

Congregation Or Ami Youth and Family Education

2017-2018



אור עמי
Congregation
Or Ami
LIGHT OF MY PEOPLE



MISHPACHA HAVURA

*Family Relationships
and Learning*

Pre-K through 6th Grades

KESHER 3.0

*Energize, Enrich, Engage
Learning Program*

K through 6th Grades

HEBREW LANGUAGE

*Small Classes
Facilitate Learning*

4th through 6th Grades

TRIPLE T

*Tracks for
Temple Teens*

7th through 12th Grades

NEW!



Dear Or Ami Families,

As an innovative, modern and exciting Jewish community, Congregation Or Ami is continually assessing and renewing our learning programs to ensure they remain relevant and adapted to today's Jewish learners.

- **Our award-winning *Mishpacha Havura* Family Relationships and Learning Program continues to evolve, engaging learners from preschool through adults.** Each session is designed so that the same content is taught to both children and parents in an age-appropriate manner, allowing conversations to continue well after they leave the synagogue. ***New this year:*** A lower price than *Kesher 3.0* AND home base for our new junior youth group for 4-6th graders.
- ***Kesher* means “connection,” and our *Kesher 3.0* program is designed to foster a deep connection among students.** By consolidating all learning into a single day, we have created an easier schedule for families, while maintaining the same fun, engaging atmosphere for students to learn both Judaica and Hebrew.
- ***Triple T* (Tracks for Temple Teens) is now in its fifth year with all the favorite options returning.** Tracks include offsite social action projects, leadership development, and fostering coaching skills.



ALL PROGRAMS: Once your registration is complete, we will send you information about the upcoming school year. Please remember you must be partners of Congregation Or Ami, in good standing, before your child(ren) can attend our programs.

Register by:

- May 30, receive \$100 family discount
- June 6, receive \$75 family discount
- June 13, receive \$25 family discount



- Register after July 1, \$100 family late fee for continuing families ONLY.
- Register after July 11, \$150 family late fee for continuing families ONLY.

By August 1, all tuition paid in full or according to a payment plan worked out with the Or Ami office.





“Learned Jewish parenting from two great rabbis / parents.”

– Dad of pre-K and 1st graders

“Instant community. These are my friends ten years later.”

– Parent of two college students

Mishpacha Havura ***Family Relationships and Learning***



Mishpacha Havura, a national award-winning program, engages the entire family in Jewish education. *Mishpacha Havura* inspires families to pursue a path of lifelong Jewish learning, living and community involvement.

Mishpacha Havura is reimagined as a community of families who socialize, learn, do social justice work, celebrate holidays and create life-long friendships. Meeting twice monthly on Sundays and during major holiday celebrations, *Mishpacha Havura* is a family alternative learning program, which takes the place of *Kesher 3.0*. This multi-generational learning is hands-on and developmentally appropriate. Over the course of their time in *Mishpacha Havura*, students will learn the same Jewish content as *Kesher 3.0* students. In addition, all 4th-6th graders come to one hour of Hebrew Language on Tuesday or Wednesday (see page 4).

Ideal for Young Families

Enjoy hands-on activities, personal relationships with the rabbis and instant playdate-worthy connections with other families.

Home Base for GoMPTY (Glimmer of My People Temple Youth)

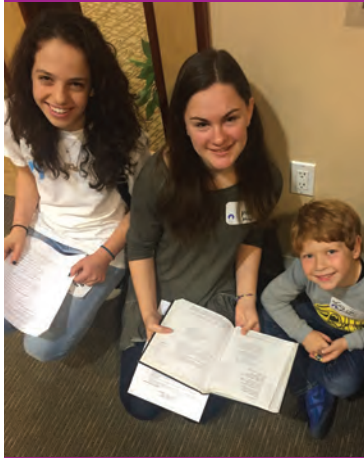
Our new Junior Youth Group for 4th-6th Graders (including *Kesher 3.0*) meets during *Mishpacha Havura*.

Lower Cost, Greater Benefit

Waived parent fee for all families. Lower tuition than *Kesher 3.0*. New kindergarten and first grade students receive free tuition for 2017-2018.

“If you want your kids to love being Jewish on their own and with their family, Mishpacha Havura is THE program for you!”

– Mom of 5th and 3rd graders



Young Families

No One is More Welcome Than You

Tot Shabbat

Monthly, tots of all ages and their families join us at Or Ami or at a park for an energetic Shabbat experience. We combine Jewish craft projects and challah making led by teen role models, and a story and Shabbat prayers led by our rabbis. Many include pizza and picnic dinners.

Mishpacha Havura Tots

Our *Mishpacha* family learning program on Sundays is learning for the entire family. A special tots group for preschoolers ensures that your younger family members are learning and having fun at the same time as you.

Preschool

Or Ami has partnerships with three synagogue preschools: Shomrei Torah Synagogue (*West Hills*), Temple Adat Elohim (*Thousand Oaks*) and Temple Judea (*Tarzana*). Or Ami children may attend these preschools at the member rate, without having to join these synagogues.

K-3rd Grade Pajama Parties

Even the Rabbis and Cantor don jammies for these cozy gatherings that feature milk and cookies and Jewish stories.

Center for Jewish Parenting

We offer regular, insightful parenting seminars to help you navigate the joyous but stressful challenges of raising your Jewish child (*ren*) or grandchild (*ren*). Past speakers include: Dr. Wendy Mogul, Betsy Braun and Dr. Bruce Powell.

Jewish Spiritual Parenting

Our Rabbi Paul Kipnes and his wife Michelle November coauthored *Jewish Spiritual Parenting: Wisdom, Activities, Rituals and Prayers for Raising Children with Spiritual Balance and Emotional Wholeness*. They regularly offer workshops based on their research and the activities they developed.

With a Rabbi who has young children, and two other family-focused clergy, Or Ami embraces young families.

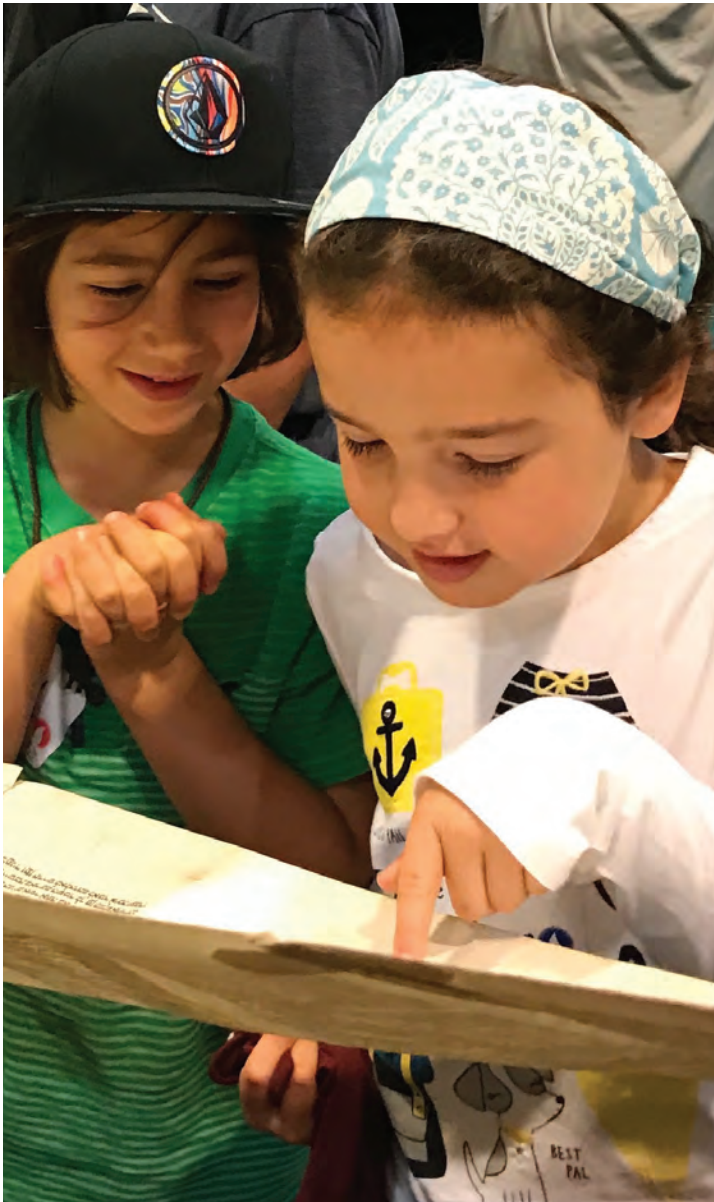


Family Friendly Holiday Celebrations

Jewish holidays are fun and engaging for all ages at Or Ami. In addition to celebrations at the temple, we also provide resources to celebrate at home in a meaningful way.

Children's Sanctuary

With a picture window facing the *bima* (pulpit) and sound piped in, our children's sanctuary provides a safe sound-proof space for young children and their parents to take a break from services and programs. The children's sanctuary is always open and filled with toys, books and games to enjoy anytime you are in the synagogue. Parents can feed and change their children in this second home.



Kesher 3.0 Energize, Enrich, Engage *(Learning Program for K-6th Grade)*

Kesher 3.0 provides a one-day-a-week schedule that includes Judaica, Hebrew, holiday celebrations, *t'filah* (prayer), food and community building.

Kindergarten through third graders learn Jewish holidays, Bible stories, Jewish values, and *menschlekeit* (acting as a mensch, a good person with integrity and honor). *Hebrew Through Movement*, a language-acquisition strategy, has students learn Hebrew by moving and doing in response to Hebrew commands. This prepares them for language decoding. ***New This Year:*** 3rd graders have the option to accelerate their learning in a Hebrew Language class that introduces the alphabet (usually taught in 4th grade).

Fourth to sixth grade students learn about Israel, God, and Jewish heroes. See page 5 for information about Hebrew Language classes for fourth to sixth graders.

In addition to this one-day-a-week program, all *Kesher 3.0* students and their families are invited to participate in a variety of community experiences, including community celebrations for Chanukah, Purim and Passover, social action volunteer days and innovative Shabbat celebrations. Through these community experiences, students get to know other students across K through 6th grades, and families can build deeper connections with Judaism and each other.

K-3rd grades meet on Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 with an optional hour of play/homework (or Hebrew for 3rd graders) from 6:00-7:00 pm.

4th-6th grades meet Tuesday or Wednesday, 4:00-7:00 pm.

Choice of day is based on first-come, first-served registration, and the number of students enrolled.

NOTE: Kindergarten and first grade students new to *Mishpacha Havura* or *Kesher 3.0* receive free tuition for 2017-2018 (*parents must be Or Ami partners AND older siblings must be enrolled*).



Hebrew Language Program

(for all 4th through 6th Grade Mishpacha Havura and Keshar 3.0 Students)

Our Hebrew Language program is unique in that 4th through 6th grade students work in small classes (seven students maximum) according to skill level. Students enrolled in *Mishpacha Havura* can choose to attend **Tuesday OR Wednesday**. *Mishpacha Havura* students who enroll in our learning program by July 1st will have priority enrollment in their Hebrew classes. *Keshar 3.0* students do not need to choose a time for Hebrew, as they will be in their small Hebrew classes the same day as their Judaica classes (either Tuesday or Wednesday).

Hebrew classes fill quickly. We highly recommend that you enroll your child quickly.

Individual Hebrew tutoring is possible with approval of Rabbi Julia, who must approve the tutor and the schedule. Family members and relatives may **not** be tutors. The additional cost of individualized tutoring will be borne by the family. Students who joined our programs after 4th grade will be evaluated by Rabbi Julia and additional Hebrew tutoring may be assigned.

Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prayer Class

Our Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah prayer class prepares the 6th and 7th grade students for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah training. Groups of ten to twelve students will meet for one hour a week for 12 weeks with Diane Townsend, our B'nai Mitzvah teacher. Groups are organized so students begin at least nine months before their Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.

Participation in the Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prayer Class is in addition to all other required learning programs (i.e., *Keshar 3.0*, *Mishpacha Havura* and *Triple T*). Class times and dates will be arranged for each group at a later date.

Triple T (Tracks for Temple Teens) 7th-12th Graders

Triple T (Tracks for Temple Teens) is our program for 7th-12th graders. Teens choose tracks (electives) based on their interests and schedules, connecting with others who enjoy similar pursuits. Tracks meet twice a month, either on the evenings or weekends, and provide meaningful Jewish content as well as important social bonds. Triple T participants learn about Jewish life by actively experiencing it, and remain linked to both Judaism and one another throughout their high school years and beyond.

Check out our Triple T Tracks:

Future Coaches 3.0 in partnership with 6 Points



Sports Academy. Our program is designed for serious athletes to learn about and experience Judaism through sports. Led by top level coaches, students learn coaching skills and implement this new knowledge with at-risk youth and in community-wide Olympics. This track meets mostly on Saturdays at local fields. Community service hours given for participation in this track.

TTKN Teens dedicate their time to *tikkun olam*, repairing the community around them while working with Or Ami Active Adults (60 years and older). Volunteer opportunities may include assembling care packages for soldiers overseas, beach clean ups, gleaned fields for Food Forward and serving food at homeless shelters. This track meets mostly offsite on the weekends for social action projects. Community service hours given for participation in this track.

Madrichim Leadership Program

Junior Madrichim in Training (J MITs) are 7th graders **ONLY** who prepare to become role models in the synagogue and classrooms through gender programming, exploring what it means to be Jewish, learning classroom management and building community among their peers. J MITs observe classroom teaching and create and implement a *L'hitraot* (goodbye) end of year celebration for all K-6th graders and their families.

Madrichim in Training (MITs) are 8th graders **ONLY** preparing to become Madrichim (teaching assistants) in 9th grade by helping in the classroom and meeting to learn leadership and teaching skills. Building community among 8th graders is emphasized. MITs create and run an all-school Passover program and receive community service hours for classroom work.

Madrichim are 9th through 12th grade teaching assistants, who help teach and mentor younger students in *Keshet 3.0*, *Mishpacha Havura*, or Hebrew Language classrooms.

New This Year:

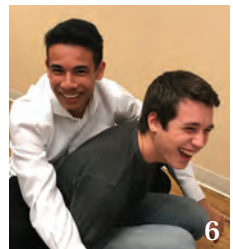
- **Workshop Specialists:** 9th graders create and implement Jewish workshops for K-6th graders including dance, writing, art and cooking
- **Ambassadors:** 10th & 11th graders become experts on creating a welcoming community, observing classroom teaching and running a multigenerational Chanukah program
- **Advisors:** 12th graders mentor 9-11th graders and oversee program creation and implementation.

SoMPTY (*Spark of My People Temple Youth*), our youth group for 7th and 8th graders, is a taste of *NFTY*, our regional youth group program. *SoMPTYites* enjoy social events such as Glowzone laser tag, mini golf, bowling and hanging with other Jewish teens. *SoMPTYites* must be enrolled in another track.

LoMPTY (*Light of My People Temple Youth*), our high school youth group for 9th to 12th graders, provides leadership development and social encounters with Jewish teens from all over Southern California. *LoMPTY* activities range from social action and community service events to *NFTY* (North American Federation Temple Youth) weekend retreats.

Confirmation is the culmination of a teen's involvement in the *Tracks for Temple Teens* program. In addition to participating in a *Triple T Track*, 11th and 12th graders go out for dinner once a month with Rabbi Paul or Rabbi Julia for discussions on contemporary topics. Those 12th graders who participate in a Track and come to the monthly *Confirmation* dinners with the Rabbis will be invited to participate in the culminating *Confirmation* service in May.

Teens enrolled in Triple T automatically become SoMPTY or LoMPTY members. They also participate in an All Triple T Shabbat, Final Triple T Banquet, and Triple T Retreat (additional cost). They also have the opportunity to travel together to experience Jewish California, and to participate in a social justice seminar in Washington D.C.





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*Come home to Judaism.
Come home to Or Ami.*



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