

# Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community

NOVEMBER 2015

## KOL HALEV FALL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF THIS WEEK

*Everyone whose heart so moves them shall bring an offering. (Exodus 25:2)*

by Halle Barnett and David Conn

Kol HaLev is all about “we.” Without you, we would not be possible! The myriad ways your involvement energizes and supports this community are too numerous to count. The Kol HaLev Board of Trustees and your fellow members are grateful for your commitments of *ruach* (spirit), time, creativity and more, which help sustain our collective purpose.

It also takes money to keep Kol HaLev functioning.

You may not know that paid dues commitments only make up about 57% of our budgeted needs. This is not atypical of congregational communities. But it does mean that we have to seek other sources of financial sustenance. We're fortunate to be the recipient of some grants to supplement our outstanding education programs. And we have events like the mock trials whose proceeds bring in some of the needed income.

Beyond those opportunities, we have to step up ourselves. We have to provide for our own financial well-being. This year, the gap between income from dues, tuition and grants, and total need is about \$88,000.

In the next week or so, each Kol Halev member will receive a letter requesting that you contribute to our Fall Fundraising Campaign. The campaign is designed to help Kol HaLev meet our current and ongoing financial needs. In the spirit of our long-held community value that everyone is welcome, regardless of their financial situation, we ask that

you consider a contribution from your heart which reflects the ways in which Kol HaLev enriches your life and the lives of all our members. We're here to support each other by supporting the whole.

There is no comparing who does what, or who gives what; we're cooperatively responsible for creating and sustaining Kol HaLev, each according to our abilities. Any size contribution is meaningful if it represents your heartfelt commitment, regardless of your means.

Please respond promptly with your pledge of support. The pledge period will extend through January 31, 2016, and we request payment on your pledge by June 30, the end of our fiscal year. (Consider that making a charitable contribution by this year!)

Each of us, together, breathes Kol HaLev to life each day, with our collective *ruach*, time, creativity, and indeed, our financial commitments. *Todah rabah* in advance for taking the time to consider how Kol HaLev sustains you, and taking action on how you can sustain Kol HaLev.

With appreciation,

*Halle Barnett*, Kol HaLev President

*David Conn*, Values Team Leader – Democratic and Fiscally Sustainable

On behalf of the Kol HaLev fundraising committee

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# DIRECTORY

**SERVICES & PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT:**

The Lillian and Betty Ratner School  
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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES****OFFICERS:**

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VICE PRESIDENT Karly Whitaker  
SECRETARY Karal Stern  
TREASURER Bruce Fallick &  
Catherine Fallick  
PAST PRESIDENT Barb Truitt

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS**

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Louise Elkind  
Barry Epstein  
Celia Jennings

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FOUNDING RABBI Jeffrey Schein  
EDUCATION DIR. Robyn Novick

**VALUES TEAM LEADERS**

WELCOMING & CARING Lila Hanft  
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 – Karal Stern & *Open*
- 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 – *Open*
- 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 – *Open*

**INVOLVED VALUES TEAM**

- GCC – Allen Binstock, Dick & Donna Weinberger
- Interfaith Hospitality Network – Nancy Dudwick
- Environmental Sustainability – Miriam Geronimus

**FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY 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– Sue Pelleg

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

## STAYING CONNECTED TO SOURCES OF HOPE

This past High Holiday season was for me one in which I felt deeply challenged by the many serious situations that exist in our world at this time. I committed myself on Yom Kippur, with our community collectively witnessing, to work on finding ways to get more personally involved with at least one of these areas of challenge. I remain dedicated to this goal and I plan on sending updates out to the Kol HaLev membership as my plans get further concretized.

One thing that is clear to me though, even before embarking on a particular initiative, is the importance of staying connected to sources of hope on a regular basis. Without that in one's life, it would be too easy to reach a burnout stage when dealing with an issue that has any kind of pain, weight and complexity to it. In that spirit, I am feeling very fortunate that for the next two months, we here in greater Cleveland have the opportunity to visit and draw inspiration from the profound exhibit called "Violins of Hope" that is currently on display at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.

Founder and expert violin maker Amnon Weinstein dedicated the last two decades to locating and restoring violins that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust,, played in the camps and in ghettos, where they may have provided brief moments of solace or "spared Jewish musicians from more grueling labors or even death." Once he had the violins, Weinstein began

*painstakingly piecing them back together so they could be brought to life again on the concert stage. Although most of the musicians who originally played the instruments were silenced by the Holocaust, their voices and spirits live on through the violins that Amnon has lovingly restored. He calls these instruments the Violins of Hope." ([violinsofhopecle.org](http://violinsofhopecle.org))*

Running concurrently with the Maltz exhibit, a wide spectrum of related programming -- including lectures, concerts and theater pieces-- is scheduled in venues all around our community. Please visit the website, <http://www.violinsofhopecle.org/events/> for the most up-to-date information about these opportunities.

For me, there can be no greater example of hope generated amidst despair than the stories connected with the use of these musical instruments during the Holocaust. I am planning to see the exhibit at the Maltz and it is my intention to organize a Kol HaLev group to see the exhibit together for those who would like to do so. So, please watch the weekly update for more information on when that might be taking place.

Wishing all of you success in finding time to connect to the sources of hope that work for you, and may we all continue to envision and work toward a future when hope arises organically and despair appears only rarely and fleetingly in our lives.

“ . . . may we all continue to envision and work toward a future when hope arises organically and despair appears only rarely and fleetingly . . . ”

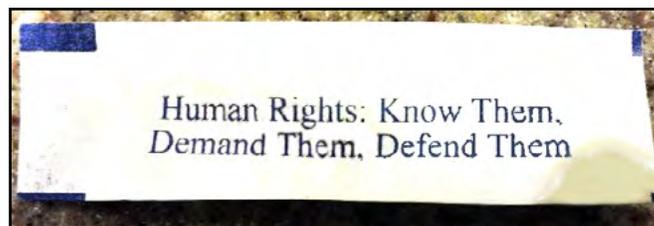
Rabbi Steve is available to meet with Kol HaLev members on a range of issues by appointment on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Contact him at 216-320-1498 or at [rabbisteve@kolhalev.net](mailto:rabbisteve@kolhalev.net).

*Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hivatel mimena.*  
**You are not expected to complete the task, but neither are you free to avoid it.** (Rabbi Tarfon, *Pirkei Avot* 2:21)

This past spring Rabbi Steve and I met to discuss the annual theme for the 5776 Hagiga year. 5775 was a fabulous year! Who would have thought that the theme, Mordecai Kaplan and the 4 Bs of Reconstructionism would be such a hit? It was and I was left struggling. A new theme -- one which did not seem recycled, was relevant and interesting in 2015, and could neatly fit into four 4-week units -- seemed to elude me. Everything I contemplated seemed to be missing something.

Rabbi Steve asked me what I thought was important, what moved me. I simply thought about love. I just kept coming back to how the universe is full of so many different people making this world a better place. I thought about the diversity of our world and how it is our responsibility to honor it. How do you make this a theme? It was clear to me that it wouldn't be arranged in lovely little boxes; rather it was going to be something that we needed to explore together, to find where our passions lay and find avenues to pay homage to them.

My vision, my desire, was to find a theme that allowed for us to highlight how each unique piece of the picture is special unto itself, and also comes together to make a work of beauty beyond what it each is individually capable of. And while we appreciate multiplicity, as Jews it is our responsibility to not only respect, but also to advocate for such. My roots for social justice come through my genes, but they were nurtured through my Jewish community. Could this really be a theme? I needed a sign. When all else fails, I eat, so I ordered Chinese and this was my fortune.



Message received. We decided that we would call this theme, "Embracing the Mosaic."

I am the first to admit that I don't always have the answers, and that I do have some skepticism (I have frequently had the phrase "ye of little faith," applied to me) but I feel that there are times the universe comes together for a greater good. In that light, I would like to share with you a true story that recently happened. I was sitting in the office debating about lesson plans for the coming week when the phone rang. I typically don't pick up the phone, but it rang several times and I had a sense that something was amiss. It was a member of our community and I could hear that there was something wrong in her voice. She had gone shopping and returned to see that someone had attempted to break into her home leaving shattered glass all over and a broken window to be dealt with. Thankfully she was not hurt and the would-be thieves were unsuccessful in entering her home, but she was shaken and in need of help with her window. I learned many things at Siegal College which had prepared me for this position, but I admit that I never learned about broken windows. But I knew there was someone in this community who would know. I called Kol HaLev's Hesed Committee and immediately heard, "I have a friend who can do that and coincidentally he is here with me right now. Give me her number, we have it all under control." Fifteen minutes later, when I called the member back to check on her, there was a plan in place and relief in her voice.

Lately, I have been noticing many moments like these. I hope to share such stories with our children. I hope to impart that sending positive energy into the universe, leads to great things. Who knows? Maybe when you give of yourself, the power of that act will change the course of history for the better, and in your moment of need, the universe may heed your call.

Kol tuv, Robyn

## HESED

We send wishes for a *refuah shleimah*, a complete and speedy healing, to **Abe Chasin, Deena Epstein, Jacob Kabb, Sam Kelman, Ron Kohn, Sam Kelman, Marilyn Litvene, Pauline Raymond, Linda Sylte, Happy Wallach and Karly Whitaker and Mira Whitaker-Kanner**. *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 **Maxine Collin**, who was the October Monthly Hesed Coordinator. During the month, members cooked and delivered meals, provided rides and sent cards. We thank all who extended themselves this month.

Notices have been sent via email to the many of you who filled in Hesed cards during the High Holy Days. **Just a reminder that until you register on the Lotsa Helping Hands website, you will not receive notifications when support is needed.** So if you haven't already done so, please reply to the request to register. If you have any questions on signing up or would like us to resend the original email, please be in touch with Martha or Robin. We are happy to help walk you through the registration process. **It is never too late, of course, to be part of Hesed support at Kol HaLev.** Please be in touch with Martha or Robin if you are interested in getting involved.

We are looking forward to our annual Hesed Shabbat service on Saturday, November 21. Martha and Robin will be leading the service which will focus on Hesed through the lens of that week's parasha, *Vayetze*, readings, and personal narratives by Kol HaLev members that have been touched by the work of the Hesed committee. We hope to see many of you there for this special service.

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

## KOL HALEV KVILLS



A belated *mazal tov* to **Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer**, on the birth of their grandson, Aakash Nartana Pelsmajer, on August 30. He arrived at 11:58 p.m., just in time to coincide with the birthday of his father, Julio and Aurelia's son Michael, with two minutes to spare. Michael, his wife Avani and big sister Neera, of Chicago, are all doing well.

## Share your Simchas in Kol HaLev Kvells!



**Kol HaLev Kvells is a newsletter column for news of milestone birthdays & anniversaries, weddings, graduations, b'nai mitzvah & new grandchildren!**

Send news and pictures to Lila Hanft at [newsletter@kolhalev.net](mailto:newsletter@kolhalev.net)



## ON PURPOSE

Why do people form families, communities, tribes? Because we crave connection. As marketing guru Seth Godin says, each group “claps” with a different cadence, but we all like to be in sync. How do self-selecting groups get and stay in sync? We decide what holds meaning for us as a group, then we invent *on purpose* to serve that meaning, and we stay organized around that purpose.

Good leadership recognizes that fundamental connection, and helps the group stay connected, engaged, committed, and on purpose.

Each of us is a leader! If you think I am just blowing smoke, consider the impact each of us has on others by simple virtue of our connection within the *meaning-full* groups we create.

One of the things I value most about being a member of Kol HaLev is the focus on our human connections as a constant opportunity for both personal and communal growth. There is always something – from impromptu conversations at kiddush to giant ideas about tradition or belonging – to wrap my mind and heart around, that adds value to my life, that, through my participation, allows me to add value to others’ lives, and to feel I am valuable part of the whole as well.

I also find value in the fact that we have created a cadence together that shifts with our communal intentions. The way we stay organized around our purpose while that cadence shifts, is by making sure each of us has the opportunity to contribute perspective on leadership – that collective responsibility for maintaining our connections to each other and our commitments to our community purpose.

I’m excited to announce that, this month, you have a specific opportunity to share your perspective that will help Kol HaLev refine its more formal approach to developing leadership throughout our membership: Please join us for one of two sessions of the **Kol HaLev Leadership Ideas Exchange!**

The Leadership Ideas Exchange is an outgrowth of the work of Kol HaLev’s Leadership Development Task Force, which was created about a year and a half ago to analyze the challenges and strengths of our current approach to leadership development and membership engagement, and then make recommendations for refinements in that approach. The goal of the Leadership Ideas Exchange is to build a collective understanding of generative leadership practices – those that recognize and nourish potential for both individuals and our whole community. We want to hear your experiences of positive, vibrant leadership, both here in Kol HaLev as well as in other organizations in which you participate.

Each session will be a fun, fast-moving experience of interacting with your fellow members, talking about your experiences, and listening to the experiences of others.

Your voice is essential in this discussion! Please commit to attending one of these two sessions:

- Session 1: Sunday, November 1, 1:00-5:00 p.m., Cleveland Heights Main Library, 2345 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights.
- Session 2: Sunday, November 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m., The new South Euclid-Lyndurst Library, 1876 S Green Rd, South Euclid, OH (across from Notre Dame of Ohio)

Our abundance as a community is evident not only in the breadth of programming and opportunities for

[\*continued on page 10\*](#)

November 8  
Join the conversation!

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A FUN, FAST-MOVING DISCUSSION ABOUT LEADERSHIP

The Kol HaLev Leadership Development Task Force was created about a year and a half ago to analyze the challenges and strengths of our current approach to leadership development and membership engagement, and then make recommendations for refinements in that approach.

After an extensive process of dialogue and reflection, the Task Force has a plan to move forward with these goals, the first stage of which involves convening two congregational meetings on the first two Sundays in November from 1-5 p.m. We're hoping, between these two dates, to engage a broad cross-section of our community. Our goal is to build a collective understanding of generative leadership practices from within our own community but also from members'

experiences in other organizations,

**Each session will be a fun, fast-moving experience of interacting with your fellow congregants, talking about your experiences and listening to the experiences of others as they pertain to vibrant leadership.** We welcome you to have a voice in our leadership discussion!

**WHAT:** Leadership Ideas Exchange  
**WHEN** Sunday Nov. 8, 1- 5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The new South Euclid-Lyndurst Library, 1876 S Green Rd, South Euclid, OH (across from Notre Dame of Ohio)

### COMING SOON FROM KOL HALEV'S GCC CORE TEAM: A "LISTENING CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE"

Guess what? There's a new Listening Campaign for Social Justice at Kol Halev. We want to learn about other members' concerns and desires for social justice in 2015 and beyond, both within KHL and in the larger community. A member of our GCC core team (Rabbi Steve, Allen Binstock, Itsik Kittila, Sue Pelleg, Mimi Plevin-Foust, Donna Weinberger and Karly Whitaker) may contact you in the next few months to schedule a short meeting to get to know each other better and learn about your concerns. We'll talk to you soon!

### KOL HALEV'S WOMEN'S BRUNCH: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Please join us Sunday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the home of Maureen Dinner in Orange Village. There will be time for socializing, and we will find a fun topic for channeling some productive conversation and learning. RSVP to Maureen at [maureendinner@gmail.com](mailto:maureendinner@gmail.com) or Happy Wallach at [happyhkw@aol.com](mailto:happyhkw@aol.com)!

### NO'AR HADASH THANKSGIVING POTLUCK PLANNED FOR 11/21

The No'ar Hadash youth group will be holding a Thanksgiving potluck on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 7-9 p.m. at the Millas family's home in Beachwood. Elaine Millas requests that, "If you are able to come, it's crucially important that you RSVP to me or Emily since we need to coordinate the food. I will be making squash soup, but there are still tons of other Thanksgiving foods that we need for our feast: turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, and pie. If you are able to come and bring food, please email Emily at [emily.gross.rosenblatt@gmail.com](mailto:emily.gross.rosenblatt@gmail.com)

The Kol HaLev Board met on Monday, October 12, 2015 at the home of Bruce and Catherine Fallick.

**Appreciation:**

Board president Halle Barnett expressed appreciation for the good work done for High Holy Days and asked that we explore other models for encouraging and welcoming guests and new members. She also thanked those who made *Shanah Tovah* calls to the membership.

**Treasurer's report:**

Treasurer Bruce Fallick reviewed the September 2015 Treasurer's summary sent to Board members in advance. Dues commitments, payments and donations have increased. Detail is available in the Profit & Loss statements. Office manager Kelli Birch returned from maternity leave on 10/19. She will be working 16 hours weekly, 8 in the office and 8 at home.

**Revised Commitment Support Volunteer position:**

The board discussed the revised job description for the Commitment Support Volunteer (CSV) position, which removed access to congregants' financial data. Title of the position and clarity of our commitment forms were discussed briefly, then tabled for a later meeting. The board voted to approve creation of the position based on the revised job description. Five votes were by email proxy; however, the motion passed based on the quorum present as well. The board also approved the appointment of Maxine Collin as CSV with all present in favor.

**Values Team report: Democratic & Fiscally Responsible:**

VTL David Conn reported on the activities of the Democratic and Fiscally Responsible Values Team. A Fall Fundraising Campaign will launch in November. This year's Mock Trial will be held on Sunday April 17, with Moses as the defendant. The trial committee is working on an improved marketing effort as well as an improved committee workflow. David commented on the manifold value of the trial to Kol HaLev, including the outside funds and PR attracted. Other fundraising activity this year will include a celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rabbi Steve's *Smicha*, and Purim *Misloach Manot*. The fundraising committee will also be researching long-term opportunities for financial sustainability.

**Board size and composition:**

Halle announced that past president Barb Truitt and member-at-large Kareen Caputo are stepping down from the board to focus on their personal journeys. The board thanks both of them for their service to the Kol HaLev community.

Discussion was held on the discrepancies between the composition of the board (and how to fill vacancies that arise) as prescribed by our bylaws, and our desire to be strategic about filling seats, as well as our capacity to manage that which is not mission-critical. Halle stressed that creating a recruitment effort at this time seemed an unreasonable thing to prioritize, given that a substantive effort to fill numerous committee and board vacancies for FY17 will need to begin this winter. The board agreed that no action will be taken to fill vacancies at this time. It was suggested we consider making a full review of the bylaws this fiscal year; discussion was tabled for a later meeting.

**Leadership Development community meetings:**

Community meetings are set for Nov. 1 and Nov. 8 for Leadership Ideas Exchanges, at which members will discuss successful experiences performing and participating in leadership activities both in and out of Kol HaLev. Phone calls will be made with personal invitations to attend.

**Administrative updates:**

Rabbi Steve provided an update on the Shabbos Project with recommendations on Kol Halev's involvement this

[\*continued on page 10\*](#)

## HUG HASEFER: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The November meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 19, at the home of Selma and Ralph Gwatkin. We will discuss *The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer* by Anne-Marie O'Connor. (370 pages, a Kindle version exists). Note that this is the THIRD Thursday of November.

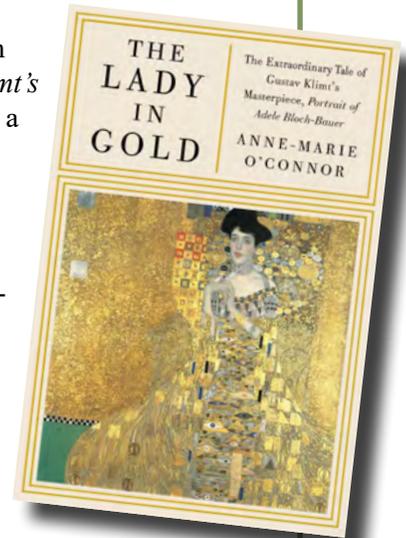
A review from Amazon: Contributor to the *Washington Post* Anne-Marie O'Connor brilliantly regales us with the galvanizing story of Gustav Klimt's 1907 masterpiece—the breathtaking portrait of a Viennese Jewish socialite, Adele Bloch-Bauer. The celebrated painting, stolen by Nazis during World War II, subsequently became the subject of a decade-long dispute between her heirs and the Austrian government.

When the U.S. Supreme Court became involved in the case, its decision had profound ramifications in the art world. Expertly researched, masterfully told, *The Lady in Gold* is at once a stunning depiction of fin-de siècle Vienna, a riveting tale of Nazi war crimes, and a fascinating glimpse into the high-stakes workings of the contemporary art world.

You may have seen the movie. Now read the book and come discuss it with the group.

The book for December is *A Bride for One Night* by Ruth Calderon.

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](mailto:KJW@oberlin.net)) to be added to the group's e-mail list.



## 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:

- Isaac Klein (Yitsach) — cousin of Brenda Goodman
- Harry Beckerman — father of Eda Weiss
- Rose Beckerman — mother of Eda Weiss
- Betty Kohn — stepmother of Ron Kohn
- Heidi Manela (Shoshanna) — grandmother of Aaron Manela
- Fred Manela (Avraham) — grandfather of Aaron Manela
- Barney Lasky — father of Renee Siegel
- Adeline Rothenberg Berger — grandmother of Nancy Frazier

Kol HaLev members may include the yahrzeit of family members 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](mailto: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/>).

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Elinor Friedman**, in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Ben Yosowitz
- **Charles & Barbara Richman**, in honor of Rabbi Steve, for Officiating at our daughter's Wedding
- **Abraham Chasin**, in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his wife, Muriel Chasin
- **Renee Siegel**, in memory of her father, Barney Lasky
- **Irwin Weinberger**, in commemoration of the yahrzeit of his mother, Irene Weinberger



*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](http://kolhalev.net/pay_simple). (Note: Kol HaLev pays a small fee for transactions processed through PaySimple).

### BOARD REPORT, [continued from page 8](#)

year. There was not any official outreach to leadership of the Liberal Jewish organizations in Cleveland by the project sponsors, making it problematic to participate as a congregation.

Rabbi Steve encouraged member participation in Jewish Federation's Super Sunday phone-athon event.

Miriam and David agreed to take the lead in coordinating announcements at 2<sup>nd</sup> Shabbat services each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia Jennings, Board Member (in the absence of Karal Stern, Secretary)

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT, [continued from page 6](#)

celebration we make together, but also in the capacity for personal and communal growth and joy that we create by sharing perspectives, appreciating both the simple and complex, making room for ideas, and offering each other substance. Looking forward to seeing you all at the Leadership Ideas Exchange.

There's another, different way you can share your appreciation of our fundamental connection, and help us stay on purpose this fall: When you open the mail this coming week and find a letter inviting you to contribute to our Fall Fundraising Campaign, you can consider a contribution that reflects how Kol HaLev enriches your life as well as the lives of your fellow members.

Please see page 1 for more information about this opportunity to contribute to Kol HaLev's financial sustainability. Thank you again, and in advance, for all the ways you demonstrate your thoughtful support of our communal purpose and to our potent, life-enhancing connections to each other.

# CALENDAR

Mon., Nov. 2	7:30-8:30 p.m.	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>
Wed., Nov. 4	7:30-9:00 p.m.	<b>Membership Committee Meeting</b> at the home of Anita Cohn. All members welcome. Contact Itsik Kittila for more information.
Thurs., Nov. 5	7:30-9:00 p.m.	<b>Religious Practice Committee Meeting</b> at the home of Bill Scher-Marcus. Contact Bill or Karal Stern for more information.
Sat., Nov. 7	9:15-10:15 a.m.	<b>Philosophical Inquiry with the Parsha</b> in the Ratner Art Room. For 5-7 grade <u>Hagiga</u> students; Light breakfast will be provided, please be prompt.
	9:30-10:30 a.m.	<b>Torah Study</b> in the Ratner Library. Parsha: <i>Chayei Sara</i> ; Leader: Art Lieberman.
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	<b>Hagiga</b>
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	<b>Shabbat Service</b> in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: <i>Chayei Sara</i> ; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush Host: Chris Sklarin & Alexis Abramson.
	10:45-11:15 a.m.	<b>Tot-Parent Shabbat</b> in Ratner Rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.
	1:00-2:00 p.m.	<b>Camp Wise Visit</b> at Ratner. Contact Robyn Novick for more information.
Sun., Nov. 8	9:30-12:00 p.m.	<b>Nesiyah</b> at Ratner.
	12:45-2:45 p.m.	<b>No'ar Hadash Event: Violins of Hope</b> at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, 2929 Richmond Rd, Beachwood, OH 44122. Contact Emily for more information.
	1:00-5:00 p.m.	<b>Kol HaLev Leadership Ideas Exchange</b> , at the new South Euclid-Lyndhurst Library, 1876 S. Green Rd., South Euclid, OH 44121. The second of two congregational meetings convened by the Leadership Development Task Force with the intention of engaging a broad cross-section of our community in discussion. Our goal is to build a collective understanding of generative leadership practices from within our own community but also from members' experiences in other organizations. Each session will be a fun, fast-moving experience of interacting with your fellow congregants, talking about your experiences, and listening to the experiences of others as they pertain to vibrant leadership. We welcome you to have a voice in our leadership discussion! If you weren't able to attend the Nov. 1 meeting, please come to this one. RSVP to Celia Jennings. More information on page 7, and in From Our President on page 6.
	7:30-9:00 p.m.	<b>Reconstructionism 101</b> at the home of Leah Kamionkowski. Examine the core ideas and history of the Reconstructionist approach to Judaism, and learn about some of the unique aspects of our movement. This is the first of at least two sessions on understanding the Reconstructionist movement. All members are welcome. You can come to any of these sessions without attending the others. Contact welcome@kolhalev.net for more information.
Mon., Nov. 9	7:30-9:00 p.m.	<b>Board Meeting</b> at the home of Lila Hanft. All members welcome to attend. See weekly update for agenda.
Sat., Nov. 14	10:30-12:30 p.m.	<b>Member Led Shabbat Service</b> at Ratner. Parsha: <i>Toldos</i> ; Service Leader: Miriam Geronimus; Kiddush Hosts: Nancy Rubel and Dan Klein, and Celia and Bruce Jennings.
Sun., Nov. 15	10:00-12:00 p.m.	<b>Nesiyah</b> at Ratner.
Mon., Nov. 16	<b>Deadline for the December Kol HaLev Happening's Newsletter.</b>	
Thurs., Nov. 19	7:30-9:00 p.m.	<b>Book Club Meeting</b> at the home of Selma and Ralph Gwatkin. We will discuss <i>The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer</i> by Anne-Marie O'Connor. More info on page 9. Contact Kevin Weidenbaum or visit <a href="http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group">http://www.kolhalev.net/book_group</a> for more information. Please note that this month we're meeting on the third Thursday.
Sat., Nov. 21	9:15-10:15 a.m.	<b>Philosophical Inquiry with the Parsha</b> in the Ratner Art Room. For 5-7 grade <u>Hagiga</u> students; Light breakfast will be provided, please be prompt.

# CALENDAR

Sat., Nov. 21	9:30-10:30 a.m.	<b>Torah Study</b> in the Ratner Library. Parsha: <i>Vayetzei</i> ; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve.
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	<b>Hagiga</b>
	10:30-12:30 p.m.	<b>Hesed Shabbat Service</b> in the Ratner Chapel. Parsha: <i>Vayetzei</i> ; Service Leader: Robin Holzman, Martha Schubert and Rabbi Steve. Kiddush Hosts: Gillian Weiss and Elliot Posner, Maxine Brand, and Ellen Harris.
	10:45-11:15 a.m.	<b>Tot-Parent Shabbat</b> in Ratner rooms 113/114. For families with children in preschool and under.
	1:00-2:00 p.m.	<b>Mindful Jewish Practice</b> in the Ratner Library. Nancy Rubel will lead these for an hour of a combination of sitting practice and brief conversation.
	7:00-9:00 p.m.	<b>No'ar Hadash Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck</b> at the home of the Millas family.
Sun., Nov. 22	10:00-12:00 p.m.	<b>Kol HaLev Women's Brunch</b> , at the home of Maureen Dinner. More info on page 7; RSVP to Maureen or Happy Wallach.
	10:00-12:00 p.m.	<b>Nesiyah</b> at Ratner.
	7:30-9:00 p.m.	<b>Reconstructionism 101</b> at the home of Happy Wallach. Examine the core ideas and history of the Reconstructionist approach to Judaism, and learn about some of the unique aspects of our movement. This is the second of at least two sessions on understanding the Reconstructionist movement. All members are welcome. You can come to any of these sessions without attending the others. Contact <a href="mailto:welcome@kolhalev.net">welcome@kolhalev.net</a> for more information.
Sun., Nov. 29		<b>NO NESIYA - Thanksgiving Break</b>

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](#).

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

*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](mailto: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](#).

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# Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Community

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Kol HaLev, Cleveland's Reconstructionist Jewish Congregation, is an egalitarian, participatory spiritual community. Visit our website at <http://www.kolhalev.net>