

Congregation Or Ami Youth and Family Education



Or Ami
congregation
you're home

2019-2020

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.

- ***Mensch-ify*, our family learning program**, a parenting and pre-K to 6th grader Jewish “how to” experience, partners with Union for Reform Judaism’s Six Points Science Technology Camp for the first time. Parents are guided on how to raise Jewish *mensch*s (kind and compassionate Jewishly-engaged children) while pre-K to 6th graders are taught 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)*** offers something for every teen (7-12th grade). Tracks include leadership development, music & theater arts, experimental science labs, and social action projects.

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.

To register, contact Jenny Mazzella at JennyM@orami.org or 818-880-4880.



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 2019-2020 (parents must be Or Ami partners AND older siblings must be enrolled).





Mensch-ify

Family Learning Program

Creating Kind, Compassionate Kids

Mensch-ify is 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 Keshet 3.0. New kindergarten and first grade students receive free tuition for 2019-2020.

New This Year: *Mensch-ify* partners with Union for Reform Judaism's Sci-Tech Camp to “test” how science experiments are part of the *mensch* laboratory.





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 and provide meaningful Jewish content as well as important social bonds. Students also have the opportunity to participate in numerous all-teen events, such as special Shabbat dinners, a weekend retreat, and educational trips.

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, 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.

VolunTEENS dedicate their time to *tikkun olam*, repairing the community around them. They organize social action projects, learn about critical issues facing our world, and meet with diverse community leaders devoting their lives to helping others.

Jewish Theater & Music teens explore Judaism through acting, singing, writing scripts and creating productions. Working with volunteer actors or musicians, teens create musical compositions and/or theater productions for an Or Ami Jewish Arts Festival.

Jewish Los Angeles: Arts & Culture provides a curated tour of Los Angeles' rich artistic and cultural offerings through a Jewish lens! Exciting field trips to Skirball, LACMA, Canters Deli, neighborhood synagogues and selected theater events followed by engaging critique sessions, discussions, activities, and projects connecting these experiences to modern Jewish life.

Teen Rock Band invites teens of various musical abilities and experiences to learn and play Jewish music together. Teens express their Judaism through playing instruments and prepare musical pieces for Shabbat services throughout the year, concluding with a performance at the Or Ami Jewish Arts Festival.

Sci-Tech Track teens explore robotics, modern science and technology, and video game design in a supportive and fun environment. Sci-Tech Teens visit science labs and meet face to face with scientists to run experiments together and create combustion.



SoMPTY (7th-8th grade) and **LoMPTY (9th-12th grade)** are our dynamic youth groups that provide opportunities for relationship building and leadership development. Teens meet for social outings, such as movie nights and bowling, organize social action projects, and connect with Jewish teens across Southern California through NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth).

Madrichim 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.

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.

Madrichim are **9th through 12th grade teaching assistants**, who help teach and mentor younger students in *Kesher 3.0*, *Mensch-ify*, or Hebrew Language classrooms. They develop and implement Jewish workshops, become experts on creating a welcoming community, and hone leadership skills in education and beyond.

Confirmation is the culmination of a teen's involvement in the *Tracks for Temple Teens* program. 11th and 12th graders go out for dinner once a month with Rabbi Paul or Rabbi Julia for discussions on contemporary topics.





You're Home. Congregation Or Ami



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