



July 2017

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 5778, we are looking forward to welcoming our new Student Rabbi, Jake Best Adler. He is excited to be joining our congregation - he comes in with a great energy, a love for music and connection. He worked, among other places, at Camp JRF on the ropes course and knows some of our younger congregants! We look forward to welcoming him to our congregation - we invite you to watch The Shofar for information about our first events with him.

As our outgoing Managing Director, Rena Fraade, has re-located to North Carolina, we are concluding a search for her successor - we look forward to sharing updates via email. Rena leaves having grown our social media presences, worked with the board to develop programming structure, and coordinated new programs with Religious School families. We are thankful for her work as our first Managing Director!

Our Board is currently without a president. Without a clear successor for Risa Dorfman-Thomas, we decided that our congregants would be able to spread the work among each other - we are seeing success in this model. We are grateful to Risa for her hard work as our president and appreciate her continued presence on the board! 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.

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 wellbeing 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 the Managing Director 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,

The Am Haskalah Board: Risa Dorfman-Thomas, Immediate Past President, Izzy Studzienko, Treasurer, Jane Levine, Recording Secretary, Elizabeth Fear, Anita Goldman, Joy Scott, David Smith, Rachel Zane



**Annual Pledge Commitment Form 5778/2017-2018**  
**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 [amhaskalahdirector@gmail.com](mailto:amhaskalahdirector@gmail.com) or Izzy, [izzy2@ptd.com](mailto:izzy2@ptd.com)

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

Membership Fair Share Pledge Dues commitment for 2017-2018 (minimum \$18)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Oneg Fund Assessment ..... \$18

**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).*

*To contribute to our LIFE & LEGACY Campaign, please visit our website.*

TOTAL PLEDGE FOR 2017-2018 (total of pledge 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

*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



FOLLOWED BY WORKSHEET AND ADDITIONAL FUND OPPORTUNITIES