

Congregation Am Haskalah

1190 West Macada Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017-3029

Office phone (610) 435-3775

Co-Presidents – Joy Scott & Scott Berman

August 15, 2020

Dear Member/s,

We are looking forward to a wonderful year at Am Haskalah, even if it is far different than planned. During the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will hold our High Holiday services and regular Shabbat services via Zoom. It is an especially important time to support each other through our community with the fervent hope that we can come together in person at some point soon. Come September, we will continue with our regular weekly service schedule that includes two rabbi-led Shabbat services and two lay-led Shabbat services a month. We are excited to welcome Student Rabbi Armin Langer as our religious and spiritual leader, along with Rabbi Steven Nathan. Both will be leading services and adult education throughout the year, and they have many exciting activities planned.

You can reach Student Rabbi Armin at: amhaskalahrabbi@gmail.com or call him at 484-245-4148. Rabbi Steve can be reached at: rabbisteve.nathan@gmail.com. For any other questions, you can reach our Administrative Director, Liz, at: amhaskalahdirector@gmail.com or call her at 201-874-4428.

This 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 a commitment to provide for the financial needs of the Congregation. When you pay dues, you help renew this covenant. Whether you participate in many activities or only a few, your dues are absolutely essential to the existence of the Congregation. Our dues do not currently cover our operating costs.

Am Haskalah's membership dues are based on income, rather than a fixed rate. There is a worksheet attached to help you calculate the dues that represent 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 say 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 kiddish for all our Onegs.

We remain committed to removing any financial barriers to membership, so if you have any concerns about paying your dues please contact one of the co-Presidents. We also recognize the essential privacy of your personal finances and we never ask you to send any personal information to us, including this worksheet. Use this sheet to determine a payment that is sustainable for you and then file it for your own records. **Please return only the final worksheet to us.** We prefer that you pay by check, as PayPal and credit cards have transaction fees, but the options are available to you.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call:

Joy 215-840-6324, Scott 610-691-8211, or Liz 201-874-4428.

Sincerely,

Joy Scott and Scott Berman, co-Presidents

Note: Please send **all** checks to: Congregation Am Haskalah
1190 W. Macada Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Am Haskalah Dues and Contributions for 2020-21

WORKSHEET

(Do NOT return this sheet)

STEP 1. Determine 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, or other needs, then reduce your income as needed.

EXAMPLE: A couple makes \$65,000 combined gross income, but are paying \$15,000 per year toward elder care expenses. They decide that \$10,000 of this is an extraordinary expense that they need to remove from their income. They would fill out the worksheet as below.

Gross income		___ \$65,000 _____
Adjustments:	-	___ \$10,000 _____
Adjusted income	=	___ \$55,000 _____

Now use this method to calculate your own family or personal household income

Write you adjusted gross income (from tax return) here _____

Subtract the amount of any adjustments due to high expenses: - _____

Write the result (your self-determined household income) here = _____

STEP 2. Your dues rate

Using the chart below, find your self-determined household income and determine the dues rate percentage and the number to multiply by:

EXAMPLE

For our example family they would find the line containing \$55,000. Their rate would be 1.25% and they would need to multiply their income by .0125.

Household Income	Dues Rate Percentage	Multiply by
Less than 50,000	1.00%	.010
50,000 to 74,999	1.25%	.0125
75,000 to 99,999	1.50%	.015
100,000 to 124,999	1.50%	.015
125,000 to 149,999	1.75%	.0175
150,000 to 174,999	1.75%	.0175
Over 175,000	2.00%	.02

Use the table below to find your rate

Household Income	Dues Rate Percentage	Multiply by
Less than 50,000	1.00%	.010
50,000 to 74,999	1.25%	.0125
75,000 to 99,999	1.50%	.015
100,000 to 124,999	1.50%	.015
125,000 to 149,999	1.75%	.0175
150,000 to 174,999	1.75%	.0175
Over 175,000	2.00%	.02

STEP 3. Your dues

Multiply your household income from step 1 by the percentage identified in step 2.

EXAMPLE: Our example family determined their household income to be \$55,000 and their rate to be .0125. Their dues would be \$687.50. ($\$55,000 \times 0.0125 = \687.50)

Now do this for your income and rate to find your dues.

$$\begin{array}{rcccl} \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & & \text{X} & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} & = & \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ \text{Household income} & & \text{X} & \text{Dues Rate} & = & \text{DUES} \end{array}$$

Please copy only the DUES amount onto the next page to return to the treasurer. Please retain this page for your records, or dispose of it as you see fit. Shredding and then composting it provides maximum data security and environmental benefit.

Am Haskalah Dues and Financial Commitment 2020-21

Please return by September 10th or ASAP

Please return this form to: 1190 West Macada Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017-3029

If you have any questions, please call Scott, 610-360-4677 or Liz, 201-874-4428

Member Name(s): _____

Membership Dues

Dues commitment for 2018-2019 from worksheet (minimum \$18)	\$ _____
Oneg Fund assessment	\$18.00

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 <i>oneg shabbat</i> 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 Liz at 201-874-4428 or the JFLV office at 610-821-5500 (JFLV manages these funds).

TOTAL PLEDGE FOR 2018-2019 (total of dues, 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) \$ _____

We prefer payment by check as there are no fees, but you can also use the PayPal button on our website, or by credit card over the phone.

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
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