

# Or Ami Youth and Family Education



## KESHER

*Learning Program  
that Makes Mensches*

K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

## HEBREW

*Small Classes  
Facilitate Learning*

3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

## MAKOM

*Teens Find Community  
& Connection*

7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

## MISHPACHA MEETUPS

*Family Fun Experiences*

All Ages

## KID-ISH CLUB

*Fun Activities*

Tots & Adults who love them





## Dear Or Ami Families,

Congregation Or Ami – a warm, musical, and exciting Jewish community – continually transforms and innovates our learning programs to ensure they are engaging, meaningful, and adapted to today's Jewish learners.

- ***Kesher* means “connection.” Our *Kesher* program is designed to foster deep connections among students.** Kesher weaves together Jewish values, Hebrew learning, singing, and art, while shaping a fun, engaging atmosphere for students to learn and grow.
- ***Makom and Makom High* provide community and connection to 7th-12th graders.** In addition to strengthening their social bonds, teens gain leadership skills while expanding their minds and opening their hearts.
- ***Mishpacha Meetups* bring the entire family and community together** in a fun atmosphere to repair the world (community service), celebrate holidays, enjoy nature, and participate in meaningful activities that make *mensch*es (kind, compassionate people).
- ***Kid-ish Club*, for tots and the adults who love them,** creates joyous Judaism for the entire family.

Or Ami believes we are a mosaic of Moses' people. Our learning programs embrace all Jewish children and families, including those from interfaith families raising Jewish children, LGBTQ+ individuals and families, people of color, children with atypical learning needs, and family structures of all shapes and styles. We embrace you!

**ALL PROGRAMS:** Once your registration is complete, we will send you additional specific information about the upcoming school year. Please join or renew your partnership while registering your children since 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](https://orami.org/join-us) or contact 818-880-4880.**



# MAKING MENSCHES

*It's What We Do*

## OUR VISION



We imagine a world where mensches are found around every corner, in every family, in every business, impacting governments, serving as the primary influence in the world.

We endeavor for an existence filled with kindness, compassion, and active caring.

We pursue this vision within Or Ami, "a sanctuary of kindness, a safe Jewish community for today, [people's] second home."

## OUR MISSION



Congregation Or Ami's learning programs strive to make mensches (*kind, compassionate, actively caring Jewishly connected people*).

We proactively create a loving, inclusive, intentional community, existing in a safe, brave space, where adults (staff, parents, clergy) challenge learners and themselves to become mensches.

## OUR METHODS



Partnering with parents (and guardians and grandparents) to guide students and families to actively pursue this mission as their life-purpose.

Applying the four B's of *How to "B" Jewish* – Being, Becoming, Belonging and Behaving – as intentional strategies through which we teach menschlichkeit.

Embracing core values that serve as the umbrella for the community, give birth to four focal middot which change each year and are interwoven throughout the entire community.

## OUR CORE VALUES



*B'tzelem Elohim*: Every human being is of infinite value therefore is to be treated with dignity and kindness. Every child is endowed with unique gifts.

*Henaynu*: We are responsible for being there for one another in good times and bad.

*Shmirat Haguf v'Hanefesh*: Self-care and self-compassion require us to attend to the health and care for our bodies, minds, and souls.

*Chesed*: The world was created and is sustained with kindness and *tikkun olam* (repairing brokenness).

*Achdoot*: We feel an integrated connection to the past/present/future.

*Mosaic*: We are a mosaic of Moses' people, embracing and including all people.

**MENSCH:** *Mensches are kind, compassionate, actively caring Jewishly connected people.*

congregation  
**Or Ami**  
you're home



## *Mishpacha Meetups* *For the Entire Family*

*Mishpacha* means *family*, and at Congregation Or Ami we celebrate families of all sizes and structures. We gather for five special Mishpacha Meetups so families and the entire community can socialize and connect in a fun atmosphere. Enjoy Mitzvah Club activities **to repair the world** (community service). **Celebrate holidays** in creative ways. **Explore nature** for Tu B'shvat (our holiday for trees). **Connect with other families** on our fantastic Fall Family Retreat.







## Kesher Energize, Enrich, Engage (Learning Program for K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Kesher** provides a consolidated learning experience that includes Judaica, Hebrew, holiday celebrations, *t'filah* (prayer), and community building. Kesher's unique blend of warmth and wonder strives to *make mensches* (kind, compassionate children).

**Kindergarten through second 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.

**Third through sixth graders** learn about Jewish values, *menschy* (kind, compassionate) living, Israel, God, Jewish lifecycles, Jewish heroes, and Hebrew. See page 5 for information about Hebrew Language classes.

In addition to class time, **Kesher** students and their families are invited to participate in a variety of *Mishpacha Meetups*, including community celebrations for Chanukah, Purim and Passover, social action volunteer days, and innovative Shabbat experiences. Through these community experiences, students get to know other students across K through 6<sup>th</sup> grades, and families can build deeper connections with Judaism and each other.

**NOTE:** Kindergarten and first grade students new to **Kesher** receive one year of free tuition (parents must be Or Ami partners AND older siblings must be enrolled).

## GoMPTY: 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group

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







## ***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.

### ***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.



### ***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.





## Hebrew Language Program

(for all 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Keshar Students)

Our Hebrew Language program is unique in that 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> 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 from our education team, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be evaluated by our team and additional Hebrew tutoring may be assigned.

## Taste of BMitzvah Prayer Class

Our *Taste of BMitzvah Prayer Class* prepares the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students for their BMitzvah training. (and to *Be the Mitzvah!*). Groups of eight to ten students will meet for one hour a week for 12 weeks with Diane Townsend, our BMitzvah teacher. Groups are organized so students begin at least nine months before their BMitzvah date.

**Participation in the *Taste of BMitzvah Prayer Class* is in addition to all other required learning programs (i.e., Keshar and/or Makom).** Class times and dates will be arranged for each group at a later date.





# Makom 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

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

At Or Ami, we know youth are our future and we want our teens to be prepared for the world, ready to inspire those around them with compassion and openness. In Makom, teens discover and grow their leadership skills by expanding their minds and opening their hearts.



## Where 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Makom 7&8, our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

*All Makom grades meet approx. two evenings per month*

## YOUTH GROUPS



## SoMPTY (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) | LoMPTY (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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:

- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Disneyland Trip
- 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Teen Retreat
- 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Jewish Arizona OR San Francisco Trip
- 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> L'taken Social Justice Trip to Washington DC
- 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip



## 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders: Every week is something new at Makom High 9to12!

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

Be inspired by exciting topics such as financial literacy, life skills (tying knots, building a fire in the woods, hanging stuff on a wall...), Judaism in film, Jewish cooking and more! Learn advocacy skills through our social action training. Receive community service hours while you volunteer in our Madrichim Leadership institute to help our younger students bond to Judaism. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders hang and learn monthly with the clergy as part of Confirmation.

At Makom High 9to12, temple teens can relax, hang out with friends, and enjoy tons of social/soulful fun.

*All Makom grades meet approx. two evenings per month*

## SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS







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*For more information: [orami.org](http://orami.org) • (818) 880-4880*

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