

Congregation Or Ami Youth and Family Education



Or Ami
congregation
you're home

2021-2022

MENSCH-IFY

*Family Learning Program
Creating Kind, Compassionate Kids*

Pre-K through 6th Grades

KESHER

*Energize, Enrich, Engage
Learning Program*

K through 6th Grades

HEBREW LANGUAGE

*Small Classes
Facilitate Learning*

3rd through 6th Grades

HUB

*Teens Find Community
& Connection*

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**, 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.
- ***Kesher* means “connection” and our *Kesher* program is designed to foster deep connections among students.** By consolidating Judaica and Hebrew learning, we have created an easier schedule for families, while maintaining the same fun, engaging atmosphere for students to learn and grow.
- ***HUB*78 and HUB*9to12 provide community and connection to 7th-12th graders.*** In addition to strengthening their social bonds, teens gain leadership skills by expanding their minds and opening their hearts.

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, visit orami.org/join-us or contact 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 for an energetic Shabbat experience with a fun theme or holiday celebration. We combine Jewish craft projects and challah-making led by teen role models, with stories and Shabbat prayers led by our Rabbis.

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

Kesher provides a consolidated learning experience that includes Judaica, Hebrew, holiday celebrations, *t'filah* (prayer), 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.

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

In addition to class time, *Kesher* 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.

NOTE: Kindergarten and first grade students new to *Mensch-ify* or *Kesher* receive free tuition for 2021-2022 (parents must be Or Ami partners AND older siblings must be enrolled).

GoMPTY: 4th-6th Grade Youth Group

4th-6th graders strengthen their social bonds while having fun together at our monthly GoMPTY youth group events. GoMPTY provides Jewish community out in the world — watching movies, playing laser tag, or hanging out at a park. All temple 4th-6th graders are invited to be a part of GoMPTY!





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 Kesher. New kindergarten and first grade students receive free tuition for 2021-2022.





Hebrew Language Program

(for all 3rd through 6th Grade Mensch-ify and Keshar Students)

Our Hebrew Language program is unique in that 3rd 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., Keshar, Mensch-ify and HUB). Class times and dates will be arranged for each group at a later date.



HUB Teen Program 7th-12th Graders

Hadracha U'chesed v'Bina | Leadership through Kindness and Wisdom

At Or Ami, we know that the youth are our future and we want our teens to be prepared for the world, ready to inspire those around them with compassion and an open mind. Through HUB, they will discover and grow their leadership skills by expanding their minds and opening their hearts.



Where 7th/8th Graders: Explore, Engage and Inspire

Teens...

Explore Jewish text, history, and culture

Engage in self-discovery and connection-building

Inspire others through social action and commitment to community

At HUB*78, our 7th & 8th graders work together to develop a toolkit of values for building Jewish community anywhere, and developing skills of resilience and wellness. They explore Jewish approaches to living and learning, and put this into practice through creative leadership projects that connect Judaism to sports, science, art, and social justice.

HUB*78 meets two evenings per month.

YOUTH GROUPS



SoMPTY (7th-8th grade) | LoMPTY (9th-12th grade)

Our dynamic youth groups provide opportunities for relationship building and leadership development. Teens meet for social outings and online gatherings, organize social action projects, and connect with Jewish teens across Southern California through NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth).

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- 7th grade Disneyland Trip
- 8-12th Teen Retreat
- 8-9th Jewish Arizona Trip
- 10-12th L'taken Social Justice Trip to Washington DC



9th-12th Graders: Every week is something new at HUB*9to12!

9th-12th graders can choose from a variety of options that will deepen their Jewish knowledge, leadership skills, spirituality and social connection.

Be inspired by motivational speakers, time management experts, Jewish thinkers, and soul supporters. Learn advocacy skills through our social action training. Receive community service hours while you volunteer in our Madrichim program to help our younger students bond to Judaism. 11th and 12th graders hang monthly with the rabbis as a part of Confirmation.

At HUB*9to12, temple teens can relax, hang out with friends, and enjoy tons of social/soulful fun. Sessions meet weekly in the evening — drop in depending on your schedule and interests!



You're Home. Congregation Or Ami



For more information: orami.org • rabbijulia@orami.org • (818) 880-4880
Facebook: Congregation Or Ami • *Twitter:* @CongOrAmi • *Instagram:* CongOrAmi

26115 Mureau Road • Suite B • Calabasas, CA 91302