



August 25, 2016

Dear Members,

There has been so much planning, growth, and community involvement over the last year in our Am Haskalah community. As we prepare to begin the Jewish year 5777, we are looking forward to welcoming our new Student Rabbi, Janine Jankovitz. She is eager to meet each and every one of us and share her love of Judaism and spirituality while inviting us to join in her gatherings. We look forward to welcoming her to our congregation with our open hearts and will soon have gatherings to welcome her.

We are pleased Rena Fraade will be continuing as our Managing Director. She has been able to help move us along on many of our projects. We have an increased presence on Facebook and our online website, and more information is available in our weekly Shofar email blast. If you do not use the internet please notify us and we will be sure you are notified of our happenings regularly. Rena has also worked with our Religious School and B'nai Mitzvah students to develop one on one tutoring, in tune with current trends in Jewish education. She has also encouraged the Board to explore avenues to increase participation by current members and connection to new members.

Thank you so much to our two immediate past presents, Scott Berman and Rachel Zane, for their invaluable contributions of time and effort to Am Haskalah. Additional thanks to our three most recently retiring Board members after their 3 year contributions holding many titles and responsibilities, Sharon Albert, Dave Teumim and Elissa Wurf. We could never have grown as much as we did without your continuous dedication.

Our community has always thrived on our talented members and their continued contribution of volunteering when needed. Once again, this coming year we will call upon you to offer a helping hand in various ways. Please do not wait to be asked if you feel you can offer your assistance. Your thoughtfulness and personal contributions of time, effort and suggestions are always welcome and appreciated. We all wish Am Haskalah to remain inclusive for every member.

Your contributions in all forms are absolutely essential to the existence of our Congregation. Our community exists only because of a shared covenant among us to provide a dynamic Reconstructionist Jewish community in the Lehigh Valley. One of the aspects of this covenant is commitment to provide for the financial needs of our Congregation. When you make your fair share pledge, you help renew the covenant of our Congregation. Whether you participate in many activities or only a few, your contributions in all forms are absolutely essential to the existence and spirituality of our Congregation.

Am Haskalah's membership pledges are based on income, rather than a fixed rate. There is a worksheet attached to help you calculate your "fair share". Grounded in the tradition of the half-shekel, the minimum dues payment of \$18 is intended to provide all members, regardless of means, with the ability to know they have contributed directly to the well-being of the Congregation. We have also asked all members to contribute \$18 to support the provision of Kiddush for all our Oneg Shabbat Celebrations. We remain committed to removing any financial barriers to membership, so if you have any concerns about paying your

dues, please contact me, Rena or Izzy, our Treasurer. Please return only the **“Am Haskalah Pledge Commitment”** to the Treasurer, NOT your calculations. We prefer that you pay by check as PayPal takes a percentage of all transactions.

We wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing each of you during the High Holy Days and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Risa Dorfman, President  
 risa.dorfman@gmail.com  
 484-735-7651

**Am Haskalah Fair Share and Contributions Worksheet (DO NOT RETURN)**

**STEP 1. YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**

If you are not sure how to determine your income, you can use the adjusted gross income from last year’s tax return. If you have high expenses due to elder- or child-care, medical needs, etc, you may reduce that as you see fit. If you have income that was not counted in the tax return you may increase it.

Write your self-determined household income here.....

**STEP 2. YOUR PLEDGE RATE**

Using the chart below, determine the percentage to multiply by:

Household Income	Rate Percentage	Multiply by
Less than \$50,000	1.00%	.010
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1.25%	.0125
\$75,000 to \$124,999	1.50%	.015
\$125,000 to \$174,999	1.75%	.0175
Over \$175,000	2.00%	.02

**STEP 3. YOUR SHARE**

Multiply your household income from step 1 by the “Multiply by” number identified in step 2.

$$\begin{array}{rcccl}
 \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & & \times & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & = & \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\
 \text{Household income} & & \times & \text{Rate} & = & \text{Total}
 \end{array}$$

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PLEDGE:** The commitment for members of another congregation are \$400.

Please make checks payable to Am Haskalah. Send form to  
 Congregation Am Haskalah 1190 W Macada Road Bethlehem PA 18017

Questions? Email Rena, amhaskalahdirector@gmail.com or Izzy, izzy2@ptd.com

**Am Haskalah Pledge Commitment 2016 - 2017**  
**Please return the below page and information promptly**

*Please return this form to Congregation Am Haskalah 1190 W Macada Road Bethlehem PA 18017  
 Questions? Email Rena, amhaskalahdirector@gmail.com or Izzy, izzy2@ptd.com*

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fair Share Pledge

Dues commitment for 2016-2017 from worksheet (minimum \$18)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Oneg Fund assessment..... \$18.00

Religious School Tuition

Please call Rena Fraade, who will be coordinating individualized instruction this year. The Congregation will be subsidizing part of the costs of this instruction as part of our commitment to educating our youth.

Children's names: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contributions

Please consider giving additional donations to support these congregational funds:

"Am Haskalah Chai" Program ( giving @ \$18/month)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Annual fund – general operating support..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hospitality fund (for *oneg shabbat* and other meals)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Childcare fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Education fund ( \_\_\_Adult, \_\_\_ Children, \_\_\_ General)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rabbi's discretionary fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*To contribute to the Cedar Tree Capital Fund or the Olive Tree Endowment Fund, either directly or through planned giving, please contact Izzy or the JFLV office at 610-821-5500 (JFLV manages these funds).*

TOTAL PLEDGE FOR 2015-2016 (total of pledge, tuition and contributions)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL ENCLOSED..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL REMAINING..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will pay the rest in (check one)

- One payment (total remaining)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Two payments (divide the total remaining by 2).... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Three payments (divide the total remaining by 3). \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly (divide the total remaining by 10)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Am Haskalah**. We prefer you pay by check as Paypal takes a percentage, however you may pay using the PayPal button on our website at [www.amhaskalah.org](http://www.amhaskalah.org)

*By signing this I/we agree to pay the total amount pledged over the coming year. I/We understand that the Board of Trustees will make financial commitments based on this financial pledge. I/We understand that Am Haskalah asks its members to review their pledge annually and to adjust it as needed, and that the pledge will stay in effect until I/we submit a new pledge form.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Member's name date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Member's name date