

Congregation Ohev Sholom

Join the Ohev Family!

HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

In 1877, Rutherford B. Hays was President of the United States, the first practical phonograph was invented, electricity was used for the first time for street light – and Michael Levin organized the first High Holiday Services at 9th & Mulberry in KCK for a congregation whose name eventually would become Ohev Sholom. For two years the congregation worshipped in members' homes, at which point the founding members purchased a building at 925 State Line, officially dedicated it as their spiritual home, and named their congregation "Congregation Gomel Chesed." In its first decade, the congregation doubled its membership, and held picnics, dinners,

raffles and other benefits to pay off its mortgage.

The devastating Flood of 1902 caused a split in the congregation, but only temporarily. In 1923, Congregations Gomel Chesed and Shearith Israel restored their original unity and applied for a charter as Congregation Ohev Sholom, "Lovers of Peace." The following year, the congregation built a 225-seat sanctuary at 7th & Sandusky in Kansas City, Kansas.

By 1950 more than 70 percent of the congregation had moved from Wyandotte to Johnson County, and the congregation began taking steps to relocate. By the middle of the decade,

President Sam Waldman had found the ideal location at 75th and Nall. He and several committees raised \$145,000 for our current Ohev home. The decade ended with a contract to build a new facility, and groundbreaking ceremonies were held October 2, 1960. By 1967, less than a decade after groundbreaking ceremonies, Ohev celebrated its 90th anniversary by paying off its mortgage in full and holding ceremonies for the final building phase of the new sanctuary.

Congregation Ohev Sholom celebrated its 130th anniversary in 2007.



OUR OHEV FAMILY

Congregation Ohev Sholom, founded in 1877, is the oldest continuously operating Jewish congregation in Kansas. The congregation belongs to its approximately 200 member families, who support it through their annual contributions and participation. Ohev Sholom warmly wel-

comes and serves members and non-members in friendship and compassion. New members are encouraged to get involved in synagogue life. Get to know us by attending services and programs. Your participation will enhance the Ohev family, and in turn you will be enhanced by the

friendships and spiritual nourishment you will find at Ohev. Membership is open to any Jewish individual/family

Individuals and families who are currently unaffiliated will not be charged dues for the first year of membership.





As a member of the Conservative Movement Congregation Ohev Sholom occupies the centrist ground of Jewish belief and practice.



Our Philosophy

Congregation Ohev Sholom, as a member of the Conservative Movement, occupies the centrist ground of Jewish belief and practice.

We aspire to conserve Judaism by upholding traditional ritual – such as Hebrew prayer, observance of kashrut, and strict Sabbath observance, yet we recognize that remaining vibrant and relevant sometimes requires change.

We embrace change when it reinforces our religion’s moral integrity, such as egalitarianism; women are equal in all aspects of Jewish life at Ohev Sholom. We also embrace change when it improves Jewish observance aesthetically, such as using musical instruments on Friday nights and on Second Day Yom Tov of the Pilgrimage Festivals.

Our congregation’s approach to tradition rests on the two-fold philosophy of Conservative Judaism; we posit Jewish law as binding, yet we acknowledge that, because Judaism always has been conditioned by history, Jewish law continuously evolves.

Rabbinic Leadership

Rabbi Scott White has served Congregation Ohev Sholom since 2005.

He received his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary and is a native of the Kansas City area. He is married to Civia and they have two sons.



Life Cycle Events

Our synagogue facilitates all life cycle events including Brit Mila, baby naming, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, weddings, and funerals.

If you are seeking clergy to officiate at a wedding, baby naming, bar or bat mitzvah, memorial

service, hospital visitation to help cheer up a loved one or some other life-cycle event for our members, please contact us.



Worship Services

Daily Minyan meets weekdays at 7 a.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning minyan is followed by Breakfast Club.

Shabbat morning services are held weekly beginning at 9:30 a.m. Children's Shabbat begins at 10:30 a.m. There are occasional Learner's Worship Circles concurrent with the Saturday morning service.

A Kiddush luncheon follows services.

Services are held for all holidays and festivals.

Friday evening "Prayers in the Park" are held on an occasional basis. The atmosphere is informal and a picnic Shabbat dinner is served.

Members gather occasionally in each other's homes to celebrate **Havdalah**, the

ceremony marking the end of Shabbat, with prayer, seudat shlisheet, (a light dinner), the Havdalah ceremony, singing and fellowship.



Ohev Sholom Programs

Beit Midrash, which means House of Study, offers fall and spring semester classes on Wednesday evenings on various subjects. Dinner is served prior to class. Rabbi White and guest rabbis are our teachers. Ohev is a learning community. The study of Judaism is a lifelong endeavor. We hope you will join us to deepen your knowledge of our tradition and appreciation of the wonders of God's world.

Book Club meets every other month in members' homes.

Leah and Colleph Shaw Scholar-in-Residence Weekend brings a scholar-in-residence to the community annually for a weekend of learning, fellowship, and stimulating conversation.

Café Ohev is a monthly program held on Sunday

mornings. Speakers from the community are invited and a full breakfast is served.

KosherFest is a celebration of Kosher Food, all homemade, as well as local musical



entertainment. The entire membership is involved in the planning, cooking, marketing, setting up and fundraising to ensure a successful and well attended event. KosherFest showcases Ohev's "can-do" attitude and enthusiasm.

Social Action— Ohev members participate in a number of social action programs throughout the year including The House that Abraham Built – a Habitat for Humanity house built by Christians,

Muslims and Jews and a clothing and food drive to benefit the native American community.

Sisterhood Annual Hamentashen Sale

Our annual Sisterhood Hamentashen Sale is a favorite of each and every member. Through rain or shine, blizzards and tornado warnings we meet in the kitchens at Ohev for three Sundays before Purim to make the perfect Hamentashen. We sing and schmooze as we cut, form and fill the dough and then watch as the golden delicious products come out of the ovens.

Annual Lag B'Omer Picnic

Ohev celebrates Lag B'Omer Israeli Style each year with a picnic in the Ohev Sholom parking lot. The highlight is a bonfire and wonderful food. The evening includes Israeli music, games and fun for the whole family.

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CONGREGATION OHEV SHOLOM

Join the Ohev Family!

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Governance and Committees



Governance

Board of Director meetings are open to all members. Members interested in serving on the board should speak to the nominating committee chair.

Committees

The members of Ohev make the Congregation the dynamic institution it is. All members are encouraged to become involved with synagogue committee work and projects. There are various committees to address the following needs: Membership Services, Development, Jewish Programming and Education; Sisterhood.

In addition, volunteers are needed weekly for a variety of tasks from helping in the kitchen to helping in the office.

To become a committee member or to volunteer, please speak to an officer, the rabbi, or the synagogue Executive Director.