



REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

Dear Prospective Congregant:

Thank you for your interest in membership at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Enclosed is our Membership Application, along with general information about our synagogue. These documents are also available on our website (www.ohebsholom.org).

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom offers a wide variety of religious, cultural and social experiences. Members can become involved in our synagogue in many ways, from attending Friday night Shabbat services, to volunteering at any of our annual events to joining one of our many committees. Other activities that may be of interest include:

- Adult Education
- Tot Shabbat
- Youth Activities
- Membership Committee
- Ritual Committee
- Finance Committee
- Religious School Committee
- Lakin Preschool Committee
- House Committee
- Sisterhood
- Social Action Committee
- Usher & Greeter
- Choir
- Rummage Sale
- Food & Cultural Festival
- Volunteer Awards Dinner

In the next week or so, I will follow up with a phone call. In the meantime, please feel free to call or email me, or call the RCOS Office (610-375-6034) if you have any questions. I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our congregation!

Shalom,

Lynn Driben
Membership Committee Chairperson
610-698-4665
Lmdriben@comcast.net



Membership Application

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
Brian Michelson, Rabbi

555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610

610-375-6034
www.ohebsholom.org

(Revised 06/2020)



REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

Application Instructions and Notes

Please fill out all requested information and return to Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom (“RCOS”) at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA, 19610. Feel free to keep any instruction pages for your records. The application is divided into the following sections:

Section A: Background Information

Section B: Family Information

Section C: Jewish Background

Section D: Yahrzeit Records

Section E: Areas of Interest

Section F: Financial Commitment

Before you fill out the application, please note the following:

Confidentiality

The information you share with us helps us to serve one another more effectively, and helps us plan future programs. All financial information you provide will remain confidential.

Applicants Under 30 Years Old

Applicants under age 30 will be granted a one-year free membership. Age qualification for families will be based on the age of the older spouse, and is granted only one time per family. To qualify, the application must be received by the Temple *before* the applicant’s 30th birthday. At the end of one year, the member will be asked to make an annual dues commitment.

Interfaith Families

RCOS welcomes interfaith families, provided one spouse is Jewish. We consider the non-Jewish spouse/partner of a RCOS member to be a member, too. Non-Jewish members may retain their RCOS membership, even after the death or divorce of their Jewish spouse. Should you have any questions, please contact the Rabbi directly (610-375-6034).

Financial Commitment

Members pay annual dues. Plus, each new member family is assessed a Building Fund fee of \$1,000 which is payable over no more than five years.

Religious School and Lakin Preschool

Tuition for Religious School or Lakin Preschool is not included in the annual dues commitment. Please contact Holly Michelson to learn more about Religious School, school@ohebsholom.org or 610-375-6034. Please contact Judy Synnamon to learn more about the Lakin Preschool, judy@lakinpreschool.com or 484-332-5981.

Section A: Background Information

	Adult 1	Adult 2
Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Other: _____
First Name		
Last Name		
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Current Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Married (Date: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Live Together <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Widow/widower <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		
Address City, State, Zip		
Email Address		
Should the Temple send updates to this email?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Preferred daytime phone #	(_____) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work	(_____) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work
Preferred evening phone #	(_____) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work	(_____) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cell <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work
Job Description		
List Your Industry		

Section B: Family Information

Do any relatives belong to Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom?

Yes

Name(s): _____

No

Do you have children?

Yes

How many in total? _____

How many 26 years or younger? _____

How many living at home? _____

No Skip to Section C

	Child 1 (under 26 years old)	Child 2 (under 26 years old)	Child 3 (under 26 years old)	Child 4 (under 26 years old)
	Name:	Name:	Name:	Name:
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Date of Birth				
Current Grade (if applicable)				
School/District				
Marital Status				
Address (if different)				
Is your child(ren) being raised Jewish?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Section C: Jewish Background

	Adult 1 Name: _____	Adult 2 Name: _____
Hebrew name (if known):		
Religion		
Name of congregation were you were most recently a member:	_____ Affiliation: <input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	_____ Affiliation: <input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Conversion Date/Place, if applicable		
Did you attend Religious/Hebrew School?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Place: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Place: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did you have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Were You Confirmed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Section D: Yahrzeit Records

Name of Deceased	Date of Death (mm/dd/yyyy)	Relationship to Whom

Section E: Areas of Interest

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom has many opportunities for members to become involved in our community. We invite every family to join us in the activities and committees where your interests lie. In order to continue to be a vibrant, engaged community that meets the needs and interests of our diverse congregation, we need your new ideas and encourage your participation in all areas of congregational life. Please check all areas you would be interested in participating. If you need more information about a particular activity, please call the Temple office at 610-375-6034.

Adult Name 1 | Adult Name 2

Committees:

	<u>Adult Name 1</u>	<u>Adult Name 2</u>
<p><u>Cemetery Committee</u> Oversees the maintenance of Mt. Sinai Cemetery (Shillington) including the sale of burial plots & coordinates funerals with the Rabbi & funeral homes</p>		
<p><u>Finance Committee</u> Oversees the income, expenses, & investments of RCOS as well as makes recommendations on budget & financial planning</p>		
<p><u>House Committee</u> Oversees the repair & management of the physical property of RCOS including the building, parking lot, & grounds</p>		
<p><u>Lakin Preschool Committee</u> Works with the Preschool Director & the Rabbi to oversee the operations of the RCOS preschool including budgeting, management, programming, & recruitment</p>		
<p><u>Membership Committee</u> Works to attract new members & retain current one through outreach, networking, & social events; coordinates onegs, special events, & Tot Shabbat</p>		
<p><u>Religious School Committee</u> Works with the Religious School Director & the Rabbi to promote Jewish education in the classroom & with special events</p>		
<p><u>Ritual Committee</u> Works with the Rabbi to evaluate & review services & holiday observances; also oversees the Student Cantor program</p>		
<p><u>Sisterhood Committee</u> Contributes to the financial & social well-being of RCOS through fundraising, holiday, & life-cycle program; also coordinates Onegs</p>		
<p><u>Social Action Committee</u> Organizes & oversees projects encouraging congregants to engage in Tikkun Olam, the healing & repair of our world</p>		
Temple Leadership:		
<p><u>Board of Trustees</u> Represents the congregation & its needs in carrying out the RCOS mission to be a growing & dynamic part of the local Jewish community</p>		

Section E: Areas of Interest (continued)

	Adult Name 1	Adult Name 2
<u>Annual Programs:</u>		
<u>Jewish Cultural & Food Festival</u> RCOS's largest fund-raising & outreach event held every fall; a celebration of Jewish culture, fellowship, & food		
<u>Rummage Sale</u> Sisterhood's largest fund-raising & outreach event held every summer		
<u>Volunteer Award Dinner</u> Congregation-wide dinner held every spring to recognize the recipient(s) of the Ruth & Irvin Balis Volunteer Award		

Others

<u>Adult Education Classes</u> Opportunities to learn & discuss aspects of Judaism with fellow members include Torah Study, Haftarah Study, Book Club & special programs		
<u>Choir</u> Provides musical performances at Shabbat services, holiday services, & special events		
<u>Tot Shabbat</u> Introduces your child to the joy of Shabbat in a musical, story-filled, interactive hour for children up through Grade 2		
<u>Usher & Greeter</u> Greet members & guests, passes out programs, & assists as needed at Shabbat services & holiday services		
<u>Youth Activities</u> Programs strengthening social life, community, and well-being as well as post- religious school educational opportunities		

Section F: Financial Commitment

Annual Dues

For more than 150 years, Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom has depended upon the engagement and financial support of its members. Member Dues are our Temple's most significant source of income, allowing us to operate and maintain our beautiful facility, provide programs for all ages, and maintain our staff including the Rabbi, Bookkeeper, Secretary, Custodian, as well as our Religious School Director and dedicated teaching staff. Simply put, we cannot do it without you.

The Temple strives to make dues reasonable, yet realistic to cover costs. To cover the Temple's costs for this coming year, we ask for a commitment of at least \$2,000 per family or \$1,000 per adult to cover our budgeted expenses. We encourage and are grateful to those who can contribute more to help ensure that we can afford current and future expenses of our Temple. We recognize that some prospective/new members have limited financial resources. When making your annual dues pledge, give from your heart, but be assured that we do not let finances stand in the way of membership.

Building Fund

Our beautiful building exists only through the generosity of current and past members. Their contributions make it possible for you to enjoy it. In addition to annual dues, each new member family is assessed a Building Fund fee of \$1,000 to allow us to maintain and improve our facility. This fee is payable over five years.

If you have any questions about annual dues, please contact either Lynn Driben, Membership Committee Chairperson (610-698-4665) or imdriben@comcast.net; or Bruce Cole, Treasurer, treasurer@ohebsholom.org.

(Continued)

Section E: Financial Commitment (continued)

Please note:

1. Membership becomes final by a vote of the Board of Directors which meets monthly. After membership application approval, new members will be contacted by the Membership Chairperson and receive a welcome letter from the Rabbi and a letter from the Treasurer.
2. In addition to annual member dues, each new member household is assessed a Building Fund fee of \$1,000. This fee is payable over no more than 5 years.
3. The synagogue's financial year extends from July 1st through June 30th. For members joining after the High Holidays, your first year's annual dues commitment will be pro-rated.
4. Bi-monthly statements (not invoices) will be issued to remind you of any future outstanding balances including dues and building fund.
5. I understand that every year, I/we will make an Annual Dues donation. All dues, donations, and building fund contributions are tax-deductible.
6. Dues commitments are considered personal data and are held in the strictest of confidence by our Treasurer & Bookkeeper.

Please complete and sign below

My/Our annual dues commitment to the Temple is: \$ _____

Dues Deposit to Accompany Application:

(make checks payable to RCOS) \$ 100.00

_____ Adult #1 Signature	_____ Adult #2 Signature
_____ Adult #1 Printed Name	_____ Adult #2 Printed Name
_____ Date	_____ Date