JOIN OUR MAY 18 MODEL SEDER WITH ELIZABETH BAPTIST CHURCH

BY RABBI STEVE SEGAR

Often in the liberal Jewish world, we refer to the evolution of Jewish beliefs and practices. And, while it is rarely made explicit, people tend to assume that by “evolution” we mean the relinquishing of certain traditions which don’t speak to modern Jews in the same way they spoke to our ancestors. For example, much of the modern Jewish world has moved toward observing just one day of holidays such as Passover or Sukkot, rather than the traditional two days.

Occasionally, additions are made to Jewish practice, continued on page 3

Please share in my joy as my son

NOAH ROBERT FRAZIER

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

Saturday May 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Light kiddush lunch following service

All are welcome!

For planning purposes

RSVPs are required by May 8

to noahmitzvah16@gmail.com

Nancy Frazier

Please share in our joy as our daughter

ALICE RAE SCHUBERT

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat in the Park - North Chagrin Reservation, River Grove, Buckeye Shelter

Kiddush luncheon following service

RSVP by May 12 to

marthaschubert@mac.com

Dave and Martha Schubert
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: Kelli Birch
kelli@kolhalev.net

Officers:
President Halle Barnett
Vice President Karly Whitaker
Secretary Karal Stern
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Spiritual Bill Scher-Marcus
Learning Leah Kamionkowski & Glenda Kupersmith
Involved Karly Whitaker
Fiscally Sustainable David Conn
Participatory Miriam Geronimus

Committees and Chairs, by Values Team

Welcoming & Caring Values Team
- Hesed – Robin Holzman & Martha Schubert
- Calendar - Itsik Kittila & Kelli Birch
- Newsletter – Lila Hanft
- Proofreaders – David Roberts, Itsik Kittila
- Weekly Update – Robin Holzman
- Website – Brian Miller, Lila Hanft, Benjamin Barnett
- Marketing/PR – Deena Epstein & Halle Barnett
- Tech Support – Brian Miller

Spiritual Values Team
- Religious Practices – Bill Schur-Marcus (interim
- Holidays – Amy Hogg
- Meditation – Nancy Rubel & Allen Binstock
- Music - Open
- Security Corps – Bill Scher-Marcus

Learning Values Team
- Youth & Family Education – Sue Pelleg
- Adult Education – Leah Kamionkowski
- Young Families/Tot Shabbat – Rachel Williams & Josh Chefitz
- 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, Dick & Donna Weinberger
- Interfaith Hospitality Network – Nancy Dudwick
- Environmental Sustainability – Miriam Geronimus

Fiscally Sustainable Values Team
- Fundraising – Margaret Cohen & Barry Epstein
- Mock Trial – Jennifer Finkel
- Cemetery – Mike Armin

Participatory Values Team
- Membership – Itsik Kittila
- Greeters – Kelli Birch (Office Manager)
- Kiddush – Kelli Birch (Office Manager)
- High Holy Days – Marcia Goldberg
- Women’s Group – Happy Wallach
- Interfaith Families – Leah Kamionkowski
- Leadership Development – Greg Selker & Leah Kamionkowski

Directly Accountable to the Board
- Finance Committee– Greg Selker & David Conn
- Ratner Liaison – Mike Caputo
- Rabbi Liaison – Selma Gwatkin & Barry Epstein
- Strategic Planning Committee– Greg Selker
- Nominating Committee– Catharine Fallick & Sue Pelleg

June Newsletter Deadline: Monday, May 16
rooted in and driven by our modern experience; the creation of the Bat Mitzvah ceremony would be one example in that category.

There’s a third, rarer form of evolution in Jewish practice and beliefs – when an element of our tradition which has been forgotten is rediscovered or re-appropriated as part of our modern practice. One example of this within our own community is the ritual we experimentally introduced several years ago near the conclusion of Yom Kippur during which people are invited to stand for a few moments in front of the ark either individually or with others to share important words in preparation for the final moments of the day.

This month, we are taking the opportunity to reclaim a Jewish tradition that comes from a very different historical period than our own. During the biblical period, when animal offerings at the Temple in Jerusalem was the primary form of worship, there was a law that stated if a person could not make it to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover on the full moon of the month of Nisan, they should try to come at the next full moon, in the month of Iyar, to fulfill their religious obligation. This make-up date is called Pesach Sheni (second Passover).

Based on this precedent, this month we plan to hold a model seder on Pesach Sheni in conjunction with Pastor Richard Gibson and members of Elizabeth Baptist Church. Ever since Pastor Gibson and many of his congregants enlivened our Human Rights Shabbat service a couple of years ago, we’ve looked for another opportunity to come together with them to celebrate and learn more about one another. It seemed to many of us that a joint Passover seder would be a perfect way to do that. However, as we looked at Kol HaLev’s calendar, we saw that the period leading up to Passover was already crowded with a number of large community events.

We were on the verge of abandoning the idea of a joint Passover seder for this year, when we were reminded of the biblical tradition of Pesach Sheni and thought that this date, a month after other seders are over, would be a great time to hold a model seder held with Elizabeth Baptist Church. Pastor Gibson and his congregation have agreed.

This seder will explore the connection to the Exodus narrative that is shared by both the Jewish and African-American communities.

So, I want to encourage as many of us as possible to come to Elizabeth Baptist Church on Wednesday evening, May 18 for a shared celebration of Pesach Sheni! This seder will explore the connection to the Exodus narrative that is shared by both the Jewish and African-American communities. Please mark the date on your calendar and watch the Weekly Update for more specifics coming soon.
PHOTO GALLERY: THE PEOPLE VS. MOSES

Todah rabah to all who participated in “The People vs. Moses”, from its inception, sponsorship, production and promotion, to our highly engaged, enthusiastic audience. Look for the full story on our fifth mock trial in our June newsletter.

“... the best one yet! I thought that both litigators did an outstanding job, and the panelists brought out excellent insights. It helped that the question is such a pertinent one in our time. Yasher Koach.” ~ Kevin Weidenbaum

“... the most thought-provoking discussion of a religious subject I’ve ever seen. And I’ve been to a few. What a great reflection on the congregation that put it together, too.” ~ Alan Federman

“In a community that inspires me on a regular basis with the level of thoughtfulness, openness and passion that people bring to our programs, last night’s event I think stands at the top of my list, and clearly many of the people who attended felt the same way. I could not have been more proud of what took place ... my only regret being that there weren’t more people there to experience it. It will remain with me as a powerful example of what is possible when people are invited into a serious and creative dialogue with our tradition.” ~ Rabbi Steve Segar
Presenting **KolHaLevConnects**

The Communications Team at Kol HaLev presents a new way to connect directly with other Kol HaLev members: An e-mail group called KolHaLevConnects!

**The Purpose of KolHaLevConnects:**

The purpose of the **KolHaLevConnects** email group is to support our commitment to community and our common values (including participation, welcoming, caring, and inclusion). The group will:

- Facilitate informal gatherings and meetings between Kol HaLev members, thereby fostering a greater sense of community, and building relationships between members.
- Facilitate ride-sharing, resulting in greater accessibility to our wonderful programming, with the added benefit of being more sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- Provide a space for members to share and trade resources in an informal manner.
- Inform members of community members’ volunteer activities outside Kol HaLev that are not eligible for inclusion in the Weekly Update or newsletter.

Please note that **KolHaLevConnects** is not a discussion list. Replies go only to the original poster, not to the whole group. Further discussion on the topic can take place between the original poster and respondents off **KolHaLevConnects**.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Lila Hanft  
Leader, Welcoming Values Team

Itsik Kittila  
Chair, Membership Committee

**Great! How do I Join?**

KolHaLevConnects is an "opt-in" group, which means you won't be automatically signed up as you are with the newsletter and update.

To join, you will need to:

1. Click "Apply for membership" at [groups.google.com/group/KHLevconnects](http://groups.google.com/group/KHLevconnects)

OR  
2. Tell Itsik ([itsik.kittila@gmail.com](mailto:itsik.kittila@gmail.com)) that you'd like to be added to the group.

**Ways to Use KolHaLevConnects—Examples:**

- Selling a bike
- Carpooling to a GCC event
- Finding an honest plumber
- Telling people about a the play or concert you're in
- Meeting up with friends at Wade Oval Wednesday
- Trading your CSA share of 6 bushels of brussel sprouts for something more appetizing

Those kinds of exchanges don't fit the parameters of Kol HaLev's Weekly Update or the newsletter, our formal online communications vehicles.

**KolHaLevConnects is intended to fill that gap!**
WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND KOL HALEV’S ANNUAL MEETING
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Late each spring, Kol HaLev holds an Annual Meeting of the members. From a governance standpoint, annual meetings are one way organizations fulfill certain obligations to their membership, including sharing important information about finances and programmatic developments, electing new board members, and voting on major organizational policies.

Sound dry? Can be! For organizations like Kol HaLev, however, in which members’ participation is what drives the organization, annual meetings have a little different flavor.

Unlike a community meeting on a specific topic or initiative for which we need broad deep member feedback, (e.g., the facilitated conversations about leadership we held this past year, or the dialogue on the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College admissions policy changes), our annual meeting is a time to reflect together on activities and developments of the past year – to share, and appreciate. We appreciate where we are, where we are thinking we need to go next, and all the people who contribute to our progress. We share and appreciate opportunities and challenges we face together. We share the board-approved budget for the coming fiscal year, and appreciate our financial condition – what’s working, and what needs to change. You’ll also meet and hear from our current board members, and help elect our new ones.

If you’d like a better sense of what’s going on in Kol HaLev, and how and why we do what we do, the annual meeting is a good place to learn. If you’ve been wanting to inform your own voice in the larger community conversation, so that you can exercise it in ways that are meaningful to your own experience and to the prosperity of the community, the annual meeting is a good place to start.

Because of the intentionally co-creative nature of Kol HaLev, your participation at this annual gathering (and other community meetings on important policy issues) makes a difference. The more of us that participate, and regularly so, in annual meetings and the like, the more energy we can create around our shared sense of continuity – of how to continue to move forward together.

In a couple weeks you will receive (by mail as well as by email) a ballot for the election of next year’s Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee has been working thoughtfully to compose a slate of recommended candidates, members who will help guide our policy and programming decisions for the coming year. Your vote is a privilege of your membership, as well as another way of demonstrating the import that our community has in your life. Hopefully you will choose to attend the annual meeting and cast your vote while present; if you do find you are unable to attend on Sunday, June 5, please follow the instructions on the ballot and return your absentee vote by the date indicated so that you may be counted as having exercised your privilege.

I look forward to greeting you and appreciating with you at our annual meeting! Todah rabah in advance for your consideration.

~ Halle
Join GCC's Gun Violence Team for a viewing & discussion of

MAKING A KILLING: GUNS, GREED, AND THE NRA

Tuesday, May 17, 7-9 p.m.
Fairmount Presbyterian Church

Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and The NRA explores the ways in which guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. The film exposes gun companies' and the NRA's resistance to meaningful change and responsible legislation for the sake of profit, thereby putting people in danger. Watch the trailer here!

As part of the national Do Not Stand Idly By campaign, GCC has a track record of working to reduce gun violence at the local and national level. Join us to view this film AND discuss how we can continue this important work.

Donations in support of GCC are welcomed. This event is PUBLIC, so please spread the word! (Click here to download a flyer!)

Direct questions and RSVPs to info@greaterclevelandcongregations.org or 216-769-8732.

SAVE THE DATE for May 21, when the new GCC Lead Organizer James Pearlstein will be at services and will meet with us afterwards. Come learn about what GCC is up to, including our newly invigorated Jobs Team! Watch the weekly update or contact Allen Binstock for more information.
ISRAEL’S 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

YOM HA’ATZMAUT

THURSDAY, MAY 12 • 4 IYAR 5776 • 5:30p.m.
LANDERHAVEN 6111 LANDERHAVEN DRIVE, MAYFIELD HEIGHTS

ENJOY
FAMILY FUN
FOR ALL AGES

SHOP
THE ISRAELI MARKETPLACE (SHUK)

NOSH
KOSHER FOODS
FOR SALE

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FEATURING RITA
ISRAELI POP ICON

IN CONCERT
7:30 p.m.
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 p.m.
OPEN SEATING
REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED

ALSO PLEASE JOIN US FOR
YOM HAZIKARON
ISRAEL’S MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

MAY 10
2 IYAR 5776
7 p.m.

MANDEL JCC
STONEHILL AUDITORIUM
26001 S. WOODLAND RD. BEACHWOOD

www.jewishcleveland.org #jewishcleveland

Event Chairs: Lindsey and Yoel Mayerfeld and Sarah and Scott Zimmerman  Event Vice Chairs: Wendy and Danny Spitz

May 2016 Page 8 Kol HaLev Happenings
Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges these contributions:

In honor of Zach Segar’s bar mitzvah, from
- Art and Sue Biagianti
- Deena and Dick Epstein
- Selma and Ralph Gwatkin
- Judy Harris and Alan Lipson

And from:
- Selma and Ralph Gwatkin in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Selma's father, Nathan Schatz
- Judy Harris and Alan Lipson in memory of Judy's brother, David Fink
- Karal Stern in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Helen Stern
- Richard Litwin and Kirby Date in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Richard's father, Harry Litwin

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).

Yahrzeits

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

Members of Kol HaLev will mark the following yahrzeits during the next month:
- Joseph Korman—father of Neil Korman
- Evelyn Litwin—mother of Richard Litwin
- Helen Stern—mother of Karal Stern
- Simon May—paternal great-grandfather of Chip May
- Diana Tonti—mother of Mario Tonti
- Charlie Bound—grandfather of Miriam Geronimus
- Dudley Stuart Dinner (David)—husband of Maureen Dinner
- Ada A. Gwatkin—mother of Ralph Gwatkin
- Ida G. Dudwick—mother of Nancy Dudwick
- Lena (Lee) Warsh Baum—maternal grandmother of Heidi Gorovitz Robertson
- Rella Gilletz—grandmother of Michal Scher-Marcus

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/convert).
NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT ED ON MAY 21: PEACE BUILDING WITH HORSES IN ISREAL

On Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m., Kol HaLev member Rob Pliskin will present his current work on Susei Shalom (Peace Horses), a Palestinian/Israeli peace project involving horses.

Rob is an Ohio Licensed Social Worker and an Advanced Dual Certified Professional of the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA). EAGALA has 4,000 members in 49 countries including Israel. Last November, Rob decided to meet with peace building organizations and EAGALA friends and colleagues in Israel to present his idea for Susei Shalom.

Rob will discuss the outcome of these meetings and plans for this year’s programs, present photos, answer questions, and describe moving about the country meeting with Arabs and Jews during what some are calling this third intifada in Israel’s young history.

Location: the home of Ellen Harris in Solon. Please RSVP to Adina at aschoem@gmail.com.

GCC LUNCH 'N LEARN WITH LEAD ORGANIZER JAMES PEARLSTEIN

Join us in the Ratner Library after kiddush on Saturday, May 21, to meet with Greater Cleveland Congregations' new Lead Organizer, James Pearlstein. Learn about what GCC is up to, including our newly invigorated Jobs Team! Watch the weekly update or contact Allen Binstock for more information.

ADULT ED ON MAY 27: THE JEWISH ROOTS OF LEONARD COHEN’S MUSIC

Singer/songwriter/poet/novelist Leonard Cohen was one of the defining poetic voices of the 1960s, but has kept his creative spark alive to this day. His unique blend of Judaism and Buddhism infuses much of his work, and will provide a focus for an evening with Beth Friedman-Romell discussing and listening to songs which were directly influenced by the Hebrew Bible and Jewish liturgy. This session takes place on Sunday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. (location to be determined).

Acclaimed writer Pico Iyer says of Cohen, “[He] takes us, at heart, into a mythic place, an ageless space alight with goddesses and God, where we see a lone figure walking down the road, in dark Buddhist robes, with a Torah in one hand and a picture of a woman in the other. Always in our sight even as he disappears into the dark.”
The Kol HaLev Board met at the home of Karal Stern on April 11, 2016.

**Treasurer’s Report:**
The dues commitments have increased in March and are closer to the budgetary projection. This is due in part to the work of the CSV, Maxine Collin, who has been helpful in encouraging members to send in their commitments. This position has been important to strengthening our financial health and it is hoped it will be continued in the future. The YTD net income is higher than in previous years at this point in the fiscal calendar. This is a positive direction but a budgetary deficit remains for this fiscal year.

**Budget update:**
The FY’17 budget proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by the executive committee was presented for a first read to the Board. The proposed. FY’17 budget projects a deficit that has decreased. It was acknowledged that, while the lower expected deficit is good news, moving to a balanced budget or, better, a surplus to increase our reserves and staff salaries is a priority.

It is anticipated that this coming year the issue of our structural deficit will be addressed in a number of ways by Board members, value teams, and membership as a whole; because this is an issue that impacts our core values, it is beyond the scope of the Finance Committee and the projected budget for the coming fiscal year.

**Mock trial update:**
Ticket sales for the Trial have been lower than expected. Board members were encouraged to support this event and promote it both inside and outside Kol HaLev in the upcoming days. There may be a number of reasons for this decrease in interest that will be evaluated at a future date. The impact on future fundraising is one aspect that will need to be considered at that time.

**By- Laws update:**
The bylaws committee has discerned that the bylaws as a whole, as well as the required methods for changing them, need more in-depth study, and have recommended temporarily suspending the review work. Rabbi David Teutsch and Tresa Grauer at RRC have been excellent resources, and the committee will continue to draw on them when the work is picked up again in a few months, with a slightly larger committee. Board president Halle Barnett thanked Karly Whitaker, Molly Berger, and Happy Wallach for participating in the challenging work thus far.

**Nominating committee update and job descriptions:**
Catherine shared that the nominating committee is in the process of finalizing the proposed slate of candidates. There has been a very favorable and positive response and most positions have been filled. The slate will be presented at the May Board meeting, then ballots will be sent to the membership.

Special effort is also being made to find people who feel passionate about a particular activity and may be interested in joining or leading a committee. Mentorship opportunities for those members interested in certain activities is also being explored.

**Leadership task force update:**
The task force continues to meet and is working on synthesizing material collected during the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process. Basic themes are emerging and will be presented at a community meeting this summer, at which all members will help prioritize the next areas of leadership development focus for the community.

**Annual meeting preparations:**
The Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 5. Board members who will be making presentations were asked to

*continued on page 12*
We send wishes for a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy healing, to Abe Chasin, Margaret Cohen, the Conn family, the Gross and Gross-Rosenblatt families, Eric Hogg, Itsik Kittila, Ron Kohn, Ben Lewis, Pauline Raymond, Linda Sylte, Happy Wallach and the Weissman family. We would love to hear from you if you or another Kol HaLev member you know of would like to be included on this list.

Thanks to Robin Holzman, who was the April Monthly Co-ordinator. During the month, members provided rides, sent cards and attended shiva minyanim.

Ledor Vador

Under the initiative and guidance of our education director, Robyn Novick, the Zorim (Kindergarten – Grade 2) created get well cards for the Hesed Committee to send out to community members that we are supporting.

We are so touched by their efforts to expand the reach of Hesed across generations and in a new way. This simple act is a model for our community.

It got us wondering about other similar acts that are happening that we are unaware of and that go unacknowledged. Whether named or anonymous, we would love to spread the news about Hesed in the Kol HaLev community. If you have been a recipient of informal acts of Hesed and would like to share this with our membership, please be in touch with Robin or Martha and we will include it in future newsletter columns.

Robin and Martha

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

BOARD REPORT, continued from page 11
prepare reports and send them to Halle by the May Board meeting.

Synagogue Connect:
Kol HaLev received a letter from Synagogue Connect, a project initiated by Rabbis Ronald N. Brown and Charles Klein for the purposes of reaching out to unaffiliated college students. There is concern that with rising incidents of anti-Semitism on some college campuses, unaffiliated Jewish students may be feeling vulnerable and isolated.

This national group is creating a list of synagogues that would be willing to welcome these students and allow them to attend High Holy Day services free of charge. Board members were open to the idea that Kol HaLev be listed for the greater Cleveland area.

RRC Green Paper on Reconstructionist Movement funding:
Kol HaLev actively participates in the Reconstructionist movement Plenum, a group of representatives from each affiliated congregation and havurah, so that, as stakeholder communities, we have a voice in movement governance. Halle is our current representative. Reps have been asked to share a document with their congregational leadership about the way the Reconstructionist movement is funded, including the dues which congregations pay to the RRC/

continued on page 13
The May Meeting will be Thursday, May 19, at the home of Ruth Ness. We will discuss *The UnAmericans: Stories* by Molly Antopol. (273 pages, a Kindle version exists). Note that this is the THIRD Thursday in May.

A review from Amazon: An absentee father, a former dissident from communist-era Prague, needles his adult daughter for details about her newly commissioned play when he fears it will cast him in an unflattering light. An actor, imprisoned during the Red Scare for playing up his communist leanings to get a part with a leftist film director, is shamed by his act when he reunites with his precocious young son. An Israeli soldier, forced to defend a settlement filled with American religious families, still pines for a chance to discover the United States for himself. A young Israeli journalist, left unemployed after America’s most recent economic crash, questions her life path when she begins dating a middle-aged widower still in mourning for his wife. And in the book’s final story, a tour de force spanning three continents and three generations of women, a young American and her Israeli husband are forced to reconsider their marriage after the death of her dissident art-collecting grandmother.

Again and again, Molly Antopol’s deeply sympathetic characters struggle for footing in an uncertain world, hounded by forces beyond their control. Their voices are intimate and powerful and they resonate with searing beauty. Antopol is a superb young talent, and *The UnAmericans* will long be remembered for its wit, humanity, and heart.

The May book will be *Panic in a Suitcase: A Novel* by Yelena Akhtiorskaya.

All KHL members are welcome to attend the book group. For more information about the group, including a calendar of the book selections for this year, look at our web page ([kolhalev.net/book_group](http://kolhalev.net/book_group)) and contact Kevin (KJW@oberlin.net) to be added to the group’s e-mail list.

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**BOARD REPORT, continued from page 12**

Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, and provide feedback at the upcoming plenum business meeting.

Using a question guide provided with the document, board vice-president Karly Whitaker facilitated the board's discussion. The over-arching issue is that the membership model itself is breaking down in many liberal religious organizations: How can we be at the forefront of rethinking how movements are funded? The board was surprised to learn that dues from affiliated congregations contribute only 6% of the movement's operating budget. Major points of interest in the discussion included the transactional nature of the movement's (and other movements') dues models; the relationship of the Reconstructionist movement's structure (post-the merger of the rabbinical college with the affiliate services arm) to how the movement is perceived, and what meaning the new movement organization now holds for affiliates; what creative new revenue streams might be designed to appeal to a broader base of participants/donors; alternative dues models and principles for evaluating them.

The discussion was substantive food for thought for the Kol HaLev community meetings planned for later this summer, which will focus on managing our own community finances.

The next Board meeting for Monday, May 9, 2016, 7:30 pm is at the home of Karly Whitaker.

Respectfully submitted,
Karal Stern, Secretary
NCJW EVENT TO EXPLORE THE CULTURE OF POVERTY

_Critical issue underlies Cleveland’s crises_

(Cleveland, OH – April 1, 2016) – National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland will explore what it’s really like to be poor at “The Culture of Poverty: A Tale of Two Cities,” on Thursday, May 19 at Pointe East, 27500 Cedar Rd., Beachwood at 6:30 p.m. Experts who experience poverty will share knowledge on bridging the cultural gap with the ultimate purpose of finding the human commonality that will enable understanding.

The Culture of Poverty in Cleveland is really a tale of at least two cities – the Cleveland of prosperity and the city of poverty, including poverty in the Jewish community. "We need to learn more about the two Clevelands in order to live together with understanding. We all worry about diverse life concerns though we may have dissimilar day-to-day goals," said Cindy Glazer, chair of the event. "Because poverty underlies so many of the issues NCJW works to improve, we want to develop an understanding of the values and language of poverty, so that we can find out how to help in ways that demonstrate that understanding.”

The dynamic speakers at the event include:

- Rev. Richard Gibson, pastor since 2003 of St. Elizabeth Baptist Church, who will discuss _The Short Term and Long Term Effects of Poverty_. He will define poverty and what it feels like, describe the continuing cycle of poverty, discuss the financial effects and suggest our realistic expectations of this population.

- Amber Donovan, social work coordinator at MetroHealth, will give insight into the culture of poverty and upward mobility barriers. She will also talk about the importance of becoming “culturally humble” and the power of relationships to change economic structures. Ms. Donovan has taught classes on poverty at Lorain Community College and Cleveland State University and is the Cleveland Director, The Open Table Inc., a national poverty transformation model in which NCJW is the first Jewish group to become involved.

- Richey Piiparinen, Director, Center for Population Dynamics at Cleveland State University, and co-editor of _Rust Belt Chic: The Cleveland Anthology_, uses a combination of demographic research and group psychology to explore the impact of the city’s diverging economic classes. He will talk about demographic trends in the city, and what it means – statistically, and culturally – to have two Clevelands existing side by side.

- Rabbi A.L. Joseph, Resource Coordinator at Gesher, will discuss poverty in the Jewish community. Gesher is a benefits referral program to help Jewish Cleveland families eliminate cultural barriers to accession and applying for assistance programs and services which will eventually lead to economic self-sufficiency.

Cost for the program is $10 for NCJW/Cleveland members and $15 for non-members, with $5 going toward membership for those joining the organization that evening. To register, call 216-378-2204, ext. 101.
NEWS FROM RRC

Reconstructionism Today!
Have you received the newly-recharged monthly e-newsletter of the Reconstructionist movement? Reconstructionism Today boasts news from across the Reconstructionist communities and more. If you aren’t already on our email list, sign up at www.rrc.edu/welcome.

New Year, New Mode: Creative Leadership for the High Holidays
Thursday, June 2, 2016, 9 a.m. - 4:25 p.m.
This special, premiere workshop explores creative approaches to High Holiday services, including niggunim and singing, yoga/embodiment, storytelling and drama, and children’s services. Participants will include others, like you, who lead prayers for High Holiday services. Register now at https://www.rrc.edu/newyear-newmode.

RRC Graduation
Does your congregation have an RRC intern or rabbi? Come to RRC’s 2016 Graduation and welcome the newest class of graduates. All are welcome. RSVP to graduation@rrc.edu.

Ritualwell.org: Shavuot
Celebrate Shavuot on June 11 with new prayers, rituals and readings on Ritualwell.org, the Reconstructionist movement’s website for experimental ritual: http://ritualwell.org/categories/27.

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 or contact Marilyn Price at Hevreh1@gmail.com.

The Recon Riders Ride Again! September 3-5, 2016
Take hold of your handlebars as the Reconstructionist team, “Recon Riders,” rides again for social and environmental justice. Hazon’s annual Ride and Retreat is 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) and Becca Richman (becca.ilana@gmail.com). For more information, visit http://hazon.org/bike-rides/rideandretreat/about-the-ride.

A Seder in May? Look for our new Haggadah for Yom Ha’atzmaut / Israel Independence Day.
Plan your picnic now and use this new seder, modeled on a progressive Israeli tradition, to study, eat, sing and discuss the hopes and dreams of our ancestors that became part of Israel’s Declaration of Independence. Reflect on Israel’s story since the establishment of the state, while sharing our aspirations for the future. Visit www.jewishrecon.org/resource/vh-seder in early May to download the new, mobile-friendly haggadah.

Families with High School Graduates: The Tivnu Gap Year is nine months of post-college hands-on Jewish social justice engagement in Portland, OR. Participants live together, create community, discover the Pacific Northwest, and explore connections between Jewish life and social justice with their heads, hands, and hearts. A few spaces are still available: sign up at www.Tivnu.org.
**Monday, May 2**
7:30-9:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

**Saturday, May 7**
9:15-10:15 a.m. Philosophical Inquiry with the Parsha in the Ratner Art Room. For 5-7 grade Hagiga students; Light breakfast will be provided, please be prompt.
9:30-10:30 a.m. Torah Study in the Ratner Library. Parsha: Achrei Mos; Leader: Miriam Geronimus
10:30-12:30 p.m. Hagiga
10:30-12:30 p.m. Member-Led Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: Achrei Mos; Service Leaders: Irwin Weinberger and Rachel Williams; Kiddush Host: Greg & Lois Selker.
10:45-11:15 a.m. Tot-Parent Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.

**Sunday, May 8**
10:00-12:00 p.m. Nesiyah at Ratner.

**Monday, May 9**
7:30-9:00 p.m. Board Meeting at the home of Karly Whitaker. All members welcome. See weekly update for agenda.

**Thursday, May 12**
5:30 p.m. Community Yom Ha’Atzamaut Celebration at Landerhaven. Free and open to the public. See flyer on page 8.

**Saturday, May 14**
10:00-12:30 p.m. Bar Mitzvah of Noah Frazier at Ratner. Parsha: Kedoshim.

**Sunday, May 15**
10:00-12:00 p.m. Nesiyah Family Siyyum

**Monday, May 16**
Deadline for the June Kol HaLev Happenings Newsletter

**Tuesday, May 17**
7:00-9:00 p.m. GCC Gun Violence Film and Discussion at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.
Join GCC’s Gun Violence Team for a viewing and discussion of: Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and The NRA. This movie tells the stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. The film exposes how gun companies and the NRA are resisting meaningful change and responsible legislation for the sake of profit - and thereby putting people in danger. More info on page 7. This event is PUBLIC, so please spread the word!

**Wednesday, May 18**
6:00-8:00 p.m. Joint Model Seder with Members of Elizabeth Baptist Church.
Details TBA. Contact Rabbi Steve or Joe Vainner for more information.

**Thursday, May 19**
6:30 p.m. The Culture of Poverty: A Tale of Two Cities. Pointe East, 27500 Cedar Rd., Beachwood See page 14 for more information.
6:30-8:00 p.m. GCC Jobs Team Meeting at Olivet Institutional Baptist, 8712 Quincy Ave, Cleveland, OH 44106. The first step of the new Jobs campaign is to meet with thousands to discuss joblessness in Cleveland. We want to hear first hand experiences, meet potential leaders, and do on-the-ground organizing work to inform a long-term strategy to create meaningful jobs. Our listening will be through house meetings and individual one-to-ones. This meeting will be to check in on how our conversations are going, share what we are hearing, and train more leaders to go out and listen! Please RSVP to info@greaterclevelandcongregations.org to let us know if you can make it.
7:00-8:00 p.m. Adult Education Presentation at the home of Ellen Harris.
Rob Pliskin will present on his "Peace Horses — Susei Shalom: Peace Building with Horses in Israel." More info on page 10.
7:30-9:00 p.m. Book Club Meeting at the home of Ruth Ness
We will discuss The UnAmericans: Stories by Molly Antopol. Note that this is the THIRD Thursday in May. For the full schedule or more information, see page 13 or visit http://kolhalev.net/book_group
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., May 21</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: Emor; Leader: Rabbi Steve.</td>
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<td>10:30-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Service in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: Emor; Service Leaders: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Hosts: Kirby Date and Richard Litwin and Rachel Williams</td>
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<td>Tot-Parent Shabbat in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.</td>
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<td>1:15-2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>GCC Lunch n Learn with Lead Organizer James Pearlstein in the Ratner Library. Join us in the Ratner Library after kiddush to meet with the new GCC Lead Organizer James Pearlstein. Learn about what GCC is up to, including our newly invigorated Jobs Team! Watch the weekly update or contact Allen Binstock for more information.</td>
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<td>Sun., May 22</td>
<td>12:00-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bonim Picnic, location TBD.</td>
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<td>7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Ed: The Jewish Roots of Leonard Cohen's Music. Location TBD. Led by Beth Friedman-Romell. See page 10 for more information.</td>
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<td>Wed., May 25</td>
<td>6:45-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Erev Lag B’Omer, location TBD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 28</td>
<td>10:00-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Bat Mitzvah of Alice Schubert and Shabbat in the Park at Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Reservation River Grove Picnic Area Buckeye Shelter. Parsha: Behar.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Save The Date!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., June 5</td>
<td>3:00-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>The Kol HaLev Annual Meeting at Ratner.</td>
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To sign up to host a kiddush, go to [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bada828a1f85-kolhalev2)

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

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