

Congregation Or Ami Youth and Family Education



אור עמי
Congregation
Or Ami
LIGHT OF MY PEOPLE

2018-2019



NEW!

MENSCH-IFY

*Family Learning Program
Creating Kind, Compassionate Kids*

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



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.

- **Introducing *Mensch-ify*, our brand new family learning program**, a parenting and pre-K to 6th grader Jewish “how to” experience, guiding parents on how to raise Jewish *mensch*s (kind and compassionate Jewishly-engaged children), while simultaneously teaching pre-K to 6th graders how to live as *mensch*s.
- ***Kesher* means “connection,” and *Kesher 3.0* is designed to foster deep connections 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 5, receive \$75 family discount
- June 12, receive \$25 family discount



- Register **AFTER** July 2, \$100 family late fee for continuing families **ONLY**.
- Register **AFTER** July 10, \$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.



NEW!

Mensch-ify Family Learning Program Creating Kind, Compassionate Kids

Introducing *Mensch-ify*, a parenting and pre-K to 6th grader Jewish “how to” experience, guiding parents on how to raise Jewish *mensch*s (kind and compassionate Jewishly-engaged children), while simultaneously teaching pre-K to 6th graders how to live as *mensch*s.

Participants, rabbis and faculty apply these Jewish stories and traditions to develop kindness, compassion and motivation to improve the world.

Mensch-ify families prefer family learning because they want to embed *mensch*y values in their home and family. Participants learn from everyday heroes about the *mensch* work they do as well as participate in mitzvah projects, meet Torah heroes, and interact with local organizations that provide tangible ways to act *mensch*y.

Ideal for Young Families

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

Lower Cost, Fewer Sessions, Greater Benefit

Mensch-ify runs for eight months, fifteen sessions on Sunday mornings. Lower tuition than Kesher 3.0. New kindergarten and first grade students receive free tuition for 2018-2019.





Kid-ish Club

Activities for Tots and the Adults Who Love Them

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, with stories and Shabbat prayers led by our Rabbis. Many include pizza and picnic dinners.

Mensch-ify Tots

Our *Mensch-ify* family learning program on Sundays offers joyous Judaism for the entire family. A special tots group for nursery and 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.

Family-Friendly Holiday Celebrations

Jewish holidays are fun and engaging for all ages at Or Ami. In addition to celebrations at the synagogue, 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. The Children's Sanctuary is filled with toys, books and games to enjoy anytime you are in the synagogue. Also, parents can comfortably feed 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. **Continuing 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 through sixth graders 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 Wednesday, 4:00-7:00 pm.

NOTE: Kindergarten and first grade students new to *Mensch-ify* or *Kesher 3.0* receive free tuition for 2018-2019 (parents must be Or Ami partners AND older siblings must be enrolled).





Hebrew Language Program

(for all 4th through 6th Grade Mensch-ify and Keshet 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.

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 join 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 Taste of 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., Keshet 3.0, Mensch-ify 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.

Check out our Triple T Tracks:

Future Coaches 3.0 in partnership with 6 Points Sports Academy. Future Coaches is designed for serious athletes to learn about and experience Judaism through sports. Led by a top level coach and our Head Coaches (9-12th graders), students learn coaching skills and implement this new knowledge with at-risk youth, local junior varsity teams and Or Ami children at their 4-6th grade retreat. Earn community service hours for participation.

VolunTEENS dedicate their time to *tikkun olam*, repairing the community around them by becoming mentors with younger students, helping them with their Mitzvah projects, planning and implementing volunteer opportunities for other teens and learning from local teens dedicating their lives to social action. Earn community service hours for participation.

Madrachim Leadership Program

Junior Madrichim in Training (Jr 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. Jr MITs observe classroom teaching and create programming for K-6th graders.

Madrachim 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. Earn community service hours for participation.

Madrachim are 9th through 12th grade teaching assistants, who help teach and mentor younger students in *Keshet 3.0*, *Mensch-ify*, or Hebrew Language classrooms.

- **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.
- **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.

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 the L'taken social justice seminar in Washington D.C.





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



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