

Or Ami Youth and Family Education



KESHER

*Learning Program
that Makes Mensches*

K through 6th Grades

HEBREW

*Small Classes
Facilitate Learning*

3rd through 6th Grades

MAKOM

*Teens Find Community
& Connection*

7th through 12th 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 or contact 818-880-4880.**

MAKING MENSCHES

It's What We Do

OUR VISION



We imagine a world where *mensch*es 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 *mensch*es (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 *mensch*es.

OUR CORE VALUES



B'tzelem Elohim: Every human being is of infinite value and 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 well-being of 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 Jewish past, present, and future.

Mosaic: We are a mosaic of Moses' people. We embrace all people and celebrate our diversity.

OUR METHODS



Partnering with each child's adults 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*. Creating lasting connections to Judaism through meaningful education about Jewish values, holidays, Torah and prayer.

MENSCH: *Mensch*es 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-6th 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 6th 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: 4th-6th Grade Youth Group

Get ready for fun, friendship, and meaningful moments! GoMPTY, our 4th-6th grade Jewish youth group brings together kids for exciting activities that build community, strengthen Jewish identity, and create lasting memories. Each gathering is filled with opportunities to connect, explore, grow, and have a blast. Whether you're making new friends or deepening your connection to Jewish life, this is the place to be!





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: Hamakom (*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 3rd through 6th Grade Keshet 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 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 3rd 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 6th and 7th 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 one of our BMitzvah teachers. 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., *Keshet and/or Makom*). Class times and dates will be arranged for each group at a later date.



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 7th and 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 Makom 7&8, our 7th and 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.

All Makom grades meet approx. 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 & 8th Grade Disneyland Trip
- 7th-12th Teen Retreat
- 8th-9th Jewish Arizona OR San Francisco Trip
- 10th-12th L'taken Social Justice Trip to Washington DC
- 8th-12th Grade Camping Trip



9th-12th Graders: Every week is something new at Makom High 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 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. 11th and 12th 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





You're Home. Congregation Or Ami



For more information: orami.org • (818) 880-4880

Facebook: Congregation Or Ami • registrar@orami.org • Instagram: @CongOrAmi

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*Scan Me
for more information*