

# Kol HaLev Happenings

The Newsletter of Cleveland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

AUGUST 2011

## A YEAR OF HESED REVITALIZATION YIELDS NEW ENERGY, ROLES, AND IDEAS



Hesed Committee chair Jane Arnoff Logsdon has been on the both the giving and receiving ends of hesed this past year. During the terminal illness of her friend and neighbor, KHL member Lee Brooker, Jane was “honored” to organize and participate in caring for Lee during her illness. Afterward, as she began to mourn Lee’s death, she gratefully became the recipient of comfort and hesed. “I felt in the arms of angels,” she recalls.

“The world is built with hesed.”  
Psalms 89:3

Inspired by this experience, Jane became the chair of the Hesed Committee when the former chair, Marianne Lax, was ready to step down. Together with Marianne, Rabbi Steve, Judy Vida, Terre Maher, and others, she embarked on what became a year-long journey of “hesed revitalization.”

The goals of this revitalization were two-fold: to gather new energy and ideas for Kol HaLev’s hesed services, and to move hesed into the foreground of our community values, with the ultimate goal of making hesed as integral a part of the Kol haLev experience as sponsoring a Kiddush or serving as sadran are now.

“Kol HaLev feels like family and hesed is a big part of that,” offers Karly Whitaker who, like Jane, experienced hesed as both giver and recipient over the past year.

Hesed (acts of lovingkindness) is a mitzvah that is performed without obligation and with no expectation of reward or acknowledgment from the recipient. Acts of hesed have the potential to spiritually enrich the giver as much as the recipient.

“Just as at Kol HaLev, we pray together [continued on page 12](#)”



Adina Davidson

“Most of the help I have given through the Hesed committee has been very simple, like a cooked meal. I know from experience that the things which feel simple and easy to the giver feel extremely important to someone in a time of crisis. I very much appreciate that the Hesed committee lets me know what is needed rather than my floundering around for how to be helpful without being intrusive, offering unneeded or unwanted help.. I think this committee is a major part of the glue that makes us a community.”

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**WEEKLY UPDATE**

Ron Kohn

Art Lieberman

**YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION**

Lynn Liebling

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, AUGUST 15**

# A NEW TAKE ON TISHA B'AV

This coming month, Kol HaLev will be observing Tisha B'Av (the ninth of Av) on the evening of Monday, August 8. Tisha B'Av often is an often-overlooked holiday, despite being the only other full fast day in the liturgical year besides Yom Kippur. There are several reasons why Tisha B'Av so often goes by unrecognized and unobserved.

The first reason is timing: Tisha B'Av usually falls during the second half of summer, a time when many families and individuals are on vacation. Second, Tisha B'Av suffers from bad PR – it's often seen as a negative or depressing holiday because it commemorates a string of tragedies in the history of our people.

**What:** Erev Tisha B'Av Service  
**When:** Monday, August 8, at 8:00pm  
**Where:** Ratner

Finally, it can be hard to see the contemporary relevance of Tisha B'Av because the holiday traditionally involves mourning for the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, which most liberal Jews today would not wish to see reestablished.

Despite all of these barriers to connection, Kol HaLev will be holding a Tisha B'Av event on the evening of Monday, August 8 at 8:00pm at the Ratner School.

Why would people want to attend such an event? There are several reasons that observance of Tisha B'Av still offers a potentially meaningful experience for contemporary Reconstructionists.

While the specific historical events which Tisha B'Av commemorates may no longer resonate with us, the themes the holiday addresses remain familiar and pertinent. These themes include: the suffering brought about by tragedy and persecution; the problem of groundless hatred; and the existential state of exile.

All three themes continue to play a significant role in Jewish and human life today, unfortunately. They can touch our lives on several levels: as individuals, as members of the Jewish community, and as members of the human race.

I therefore invite and encourage you to consider attending this year's Kol HaLev observance of Tisha B'Av as we gather together as a community to confront and bear witness to the painful dimensions of life that continue to challenge us and the world. We'll offer one another support in our respective ongoing efforts to overcome these challenges and to move in redemptive directions.

Rabbi Steve

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

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In this month's President's Message, I'd like to share with the community some of the financial results of the year that just ended and to introduce a new topic which will be important in the year to come.

As most of you know, we have been beating the fiscal responsibility drum steadily for several years, emphasizing our commitment to fiscal responsibility as a community, our need to raise more money through fundraising activities, and the critical importance of paying our dues.

At the same time, we are committed to being a fair-share community. We value each member, regardless of his or her level of dues paid, and welcome each member's contribution to our community, financial and otherwise. In fact, our commitment to being a fair-share community makes it even more important that all of us contribute to the level that each of us is comfortable. That way, those who can will pick up and support those who cannot. In a very real sense, our overall dues and fundraising structure is also an outgrowth of our community values.

In a good year, our dues income represents approximately 65% of our annual budget. The remaining 35% of our budget is generated through the variety of fundraising activities. This percentage is a bit lower than that at most Reconstructionist synagogues, which raise between 70% and 75% of their annual budget through their dues income.

I am thrilled to announce that we did in fact end up collecting the 65% of our total budget from dues in this past year. Even more remarkably, we also increased the total raised through our fundraising efforts so that we ended the fiscal year with a slight surplus for the second year in a row. This is a remarkable achievement for a community our size and a testament to the vigor, commitment, heart and *ruach* of the Kol HaLev community.

Looking forward and taking into account today's economy, however, our Board of Trustees would be foolish if we didn't look at every possible way we can increase our income and reduce our overall costs. For our budgetary planning this year, we have calculated collecting only 60% of our overall income through dues. This estimate is consistent with both the reduced number of dues commitment letters we received and our sense of the economic difficulties our members are still facing.

Since we anticipate collecting a smaller percentage of our total income from dues this year, the Board of Trustees has increased efforts to raise money through non-dues means while doing everything we can to lower our total cost infrastructure.

Our largest expense category is the salaries of our wonderful Rabbi and Director of Youth and Family Education. The Board has made a clear commitment to compensate both Rabbi Steve and Robyn Novick fairly, and to offer and sign them to long-term contracts, which we have done.

[\*continued on page 5\*](#)

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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The next biggest line item in our budget is rent, in particular the rent paid to The Ratner School. As I reported previously in this column, we have been engaged in negotiating what we hoped would be a new long-term building usage agreement with Ratner. Unfortunately, we have not been able to come to terms with them. Although Ratner wants us as a long term tenants, they consider a rent increase a mandatory condition of our continued tenancy. And so last month the Board voted to NOT enter into a new long term contract with Ratner, but to see if Ratner would extend our current agreement for one year.

We have reached an agreement in principal with Ratner School to extend our agreement for an additional year at the same rental terms. In addition, the Board voted to reconvene the space committee and to begin immediately explore potential lower cost options to our current home.

Over the next several months leading up to and after the High Holy Days, the space committee will be at work identifying potential alternatives for a new home for Kol HaLev. At the same time, the Board will begin a directed conversation within the community to determine what qualities and characteristics of our space are most important to us.

It may be that in the final analysis, we'll determine that Ratner is an ideal long term home, or we may reach a different conclusion. Regardless of the outcome, the Board is committed to making the process as transparent as possible and to balancing our financial needs against other very real and important criteria. I'll let you know where we are as our process progresses, and I look forward to getting your thoughts on what is important to us as we evaluate our options.

Greg Selker,  
President

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges contributions from:

- **Emory Petrack** and **Sammy Greenspan**
- **Happy Wallach**, in honor of Ilana Solomon's bat mitzvah
- **Meg Manny** and **Irwin Weinberg**, in commemoration of the yahrzeit of James Manny
- **Maxine Collin**, in memory of her mother, Shirley Brick, and to offset the cost of membership in the Greater Cleveland Congregations
- **Joseph Arnoff**, in memory of Lee Brookner
- **Maureen Hack**, in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her father, Philip Hack
- **Abe and Muriel Chasin**, in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Lena Chasin

## HAGIGA HAPPENINGS

I hope that you are having a fabulous summer! We have been busy this summer putting things in place for this coming year. 5772 will certainly bring new experiences and opportunities for learning at Kol HaLev. There are two new additions that I would like to share with you.

First, we will have a daylong retreat for the Bonim (grades 3-5) and Magshimim (grades 6-8) at Camp Wise, including using the ropes course, on Sunday, April 29th. The year will be structured to culminate with this great event. Second, we have revamped our high school program, which is now called: Chalutzim Chai! We will meet on Sunday evenings at members' homes and the evening will include a light dinner. We look forward to seeing many new faces at the exciting *hugim* (seminars).

Families with high school-aged children should have received more information about the Chalutzim Chai program in the education packet recently mailed to all families with children. Included in the packet are the Education handbook, Youth and Family Education calendar, and enrollment information. If you did not receive an education packet, please let me know and another will be sent to you immediately.

This year's educational theme will be "Living a Meaningful Life." Although there are many ways to live a meaningful life, we have selected four avenues which can help us on this journey. We will spend four weeks exploring each of these avenues throughout the year. They are: *Mid-dot* (values), *Parshat HaShavuah* (Torah), *T'fila* (prayer) and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). We hope that in looking at these elements of life, we will gain a new perspective on our history, our present paths, and the future of our Jewish journeys.

As you may know, our program is rather fluid. We appreciate your help in solidifying the groups, which can only be done after registration has been completed. If you would please send in your completed enrollment forms, we can plan the numbers of *madrachim* needed for each group, and determine whether we need to reorganize groups in order to have the optimum number of participants. Your help is greatly appreciated in this task.

Kol Tuv,  
Robyn Novick  
Education Director

## THANK YOU

**Judy Herdering** wishes to thank all those who sent cards and well wishes while she was out.

**Lila Hanft** thanks everyone who sent her suggestions and praise for the newsletter last month.

# THE HIGH HOLY DAYS ARE COMING!

Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of **Wednesday, Sept. 28**. Yom Kippur starts the evening of **Friday, Oct. 7**. All services will be held at Ratner School.

High Holy Day (HHD) information and registration packets will be mailed to members sometime in August and will include details about the times and locations of services and related events. In order to conserve on both cost and paper, we will be sending out information about this year's High Holy Days via email, so look in your inbox for upcoming information. If you would rather receive the information packet via regular mail, or if you do not receive your emailed HDD packet by the end of August, please contact Judy Herdering in the office (216-320-1498 or [judy@kolhalev.net](mailto:judy@kolhalev.net)). If you have questions, Marcia Goldberg ([marcia.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.goldberg@gmail.com) or 216-321-1840) and Claudia Weissman ([cweissman@overdrive.com](mailto:cweissman@overdrive.com) or 216-321-2774) are heading up HHD planning this year.



During the High Holy Days, Kol HaLev members draw together to reaffirm our community and to welcome others who would like to join us during this season. Once again this year, we will host a community Rosh Hashanah luncheon—probably a combination potluck/catered meal. Plans for the luncheon have not been finalized, but an invitation and details will be sent in your packet. The Tashlich service will follow the luncheon, and maps to the site will be available at Thursday's Rosh Hashanah services.

Watch for additional information about the High Holy Days on the Kol HaLev website ([Kol-HaLev.net](http://Kol-HaLev.net)) and in emailed Weekly or Special Updates.

## **TISHRI MEMBERSHIP**

Our Tishri membership is a warm and welcoming way to invite non-members to share the month of Tishri and the High Holy Days with us. A description of what comprises a Tishri membership will be included in your High Holy Day packet. If you know anyone interested, please contact Judy Herdering at the Kol HaLev office, 216-320-1498 or [judy@kolhalev.net](mailto:judy@kolhalev.net).

## **HIGH HOLY DAYS PRAYER BOOKS**

Kol HaLev members are expected to own their HHD *mahzorim* (prayer books). Those that Kol HaLev owns are reserved for Tishri members and our guests. *Mahzor Leyamim Nora'im* may be purchased from the Reconstructionist Press ([stores.jrfbookstore.org](http://stores.jrfbookstore.org)) or by contacting Beverly Vitek at JRF ([bvitek@jrf.org](mailto:bvitek@jrf.org) or 215-885-5601, ext. 29).

## **HIGH HOLY DAYS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING**

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# HIGH HOLIDAYS

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All children's programming on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will begin at 10:30 a.m. Tot-parent programming will start at 11 a.m. Parents, please bring games, toys and books to Ratner for children to enjoy while they're not in services. And please also bring parve snacks and beverages for the children.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS INFORMATION TABLES

Any team leader, committee chair, or other member who would like to display or distribute information on tables set up for the High Holy Days should contact Phyllis Maris at 216-932-7176 or [phyllismaris@gmail.com](mailto:phyllismaris@gmail.com). *Mazon* envelopes will be available on the information table for those wishing to make a financial contribution to combat hunger.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS FLOWER FUND

The High Holy Days are an appropriate time to honor loved ones and memorialize those who are no longer with us. A contribution in honor or in memory of someone can help cover the cost of flowers for our *bimah*.

Please mail your donation, along with a note about your loved one, to Kol HaLev, 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 215, University Heights, OH 44118. All donations will be acknowledged in a fall issue of this newsletter.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS KIDDUSHIM AND ROSH HASHANAH LUNCHEON



Our High Holy Days kiddushim will be organized this year by Maureen Hack. She and Robin Shell, our kiddush coordinator, are looking for volunteers to provide challah, apples, honey, wine, juice and desserts or snacks for all three days of Rosh Hashanah and for the conclusion of Yom Kippur. Every member of the congregation is asked to bring at least ONE finger-food treat or snack on at least ONE day. And we have never let each other down.

The congregational luncheon following services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah has become a Kol HaLev tradition.

We're always trying to rework what we do to please everyone—an impossibility. This year we are hoping to combine our very best potluck contributions with some purchased or catered food. If you would like to lead the luncheon committee or help those who do, please contact Marcia Goldberg, [marcia.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.goldberg@gmail.com) or 216-321-1840.

## BREAKING THE FAST INVITATION

Kol HaLev would like to invite you to a potluck dinner in a member's home for the Break-the-Fast meal after Yom Kippur services. If you are interested, please indicate this on your registration form and please also indicate whether you prefer an early meal or one that begins after the conclusion of the N'ilah service. You will be notified about which host home to contact. ❖

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# GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS & KOL HALEV: GET INVOLVED NOW

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As you may know, Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) has been in the formation process for about a year now and held its founding general assembly on June 6, 2011. Kol HaLev has been involved from the outset and is a dues-paying member of GCC. We pledged to bring 18 people to the founding assembly and we brought 45, which earned us a very loud cheer from the 2000 people in attendance. From the beginning, KHL members have shown a keen interest in the work of the GCC and we have been well represented at all of the GCC organizing meetings. At present, we have approximately 40 KHL members who have volunteered to take part in our GCC effort and have participated in a GCC activity. We hope to build on this energy and enthusiasm as we move into the next phases of our community organizing program.



If you have not previously been involved in GCC, it's not too late, and you can jump in at any point that works for you. At this point in the process, KHL's GCC team is reaching out to all members of our community, even if you have not participated before, to help us.

During the past year, GCC has worked on and now developed a plan to get involved in five areas of concern to make Greater Cleveland a better place for all of us to live: Education, Jobs, Health Care, Criminal Justice and Hunger/Environment. On June 21 and June 23, Greater Cleveland-wide organizing meetings were held to begin our work in each of these areas. KHL members attended both of those programs and volunteered to participate on each issue team except, I believe, the Criminal Justice Team. We also had members volunteer to be team captains, the latter being the coordinators for KHL on each team. Those Team Captains are: 1) Education: Lynn Leibling and Karly Whitaker; 2) Jobs: Greg Millas; 3) Health Care: Donna Weinberger; and, 4) Hunger/Environment: Robin Holzman. As of this writing, the next meeting(s) of the GCC will take place on Tuesday, July 26. Greater Cleveland-wide meetings of GCC are scheduled once a month.

The mission for each issue team at this time is to begin a process of doing internal ("me-search") and external research on each issue. Internal research means that each team within each congregation will reach out to congregation members to 1) determine which members may be impacted by or have an interest in that issue, and, 2) to identify those congregation members who are professionals in the field (i.e. teachers, doctors, professors, business owners, etc.). External research means using the assets identified in the internal research and meeting with experts and practitioners to help develop proposals and strategies.

At this time then, I'd like to ask each one of you who is interested in working with a particular issue team, whether as a participant, asset, resource, researcher, etc., to contact the

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team captain for that issue. Their email addresses can be found on the KHL website. If you have questions, please contact me at [abinstock@aol.com](mailto:abinstock@aol.com), as I am KHL's GCC Coordinator. You do not have to volunteer to be on a team to be part of the KHL GCC effort or be part of the larger GCC campaign. In addition, for those of you who do volunteer for a team, your participation will not be limited to that one issue. Let me explain.

Over the next 4-5 months, the GCC will be working to develop action plans on each of the issues. These plans will involve well-defined and winnable goals. Thus, for example, the jobs team will not be attempting to solve the general issue of unemployment but rather will be potentially working on a specific plan to create jobs in the Cleveland area. Furthermore, it is not the intention of the GCC to launch 5 action plans at the same time. Thus, while members of one team are developing their action plan, it is expected that they will be participating in the implementation of a plan created by another issue team. In that way, the energy of the whole organization gets focused on one issue and our chances of winning are maximized.

The timeline is as follows: July-August: Congregations do their "me-search", meaning they assess their own interests and assets and begin to do external research as well; September: focused external research based on the results of the "me-search"; October: strategy analysis; November: ratification of action plan; December: first action steps.

There are resources and info available on the GCC website, [www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org](http://www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org). Also, the GCC is using the communication, networking, and blogging services of the Civic Commons organization at [www.theciviccommons.com/gcc](http://www.theciviccommons.com/gcc). You can set up your own account on this website and participate in the community discussion of GCC issues as well as other community issues. Contact me if you have any questions about those resources.

So, for those of you who have taken part in GCC, I thank you for your past participation and I hope you will continue to part of KHL's GCC effort. If you have yet to become involved, you are welcome to join either now or in the future. For those who are ready to get going, I would ask that you join an issue team by contacting the team captain. If you are not yet ready to participate at that level, I would ask that you at least contact either one or more team captains if you have some special connection to the issue and/or if you can bring your own assets or talents to helping that team as it works on an action plan. For example, if you are a doctor, you may be a good resource to have in our health care or our hunger/environment issues campaigns. If you are an educator, you may be a good resource for our education team, etc. I hope you can help our GCC effort.

Allen Binstock,  
KHL Coordinator for GCC

# BOARD REPORT

The July 7 meeting of the Board was unusually large, as it included outgoing, continuing and incoming Board Members. Ami Kopstein, Greg Selker, Alan Weinstein, Allen Binstock, Rabbi Steve Segar, Greg Millas, Sue Kisch, Bruce Goodman, Barb Truitt, Lynn Liebling, Leah Gilbert, Leah Kamionkowski, David Conn, Robyn Novick, Linda Gross and Elise Hagesfeld attended the meeting at the home of Greg and Lois Selker (not present: Barry Epstein, Molly Berger).

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Ami Kopstein reported that KHL ended the fiscal year with \$3,000 more than when it began. He also identified a trend in diminishing dues commitments. So far this year, 76% of member households have returned dues commitment letters for fiscal year 2012 (FY2012). This is a decrease from last year (FY2011), when 90% returned dues commitment letters; last year was a decrease from the previous year (FY2010), when 95% submitted dues commitment letters. Approximately \$10,000 in dues expected in FY2011 were not collected. Given a historical analysis of dues payments, the Treasurer anticipates decreased dues income for FY2012. (See [From Our President on page 4](#) for more on this topic.)

**Ratner Update:** Ratner has accepted our offer of a one-year extension of our current lease. During this time, we will reactivate the Space Committee to conduct a search of alternatives while continuing to see if we can come to agreement on a long term lease with Ratner (See [From Our President on page 4](#) for more information.)

**Initiatives for FY2012:** The Board discussed several strategic initiatives for the upcoming year. These include; improving our financial health: “branding” KHL (i.e. creating a consistent, accurate, and evocative expression of Kol HaLev’s community and values); and aligning the community around our major Tikkun Olam initiatives; and continuing the specific priorities in our strategic plan under each Values Team.

Specific goals under “improving our financial health” include making member check-in calls; generating publicity for the November Mock Trial event; finalizing the named funds policy; encouraging use of the KHL affinity credit card; and reorganizing the KHL website.

**Values Teams Strategic Priorities:** The Board began an evaluation of Value Teams’ priorities with a look at the Learning Values Team. As part of this, Lynn Liebling, YFE Chair, introduced an amendment to our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Policy which the Board discussed and approved. The Board received an overview of the evolving Hebrew guidelines and the recommendation to add a part-time Hebrew Coordinator, a proposal to be discussed and voted on at next month’s Board meeting.

**Board changes:** The Board plans to take greater responsibility and provide greater accountability for KHL’s governance and leadership. Going forward, Value Team Leaders will give monthly reports to the Board. In addition, at-large Board members are requested to find an area or topic of interest and become actively engaged in a project that brings value to KHL by the second year of their at-large commitment.

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## HESED REVITALIZATION *continued from page 1*

out of a sense of joy rather than duty, so we perform acts of hesed out of our experience of the joy of friendship and mutual support” rather than obligation, Karly explains.

To carry the metaphor further, hesed, like prayer and song, is a physical expression of our compassion for and commitment to our community.

Hesed at Kol HaLev is more fluid than in other congregations, where it may be organized into a finite number of clearly defined services. “We don’t have any defined ‘services’ partly because the idea has been to weave the spirit of hesed into the KHL community,” Jane explains. “We want people to feel comfortable giving and receiving freely, while recognizing that some people are not comfortable asking for or receiving help (or both).”

*“Hesed is holy work.”*

Jane Logsdon

Still, “We do want people to feel that they can depend on one another” even when they don’t know one another well, Jane says. “When one of my kids came (they’re adopted), someone I hardly knew brought us soup — beautiful!”

Over the past year of revitalization, the Hesed Committee have developed new tools and roles they hope will: involve more people in hesed in ways they’re comfortable with; simplify the lives of mourners; organize hesed



**Jane Arnoff Logsdon**

*“Hesed is holy work. During the time of member Lee Brooker’s illness and passing, I experienced both giving and receiving hesed. I had the honor of helping organize people to help her in her greatest time of need. I take comfort in the memories of community members and friends saying a mi shebeirach when it was clear she could not hang on any longer. Once I began to mourn her actual death, I felt in the arms of angels. People stepped forward to arrange and lead the shiva minyamin, attend the funeral, and offer to help in countless ways to support Ernie and I in our grief. Our beloved “Aunt Lee” passed away with dignity thanks to the open hearts and arms of KHL members.”*

## Q & A

with **Jane Arnoff Logsdon**,  
Hesed Committee Chair

**Q. What are some of things the Hesed Committee can help with?**

**A.** “We help with illness, hospitalizations, deaths, births, moves, individual struggle of any kind (when the people are okay with it obviously),” says Jane. “We can do concrete things like provide meals, childcare, rides, and company, or we can check in with people by telephone or email.” The Committee is also working on how to provide long term hesed for people with multiple, ongoing needs.

**Q. How do I ask for help?**

**A.** Sometimes people prefer to talk first with Rabbi Steve, who passes the information on to the Hesed Committee Chair. You can also contact Jane directly at [janealogsdon@gmail.com](mailto:janealogsdon@gmail.com) or 216-373-7066. “We encourage KHL community members to make known ANY needs they may have — nothing is too big or small,” Jane says.

## HESED REVITALIZATION *continued from page 4*

volunteers and activities more effectively; and reduce the likelihood of burn-out among the most active members of the committee. “People continue to show a lot of energy and interest in revitalizing hesed and are involved on a number of different levels,” says Jane, adding that she, Rabbi Steve and the other Hesed Committee members hope each and every member of Kol HaLev will be able to find a way they can participate in hesed.

### **Monthly Hesed Coordinator**

Over the past year, the hesed Committee has introduced the role of Monthly hesed Coordinator, a role which is filled by a new person each month. He or she receives information from the hesed chairperson about a hesed event in the community (i.e. birth, illness, moving, etc.). The coordinator begins by identifying and organizing the needs of the individual or family, calling on other members in as needed.

If you would like to sign up for a month of the hesed coordinator, please contact Jane at [janealogsdon@gmail.com](mailto:janealogsdon@gmail.com) or 216-373-7066. No experience necessary—you will be guided every step of the way!

### **Hesed Website**

This year, the hesed Committee began using the website LotsofHelpingHands.com to organize volunteers and provide information to the Monthly hesed Coordinators. KHL community members can sign up and indicate that you’d like to volunteer in a particular capacity (e.g. meals, childcare, phone calls, or transportation). To check out the website or sign up as a volunteer, go to <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/630370/>.

### **Shiva Coordinator**

KHL member Sue Wolpert has been serving as our Shiva Coordinator for the past year. Once Sue gets word of a death that impacts a KHL member, she contacts the primary mourners to assess any needs they may have, such as shiva attendees, food, organizing, or anything else that the mourners may need. Sue then coordinates those needs with the Monthly Hesed Coordinator and other community members. We are so pleased to be able to offer support to people in mourning and give them the space that they need to grieve rather than worry about organizing things. ❖

~Lila Hanft, Kol HaLev Newsletter Editor



**Karly Whitaker**

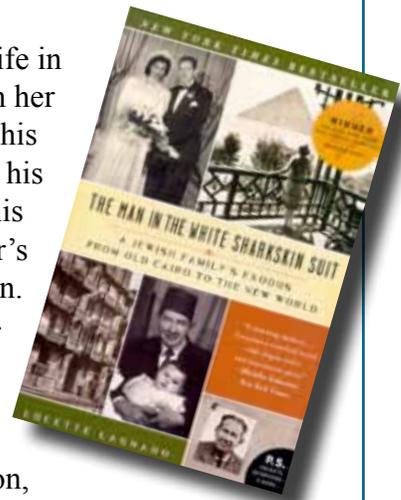
*“Kol HaLev feels like family, and hesed is a big part of that. We experienced the powerful support of the community at the shiva services after the death of Steven’s mother recently, and I have tried whenever possible to attend shiva minyanim since then because I know how much that presence meant to us. Offering a ride to services or help with childcare may seem like a little thing, but it makes all the difference.*

*As a friend said recently, she prefers not to think of herself as physically challenged, but instead as a living, breathing mitzvah opportunity. At KHL we pray together out of a sense of joy rather than duty, and hesed is a way to experience the joy of friendship and mutual support. But a healthy dose of feeling obligated to help or attend a shiva minyan doesn’t hurt, either.”*

## HUG HASEFER BOOK DISCUSSION CIRCLE

The next book group meeting will be **Thursday, August 25, at 7:30**, at the home of Anna and Sam Kelman. We will discuss Lucette Lagnado's memoir, [\*The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World\*](#).

From *Booklist*: "Lagnado's captivating account of her family's life in cosmopolitan Cairo and painful relocation to America centers on her beloved father. Dashing man-about-town Leon Lagnado kept to his carousing ways even after marrying a beautiful woman 22 years his junior. At the age of 55, he became enraptured with the author, his fourth child, affectionately called Loulou. She became her father's companion, even at temple services and the bar at the Nile Hilton. But the Suez War in 1956 and the Nasser regime's cultural holocaust began forcing Jews from their native Egypt. Leon's injury in a fall and Loulou's mysterious illness delayed the Lagnados' departure until 1963, when they arrived in New York with \$212, the maximum they were allowed to take out of Egypt. Leon, once a prosperous, independent businessman and investor, was reduced to selling ties on the street. In Lagnado's accomplished hands, this personal account illuminates its places and times, providing indelible individual portraits and illustrating the difficulty of assimilation. An exceptional memoir."



The book for September is [\*Thieves in the Night\*](#) by Arthur Koestler.

All KHL members are welcome to attend. For more information about the group and being added to the group's e-mail list contact Kevin Weidenbaum ([KJW@oberlin.net](mailto:KJW@oberlin.net)).

## HESED

We send wishes for a complete and speedy healing for Kol HaLev member **Sam Kelman**, who has recently been through a number of medical challenges.

## LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

The Lunch and Learn series will resume on Saturday, September 17. Our theme for the year will be prayer. For more information, contact Adina Davidson at 216-392-4886.

# Yahrzeits

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

Members of Kol HaLev will mark the following yahrzeits during August:

- **Sylvia Hack** – mother of Maureen Hack
- **Alice Lesly Friedman Biales** – sister of Joyce Wolpert
- **Charlotte Davidoff Dangler** – mother of Roberta Tonti
- **Leon Sidney Imrey** – father of Peter Imrey
- **Samuel Dash (Shmuel)** – father of Judi Dash
- **Betty Resnick** – grandmother of Linda Gross
- **Rose Lasky** – mother of Renee Siegel
- **Morris Ehrlich** – grandfather of Barry Epstein
- **Ruth S. Friedman** – mother of Joyce Wolpert
- **James D. Manny** – father of Meg Manny
- **Janet Mirow** – mother of Deena Epstein
- **Rae Ehrlich** – grandmother of Barry Epstein
- **Maurice Epstein** – father of Barry Epstein

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 [JudyHerdering@kolhalev.net](mailto:JudyHerdering@kolhalev.net).

## ISRAEL STUDY GROUP

The final session of this year's Israel Study group sessions will be held on August 14th at 7:30 pm at the home of Sue and Art Biagianti (4622 Greenwold Rd., South Euclid). Please call 216-381-0736 if you plan to attend.

The topic under discussion, "Advocacy for a Jewish and Democratic Israel," is summarized in the four page article "Excerpts from the JRF Israel Task Force Report accepted by the JRF Board at the JRF convention" which appears in *Reconstructionism Today*, Winter 2004/2005, pages 17-20. (Download the reading at <http://jrf.org/resources/files/rt-summary-of-israel-report.pdf>)

The topic of advocacy is addressed more fully in the 8-page section of the Task Force Report titled "Zionism And Communal Covenant: A Reconstructionist Approach To Essential Jewish Principles," which can be downloaded at <http://jrf.org/resources/files/Zionism%20and%20Communal%20Covenant.pdf>.

For further reading, the complete Task Force Report (50+ pages) can be downloaded at <http://jrf.org/resources/files/JRF-Israel-Task-Force-Report.pdf>.

Sam Kelman, a member of the Task Force which prepared the report, will co-lead the discussion with Rabbi Steve.

## BOARD REPORT

*[continued from page 11](#)*

Finally, the Board thanked members Leah Gilbert and Alan Weinstein for their service to the Board of Trustees and to Kol HaLev. Leah Gilbert is leaving the Board after serving as a member-at-large for 4 years. Alan Weinstein is beginning a new two-year term as an at-large member after serving as VP of Administration and the Welcoming and Caring Values Team Leader

The next Board meeting will be August 15 at 7:30 (location to be announced).

David Conn  
(for Molly Berger, Treasurer)

### BAT MITZVAH

**Please join us as our daughter  
Danielle Bieler  
is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah  
Saturday, September 3, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**

**The whole Kol HaLev community  
is invited to join us  
for a kiddush following the service.**

**Glenn and Jill Bieler**

# CALENDAR

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- SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 10:30 A.M.** **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *D'varim*; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Discussion leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush co-hosted by Marcia and Gil Goldberg in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary and by Sandy and Allan Rosenfield in honor of Kol HaLev
- MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 8:00 P.M.** **Erev Tisha B'Av** at Ratner Chapel (See Rabbi Steve's column on [page 3](#) for more information)
- MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 7:30 P.M.** **Board meeting** (location to be announced). All Kol HaLev members are welcome
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 10:30 A.M.** **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah Discussion at 9:45 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Ekev*; Service leader: Kevin Weidenbaum; Discussion leader: Kevin Weidenbaum; Kiddush co-hosted by Kevin and Sue Weidenbaum in honor of their wedding anniversary and by Robin Holzman in honor of her birthday
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 7:30 P.M.** **Book Discussion Circle** at the home of Anna and Sam Kelman, 2072 Campus Road, South Euclid, 216-297-9490
- FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 6:15 P.M.** **Friday Night Oneg Potluck** at Ratner School co-hosted by Happy Wallach in honor of her daughter Kerry's new job as a professor at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and by Nancy Dudwick

The dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or parve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10 people:  
A-H – main dish  
I-P – salads/side dishes  
Q-Z – dessert or drink

*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.*

**6:45 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service**  
**7:30 pm – Dessert Oneg**

[continued on page 17](#)

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## CALENDAR

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[continued from page 16](#)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 10:30 A.M.

**Shabbat Potluck in the Park** at the River Grove Recreation Area, located off Chagrin River Rd. in North Chagrin Reservation, south of Chardon Rd./Rt 6 in Willoughby Hills; *R'eh*; Service leader: Rabbi Steve and Kol HaLev youth; potluck co-hosted by Greg and Lois Selker and by Ron Kohn

The dishes should be vegetarian/dairy or parve and SHOULD NOT CONTAIN NUTS. Please bring enough for 8-10 people:

A-H – main dish

I-P – salads/side dishes

Q-Z – dessert or drink

*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.*

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**This calendar is accurate as of the time of publication.** Be aware, however, that on occasion the events, times, and locations for Kol HaLev calendar events may change. For the most up-to-date information, please check our website calendar at <http://kolhalev.net/calendar> and read the Weekly Update sent out by email every Wednesday.

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## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

*Kol HaLev Happenings* is the newsletter of Kol HaLev, Cleveland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community. Longtime readers will notice a change in format which began with last month's issue. The changes are the first steps in a movement toward more user- and environment-friendly communications. This format has enhanced graphics and is optimized for online reading, while remaining printable. We're eager to hear your reactions: 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 at [http://www.kolhalev.net/newsletter\\_public](http://www.kolhalev.net/newsletter_public).