Rabbi Steve by a committee appointed by executive committee.

Federation Community Relations Council:
Rabbi Steve shared that he has been asked to represent Kol HaLev and serve on the Jewish Federation Community Relations Council. This 70-member council, comprised of ethnic groups and community organizations, works together to advocate for needs of the larger community. Rabbi Steve clarified to the Federation that the Reconstructionist Movement perspective may differ on some key reasons such as the viewpoint on Israel, but was assured that the council wanted to broaden their scope.

Participation Values Team Report:
VTL Miriam Geronimus provided an overview of the varied components of the Participation Values Team in the past year. There are 18 members or 15 household units who have joined this past year. This new group of members is demographically diverse with a variety of interests. There has been a concerted effort to match these new members with committee members as well as establishing informal personal connections to make people feel welcome.

In addition the membership committee has worked on enhancing the coordination of Kiddushim. This process began by gathering member input through house meetings and informal conversations to revise the model. Familiarizing members with the technology to sign up for Kiddushim and greeting at services is an ongoing process.

The Women’s Shabbat dinners and brunches draw a spirited group of women and have enhanced a sense of belonging. Miriam noted that because of her anticipated departure with Itsik, who heads up membership, there will be a need to mentor and fill these key positions, as this Team is involved in so many important functions that sustain the sense of belonging and behaving in Kol HaLev.

Administrative Coordination:
Board vice-president Karly Whitaker presented the need for Kol HaLev to better operationalize a number of our functions to enhance efficiency and provide better guidelines for lay leadership.

Karly and Welcoming VTL Lila Hanft will be working on developing guidelines for a formal administrative calendar with input from Value Team leaders. Board member Celia Jennings volunteered to assist.

Leadership Training Taskforce update:
Celia reported that the work of the taskforce continues and synthesizing the results has been more time-consuming than anticipated, due in part to the positive response to the Appreciative Inquiry process. Participation has involved input from 50 members representing 40 household units. A quantitative survey to the whole community is also in the works.

Major work areas identified involve need for team building, defining shared values, and mentoring others. The committee will be meeting again and a community session to share results will most likely occur in May.

Announcements:
Kol HaLev will be co-sponsoring the community Yom Haatzmaut celebration on May 12, 2016.

The next Board meeting for Monday, March 14, 2016, 7:30 pm is at the home of Celia Jennings.

Respectfully submitted,
Karal Stern, Secretary
The March meeting will be Thursday, March 17, at the home of Leah Kamionkowski. We will discuss *The Book of Jonah: A Novel* by Joshua Max Feldman. (352 pages, a Kindle version exists). Note that this is the THIRD Thursday of March.

A review from Amazon: (An Amazon Best Book of the Month, February 2014) . . . On the surface, [this novel] is a comedy about a smart, successful guy--a young Manhattan lawyer--who, despite his big-deal job and not-one-but-two wonderful women in love with him, can’t seem to be happy. So far, so annoying, right? But wait: don’t throw the book across the room just yet. The task Feldman has set for himself is to make us understand, even to like, Jonah—and by the time our hero has maneuvered himself out of his glam life (through a half-hearted attempt at corporate whistle-blowing), we’re rooting for him. And then there’s Judith, Jonah’s brainiac counterpart: a young woman orphaned by 9/11, a young woman also seeking solace, albeit in different ways. (Her sections of the novel are so strong you might ask why Feldman didn’t name his debut *The Book of Judith.*) When a chance meeting puts these two lost souls together, they are both forever changed. While it’s based very loosely (mercifully) on the biblical story of the same name, and for all that Jonah’s and Judith’s Jewishness is a factor in the novel, *The Book of Jonah* is more than a religious parable. It’s a universal, timeless tale of loss and the longing for meaning. --Sara Nelson

The April book will be *Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind* by Sarah Wildman.

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) and contact Kevin (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the group’s e-mail list.

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**Register your child for Camp JRF!**

Camp JRF is all about how we “be.” Join other Reconstructionist families and register your child(ren) for a joyful, creative, and inclusive Reconstructionist summer experience. Campers swim, play sports, sing and explore the arts, all while forming lasting friendships and forging their own Jewish identities. Camp JRF is proud to host kids from over 35 Reconstructionist congregations. Register now for Summer 2016 at www.campjrf.org/parents/application. Experience Camp JRF with their new promo video: www.campjrf.org/video.

**Register now for Hevreh Summer Adult Learning July 20-24, 2016**

Celebrate Shabbat and learn with leading Jewish scholars at Hevreh—a spiritual retreat for adult Jewish learners in Waynesboro, PA. For more information and registration, visit www.hevreh.net.

**Save the Date: The Recon Riders Ride Again! September 3-5, 2016**

Are you a cyclist? Are you interested in social and environmental justice? Take hold of your handlebars as the Reconstructionist team, “Recon Riders,” rides again in Hazon’s annual Ride and Retreat, a Shabbaton and supported bike ride through the Berkshires, Hudson Valley, and New York City. All cycling levels welcome! Contact team captains Josh Davidson (Joshua.Harrington.Davidson@gmail.com) or Becca Richman (becca.ilana@gmail.com). For more information, visit http://hazon.org/bike-rides/rideandretreat/about-the-ride/
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.

- http://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.*
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Location/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue., Mar. 1</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>GCC Core Team Meeting. Contact Allen Binstock for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Mar. 2</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Membership Committee Meeting at the home of Happy Wallach. All members welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., Mar. 3</td>
<td>7:00-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>GCC Gun Violence Reduction Team Meeting. Location TBD. Contact Donna Weinberger for more information.</td>
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<td>Sat., Mar. 5</td>
<td>9:15-10:15 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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<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Torah Study in the Ratner Library. Parsha: Vayakhel; Leader: David Shutkin.</td>
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<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hagiga</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: Vayakhel; Service Leaders: Jane Arnoff Logsdon and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Host: Mimi Plevin-Foust and Gloria Plevin.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot-Parent Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.</td>
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<td>1:30-2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch and Learn series on Shabbat in the Ratner Library. What is your family's most meaningful Shabbat tradition? How have Shabbat practices evolved over time? What does it mean to you to be at rest? Rabbi Steve will lead a discussion into the origins of and modern variations on weekly Shabbat traditions across a spectrum of Jewish beliefs. The next session will be on April 30th. To complement the classes, we'll be coordinating several &quot;Shabbat dinner swaps&quot; between volunteer hosts and interested participants. These dinners are meant to help our members better get to know one another, to exchange thoughts on Shabbat, and to share traditions together. If you are interested in being a host or a guest at one of the dinners, or have any questions, please contact Adina Schoem.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 6</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiya at Ratner.</td>
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<td>1:00-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No’ar Hadash Kosher Food Bank Volunteering making Shlakh Manos for Purim.</td>
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<td>Mon., Mar. 7</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Fri., Mar. 11</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No’ar Hadash Dessert Potluck at the home of the Segar/Getz family.</td>
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<td>Sat., Mar. 12</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Member Led Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: Pekudei; Leader: Miriam Geronimus; Kiddush Host: Needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 13</td>
<td>3:00-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Bonim Event - Bowling at Freeway Lanes, 33185 Bainbridge Rd., Solon, OH 44139</td>
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<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Ed: Jewish Folk Music. Adult Education session with Irwin Weinberger. Location TBD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 14</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting at the home of Bruce and Celia Jennings. All members welcome. See weekly update for agenda.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., Mar. 15</td>
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<td><strong>Deadline for the April Kol HaLev Happenings Newsletter</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., Mar. 17</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Book Club Meeting at the home of Leah Kamionkowski. We will discuss The Book of Jonah: A Novel! by Joshua Max Feldman. (352 pages, a Kindle version exists). <strong>Note that this is the THIRD Thursday of March.</strong> All KHL members are welcome to attend these meetings. For more information about the group including a calendar of the book selections for this year, look at our web page <a href="http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group">www.kolhalev.net/book_group</a> and contact Kevin Weidenbaum (<a href="mailto:KJW@oberlin.net">KJW@oberlin.net</a>) to be added to the group’s e-mail list.</td>
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<td>Sat., Mar. 19</td>
<td>9:15-10:15 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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<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: Vayikra; Service Leaders: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Host: David and Erica Steinweg, and Larry and Jodilyn Solomon in honor of Jennie and CJ becoming parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot-Parent Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.</td>
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**CALeNDAR**

We try to make this calendar as accurate as possible, but last-minute additions, cancellations and venue changes DO sometimes occur. To ensure you have the most up-to-date information, check your email for the most recent Weekly Update or visit the calendar on the Kol HaLev website.

### March 2016

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 20</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Nesiyah at Ratner.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Mar. 23</td>
<td>6:45-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Erev Purim Service</strong> at Ratner. Dessert potluck to follow. Kiddush host: <strong>Needed.</strong> 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. <strong>A-Q treats and R-Z drinks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Mar. 25</td>
<td>6:00-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck</strong> at Ratner. Service Leader: Rabbi Steve and member musicians. Kiddush Sponsor: Irwin Weinberger. 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. <strong>A-H - Appetizer or Salad; I-P - Dessert or Drink; Q-Z – Main Dish</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 26</td>
<td>9:30-10:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Mindful Jewish Practice</strong> in the Ratner Library. 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 26</td>
<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Musical Shabbat Service</strong> in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: <strong>Tsav</strong>; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Sponsor: Irwin Weinberger and Leah Kamionkowski.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 27</td>
<td>10:00-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NO NESIYA - SPRING BREAK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Apr. 2</td>
<td>10:00-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Bar Mitzvah of Zach Segar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Apr. 6</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Pre-Trial Adult Ed with Rabbi Steve.</strong> See page 7 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Apr. 16</td>
<td>1:00-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>“Because I said I would” program.</strong> See page 20 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Apr. 17</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>The People vs. Moses.</strong> Details on page 8. Order tickets at kolhalev.net/trial.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To sign up to host a kiddush, click [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2)

To sign up to be a greeter, click [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev3](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev3)
Kol HaLev Happenings
The Newsletter of Cleveland’s Reconstructionist Jewish Community

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Visit our website at http://www.kolhalev.net