

Kol HaLev Happenings

Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community

June 2010

June 6: Come One, Come All to the Community Fair

This year our Annual Meeting will be combined with our first Community Fair, designed to inform members about the opportunities to participate in the life and activities of Kol HaLev.

Members are invited to arrive at our Ratner home early, starting at 9:30 a.m., to enjoy coffee and bagels and socialize with KHL friends. The Annual Meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the chapel and last no more than an hour.

Then, after a bit of musical entertainment by Rabbi Steve and Rabbi Shawn, members are invited to the Social Hall where there will be tables dedicated to each of our six value areas. Representatives from the committees comprising each value area will on hand to talk about various opportunities to participate and to answer your questions.

Members will also have the opportunity to participate in a KHL video production by answering two questions (30 seconds max): What does being a Reconstructionist Jew mean to you? And what do you love about being a member of Kol HaLev? The videos will be edited and posted on our website, You Tube, Facebook and other social media websites to help create a cyber-buzz about Kol HaLev.

The Community Fair will culminate with more musical entertainment, some door prizes, and refreshments. Childcare will be available.

Women's Brunch and Discussion

Join the women of Kol HaLev at the final brunch of the season for a morning of lively conversation with old and new friends. Linda Gross will facilitate a discussion on the different roles and paths women take at different times of their lives. Anyone interested in leading a part of the discussion is welcome.

We will meet Sunday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. The first hour will be an informal get-together with bagels and coffee. Feel free to join for all or part of the morning.

Be Prepared for the High Holy Days

Rosh HaShanah comes early this year. Do you have enough copies of the High Holy Days machzor for everyone in your family? If not, now is the time to visit your friendly Reconstructionist Press website and purchase them.

<http://stores.jrfbookstore.org/-strse-Prayer-Books-cln-Holidays/Categories.bok>

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Deadline for the July issue is Friday, June 18, 2010

From Our President – Allen Binstock

This is my last message to the membership as President of the Board of Kol HaLev. I want all of you to know what a privilege it has been for me to serve you during these past three years. It has been an amazing time for me and I have learned so much. I am also extremely grateful to all of you for helping me meet the challenges that we have faced together. When I started out as president, I had no experience doing anything like this. I had been on the Board for three years but, as secretary, the ultimate decision-making responsibility had not been on my shoulders. Of course, I had great role models in my predecessors, especially those I had personally worked with: Deena Epstein and Sue Pelleg. But I had some serious doubts about my ability to lead as capably as they had. What I came to learn and what saw me through was the recognition that this is a community that responds to calls to action and has members that tirelessly give of themselves to make it work. That is why I have such confidence in the future of Kol HaLev. I know that we have and will continue to have dedicated leadership and a community that responds when asked.

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Rabbinic Corner – Rabbi Steve Segar

In past years, I have used my June column as an opportunity to put a Jewish spin on the tradition of creating a summer reading list. Below are a number of recently published titles that represent a range of genres. While I have not personally read each of them, they all come highly recommended. Whether or not you choose to delve into any of these particular books, I wish everyone a summer with ample opportunity to stretch mind, heart and spirit through the experience of a good read.

Rabbi Steve

***Memories of Eden: A Journey Through Jewish Baghdad* by Violette Shamash**

This memoir evokes a bygone era when pre-World War II Baghdad was one-third Jewish and interfaith relations were harmonious. Born during the last years of the Ottoman Empire, the author was eight years old when Iraq became part of the British Mandate. She describes traditions passed down over many generations and captures vividly the elusive quality of a scene totally at odds with our image of today's Iraq.

***The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time* by Judith Shulevitz**

The Sabbath is not just the holy day of rest. It's also a utopian idea about a less pressured, more sociable, purer world. Where did this notion come from? Is there value in withdrawing from the world one day in seven, despite its obvious inconvenience in an age of convenience? And what will be lost if the Sabbath goes away? Addressing these and other questions, Judith Shulevitz weaves together histories of the Jewish and Christian sabbaths, speculations on the nature of time, and a rueful account of her personal struggle with the day.

***Conscience: The Duty to Obey and the Duty to Disobey* by Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis**

This clarion call to rethink our moral and political behavior examines the idea of conscience and the role conscience plays in our relationships to government, law, ethics, religion, human nature and God—and to each other. From Abraham to Abu Ghraib, from the dissenting prophets to Darfur, Rabbi Harold Schulweis probes history, the Bible and the works of contemporary thinkers for ideas about both critical disobedience and uncritical obedience. He also challenges us to counter our current suppressive culture of obedience with the culture of moral compassion, and to fulfill religion's obligation to make room for and carry out courageous moral dissent.

***Bob Dylan: Prophet, Mystic, Poet* by Seth Rogovoy**

Bob Dylan and his artistic accomplishments have been examined for decades through almost every lens, yet rarely has anyone delved extensively into Dylan's Jewish heritage and the influence of Judaism in his work. Rogovoy, an award-winning critic and expert on Jewish music, rectifies that oversight, presenting a new look at Dylan's music and revealing the ways in which Dylan walks in the footsteps of the Jewish Prophets.

***Songs for the Butcher's Daughter* by Peter Manseau**

The author, a Catholic, worked for several years at the National Yiddish Book Center, where he was surrounded by books and was able to gain inspiration for this novel about a Russian immigrant who, at age 90, is the last living Yiddish poet in the U.S. This homage to Yiddish culture and language is also a story about the power of the translation, the translator, faith, and self-transformation. Manseau has received both the National Jewish Book Award and the Hadassah Book Award for this novel.

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 by email (rabbisteve@kolhalev.net) to schedule a meeting time.

From Our President – Allen Binstock

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A review of our assets as well as the accomplishments of the past year demonstrates why we are a successful community and why I have confidence that we will meet the challenges that still face us. First, we are blessed with amazing professionals who work for our community. As I wrote several months ago in this space, our rabbi is the heart of our community. Rabbi Steve is our spiritual leader, teacher, counselor, prayer leader, music director and so many more things. And now that he has completed his sabbatical in a way that was most beneficial to him and to us, he brings a wealth of knowledge to the community about organizational development, his most recent area of study. We are blessed that he has agreed to lead us for at least the next six years.

We are also blessed with the finest educational director a community could have. Our Hagiga program got off to a shaky start, but when Robyn Novick came, she put us on firm ground. Over the past couple of years under her leadership, the Hagiga program has become a prime asset of our community. Robyn has also done so many other things for KHL, whether it involves working on intergenerational programming, our Shabbaton retreat, or being our face to the larger Jewish educational community. She has also won grant money for us that has allowed us to expand and enrich our youth programming. Finally, we have an excellent office manager in Judy Herdering who competently makes sure that our administrative functions get done.

Aside from our salaried staff, we are also blessed with having three outstanding rabbis as members of the community who are constantly enriching our communal lives: Simcha Zevit, Shawn Zevit, and Jeffrey Schein. During the past year, thanks to funding from HaMakom, Simcha has been able to serve as our rabbinic intern; and, I, for one, have relished her involvement. I had the honor of co-leading with Simcha the Human Rights Shabbat service we held in December. I also had the pleasure of studying with her in the multi-week Shabbat Kehillat program she gave on Jewish ritual. Furthermore, although I did not enroll in the popular Eldering program she offered, I attended the May 15 Eldering Shabbat service and found it to be one of the most moving services I have experienced. As for Rabbi Shawn, I can never say enough about the energy, talent and wisdom he has brought to Kol HaLev. In the past year he has offered us great programming and ideas from the JRF, led beautiful Shabbat services, invited us to a deeply meaningful and new ritual remembrance for his grandfather, and just been a wonderful smiling face who makes you glad you came to services or whatever KHL event you've seen him at. Finally, there are Rabbi Jeff and Deb Schein, our founders, the patriarch and matriarch of the community. They have offered so much of themselves over the years and continue to contribute in such a major way as voices of wisdom and activists for our congregation.

We have also developed an excellent corps of lay leaders in the community. Members have voluntarily stepped forward to take on major responsibilities and, in the process, our lives have been enriched and some of our most difficult problems have been and are being addressed. There are too many names to mention in this small space but I do want to highlight some of our accomplishments during the past year.

1. We had our most successful High Holy Days ever, thanks to more hours of preparation being put in by more people than ever.
2. We developed a new web site team that has launched a more user-friendly and accessible web site than we previously had, and that will become a critical resource in the future.
3. We developed a new policy for having greeters and sadrans at our services to make services more friendly and secure.
4. We had some excellent special programming, including visits from storyteller Cindy Rivka Marshall and meditation teacher Rabbi Jeff Roth.

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From Our President – Allen Binstock

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5. We took the next step in our strategic planning process and community re-organization by establishing a value team leaders group that meets regularly to plan our KHL programming and facilitate communications between the various areas of the community.
6. We deepened our relationship with the Ratner community through our liaison with the Ratner School and through a joint Sukkot program.
7. We had successful fundraising events, including our Harvest Moon Gala, End-of-Year Challenge Grant, and Mishloach Manot program at Purim. We also took a giant step toward our future financial security by forming a new fundraising committee which quickly spawned a new marketing committee.

These are but a few of the highlights of the past year. They demonstrate what a vibrant and exciting community we have at Kol HaLev. I am aware that we still face significant challenges in the year ahead, but I also know that we have the leadership, both professional and lay, as well as the engaged membership, to keep KHL the growing and successful community that we have all come to know and love. Thanks for your support over the past three years and for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Allen

Chug HaSefer – Book Discussion Circle

The book group will meet on Thursday evening, June 24, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *The World to Come: A Novel* by Dara Horn. Through a series of interwoven stories, the author traces the life and times of Chagall's painting "Over Vitebsk" and the fate of those who come into contact with it.

The book for the July 22 meeting will be *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for his Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq* by Ariel Sabar.

All Kol HaLev members are welcome to attend.

Kol HaLev Kvells

Mazel tov to **Selma and Ralph Gwatkin**. Their son-in-law, Perry Newman, was recently honored by Israel's Consulate General in Boston for his efforts to support economic collaboration between Israel and New England.

Congratulations to our high school graduates and best wishes to them as they undertake their future plans:

Ryan Elgart, Baldwin Wallace College
Emily Gross-Rosenblatt, University of Rochester
Clara Hagerling, California Institute of Technology
Emma Limoli, Columbia College

Board Report

At the May 10 Board meeting a new six-year contract with Rabbi Steve Segar was unanimously approved. The new contract and other provisions in the budget approved for the 2010-2011 fiscal year make a renewed focus on fundraising imperative.

The success of last year's High Holy Days was due in great part to the early planning efforts led by co-chairs Nancy Hecht and Claudia Weissman. They and their committee are already planning for this coming High Holy Day season. At the committee's recommendation the Board approved changing the catered Rosh HaShanah luncheon to an extended kiddush-potluck at a more affordable fee.

Early next year a discussion will be held on the concept and prices of Tishrei-Fall memberships and the charges for guests and visitors.

A new procedure was enacted for the handling of announcements at the end of services. Board members will announce events listed in the Weekly Update. Members who wish to announce other events will be asked to limit themselves to the "on-one-foot" rule. Members may distribute information on Kol HaLev and non-Kol HaLev events by placing flyers on the table at the front door.

Work will begin on a Community Bulletin Board area in the members-only section of the web site.

All members are urged to attend the annual meeting and community fair, Sunday, June 6, starting at 10 a.m., at Ratner.

The next Board meeting will include members of both the old and incoming Boards. It will be held Monday, June 14. All members are welcome to attend.

Judy Harris

Contributions

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

- Lee Brooker in honor of Rabbi Steve's graduation
- Abe and Muriel Chasin in honor of Rabbi Steve's graduation and commemoration of the yahrzeit of their sister, Jean Roth
- Ari Cohn in honor of Anita Cohn's 75th birthday
- Barry and Barbara Epstein in honor of Rabbi Steve receiving his master's degree, in honor of Jonathan Wilhelm's conversion to Judaism, in honor of our madrichim, and in memory of Sue Weidenbaum's father, Julius Barthoff
- Dick and Deena Epstein in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Charlotte Dangler
- Ralph and Selma Gwatkin in commemoration of the yahrzeits of Sylvia Oken and Ada Gwatkin
- Maureen Hack to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Rabbi Steve's graduation and in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her mother, Sylvia Hack
- Allan and Sandy Rosenfield in memory of Julius Barthoff, Sue Weidenbaum's father
- Stuart and Sharon Schultz in appreciation to everyone who contributed to their Purim basket
- Mario and Roberta Tonti in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Janet Mirow
- Happy Wallach to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Rabbi Steve's graduation

Time for Kiddush Sign-Ups

It's that time of year again...time to sign up to be a kiddush sponsor. Below are the dates that are available. These are on a first-come, first-served basis, so please email your top three choices. The dates are subject to change due to ceremonies or special events not known at this time. **Please note that if you are unable to fulfill your kiddush sponsorship, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.** Kiddush sponsorship is an obligation of each member, as voted on by the Board. This is fulfilled on a fiscal year basis (July 1 – June 30). The deadline for requesting dates is **June 30**. If you do not voluntarily sign up by that date, a date may be assigned to you.

Guidelines will be emailed to you when your date is confirmed. Thank you.

2010	2011
Kiddush Coordinators for High Holy Days (1 more household needed)	January 15 – Saturday Kiddush
July 3 – Saturday Kiddush	January 22 – Saturday Potluck
July 17 - Saturday Kiddush	January 28 – Friday Night Oneg
July 23 – Friday Night Potluck (at Pelsmajers')	January 29 – Saturday Kiddush (5 th Shabbat)
July 24 – Saturday Kiddush	February 5 – Saturday Kiddush
July 31 – Saturday Kiddush (5 th Shabbat)	February 19 – Saturday Kiddush
August 7 – Saturday Kiddush	February 25 – Friday Night Oneg
August 27 – Friday Night Oneg	February 26 – Saturday Potluck
August 28 – Service in the Park Potluck	March 5 – Saturday Kiddush
September 4 – Saturday Kiddush	March 19 – Saturday Kiddush
September 8 – Erev Rosh HaShanah	March 25 – Friday Night Oneg
September 9 - First Day Rosh HaShanah	April 2 – Saturday Kiddush
September 10 - Second Day Rosh HaShanah	April 16 – Saturday Kiddush
September 18 – Yom Kippur Neilah	April 19 – Tuesday Passover Service
September 23 – Thursday, Sukkot Service	April 22 – Friday Night Oneg (Passover)
September 24 – Friday Night Oneg	April 23 – Saturday Small Kiddush (Passover)
September 25 – Saturday Kiddush	April 25 – Monday Passover Service
September 29 – Wed. evening, Simchat Torah	April 30 – Saturday Kiddush (5 th Shabbat)
September 30 Thurs. a.m., Simchat Torah	May 7 – Saturday Kiddush
October 2 – Saturday Kiddush	May 21 – Saturday Kiddush
October 16 – Saturday Kiddush	May 27 – Friday Night Oneg
October 22 – Friday Night Oneg	May 28 – Sat. Potluck: Shabbat in the Park
October 23 – Saturday Potluck	June 4 – Saturday Kiddush
October 30 – Saturday Kiddush (5 th Shabbat)	June 8 – Wednesday Shavuot Service (Dairy please)
November 6 – Saturday Kiddush	June 18 – Saturday Kiddush
November 27 – Saturday Kiddush (small)	June 24 – Friday Night Potluck (at Pelsmajers')
December 18 – Saturday Kiddush	June 25 – Saturday Kiddush

Hagiga Happenings

There were two programs this past month that illuminated the incredible year with the youth of Kol HaLev. First, on May 9 the Nachal (Kol HaLev's teen youth group) braved the cold and held a day retreat at Camp Wise. Although flurries could be seen for a bit, there was plenty of warmth from both the participants and the fire while we were doing team building exercises led by Nachal graduate, Isaac Miller.

After conquering our group tasks and overcoming challenges with the help of our community, we were ready for the tough stuff. That's right! In the freezing temperature we embraced our ultimate challenge, the ropes course. No way were flurries and mud going to stop us! The group (without hats and gloves) embraced each ropes course element like champions that had been trained to work as a well-oiled machine so that the toxic waste/snakes and alligators/raging flood waters would not bring us to our end. Yes, they triumphed over the ropes course as a team and came out victorious (and a little dirty and wet!). It was a very fun day! Pictures are coming soon to the website. Thank you to Isaac for sharing his expertise and leading a great program.

The second program was the Hagiga concluding program, which took place on Sunday, May 16. In order to do creative activities that we cannot do during our regular Shabbat meetings, for the past two years we have held the closing Hagiga program on Sundays. This year the children of Kol HaLev showed off their incredible knowledge during a rousing game of "Jewpardy"! Not a single stumper in the crowd, as our families are extremely wise! Once the prizes started flying (and they were flying), hands were going up left and right, sharing all that they know about sacred cycles.

The highlight of the morning was building calendars for the coming year, 5771. Through this activity, families were able to share their understanding of the Jewish calendar, as well as their creativity. Special guest Deborah Fish Gordesky from Creative Memories helped everyone with their scrapbooking questions and developing their album as an instrument to document the cycles in their families' lives. What a great way to end our study of sacred cycles!

Over the summer, there will be continued development of the Long Range Education Plan, as well as plans for youth and family education at Kol HaLev. I look forward to sharing that information with you throughout the summer.

Robyn

Yahrzeits

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

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

Lena Chasin (Leah) – mother of Abe Chasin
Morris Ehrlich – grandfather of Barry Epstein
Rae Ehrlich – grandmother of Barry Epstein
Maurice Epstein – father of Barry Epstein
Phillip Hack – father of Maureen Hack
Rose Lasky – mother of Renee Siegel
James D. Manny – father of Meg Manny
Janet Mirow – mother of Deena Epstein

JUNE 2010 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

- Saturday 5 10:15 a.m. **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Shelach-Lecha*; service leader: Rabbi Steve; Torah discussion leader: Rabbi Steve; Kiddush co-hosted by Renee Siegel and by Kevin Rahilly and Margaret Cohen in memory of her parents and Louis's kindergarten graduation
- Sunday 6 9:30 a.m. – **Annual Meeting and First Community Fair** at Ratner School
- Saturday 12 3:30p.m. – **Torah Study** - at our next Torah study session we will discuss Psalms. Art Biagianti will lead the discussion. All are cordially welcome.
- Saturday 12 4:00 p.m. - **Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Herzenstein**
- Monday 14 7:30p.m. – **Board Meeting** - All Kol HaLev members are welcome
- Saturday 19 10:15 a.m. - **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Chukat*; service leader: Barry Epstein; Torah discussion leader: Sam Kelman; Kiddush co-hosted by Susan Golden, by Amy Hogg, and by Nina Glueckselig in honor of Gabriel's 13th birthday
- Thursday 24 7:30p.m. – **Book Discussion Group**
- Friday 25 8:00 p.m. - **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** in Ratner Chapel; Service leaders: Simcha Zevit and Rabbi Steve; Oneg co-hosted by Rita Politzer and by Brent and Kate Weinstock
- Saturday 26 10:00 a.m. - **Experiential Shabbat** at Ratner Chapel; *Balak*. Details to follow; Kiddush co-hosted by Peter Imrey and by Alan Lipson and Judy Harris
- Sunday 27 10:00a.m. – **Women's Brunch and Discussion**
- Wednesday 30 **Deadline for requesting Kiddush dates**

See our website calendar and weekly email for additions and changes.

Kol HaLev Happenings

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Kol HaLev

Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community

An egalitarian, participatory spiritual community

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