

Temple Or Olam's Covenant and Foundation for Community

The foundation of membership: Kindness, Harmony, Shalom

We are equally committed to kindness and harmony. We are together to seek shalom (well-being and prosperity) and shleimut (completing and perfecting ourselves). Therefore, no member engages in destructive behavior or misrepresents Or Olam, its members, or its leadership in public.

***Heshbon HaNefesh and Teshuva* – On reflecting on one’s deeds and errors, seeking insight, a soul accounting; on working honestly with hurts to heal a relationship.**

As in most congregations, there may be times when conflicting views or actions rise to the level of dissonance between members. Speech has often been compared to an arrow: once the words are released, like an arrow, they cannot be recalled, the harm they do cannot be stopped, and the injury they do cannot always be predicted.

Speaking or spreading lashon hara (gossip) and motzi shem ra (slander) threatens communal well-being. Listening allows it to be spread in the first place. Our members commit to expressing their concerns directly to those involved without blame and with the best of intentions, not to third parties or in public. Our members also resolve their conflicts with one another face to face or over the phone. E-mails or texts may only be used to set up times for members to work out any challenges they have with one another.

We also ask our community to take determined care not to spread and escalate member's differences. We will remember that it is better to speak softly and soon – with one another, not about one another. Only if disagreeing members cannot resolve their differences shall they seek advice from the board.

Minyan: Showing Up and Co-creating Jewish Community - On Personal Commitment

We want a community that is fun, loves learning, enjoys good deeds, and delights in each other’s talents and wisdom. Without healthy connections to one another, we cannot do our part to heal the world. We therefore joyfully commit time, talent, knowledge, and financial support. We also ask that our members support our Tikkun Olam projects, help make sure guests are welcomed and new members integrated, and help take care of each other in need.

Hineinu: Here we are! On Inclusiveness

Once members have been accepted into the community, no distinctions or restrictions shall exist between them except as stipulated in the Constitution. Whether members are Jewish by birth or by choice; whether they have come to join as Jews, to convert, or as non-Jewish family members; how they align their gender identity; how long they have been with the congregation etc. – that knowledge is immaterial to us. We are an egalitarian and inclusive community because we know before whom we stand.

Kavod HaRav: Respect for the Rabbi

Our rabbi is a part-time rabbi. As a community and as individuals, we always treat her with respect and remain mindful of her full-time employment. However, the Rabbi is available and will answer phone calls or e-mails as soon as she can if a member lets her know that this is an emergency. She will address other concerns as soon as she is able.

On this date _____, I or we agree to abide by the covenant in order to create and support the loving growth of the Or-Olam community.

(Name) _____ (Date) _____

(Name) _____ (Date) _____

(Name) _____ (Date) _____