MEET DEB SENOR, KOL HALEV’S NEW OFFICE MANAGER

by Ellen Harris

When Deb Senor, the new office manager of Kol Halev, was interviewing for the job a few months ago, she knew very little about the congregation and could not recall speaking with any of its members.

To her astonishment, she learned that a lengthy conversation she had had eleven years ago with the late Dr. Maureen Hack, a neonatologist and beloved member of Kol Halev, led to a life-changing decision for a Chicago family.

At the time, Deb was a counselor for an adoption agency placing Ukraine youngsters with American families. One couple she was working with received permission to go to Kiev to adopt a child. By reviewing pictures and documents at the agency there, they had their heart set on adopting a two-year-old boy with a winning smile. To their dismay, the couple learned that he had been born several months early. According to the orphanage’s doctor, he was certain to have severe developmental issues. Enter Deb, who was in constant touch with the family. Although the toddler was small for his age, he was walking, smiling, verbalizing and responding appropriately to his environment. Determined to learn if his adoption could be viable, Deb turned to Google to find an expert on the expected development of low-birth infants. She decided to contact Maureen, an interna-

continued on page 9
DIRECTORY

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

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

RABBI:
Steve Segar
rabbisteve@kolhalev.net

EDUCATION DIRECTOR:
Robyn Novick
robyn@kolhalev.net

OFFICE MANAGER:
Deb Senor
debi@kolhalev.net

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

At-Large Members
Art Biagianti
Kelvin Arthur
Celia Jennings

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:
Rabbi Steve Segar
Founding Rabbi Jeffrey Schein
Education Dir. Robyn Novick

VALUES TEAM LEADERS
Welcoming & Caring Lila Hanft
Spiritual Adina Davidson & Anna Kelman
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 – Alan Federman
• Young Families/Tot Shabbat – Ben Seligman and Andy Oster
• Child Care Coordinator – Traci Elgart
• Book Group – Kevin Weidenbaum
• Lunch and Learn – Alan Federman

Involved Values Team
• GCC – Allen Binstock & Donna Weinberger

Democratic & Fiscally Responsible
• Fundraising – open
• Cemetery – Mike Armin

Participatory Values Team
• Membership – Maureen Dinner
• Greeters – Deb Senor (Office Manager)
• Kiddush – Deb Senor (Office Manager)
• High Holy Days – Marcia Goldberg
• Women’s Group – Happy Wallach

Directly Accountable to the Board
• Finance Committee – Alan Weinstein
• Ratner Liaison – Sara Prentice Manela
• Rabbi Liaison –
• Strategic Planning Committee – Greg Selker
• Nominating Committee – Catherine Fallick
• Security Corps – Bill Scher-Marcus
• Commitment Support Volunteer – Maxine Collin

April Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, March 15
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR OPIOID & ADDICTION AWARENESS SHABBAT ON MARCH 24

While each of the Jewish holidays throughout the year has dimensions of meaning and beauty, there is something about the holiday of Passover that seems to carry a mystique all its own.

Perhaps this is due, in part, to the way our observance of Passover, especially the ritual seder meals at the front end of its seven or eight day duration, is so often intertwined with family stories and lore that form important links across the generations. And perhaps it is due, in part, to the way so many members of the Jewish community seem to intuit that this holy day serves as the spiritual foundation of our entire religious tradition. Its central themes of human liberation and the ever-present possibility of redemptive processes at work in the world seem to feed our souls in a way no other holiday can quite equal. One powerful characteristic of these Passover themes is that they easily and simultaneously find expression in both the larger sphere of human society and the local ecosystems of the individual heart and mind.

This year, as we approach the holiday of Passover, our local Jewish community will be highlighting a major challenge to liberation and redemption in our modern collective life, one that is gaining strength and wreaking havoc in local communities without regard to ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status. That challenge is the growing opioid epidemic, which has hit the state of Ohio and Cuyahoga County especially hard.

For some time the organized Jewish community has been relatively silent about this crisis, as if members of the Jewish community were not among the many of its victims. But through the persistent efforts of several individuals who have been touched by the opioid epidemic in deeply personal and painful ways, Greater Cleveland Board of Rabbis, The Jewish Federation of Cleveland and ten local synagogues, including Kol HaLev, are holding Opioid and Addiction Awareness Shabbats during the last two weeks of March.

We at Kol HaLev will be participating in this communal observance by holding our own Opioid and Addiction Awareness Shabbat on March 24, featuring Sheryl Hirsch, a former member of our community in whose life opioid addiction has caused great personal loss and suffering. She will share the story of how she has channeled the grief of losing her daughter Melissa, (who celebrated her bat mitzvah ceremony at Kol HaLev) into passionate advocacy for the development of effective responses and interventions by our political and civic leaders.

The timing of our Opioid and Addiction Awareness Shabbat could not be more appropriate as we enter the season of liberation. May we draw upon the upcoming spirit of Passover to give us the strength to face the horror of this great challenge, as well as the resolve and inspiration to work towards effective and redemptive responses.

You can read more about Sheryl Hirsch and her story in the Cleveland Jewish News (www.clevelandjewishnews.com/news/local_news/lyndhurst-family-reflects-on-loss-of-daughter-to-build-speaker/article_641dbf5a-9261-11e7-b93a-cf325f2c6822.html)
TU B’SHEVAT CELEBRATION

By Laurel Van Metre, HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Tu B’Shevat is a time to celebrate the birthday of trees and, given the toll on the environment from technology, industry, and consumerism, a good time to think about our individual impact on the environment overall. At our annual Tu B’Shevat seder this year, Kol Halev members took some time to reflect on how we could improve the earth, and make positive impacts on our environments and communities. We began with this quote from Lawrence Kushner;

*When you see something broken, fix it. When you see something that is lost, return it. When you see something that needs to be done, do it. In that way, you will take care of your world and repair creation. If all the people in the world were to do so, our world would truly be a Garden of Eden, the way God meant it to be . . . But, for people to begin the great task of repairing creation, they first must take responsibility.*

Reflecting on these words, our Seder, and our understandings of Tu B’Shevat, members wrote their intentions or wishes for our earth, our community, and ourselves for the year to come. We hung these on an Etz Kavanah, a tree of intention. The tree was displayed at temple, and it fit well into the teachings of Rabbi Schein that weekend. Here are the intentions and wishes written:

- That people are more mindful
- Conserve water! Use rain barrels
- Reach out to others
- Compost
- Be safe so no fires will happen
- Get Trump impeached
- Go outdoors more often and express my gratitude
- Recognizing the beauty of nature—blessings daily
- Use the reusable bags
- Use glass plates
- Cook more, less carry-out food.
- Donate
- Stop. Think before buying
- To always be healthy -Zevin
- Don’t leave a lot of trash-Lyris
- Start to compost
- Stay vegan See Genesis: 1:29
- Turn over the compost pile!
- Buy less stuff, make more
- Erev, may your beauty be respected by all

*I hope that people make crafts out of “trash” instead of throwing it away.*

---

[Images of people enjoying the Tu B’Shevat celebration at Kol HaLev.]
PURIM PARTY PHOTO GALLERY!
We send condolences to Kol HaLev members Halle, Benjamin, Max and Eve Barnett on the recent passing of Halle's father, Fred Eichenbaum, may his memory be for a blessing. May Halle and all of her family find comfort at this time of loss, along with all those in mourning among the Jewish people and the world as a whole.

We send wishes for a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy healing, to The Barnett Family; Anita Cohn; Julie Handler; The Herzenstein Family; Jayne Jones; Ron Kohn; Pauline Raymond; Margy Weinberg and Eda Weiss. We would love to hear from you if you or another Kol HaLev member you know of would like to be included on this list.

Thanks to Nancy Rubel, who was the February Monthly Coordinator. During the month, members provided meals and rides, offered shiva support and sent cards.

If you wish to participate in the work of the Hesed Committee, or if you know of anyone who may need the support of our committee, please contact Rabbi Steve or Robin Holzman (robinholzman@gmail.com) and Martha Schubert (marthaschubert@mac.com), Hesed Co-chairs.

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges these contributions:

- **Elinor Friedman** in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Elinor’s mother, Helen Yosowitz

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

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

- Marvin Abrams – Father of Sue Pelleg
- Aaron Kopstein – Father of Ami Kopstein
- Grace Arthur – Grandmother of Nick Delciappo
- Herman Weinberger (Nehemiah) – Father of Irwin Weinberger
- Carl Cohen – Brother of Margaret Cohen
- Israel Chasin (Israel) – Father of Abraham Chasin
- Henry Binstock – Father of Allen Binstock
- Harry Litwin – Father of Richard Litwin
- Deborah Susan Raddock – Mother of Mike Raddock
- Mollie Schwartz Hochman – Grandmother of Chip May
- Donald Harris – Husband of Ellen Harris
- David Fink – Brother of Judy Harris
- Jack Bass – Father of Toby Trevis
- Nathan Schatz – Father of Selma Gwatkin

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 deb@kolhalev.net.
The board met February 12 at the home of Art Biagianti and provided input to the taskforce exploring an alternative governance structure that would better serve Kol HaLev’s needs.

Board President Karly Whitaker asked board members to answer three questions:
• What is valuable about the current governance structure of KHL that we don't want to lose?
• What part of your role is satisfying? What parts are frustrating?
• How do you feel about how KHL functions organizationally?

Many comments focused on the need for a smaller board that better reflects the size of our community; creating an alternative to the current Values Team Leader structure which is cumbersome and not widely understood; developing more clarity in roles, decision-making and responsibilities; re-instituting a strong committee structure; and respecting and valuing volunteers.

The board also approved the nominating committee which will be chaired by Catherine Fallick and include Halle Barnett, Leah Kamionkowski, Art Biagianti and Rachel Armin-Williams. Karly Whitaker will be ex officio.

Treasurer David Conn reported that although we continue to be in a strong cash position, income is behind this time last year with shortfalls in dues collections, Hagigah tuition and fees from weddings, funerals and b’nai mitzvat.

The next meeting is March 12 at the home of David Conn. All members are welcome to attend.

---

The March meeting is Thursday, March 22, at the home of Leah Kamionkowski. We will discuss *The Ladies Auxiliary* by Tova Mirvis. (336 pages, a Kindle version is available).

A preview from Amazon: When free-spirited Batsheva moves into the close-knit Orthodox community of Memphis, Tennessee, the already precarious relationship between the Ladies Auxiliary and their teenage daughters is shaken to the core. In this extraordinary novel, Tova Mirvis takes us into the fascinating and insular world of the Memphis Orthodox Jews, one ripe with tradition and contradiction. Warm and wise, enchanting and funny, *The Ladies Auxiliary* brilliantly illuminates the timeless struggle between mothers and daughters, family and self, religious freedom and personal revelation, honoring the past and facing the future. An unforgettable story of uncommon atmosphere, profound insight, and winning humor, *The Ladies Auxiliary* is a triumphant work of fiction.

The book for April is *Forest Dark: A Novel* by Nicole Krauss.

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.
NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSIDER SERVING ON KOL HALEV'S BOARD

Do you have skills, passion, and time to share to help guide Kol HaLev and help our community thrive? Kol HaLev's Nominating Committee is at work securing candidates for board positions for the upcoming fiscal year, and invites nominations from our members.

We are looking for people who would enjoy guiding policy decision-making as well as completing the tasks necessary to enact sound decisions. Some positions require certain skills; mentoring is available.

Not quite ready but open to a conversation about future leadership opportunities? We want to hear from you, too!

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 have that conversation about future leadership opportunities, please call Catherine Falllick (catherinefallick@gmail.com); Art Biagianti or Leah Kamionkowski (leah@bepure.com). Editor's note: You're also invited to contact these members by phone, but in the interest of privacy we do not print phone numbers in the newsletter. However, you can find their phone numbers on the members' page of the Kol HaLev website.

PASSOVER SEDER MATCHING

Kol HaLev members who have space at their table for extra guests for the first night of Passover and members who are looking for a seder should contact coordinator Maureen Dinner at Maureendinner@gmail.com.

CRAFT EVENING ON MARCH 21

We are having a craft evening at the home of Anita Cohen on Wed. March 2 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Bring a craft of your choice or a project you are working on and join us for a relaxing evening. Maxine Brand has offered to teach anyone interested to crochet. You are welcome to come even if it is just to catch up with old friends or meet new members. RSVP to Maureendinner@gmail.com.

WE'RE KVELLING OVER . . .

Gloria Plevin: A Life in Art, a show at ARTneo: The Museum of Northeast Ohio Art dedicated to Gloria's work. The program notes say, "Like the breath of memory, the works of Gloria Plevin present a moment gracefully imagined and conscientiously realized in a personal consideration of time." Head over to www.artneo.org/wp/ to read more and preview many of her works.

But don't miss the show -- it runs through April 20 at ARTneo, 1305 W. 80th St, #016, Cleveland, OH 44102. Hours are Wednesday -Saturday: 12:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Hannah at Passover by Gloria Plevin
tionally recognized authority on the subject, and was astonished when the pediatrician herself picked up the phone. After an extensive conversation and many questions, Maureen concluded that the youngster would be a good candidate for the couple.

Fast forward to present day: The youngster is a straight A student, a star hockey player and in excellent health. Deb cherishes a letter the couple recently wrote to her: “We [realize] we were always supposed to have Mason as our son and we simply had to go through a few extra hoops. You wouldn’t let us [give up] and went the extra mile of contacting the clinic [and Maureen, who] gave us a completely different viewpoint which proved to be correct . . . the rest is history.”

Deb eventually left the agency to pursue what at first was a hobby, then morphed into a vocation, and finally a passion: antique dealing. For 40 years she has haunted garage and estate sales, art auctions and other venues to find unique items—including fine china, pottery, paintings, jewelry, and other treasures.

The turning point of her obsession came in 1998 when another antique dealer introduced her to ebay.com. “I was blown away by the huge selection and the speed of the deals,” she recalls. Deb quickly embraced the technology and soon found herself posting her own wares and making a tidy profit.

Her “aha!” moment occurred in 2000 when she paid two dollars for a small but ornately painted ginger jar she found at a rural garage sale. Since it was marked as a piece of Royal Crown Derby china, Deb knew it had a respectable provenance. She posted it on ebay.com and was stunned by the response of avid collectors. The jar turned to be over 100 years old and was quickly snapped up by an Englishman for $11,000!

“It turned out to be a perfect fit,” says Deb, who is 66. “Antique dealing is such a solitary profession…I really wanted a part-time job that involved being with other people but also gave me the time I needed for my own work.”

Although the Cleveland Heights resident acknowledges she is still learning about Reconstructionism, Deb was raised in a Conservative family that has multiple international ties to Israel. Deb’s father had been director of the JOINT (Joint American Joint Distribution Committee) program in Iran, then moved his family to Toronto to head Israel Bonds and later became North American director of the Weizmann Institute of Science. Deb’s brother and brother-in law are the co-authors of the popular 2010 book The Start-up Nation: The Economic Miracle of Israel. One of her sisters is the former head of AIPAC in Israel and now heads a non-profit organization which connects Israeli expertise and technology with business leaders, NGOs and government officials worldwide. Deb has visited Israel several times and travels frequently to New York City to see her son and extended family.

“It was welcomed so warmly by the Kol Halev rabbi and board members,” she says. “I’m delighted to have this opportunity and I’m getting up to speed as fast as I can learning about the congregation’s many programs. Sometimes I go to sleep dreaming about Quickbooks!”
**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Mar. 7</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>YFE Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 10</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Member Led Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel; Parasha: Yayakhel-Pekude; Service Leader: Greg Selker; a Torah discussion led by Greg will take place within service; Kiddush Sponsors: Jack and Amy Brodsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Mar. 10</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Youth Group Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 11</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon</td>
<td>Nesiyah at Beth El the Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave, Cleveland Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 12</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting at the home of David Conn; All members are welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs Mar. 15</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Deadline for the March Kol HaLev Happenings Newsletter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 17</td>
<td>9:15-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Philosophical Inquiry (5th - 7th graders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 17</td>
<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Torah Discussion in Ratner Library led by Rabbi Steve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 17</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel, Vayikra; Service Leaders: Audrey Warner and Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Sponsors: Gillian Weiss and Elliot Posner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 17</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hagiga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 18</td>
<td>10:45-11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Tot-Parent Shabbat Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 18</td>
<td>1:15-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Mindful Jewish Practice in the Ratner Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 18</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiyah at Beth El the Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave, Cleveland Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Mar. 21</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Craft Night. More information on p. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., Mar. 22</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Book Club at the home of Leah Kamionkowski. More info on page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Mar. 23</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck at Ratner. Service Leader: Rabbi Steve and member musicians. The potluck contributions should be vegetarian/dairy or pareve and should not contain nuts. Please bring enough for 8-10. In keeping with our goal of becoming a more sustainable community, we encourage members to bring their own reusable plates, cups, utensils and napkins to our potluck. Kiddush Host: Dorinda Gershmam; Assignments: A-H - Appetizer or Salad; I-P-Dessert or Drink; Q-Z - Main Dish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 24</td>
<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Mindful Jewish Practice in the Ratner Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 24</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Opioid and Addiction Awareness Shabbat Service at Ratner. Kol HaLev is one of 10 Northeast Ohio synagogues participating in this new initiative to bring awareness of the opioid crisis to the Jewish community. This service will feature a special presentation from former Kol HaLev member Sheryl Hirsch who will share the story of how she has channeled the grief of losing her daughter Melissa (who celebrated her batmitzvah ceremony at Kol HaLev) into passionate advocacy for the development of effective responses and interventions by our political and civic leaders. See more information on page 3. Kiddush sponsor needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 25</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bonim Social Event at the Antenucci-Raddock home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 25</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon</td>
<td>Women’s Brunch; Location TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 25</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon</td>
<td>Nesiyah at Beth El the Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave, Cleveland Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Mar. 25</td>
<td>7:30-9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Ed &quot; Embracing Constructive Conflict&quot;; Location TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Mar. 30</td>
<td>7:30-9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>First night of Passover. See page 8 for seder matching, if you need it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Mar. 31</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat/Passover Service at Ratner. Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush sponsor needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Apr. 1</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nesiyah at Beth El the Heights Synagogue, 3246 Desota Ave, Cleveland Heights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**MARCH 2018**

**PAGE 10**

**Kol HaLev Happenings**