



Dear Or Ami Community,

We hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and safe. This pandemic and the suffering it has created are unprecedented in our lifetime, but the past few months have demonstrated the power and importance of an intimate and authentic community like Congregation Or Ami.

As "Safer At Home" orders were issued for California, our community made the decision to respond by saying "*Henaynu*," we are here for one another. We began by calling every congregant, starting with our elders and most vulnerable, to check in and offer support. We then found innovative ways to use technology to transcend our separation: moving our services online, creating a virtual space for our youth to congregate, hosting a virtual second night seder, and planning adult gatherings.

Similarly, we have responded *Henaynu* to the individual needs of our partners. We have helped many within our community obtain masks, groceries, and medicine. Our team has been engaged to help set up technology, provide spiritual and emotional support, and arrange financial help to those most impacted by this pandemic. We have been honored to provide solace in online funerals and shiva minyans, as well as celebration at virtual bris and baby namings.

We say *Henaynu* because we understand showing up for each other is at the center of what it means to be part of a Jewish community. We plan to be there, in the special way Congregation Or Ami always is.

With this letter, we ask you to say *Henaynu*, we are here, by renewing your annual partnership commitment to Congregation Or Ami.

We make this ask even as we know that this year will be a difficult one for many, including our congregation. We are anticipating a decline in revenue, and we have trimmed our budget considerably to compensate. In addition, our clergy are voluntarily limiting their compensation. Still, annual partnership commitments cover the bulk of our operating expenses, and they are essential to enable us to serve the needs of our congregation and to provide the vital *Henaynu* support we always do.

We remain committed to welcoming every family regardless of their financial capacity. If your family is experiencing hardship, or would like to work out a payment plan, please reach out to Lisette Tuohy, our bookkeeper, at lisette@orami.org. You may also contact one of our rabbis. We are all here for you now as we have always been. And if you are able to extend yourself by increasing the level of your partnership commitment, please consider doing so. The quiet help of our partners will ensure that Congregation Or Ami continues to shine.

We have never been prouder to be your president and your rabbi, and to be a part of this community that is showing up for each other in this extraordinary time.

Wishing you health, courage, and resilience,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lesli Kraut".

Lesli Kraut, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Kipnes".

Rabbi Paul Kipnes