



Temple Shalom of Central Florida

Rabbi Zev Sonnenstein – Spiritual Leader

13563 County Road 101
Oxford, FL 34484-2430

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www.templeshalomcentralfl.org

January 2024

Welcome to Temple Shalom of Central Florida — an inclusive Reform Jewish Congregation and center of Jewish life in the Tri-County area surrounding The Villages.

I am delighted to know you are considering joining our warm and welcoming congregation. Our members, who are predominantly seniors, bring a wide range of experiences, backgrounds and interests to Temple Shalom. We strive to bring our congregation and the Jewish community around us a variety of services and programs in addition to our traditional joyous Shabbat worship services and delicious friendly Onegs. As a new member you will find many opportunities to make new friends, learn something new, participate in our social and cultural events, enjoy our concerts and celebrate all the Jewish holidays.

Temple Shalom always includes and welcomes all members of our community to join us for Shabbat worship services and holiday celebrations. However, there is a special feeling when you are a member of our congregation to know you fully belong to Temple Shalom. We strive to create a congregation where every person feels like they are an integral member of our “family of friends.” For us at Temple Shalom belonging is not just welcoming you in — it is making sure you are here to stay.

In this New Membership Packet you will find information about us, our Sisterhood and Brotherhood auxiliary organizations, the Highlights of Temple Shalom and our New Member Forms. Also included is financial information about our Full Time and Seasonal Membership options as well as the details about our annual dues.

After reading the enclosed material and viewing more details on our Temple website about ongoing and upcoming events including how we are supporting Israel, I hope you will decide to make a commitment to become a member of our sacred Reform Jewish Congregation.

To become a member of Temple Shalom, please complete the enclosed three (3) page Membership Form and the Emergency Contact Sheet. Then return them to the Temple Office for processing.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have by phone or email. Please look for me at Friday evening Shabbat services where I will be happy to meet you and answer your questions in person.

L'Shalom,

Lynn Sindoris

Lynn Sindoris
Chair, Membership Committee
membership@tscfl.org
(352) 633-0285

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2024 MEMBERSHIP



Message From Rabbi Sonnenstein

Looking back over the past year and seeing the great programming that we achieved and the growth we encountered, I am proud and excited to be part of this wonderful congregation, this family of friends. We have overcome what some may call obstacles and turned them into opportunities; we have continued to expand our reach to those who may not yet have had the opportunity to experience and enjoy the warm and caring congregational life that Temple Shalom has to offer, and I anticipate that it will continue.

As we enter 2024, we look forward to a year of celebratory and spiritual occasions, enhancing our spiritual home and community. Here at Temple Shalom, we continue to strive to be a beacon of light in our community and in the world around us. We acknowledge and work toward keeping our Temple a sacred place where Jewish learning, spiritual healing, supportive community, and warmth of tradition inspires us to lead lives filled with compassion, love, meaning and joy.

Your continued support of Temple Shalom this year will be an enthusiastic expression of confidence and faith in the bright future that lies ahead of us. As our Congregation's membership continues to grow, the valued dedication of you, our Members, helps solidify the foundation upon which Temple Shalom was built and will continue to build for decades and beyond. Your continued support ensure that we remain the sacred spiritual center of Judaism here in the tri-county area

Thank you for being a dedicated benefactor of this holy community which means so much to us all.

Rabbi Zev Sonnenstein, Spiritual Leader

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This letter, accompanying your 2024 financial commitment, expresses our Temple's continuing commitment to be a warm, welcoming and vibrant spiritual connection to our greater Jewish community.

Your generous support of Temple Shalom allows us to continue our critical mission of serving the Jewish community of Central Florida's Tri-County area.

We have endured much of the financial challenges in recent years with your kind and generous support accompanied by our careful and prudent management of our financials: investments and expenses.

Over the past year, many actions were planned and taken to strengthen the health and safety protections provided for our Congregants. Additionally, significant building and technology investments were made to maintain, to upgrade and to modernize our infrastructure.

The Rabbi, Sisterhood, Brotherhood and various other Temple committees have now brought both their rich array of their regular programs back and initiated many new ones. Our weekly flyers attest to the bounty of programs available to our Congregants. As planning for 2024 continues, we will see the introduction of new and exciting cultural and entertainment activities.

Temple Shalom is a special place - not just because of our beautiful building – but because of our memories, our celebrations, our mutual support of each other and our joint commitment to grow even in challenging times.

While this has been a difficult and uncertain past financial year for us all, your understanding and generous support has lifted us. However, over the last year and a half our operating expenses have experienced a significant inflationary impact upon resources used, service contracts, insurance and the workload of our dedicated staff. Consequently, we must increase our dues by \$25.00, still a modest \$500.00 per person for 2024.

Additionally, with the on-slaughter of the Israel-HAMAS war and the already growth in anti-semitism, we had to significantly increase our on-site guard protection to mitigate risks and address any security vulnerabilities. To fund this important action, we are asking for a small increase in the annual security fee of \$25.00 per person to \$50.00 per person.

Also, we are asking each Member to consider joining our CHAI Society program, which is an additional annual fundraiser for those inclined for this coming year as well as making any additional voluntary contributions. Regardless of the amount, all contributions are welcome and appreciated.

SUBMISSION: Please complete the enclosed Financial Commitment Form and return it with your payment to the office in the enclosed envelope as promptly as possible. If you have special circumstances affecting your ability to pay your 2024 financial commitment (dues), please contact myself or our Treasurer, Sandee Horowitz at horowitz2843@gmail.com or 352 307 4595.

The Board, Rabbi, and I thank you for both your past support and continuing commitment. We are grateful for your understanding and being an important partner in our collective commitment supporting our special sacred community and maintaining our congregational home. Your commitment, financially and/or as a volunteer, ensures the long-term growth and vitality of our Temple.

May we all return together this new year with new hope and good health, enjoying the warmth of our spiritual Services, our life cycle celebrations and our many educational and social program activities.

L'Shalom
Dennis Roth, President

Membership Categories

FULL-TIME MEMBERSHIP at the Standard Financial Commitment (Dues) payment provides funding for our Rabbi, Shabbat and Holiday Services, celebrations, enrichment programs, social events, maintenance and support staff.

SEASONAL MEMBERSHIP is an opportunity for Members, who are residing in our area for 6 months or less and are not celebrating the High Holidays with us, to join Temple Shalom for a 50% reduced Financial Commitment (Dues) and Capital Improvement Pledge payment.

Enhanced Commitments

CHAI SOCIETY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP is an opportunity for an individual member, who would like to contribute more, to enroll in an Enhanced Financial Commitment to Temple Shalom. CHAI Society Membership will include a celebratory acknowledgment of the additional financial support at a special Oneg.

CHAI SOCIETY FAMILY MEMBERSHIP is an opportunity for a family, who would like to contribute more, to enroll in an Enhanced Financial Commitment to Temple Shalom. CHAI Society Membership will include a celebratory acknowledgment of the additional financial support at a special Oneg.

VOLUNTARY TZEDAKAH DONATION is a contribution of any amount, large or small, that helps keep our Standard Membership Financial Commitment (Dues) affordable and supports community activities and program initiatives.

2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Temple Shalom of Central Florida
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☐ Full Time Member ☐ Seasonal Member

Date _____ Please Print Clearly

Last Name	First Name (A)	Nickname
Birthdate	Hebrew Name	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	
Email		
Magnetic Badges are the default option unless Pin or Clip is checked ➡ <input type="checkbox"/> Pin-on <input type="checkbox"/> Clip-on		
Last Name	First Name (B)	Nickname
Birthdate	Hebrew Name	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	
Email		
Magnetic Badges are the default option unless Pin or Clip is checked ➡ <input type="checkbox"/> Pin-on <input type="checkbox"/> Clip-on		

Anniversary (if applicable) _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Community or Village Name: _____

Seasonal Address (if applicable) _____ St _____ Zip _____

Previous Home City/ Town/State _____

How did you hear about Temple Shalom? ☐ Friend ☐ Print Media ☐ Google Search ☐ Other _____

To help us know you better, please provide some personal information you feel comfortable sharing with the Membership Committee. Please Indicate A or B

Professional and Personal Skills: _____

What Temple committees and social activities interest you? _____

Positions held in your previous Temples or volunteer organizations: _____

Talents, hobbies and abilities you would like to share with us: _____

What aspects of Temple Shalom are important to you? _____

Additional interests: _____

Comments: _____

Yahrzeit Notification:

Jewish custom calls for observing the anniversary of the death of parents, children, spouse and siblings according to the Jewish calendar.

Please complete the information below, if applicable, so that we may remind you of Yahrzeit dates.

Loved One's Name	Relationship To You	Date of Death (Secular/Jewish date)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I/We agree that Temple Shalom may use photographs in electronic and print form in which my/our family may appear in our newsletter, posters and web pages.

Signature _____

Please return these forms to the Temple Shalom office: Attn: Membership Committee

2024 MEMBER FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FORM

A. Name of Each Member (From Page 1):

(A) _____

(B) _____

(C) Dependents: _____

B. Standard Membership Financial Commitment Dues (SMFC): \$500 per person annually***

Annual SMFC (Dues) is \$500 per person for Membership Year: January – December
Dependents under the age of 26 living in Member's household are included with annual SMFC.

Special Reduced SMFC Dues Payment Schedule for New Member**Joining After February 28:

JAN - \$500 FEB - \$500 MAR - \$400 APR - \$400 MAY - \$400 JUN - \$300
JUL - \$300 AUG - \$300 SEP - \$250 OCT - \$250 NOV - \$500* DEC - \$500*

*Members joining in November and December will have their SMFC credited as full payment for the upcoming year.

**If there is an increase in SMFC for the upcoming year, Members will receive an invoice for the difference.

**A former Member, who is re-joining after a lapse in membership, pays a full year SMFC.

***All SMFC, Capital Improvement Pledge, ASF payments and donations are non-refundable.

C. Capital Improvement Pledge (CIP) \$1,250 Per Person ***

The Capital Improvement Pledge supports Temple improvements and investments in upgraded technology.

Available Payment Options: Please Select One

☐ 5-Year Plan Option: \$250 per person payable with Member's first SMFC payment and \$250 per person per year for each of the next 4 years. Members may pay in full at any time. Payments are payable in January of each year at the same time as memberships are renewed.

☐ Full Payment Option: \$1,250 per person payable with Member's first SMFC payment

D. Annual Security (Police) Fee (ASF): \$50.00 per person.*** Due to the importance of police protection and physical security measures in today's world of increased antisemitism, our ASF is needed.

E. Other Membership Options: (1) A Seasonal Membership is available for a 50% reduced SMFC and CIP payments for those who reside in our area for six (6) months or less and do not celebrate the High Holy Days here. (2) If a Member has special circumstances affecting their ability to pay the SMFC, please contact our Treasurer, Sandee Horowitz, horowitz2843@gmail.com, for a confidential conversation.

F. Please Complete This Payment Form:

Standard Membership Financial Commitment Dues (SMFC): _____

Capital Improvement Pledge (CIP) Amount (5-Year or Full): _____

Annual Security Fee Amount (ASF): _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Check No* _____ Credit Card No** _____ Expire Date: _____

**Note: A 3% convenience fee will be added by the office to credit card charges

Make Checks* Payable to: **Temple Shalom**

* Checks are the preferred form of payment

Need Help? Have Questions? Please call the Office and ask to speak with the Membership Chair.

Please return these forms to the Temple Shalom office: Attn: Membership Committee

Emergency Contact Information Sheet

Please complete the following form so that we have the information if needed.

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone # _____ Home Cell _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone # _____ Home Cell _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone # _____ Home Cell _____