



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

CCHJ provides a forum for Jews, in an atmosphere of support and encouragement, to celebrate, explore, develop, and take pride in their Jewish identity.

## **CCHJ TENETS**

As humanistic Jews we affirm the following:

- 1) We consider a Jew as someone who identifies with the history (past), culture (present), and potential (future) of the Jewish people.
- 2) We believe in the total worth and dignity of the human being.
- 3) Jewish history and survival is a testament to the power of collective human will, the conviction of human values, and the demonstration of human courage.
- 4) We hold within us the power of intelligence to guide us to responsibly determine, shape and give meaning to our lives.
- 5) We regard reason and scientific inquiry as the most valid method of arriving at new knowledge. However, we also recognize that intuition, speculations, and flashes of inspiration emanating from peak experiences cannot be discounted as a means of enlightenment. New ways of comprehending the world and ourselves as well as discovering creative solutions to life's perplexing problems can result from this.
- 6) We affirm each person's capacity to decide his or her own spiritual path as a Jew.
- 7) We recognize that human development, spiritual or otherwise, is a life long process and is always subject to change as we open our minds and hearts to new insights and experiences.
- 8) We celebrate Jewish holidays and ceremonies creatively in a manner that places emphasis on the meaningful human values that underlie them and their significance for our own lives in the here and now.
- 9) We have a responsibility to work toward improving life for ourselves, our families, our community, and our world.
- 10) The freedom and dignity of the Jewish people must go hand in hand with the freedom and dignity of every human being. This places the onus on us to reach out to other oppressed groups and enter into meaningful dialogue with them.
- 11) We must endeavor to be vigilant toward current events in the world where civil liberties and human rights are being blatantly violated and be prepared to challenge them if necessary.
- 12) Our circle is an open one. We welcome and accept all who share our interests and philosophy, including inter-marriage families, singles, single parents, as well as couples with alternative lifestyles.

## **WHAT DO WE DO?**

CCHJ schedules monthly get-togethers (excluding July and August) for the purpose of enriching our experiences as Jews. In addition to creatively observing selective Jewish holidays we offer programs related to Jewish life including history, culture, spirituality, values, as well as current social issues and struggles. We have a variety of program expressions involving guest speakers, member presentations, book reviews, films, celebrations, forums etc. In all our meetings we encourage dialogue, critical thinking, and the sharing of personal experiences relevant to the topic at hand. This is all carried on in an atmosphere of caring and mutual support.

## **MEETING FORMAT**

To date, the majority of our meetings take place in member homes but as membership grows, a more formal setting may be advisable. The format of our meetings include:

Introductions

Program

Refreshment Break

Discussion

Closure

**COME AND JOIN US!**