If You Build It, They Will Come

By Susan Michels

I first stepped foot in Or Ami’s preschool in September of 1989 when my daughter Jamie entered the class for two-year olds. Back then it was simply called Or Ami Nursery School and was located in a now unused section of the synagogue. There were maybe 35 children. Drop off was at 9 a.m. and pick up was no later than 3 p.m. Today I am astounded each time I walk through the halls of our preschool, now state licensed and called Or Ami Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC).

Seven years ago, when Michelle Ruder took over as our preschool director, there were 45 students and she had a staff of 12-15 teachers. Today, we currently have 110 children, with waiting lists in several age categories, and 10 classrooms. (A third class for two-year olds is slated to open for the 2019-20 school year.) Michelle oversees a staff of 36 and usually starts her day before the first children are dropped off at 7 a.m. and is very often the last to leave after the final pickup at 6 p.m. Under her direction, we obtained licensing by the PA Department of Human Services and can accept children as young as 3 months old. Washers and dryers were purchased, a nap room established and practically every square inch of the school wing of our synagogue utilized.

In addition to music, sports and Hebrew, to name a few subjects that are part of the normal curriculum, the extra-curricular activities offered make it understandable why the children in the ECEC love coming. Students can sign up for yoga, dance, soccer, karate, gymnastics and snapology (Lego and Kenetics building). When registration opens for extracurricular activities at the beginning of each school session, the line to sign-up starts to form at 7 a.m. There is so much going on during an average school day that Michelle carries a walkie talkie so she can be accessible to every staff member.

As the synagogue treasurer, I periodically meet with Michelle to review the finances of the ECEC. From those meetings I have come to realize that our school is like a gigantic machine with more moving parts than anyone could possibly imagine. In addition to our two, three and four-year-old classrooms, we have Baby Steps (3 to 12 months), Bright Beginnings (12 to 18 months) and Little Learners (18 to 24 months). We have children that come three days a week, four days a week and five days a week. Some only come for half a day while others are there for the full day and some are somewhere in between. When the traditional school year ends in June, we roll right into camp where each week has a specific theme. Activities and programs are all designed around that theme. Staffing is quite a challenge since the state licensing dictates how many children per square foot can be in a classroom and how many teachers per class we are required to have. Michelle’s meticulous records and organizational skills makes it seem like running this ‘machine’ is easy but, trust me, it is a monumental task and a challenge every single day.

I had the opportunity to chat with Michelle to get more insight into the ECEC and ask her some questions that I wondered about.
**Clergy and Staff**

Rabbi .............................................. Glenn Ettman  
rabbiettman@or-ami.org

Cantor ......................................... Jordan S. Franzel  
Cantor.Franzel@or-ami.org

Rabbi Emeritus ................................. Seymour Prystowsky  
Rabbisp@aol.com

Executive Director ....................... Lori Dafilou  610-828-9066 x200  
LoriD@or-ami.org

Communications Administrator ........ Jenna Hendler  610-828-9066 x201  
Jennah@or-ami.org

Early Childhood Education Director .................. Michelle Ruder  610-828-1086 x400  
MichelleR@or-ami.org

ECE Center Assistant Director .......... Carly Shaw  610-828-1086 x401  
ECECenterOffice@or-ami.org

Interim Director of Education .................. Rabbi Glenn Ettman

Director of Adult Learning ................... Cantor Jordan S. Franzel

Interim Assistant Principal ... Stefanie Bock

Administrative Support ................. 610-828-4443 x300  
office@or-ami.org

Synagogue Office .................. 610-828-9066  
office@or-ami.org

Religious School .............................. 610-828-4443  610-828-8689 Fax  
school@or-ami.org

ECE Center ........................................ 610-828-1086

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**Our Mission**

Congregation Or Ami strives to be a warm and welcoming center of Jewish life built on the foundation of Torah (Jewish Text and Tradition), Avodah (Spiritual Fulfillment), and G’milut Chasadim (Acts of Lovingkindness). We embrace the varied needs and rich diversity of our congregants, our community, and the Jewish people. We endeavor to create an inviting and inclusive community that promotes spiritual fulfillment for our congregants and supports their search for God. We take pride in the strong partnership among our clergy, professional staff, lay leaders, and congregants. Guided by Jewish values, we are strengthened by our active volunteerism and informed decision-making. We uphold the principles and ideals of the Reform movement and are a member of the Union for Reform Judaism.

**April Worship Schedule**

**Friday, April 5**

6:15pm ......................... Tot Shabbat Service
7:00pm ........................ Erev Shabbat Service

**Saturday, April 6**

9:00am ........................ Torah Study

**Friday, April 12**

7:00pm ........................ Erev Shabbat Service

**Saturday, April 13**

9:00am ........................ Torah Study
10:30am ........................ Shabbat Service celebrating Max Baer
Becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Friday, April 19**

FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER
NO SHABBAT SERVICE

**Friday, April 26**

7:00pm ........................ Erev Shabbat Service

**Saturday, April 27**

9:00am ........................ Torah Study

**Deadline:** First of the month before publication of issue. We reserve the discretion to edit for space limitations.

Congregation Or Ami is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.
To see a virtual tour of the Barbara Brodsky Suites, visit mainlinehealth.org/Brodsky. To check availability, call 484.476.6180 or email BrodskySuites@mlhs.org.
LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS...OR AMI!

Join us for an evening of fun and friends as we honor Early Childcare Education Director, Michelle Ruder for her years of service. Her dedication has made our ECE Center the top childcare provider in the area, with more than 100 students enrolled, and a wait list of families hoping to garner a spot!

You are also invited to recognize Michelle through a Digital Tribute Presentation premiering during the evening and on our website. See the enclosed form for details.

Questions? Call the office at 610-828-9066 or email lorid@or-ami.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Lori Dafilou
Sherry Dainoff
Jeff & Sara Erlbaum
Rabbi Glenn & Ellie Ettman
Larry & Barbara Kahn
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TIGERS
David Cohen & Dea Reece
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Jeff & Bryn Michaels

BEARS
Hal & Susan Michels

ZOO
Barry & Michelle Ruder

Like us on Facebook and check in often to keep up-to-date on what’s going on at Or Ami!
Whether you need a screening, initial consult or second opinion, the team at Lankenau Medical Center, part of Main Line Health, is known for its expertise in colorectal care. A heritage built by Dr. John Marks—one of the world’s foremost colorectal surgeons whose experience includes more than 3,000 minimally invasive colorectal procedures—and his father before him, whose techniques remain the gold standard in colorectal surgery. What’s more, with his partner Dr. Henry Schoonyoung, sphincter preservation here at Lankenau is achieved 93 percent of the time vs. the national average of 40 to 60 percent. Which means most of our patients avoid a permanent colostomy bag.

So whatever your colorectal concerns, let’s face them together. Here at Lankenau Medical Center. Visit mainlinehealth.org/markscolorectal or call 610.645.9093.
Donations for April Oracle

CANTOR’S FUND
To Judy Steier
In memory of Sheila Gottlieb ..................Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ripp
To Cantor Franzel
Thank you for conducting the service...Alan Roomberg
Judith Steier

ECE CENTER FUND
To the Roomberg family
In memory of Mila Roomberg ...............Sue Samuels

THE EDUCATION FUND
To the Resnick family
In honor of Stella’s Bat Mitzvah ..............Rhonda & Larry Rosenthal

THE GENERAL FUND
To Karen Kleiman
In memory of Larry Raskin .....................Greg Falatek
Ron Krader
Harry Keller
Joel Sloane and Dave Averett
Larry and Susan Paul

To Debbi and Peter Weidman
In honor of Rachel & Adam’s Wedding................Mr. & Mrs. Alan Fishman

To Judith Steier
In memory of Sheila Gottlieb ..................Mr. & Mrs. David Kane
To the Davis family
In memory of Susan Vogel .....................Jodi, Adam, Leah & Myles Kaye

THE MITZVAH FUND
To Sylvia Silverman
In honor of your special birthday.............Debby & Irv Askow
To Jackie Kane
In Memory of Lawrence Pollack ..............Dene Bloom
To Judith Steier
In memory of Sheila Gottlieb ..................Dene Bloom
To Cindy Grodanz
In memory of Robert Grodanz ..................Dene Bloom
To Karen Kleiman
In memory of Larry Raskin .....................Maris Delano
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Levinson
Ellen Pesin
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Rappoport

To Beth Dainoff
In memory of Sharon Steinberg ..........Mr. & Mrs. Henry Margulies
To Robert and Faye Miller
In memory of your mother .....................Mr. & Mrs. Mark Salaman

THE NANCY ROOMBERG FUND
To Cindy Grodanz
In memory of Robert Grodanz ...............Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kahn

To Jackie Kane
In Memory of Larry Pollack ...............Mr. & Mrs. Michael Simon

To Judith Steier
In memory of Sheila Gottlieb ..................Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kahn

To the Roomberg and Klein families
In Memory of Mila Gray Roomberg ....ABS Engineering PLLC
Jody and Peter Abrams
Kevin & Jane Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Irv Askow
David and Bonnie Averett
Melanie, Michael, Meredith and Madeline Bacine
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bass
Doreen Berest
Iris & Steven Berkowitz
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Berman
Ms. Dene S. Bloom
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Joan Borowsky
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bradley
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Morris & Lynne Feinman
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Feldman
Ms. Sue Ann Fichter
Dina, Mike, Robert & Amy Fink
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Fishman
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Forman
Ms. Elaine Frankel
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Frankel
The Golden Family
Charles and Sharon Goldman
Jay and Charlene Goldsleger

Max Baer
Son of Dr. Marc Baer and Simi Kaplin Baer
April 13, 2019
Max is the grandson of Marc and Esther Kaplin. Max has an older sister, Alexa and a younger brother, Ari.
For his Mitzvah project, Max has been volunteering at the Mitzvah Circle Foundation. He’s been packing essentials, like toiletries and clothing, for families in need.
THE NANCY ROOMBERG FUND, continued

To the Roomberg and Klein families
In Memory of Mila Gray Roomberg

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Goodman
Rajeev Gowda
The Grulke and Jacobs Families
Mr. & Mrs. David Grunfeld
Nicole & Walter Harris
Ms. Karen Hepp
Mindi and Fred Herman
Ms. Karen Hoffman
Karen & Jimmy Hoffman
Dr. & Mrs. Craig Israelite
Carrie and Barry Jacobson
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Missi Monroe
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John Nevergole and Shivani Cashmore
Brandon Nichols
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Lisamarie Roberto
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Susan and Jerry Rosenfeld and Family
Ms. Linda Rosensweig
Mr. Ken Rothweiler
Susan Rubin and Family
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Ruder

RABBI ETTMANN DISCRETIONARY FUND

To Rabbi Glenn Ettman
Thank you for conducting the baby naming .........................Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kneitel
Thank you for conducting the service ..........................Mr. & Mrs. Harris Dainoff
Thank you for conducting the service .........................Mr. & Mrs. Alan Roomberg

RABBI PRYSTOWSKY DISCRETIONARY FUND

To Rabbi Prystowsky
Thank you....................................................Judith Steier
To Cochava Prystowsky
In Memory of Hannah Tocatly.............Ellen Pesin

TORAH CARD FUND

To Cindi Grodanz
In Memory of Robert Grodanz ..........Mr. & Mrs. Bill Koelewyn
Mr. & Mrs. David Feldheim
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Perr
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Housenet
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Warchaizer

To the Roomberg family
In Memory of Mila Gray Roomberg.....Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Perr
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Warchaizer

Ginni and mark salaman
Howard & Sandy Salasin
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Saul
Sarah Graham Schlotfeldt
Debra Schuman
Shana Schwartz & Larry Steinberg
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Selleck
Shari & David Seltzer
Mr. Stephen Shaiman & Ms. Bonnie Sharps
Michael and Lori Simon
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Sinowitz
Dennis and Amy Stochower
Laura Solomon
Shelby Specter
Donna Spivack
Beth and David Stein
Saul Steinberg
Marilyn Stern
Phyllis & Bud Stern
Robin & Eric Raskin
Jay Strous
Jodi Taylor
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Justin Weitzman
Ms. Michelle Wilson
Ms. Madeline Winsten
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wolfheimer
Annie Yaros
Mallory Duffy Schwab
Jackie & Jeff Zelle; Samantha & Eric Drossner; Abby & Jordan Raanan
Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Zimmer
To Karen Kleiman
In Memory of Larry Raskin ....................Dr. & Mrs. Craig Israelite
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Koelwyn
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Michels
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Salasin

To Judy Steier
In Memory of Sheila Gottlieb .................Mr. & Mrs. Martin Waxman
Sara Shaiman
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Koelwyn
Mrs. Lillian Toren
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Warchaizer

To Hali and Matt Sklar
In Memory of Maya Dylan.....................Ilene Buchert

To Peter and Debbi Weidman
In Honor of Rachel & Adam's Wedding Mr. & Mrs. Hal Michels

Yahrzeit Fund
In memory of Philip Rabinowitz.............Marvin and Lorie Balistocky
In memory of Peter & Kevin Berger......Laurence and Debra Berger
In memory of Ann Solomon - Mother, Stephen & Barbara Berr
In memory of Naomi Kleinman .............Maris Delano
In memory of Rita Lebed.....................Joel & Iris Lebed
In memory of Esther Weinstein ..........Helene & Alexander Levinson
In memory of Clare Ronay .................Lowell & Jane Raeder
In memory of Gertrude Rubin .............Steven & Marsha Rubin
In memory of S. Robert Rubin .............Susan Rubin
In memory of Herman L. Rubin ..........Susan Rubin
In memory of Esther Weinstein ..........Madeline Winsten

The Youth Fund
To Peter and Debbi Weidman
In Honor of Rachel and Adam's Wedding Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Rosen

The Story of the Jews
Simon Schama is a British historian who presents a unique & personal look at our story as the Jewish people. Join us as we screen the five part documentary and share our reactions.

April 4 | May 16
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary with Cantor Franzel
GIFT SHOP
WE NOW HAVE WINE FOR PASSOVER!
ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE GIFT SHOP GO TO OR AMI!

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SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2019
AT 2:00PM
ORCHESTRA LEVEL TICKETS ARE JUST $50
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Congregation Or Ami presents
Brunch Bag BINGO
May 5th, 2019 at 10am
TICKET $35 • POTLUCK BRUNCH
Please join us for a morning of FUN at our Designer Bag BINGO Brunch! Admission is $35 in advance ($40 at the door). Table of 10 is $300 in advance. Included with admission is 10 games of BINGO. Daubers, extra bingo cards, raffle baskets, & 50/50 tickets will be available for purchase. Bring your own brunch food items and drinks! All proceeds benefit Congregation Or Ami
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Spiritman Joseph Tittel
Joseph will be Bringing Messages of Light and Love
At Congregation Or Ami

Saturday, May 18, 2019 • 7:30PM
Doors open at 6:45PM
Show: 7:30 - 11PM
Dessert buffet intermission: 9 - 9:30PM

Tickets $72
Includes light bites, non alcoholic beverages and dessert buffet.
Books available for purchase and signing following the show.
Cash bar

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Send bottom of page with payment to Congregation Or Ami - memo: Spiritman.
708 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444 Or visit www.or-ami.org to register online.

Name(s)_________________________________________ Committee Chairs: Amy Seidman, Rachel Schwartz,
_________________________________________ Deb Brenner, Randi Zimmer & Lisa Kasmen
Number of tickets _______ Total $ _______ Questions? Contact Amy at ascidman4@comcast.net

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CONGREGATION OR AMI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
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<td>9:00a Religious School</td>
<td>1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program</td>
<td>4:00p Religious School</td>
<td>1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program</td>
<td>11:30a Thursday Mornings with Rabbi Ettman</td>
<td>1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program</td>
<td>9:00a Torah Study</td>
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<td>9:00a Campaign Solicitation Training</td>
<td>6:30p ECE Center Staff Meeting</td>
<td>7:00p Finance Committee - Budget Meeting</td>
<td>7:00p The Story of the Jews - Film Series</td>
<td>6:15p Tot Shabbat</td>
<td>6:30p First Fridays Wine and Cheese &quot;Pre-Neg&quot;</td>
<td>8:20p Havdalah</td>
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<td>10:00a Religious School Family Ed Program</td>
<td>2:00p Illuminations</td>
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<td>7:00p Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>7:11p Candle Lighting</td>
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<td>2:00p Omdim Parent Meeting</td>
<td>9:15a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting</td>
<td>1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program</td>
<td>11:30a Thursday Mornings with Rabbi Ettman</td>
<td>6:30p Interfaith Ministerium Seder</td>
<td>7:18p Candle Lighting</td>
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<td>4:00p Illuminations and Libations Series</td>
<td>1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program</td>
<td>7:00p PTO Sponsored Mom's Night Out</td>
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<td>7:00p Erev Shabbat Service</td>
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**April 2019**

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**Passover Plates, Wines and Gifts**

*Everything you need for Passover at Or Ami’s Gift Shop!*

Shopping at Or Ami’s Gift Shop is easy and convenient. We have the perfect gift for every occasion! All proceeds go to Or Ami.

**Our Hours:**
Mon – Thurs: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sunday: 9 a.m. to noon
Or call Rachel at 610-724-4188 for an appointment.

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Our Hours:
Mon – Thurs: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sunday: 9 a.m. to noon
Or call Rachel at 610-724-4188 for an appointment.