

Board of Directors

2020-2021

Chair: *Irina Chernyakov*
chair@kolhaverim.net

Vice Chair: *Abby Cohn*
vicechair@kolhaverim.net

Treasurer: *Alla Lukina*
treasurer@kolhaverim.net

Secretary: *Alex Chernyakov*
secretary@kolhaverim.net

Holidays: *Jonathan Joseph*
holidays@kolhaverim.net

Programs: *David Levitsky*
programs@kolhaverim.net

Web Master:
Alex Chernyakov
webmaster@kolhaverim.net

October 29, 2020

Dear Kol Haverim Members and Friends,

A belated Shana Tova to you! The past year has been unlike any other in too many ways to list, and many aspects of life will continue to be different and unpredictable for the foreseeable future. The interesting times we are living in have highlighted one common need – to be part of a community, to help and support each other, to celebrate, mourn, and take action together.

Kol Haverim is a community for Humanistic Judaism in Ithaca, New York. Together since 1999, we explore and celebrate what it means to be Jewish from a Secular and Humanistic perspective. Kol Haverim provides a welcoming approach to Jewish celebrations for all people who value Jewish identity by birth, by choice, or by association and desire to express their connection to Jewish heritage and culture consistent with a humanistic philosophy of life. We engage in self-reflection and take responsibility for working toward “Tikkun Olam” – repairing the world. We are an inclusive congregation that welcomes all kinds of families, whether blended, traditional, interfaith, intercultural, or interracial, and people of all races, genders, and sexual orientations.



The Humanistic principles upon which Kol Haverim is based are more relevant than ever as our nation continues to be plagued by systemic racism and a morally corrupt government. Social Justice is fundamental to Humanistic Judaism and to our membership. Kol Haverim is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ), which also works to support causes that fight racism to bring about a more equitable world. SHJ is a national organization of more than 30 Humanistic Jewish Communities around North America and provides us with support as a group and enables us to feel part of a larger community. Our designation as a Havurah recognizes that we are a small egalitarian group that relies on participation of the entire community.

Kol Haverim's events and celebrations have shifted to a virtual format for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic. We have had some wonderfully meaningful and engaging events over the past six months via Zoom – Passover Seder in April, Conversation with Abby Stein in July, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Break the Fast in September, virtual Sunday Schmooze and movie night events. For details and updates, check our website www.kolhaverim.net.

Our membership rates remain the same as last year's, however an optional discount is offered to returning KH members due to a decrease in expenses associated with reduced and virtual activities in Spring of 2020. Kol Haverim pledges never to turn anyone away for lack of ability to pay. To keep that pledge, we need the support of those who are still able, now more than ever! To recognize a greater level of support, we have a Sustaining Member category. Those who wish to financially support Kol Haverim but do not wish to participate as active members may choose to be an Affiliate Supporter. With your generosity, Kol Haverim will remain a strong and vibrant community, the only community in the Finger Lakes region that offers a secular and humanistic way to honor and celebrate Jewish identity.

We look forward to having you as part of Kol Haverim for the 2020-2021 season! Please fill out the membership form below, make your check payable to Kol Haverim, and send it to the address below by November 10. "See" you soon!

Warmest Regards,

Irina Chernyakov, Chair
Kol Haverim
PO Box 4972
Ithaca, NY 14852-4972
kolhaverim.net