

Kol HaLev Happenings

Newsletter of Cleveland's Reconstructionist Community

October 2010

New Perspectives on Reconstructionism

The Adult Education committee will kick off the new year with a three-session mini-course to discuss the fundamental beliefs and ethical issues that affect our daily lives from a Reconstructionist point of view. The course is designed to answer questions about the Reconstructionist movement in general and how it is practiced in our Kol HaLev community. Come discover the diversity of opinions and experiences that KHL members bring to the table.

If you brought a guest to our High Holy Day services, please invite him/her to come with you to these sessions, which will be held October 17, October 24 and November 7.

The first meeting will be start at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sue and Eric Kisch, 21850 E. Byron Road, Shaker Heights. **Please RSVP** by calling 216-295-1324 or the Kol Halev office so there will be enough chairs and vittles for everyone.

Book Group Regroups

After eight years of leading stimulating discussions, Peter Gray has stepped down as the driving force behind KHL's book discussion circle, Chug HaSefer. At the same time, Judy Vida is relinquishing her role as co-ordinator. They both also served as gracious hosts at the meetings of the group.

The role of leading the discussions will now be shared among the members.

Book selections are based on members' suggestions. So if you have read and enjoyed a book by a Jewish author or on a Jewish topic (fiction or non-fiction), send your suggestion to Kevin Weidenbaum (kjw@oberlin.net), the new co-ordinator.

All KHL members are welcome to participate, either as discussion leaders, participants, or hosts.

The group will continue to meet on the fourth Thursday evening most months, but it is not necessary to come every time. Contact Kevin to receive the book list for the coming months.

Tikkun Olam Opportunity

Congregation Based Community Organizing (CBCO) empowers communities to implement social change. The experience can be energizing because working towards a common goal breaks down barriers between different congregations and religions. CBCO is also consistent with the values of Kol HaLev, specifically that we are a community committed to *tikkun olam*.

Fairmount Temple has taken a lead in organizing congregations in the Greater Cleveland area. The first meeting, held on September 14, was

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DIRECTORY

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2245 Warrensville Center Road, #215		
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Holidays Vacant	Rabbi Liaison Barry Epstein Selma Gwatkin	Art Lieberman Youth and Family Education Lynn Liebling
Deadline for the November newsletter is Friday, October 15, 2010		

From Our President – Greg Selker

I want to let the community know about something that I think is very exciting. In August, Halle and Benjamin Barnett facilitated a meeting of about 25 Kol HaLev members to address some simple questions: What is unique about the quality of participating in Kol HaLev? And what has attracted you to participate in Kol HaLev? The purpose of this inquiry was to begin to distinguish who we are as a community and what it is like to participate in Kol HaLev. To anyone who attended our recent High Holy Day services it is clear that we have created a special place. When you participate in Kol HaLev, you are supported in having powerful, heartfelt and meaningful experiences and interactions. You get to explore what being Jewish means to you on an individual and community level, no matter where you are on your path of discovery as a Jew.

While this may be obvious to many of us, how effective are we at accurately describing this experience? If by chance we entered into a conversation about our spiritual leanings or our life as Jew with someone we know or haven't seen for a while, how effective would we be at describing the freedom that Kol HaLev provides to explore and create new meaningful experiences that are also deeply connected to our Jewish roots? This is the work that Halle and Benjamin have undertaken.

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Tikkun Olam Opportunity

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attended by 350 people from about 40 congregations. Participants, including six members of Kol HaLev, divided into 30 groups and discussed "What would you change to make life in Greater Cleveland better for your family and your community?" The 30 groups then re-assembled to discuss the areas of interest. The strongest opinion surrounded the issue of education in both its narrow and broad meaning. Kol HaLev has committed five people to attend the next step in the organizing process.

This fall there will be an organizing training series. Interested members would be expected to attend three sessions, all on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. The sessions will be held on October 7 at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, October 14 at Tifereth Israel, and October 21 at Trinity Cathedral.

If you have any questions or are interested in attending the training series, please contact Greg Millas.

From Our President – Greg Selker

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Besides getting feedback from the group in August about what it is like to participate in Kol HaLev, Halle interviewed several new members to understand better their decision process in joining Kol HaLev. She also interviewed the rabbis and/or executive directors from the majority of synagogues in the greater Cleveland area about their own congregations. Additionally, she talked with several other Reconstructionist synagogues and spent time with the individual who is leading a similar marketing/branding exercise on behalf of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. This has resulted in a comprehensive overview of Kol HaLev. How do we speak about who we are, what is our experience, how does this compare to other synagogues we compete with, and how does the Reconstructionist movement think and speak about Reconstructionism?

The findings of this significant process will be reviewed at the next Kol HaLev Board meeting on October 11. We will be using these results to help shape the way we think and talk about who we are and what we do. It will influence how we present ourselves to the outside world, and how our website looks and feels. It will arm us with language that not only accurately describes the experience of what it is to participate in Kol HaLev, but does so in a way that resonates with people who want what we have to offer but who may not know about us. This important exercise cuts across much of what we do, from volunteerism and participation, to fundraising and marketing, to internal communications.

Finally, because Kol HaLev has undertaken this process at the same time that JRF is undertaking a similar inquiry focused on Reconstructionism, Kol HaLev has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the national conversation about what is unique about Reconstructionism. In fact, Halle has been invited to play a role in helping to shape this conversation at the upcoming JRF Convention in Newport Beach, CA in November. With this in mind, please join me in saying “*yasher koach*” to Halle and Benjamin for their work thus far. We will all begin to see the fruits and benefits of their labor shortly!

Greg

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.
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Two New Shabbat Opportunities for 5771

- **Join Kol HaLev's new Lunch and Learn series: The Delights of Shabbat**

In this seven part series, meeting once a month, we will look at the many levels on which Shabbat provides us the opportunity for joy. We will meet immediately after kiddush for an hour, beginning at about 12:45 p.m. Babysitting will be provided during the sessions, and participants are asked to bring a drink or side dish to share. For the first session on November 6, a simple main course will also be provided for those who RSVP by October 30. (If you don't RSVP, come anyway and brown bag your lunch).

The following are the dates and topics for discussion:

–November 6: Song

It is well-known that singing helps us to express emotions that we can't (or don't) otherwise express. Aside from chanting and singing in services, Jewish culture has a long history of singing around the Friday night dinner and Shabbat afternoon lunch tables. We will both discuss and sing some of the traditional and modern songs of Shabbat.

–December 18: Prayer, part I/Shabbat Liturgy

–January 15: Prayer, part II/Experiencing Contemplative Prayer

–February 19: Shabbat Foods

–March 19: Shabbat in Historical Perspective

–April 2: Shabbat in the Mystical Tradition

–June 4: Celebrating Shabbat as a Family

Please RSVP to Judy Herdering at the Kol HaLev office (judy@kolhalev.net) with plans to attend the first session, and with needs for babysitting.

- **A Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service in Collaboration with Congregation Bethaynu**

Beginning Friday night, October 29, Kol HaLev will be co-sponsoring along with our sister congregation and neighbor, Bethaynu, an “amped up” musical Kabbalat Shabbat service. The service will be supported by a band composed of musicians from the two communities and will alternate locations between Bethaynu's building just off Brainard Circle and our Ratner location. The new start time for this joint endeavor will be 6:30 p.m. at both locations. When the service takes place at Bethaynu, there will also be a pre-service shmooze from 6:00 to 6:30 with light refreshments. This service will take the place of our once per month Friday night service that typically has occurred on the fourth Friday night of the month. This joint service will generally take place on the fourth Friday, but occasionally on the third or fifth Friday of the month, depending upon the logistics of our communities' calendars.

Missing Columns

Due to the conflict in the timing of the Tishri holidays this year with the newsletter deadline, the following items are not included this month: Rabbinic Corner, Hagiga Happenings and the Board Report. Watch for their return in the November newsletter.

Meanwhile you can read Rabbi Steve's Rosh HaShanah sermon on the KHL website:
<http://www.kolhalev.net/sites/default/files/RH%20Talk%205771.pdf>

Schmooze With the Rabbi

Rabbi Steve will begin holding "Schmooze With the Rabbi" again this month. On Tuesday October 19 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Stone Oven on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. This hour-long period has no set agenda. All Kol HaLev members are welcome to drop in and discuss whatever is on their minds with Rabbi Steve.

Hagiga Parent Meeting

Sunday, October 3

3:00—4:30 pm

Beachwood Library

25501 Shaker Blvd. Beachwood



Come learn more about Hagiga!

What to expect this year and give suggestions.

Meeting is open to all who are interested.

For more information contact Robyn

robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498

Kol HaLev Kvells

Mazel tov to Phyllis and Frank Maris on the marriage of their son, David, to Mariah Poole.

Honorable Menschen

Many thanks to Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer for providing the lovely new curtain for our portable ark.

Chug HaSefer – Book Discussion Group

The book group will meet on Thursday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Selma and Ralph Gwatkin to discuss *The Invisible Wall* by Harry Bernstein. This memoir of an early twentieth-century childhood paints a vivid picture of the social dynamics between the Christians and Jews in a northern England mill town.

At the December 2 meeting, the group will discuss the novel *To Know a Woman* by Amos Oz.

All Kol HaLev members are welcome to attend book group meetings. For more information, contact the group coordinator, Kevin Weidenbaum (KJW@oberlin.net).

Contributions

Kol HaLev gratefully acknowledges the following contributions from:

- Ami Kopstein and Glenda Kupersmith in commemoration of the *yahrzeit* of Ami's father, Aaron Kopstein
- Richard and Deena Epstein in commemoration of the *yahrzeit* of Joseph Mirow
- David and Carol Bortz for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Ruth Ness, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, with many thanks to Kirby Date and Richard Litwin, in honor of Frank and Phyllis Maris on their son's marriage, and in honor of Karly Whitaker and Steven Kanner on their new home
- Susan Golden in commemoration of the *yahrzeit* of Martin Landau
- Phyllis and Frank Maris in memory of Lily Brunshwig, mother of Phyllis Maris and in honor of Rabbi Steve
- Nancy Rubel and Dan Klein in commemoration of the *yahrzeit* of Ruth Rubel, mother of Nancy Rubel

Brunch with Bruriah

All KHL women are invited to a brunch on October 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the home of Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer, 24615 Sittingbourne Lane, Beachwood. Jodi Solomon will speak about Bruriah, the renowned Talmud sage.

Please RSVP to Nan Arian at arian2@roadrunner.com or 216-856-0605.

Women's Shabbat Dinner: Save the Date

There will be a Women's Shabbat dinner on Friday, November 5. Watch for details in an e-mail and upcoming Weekly Updates.

High Holy Day Contributions

General Fund

Benjamin and Halle Barnett with gratitude for the whole KHL community
Abe and Muriel Chasin in memory of Abe and Sadie Ritz, Israel and Lena Chasin, Jean Roth and Gussie Friedman
Anita Cohn thanking Nancy Hecht, Claudia Weisman and Marcia Goldberg for their hard work in coordinating the High Holy Days and making them so lovely
Maxine Collin in honor of Shirley Brick and in memory of Paul Brick
David and Elizabeth Conn
Nancy Dudwick in memory of her parents Harry A. and Ida G. Dudwick
Dick and Deena Epstein in memory of Janet and Joseph Mirow and Paul and Rosalyn Epstein
Juanita Fish
Nina Glueckselig in memory of Ita and Leo Glueckselig
Gil and Marcia Goldberg in memory of Rose and Max Goldberg and Peter Wachtler
Jonathan Gordon and Paula Klausner in memory of Francey Gordon and Bob and Penny Klausner
Peter Gray and Judy Vida in memory of JoHana Goldberg, Selma and Morris Silverberg, Helen Serxner, Irmgarde Lewinsohn and Siegbert Kosse
Amy Hogg
Robin and Elaine Holzman in memory of Bob Holzman
Carol Karabin in memory of Ben and Miriam Frankel, John Karabin, Julius and Katy Ausdeutcher, Garson and Rose Frankel, Florence Frankel, and Evelyn and Shirley Ellis
Jay and Ester Leutenberg in memory of Mitch Leutenberg
Lawrence Lief in memory of Roger Lief
Richard Litwin and Kirby Date in memory of Harry Litwin, Evelyn Litwin, John Date and Arthur Cowles
Chip and Harold May in memory of Margaret H. May and Sharon Chaiken Symansky
Greg and Pam Millas in memory of Elaine Z. Lasky and Elsie Press
Julio and Aurelia Pelsmajer in honor of their son's upcoming wedding, in memory of Aurelia's brother, Sefarino Rodriegues, Aurelia's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rodriegues and Julio's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pelsmajer
Gloria Plevin in memory of Leon M. Plevin, Rose and Ben Plevin, and Elizabeth and Sidney Rosenthal
Pauline Raymond
Pete and Heidi Robertson in honor of all the KHL friends who helped us prepare for Ben's bar mitzvah
Allan and Sandy Rosenfield in memory of Olive Rosenfield
Dave and Martha Schubert in honor of grandparents Milton and Minnie Winger and Amuil and Edith Berger
Stuart and Sharon Schultz in memory of Rose Glaser, Irwin Glaser, Clara Grodin, Violet Schultz, Jack Schultz and Seymour Graf
Greg and Lois Selker in memory of our grandparents and in honor of the KHL community
Vicki Sussman in commemoration of the yahrzeit of her great-grandmother, Gussie Herlands Solomon
Mario and Roberta Tonti in memory of Al and Charlotte Dangler and Diana M. Tonti
Happy Wallach in honor of Nancy Hecht

Flower Fund

- Joyce Goldstein in memory of Al Goldstein, Renee Pincus and Jerry Pincus
- Ralph and Selma Gwatkin in memory of our parents
- Sam and Anna Kelman
- Ray Lesser and Sue Wolpert in memory of Sam and Roz Wolpert
- Ken and Barbara Messinger-Rapport
- Brian and Jean Miller in memory of Lakey Miller

Yahrzeits

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

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

Harry Beckerman – father of Eda Weiss
Rose Beckerman – mother of Eda Weiss
Gwen Katz – mother of Barbara Epstein
Isaac Klein (Yitzchak) – cousin of Brenda Goodman
David Lockshine – father of Robin Shell
Ruth Rubel - mother of Nancy Rubel
Lillian Schatz – mother of Selma Gwatkin
Elliott Warner (Eleazar Binyamin) – husband of Audrey Warner
Alfred Weiss – husband of Eda Weiss
Irene Weinberger (Rachel) – mother of Irwin Weinberger

OCTOBER 2010 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

- Saturday 2 10:15 a.m. - **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Bereshit*; Service leader: Rabbi Steve; Torah discussion leader: Sue Wolpert; kiddush co-hosted by Sue and Mordy Pelleg and by David and Elizabeth Conn in honor of David's conversion to Judaism
- Saturday 2 10:15 a.m. – **Hagiga**
10:45 –Tot-Parent Shabbat Program for families with children in preschool and under in the We Care Room. The program is about a half an hour, led by Rachel Williams. Babysitting is available before and after Tot Shabbat, also in the We Care Room.
- Sunday 3 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. – **Hagiga Parent Meeting** at Beachwood Library, 25501 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood; for more info contact Robyn, robyn@kolhalev.net or 216-320-1498
- Wednesday 6 7:00-8:30 p.m. – **Membership Committee Meeting** at the home of Maureen Dinner, 249 Blossom Lane, Orange; Potluck dinner followed by meeting. RSVP: 440-914-0404 or maureendinner@gmail.com
- Saturday 9 10:00 a.m. - **Creative Shabbat; Noach**; location TBA
- Saturday 9 3:30 p.m. - **Torah Study** at the home of Ralph and Selma Gwatkin, 25460 Bryden Road, Beachwood, 216-765-8109; Ralph will lead a discussion of Psalms. All members of Kol HaLev as well as Tishri members are welcome.
- Sunday 10 10:00 a.m. – noon – **Women's Brunch** at the home of Aurelia and Julio Pelsmajer, 24615 Sittingbourne Lane, Beachwood; RSVP to Nan Arian at arian2@roadrunner.com or 216-856-0605.
- Monday 11 7:30 p.m. – **Board Meeting** - location TBA. All Kol HaLev members are welcome

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OCTOBER 2010 KOL HALEV CALENDAR

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- Saturday 16 10:15 a.m. - **Shabbat Service** preceded by Torah discussion at 9:30 a.m. at Ratner Chapel; *Lech L'cha*: Service leaders; Rabbi Steve and Fred Chenin; Discussion leader TBA; kiddush co-hosted by Mike Armin and by Maureen Dinner
- Saturday 16 10:15 a.m. – **Hagiga**
10:45 –Tot-Parent Shabbat Program for families with children in preschool and under in the We Care Room. The program is about a half an hour, led by Rachel Williams. Babysitting is available before and after Tot Shabbat, also in the We Care Room
- Sunday 17 7:30 to 9:30 p.m - **Recon 101** at the home of Sue and Eric Kisch, 21850 E. Byron Road, Shaker Heights, 216-295-1324
- Tuesday 19 8:00-9:00 a.m. – **Schmooze With the Rabbi** at the Stone Oven on Lee Road in Cleveland Heights
- Saturday 23 10:00 a.m. – **Kehillah Shabbat** at Ratner Chapel; *Vayera*; Service Leader: Rabbi Steve; kiddush co-hosted by Rachel Kay and by Juanita Fish
- Sunday 24 7:30 to 9:30 p.m - **Recon 101**; location TBA
- Wednesday 27 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. - **Mindful Jewish Practice** at the home of Molly Berger, 19744 Chagrin Boulevard, Shaker Heights, 216-752-5434
- Thursday 28 7:30 p.m. – **Book Discussion Group** at the home of Selma and Ralph Gwatkin, 25460 Bryden Road, Beachwood, 216-765-8109; all members are welcome
- Friday 29 6:00 p.m. – **Kabbalat Shabbat Musical Service** at Bethaynu
- Saturday 30 10:00 a.m. – **Experiential Shabbat** at Ratner Chapel; *Chayei Sarah*; kiddush co-hosted by Marilyn Litvene and by Celia and Bruce Jennings in honor of Bruce's birthday and their 28th anniversary
- Saturday 30 6:30 p.m. – **Magshimim Monthly Social Gathering** – share pizza and music at the Segar house. Bring ipods and instruments

Cooking With Kol HaLev Recipes from the Heart

\$18.00 per book or \$15.00 each for 5 or more books

To order contact Leah Kamionkowski – leah@bepure.com or call the Kol HaLev office at 216-320-1498

See our website calendar and weekly email for additions and changes

Kol HaLev Happenings

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