



Dear **Or Ami** Community,

Grateful. That's how we are feeling. Grateful!

Grateful for you and the caring community that we have created and sustained together. For the support, comfort, warmth, and meaning that we have shared with each other. Our journey these past few years illuminates the power and importance of an intimate and authentic community like the one we all share at Congregation Or Ami. We are truly grateful that you are part of it!

Our community regularly responds with gratitude. The texts and emails received express the appreciation people are feeling for the holiday gift boxes. (Didn't you love the lucite Matzah box, the Chanukah playing cards, and the delicious *sufganiot*/donuts!?). People were overjoyed on Mitzvah Day to assemble 16,000 donated items into 500 comfort bags for young people entering foster care. Others found meaning in the streamed and now in-person services, the Keshet and Mensch-ify sessions, the beach shabbats, and the hike on Tu B'Shvat. Grateful – that's how we are feeling!

Many Or Ami partners confidentially offered thanks for Or Ami's help obtaining groceries, masks, and medicine. Our team has provided spiritual and emotional support for so many and arranged financial help to those most impacted by the pandemic. We have been honored to provide solace at funerals and shiva minyans, as well as celebration at bris, baby namings, B'nai Mitzvah, and weddings.

We are grateful because we understand showing up for each other is at the center of what it means to be part of a Jewish community. We continue to be here for you and your loved ones in the special way Congregation Or Ami always is. These are just some of the reasons why Or Ami's community has continued to grow even through the pandemic.

With this letter, we ask you to recognize your gratitude by renewing your annual partnership with Congregation Or Ami as soon as possible.

We make this ask even as we know this past year was a difficult one for many, including our congregation. Still, annual partnership commitments cover the bulk of our operating expense and are essential to enable us to serve the needs of our congregation and to provide the vital support that leads people to feel so grateful.

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. 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, sustainers, and builders will ensure that Congregation Or Ami continues to shine.

We have never been more grateful to be your president and your rabbi, and to be a part of this community that is showing up for each other in these extraordinary times. Wishing you joy, health, courage, and resilience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Steinhauer".

Craig Steinhauer, President

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

Rabbi Paul Kipnes