



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. 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 in-person services, the Keshet and Makom sessions, the beach shabbats, and Purim celebrations. Grateful – that's how we are feeling!

Our team continues to provide spiritual and emotional support for so many and to arrange financial assistance to those most in need. We have been honored to provide solace at funerals and shiva minyan, 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 over the past several years.

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

In recent years, our annual partnership commitments have remained the same. No change. However, our security costs have increased substantially as we work to address today's reality. Security companies are requiring we lengthen the minimum posting, creating a 50% escalation of our security costs. Thus, to maintain a strong security posture, we must raise the security fee by \$125.00 per household, while maintaining the other partnership financial commitments at the same level.

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 shows up for each other. 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