



Business Office:  
2245 Warrensville Center Road Suite 215  
University Heights, Ohio 44118

ph: 216-320-1498  
[www.kolhalev.net](http://www.kolhalev.net)

Services and Programs:  
The Lillian and Betty Ratner School  
27575 Shaker Boulevard  
Pepper Pike, OH 44124

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Dear Kol HaLev Family,

*Shalom Alechem!* A warm hello to all of you! We hope that you are having a wonderful summer. We are pleased to share with you information about youth and family education this year at Kol HaLev. We are extremely excited for this year's theme, A Whale of a Jewish Tale, which will explore *Kehilla* (community), *Middot* (values), *Mussar* (character traits), and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) through stories! There are several changes this year including a new high school class (Chalutzim), which will be led by a shinshin, Israeli emissary. Teens will have the opportunity to learn about Israel as well as topics of their choosing. We are thrilled for this new endeavor!

Enclosed, please find the Youth and Family Education Handbook which has information about Hagiga, Nesiya, intergenerational programming, youth group, and special activities. We have also enclosed a youth and family education calendar which is perfect for quick reference.

Hagiga is an informal educational program which is led by a dedicated team of volunteer *madrachim* (leaders/guides). The inspiration for these programs comes from a variety of sources, namely the Education Mission and Vision Statements, as well as the many caring members who are *madrachim* and members of the Youth and Family Education Committee. Through each avenue we have made great strides to fulfill our mission "to provide a range of joyous, exciting educational and social opportunities for the congregation's youth and their families." You can find information about our vision, mission, and past activities, as well as the full range of youth programs at Kol HaLev, on our website [www.kolhalev.net](http://www.kolhalev.net) by clicking on the Youth and Family Programs tab under the "Community Life" heading, as well as the enclosed Handbook.

In order to best serve the community, we need to know who will be participating in the Hagiga program. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to the Kol HaLev office by August 31<sup>st</sup>. As the divisions of our education groups are based on numbers of participants, receiving registration for participants makes the whole process much smoother. Thank you for your prompt attention!

We are looking forward to a great year! If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact us.

Bill Scher-Marcus  
Chair, Youth and Family Education (Temporary)  
[scher.marcus@gmail.com](mailto:scher.marcus@gmail.com)  
216-212-6652

Robyn Novick  
Director of Youth & Family Education  
[robyn@kolhalev.net](mailto:robyn@kolhalev.net)  
216-320-1498