

RACLE (

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

If You Build It, They Will Come

By Susan Michels

If 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.

What is the biggest challenge you face as the director of our ECEC?

"As large as the program is growing, trying to make sure we retain the feeling of community and family that we are known for."

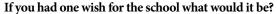
What brings the biggest smile to your face?

"Anytime with the kids."

What do you think differentiates our ECEC from other neighboring preschools?

"The quality of our programming

and staff and that our children get to experience learning through play in our multi-faceted curriculum. Our atmosphere is warm and inviting, our physical property is extensive and offers opportunities for exploration and investigation. Our staff is kind, caring and creative and challenge our children to reach their full potential."



"To continue to grow and to meet the needs of our community."

What do you like to do in your very limited amount of free time?

"Spend time with my family, go to the gym and read."

Or Ami is so incredibly fortunate to have Michelle at the helm of our ECEC. I cannot think of anyone more deserving to be recognized for their dedication and commitment to Or Ami. I hope our entire community will join together at our Spring Fundraiser on June 1 to honor Michelle.

CONGREGATION OR AMI
2018 SPRING FUNDRAISER
JUNE 11, 2019 • Details on page 4



	CONGREGATION
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Honorary Trustees

Michael Konin Terri Wolfheimer 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.



April Worship Schedule

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Friday, April 5				
6:15pm	Tot Shabbat Service			
7:00pm	Erev Shabbat Service			
Saturday, Apr	il 6			
9:00am	Torah Study			
Friday, April 1	2			
7:00pm	Erev Shabbat Service			
Saturday, Apr	il 13			
9:00am	Torah Study			
10:30am	Shabbat Service celebrating Max Baer			
	Becoming a Bar Mitzvah			
Friday, April 1	9			
FIRST NIGHT	OF PASSOVER			

Friday, April 26

7:00pm Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 27

NO SHABBAT SERVICE

9:00amTorah Study



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.





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You value knowledge. You value exceptional medical care. You value privacy.

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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.



2019 SPRING FUNDRAISER

Please join us

Saturday, June 1, 2019 7 - 11_{PM}

Elmwood Park Zoo

1661 Harding Boulevard, Norristown, PA 19401

Music provided by Pulse Entertainment

Food Stations & Open Bar

Casual Cocktail Attire

\$100/person

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

LIONS

Lori Dafilou Sherry Dainoff Jeff & Sara Erlbaum Rabbi Glenn & Ellie Ettman Larry & Barbara Kahn Adam & Ashley Kazatsky Shawn & Sara Neuman Doron & Jennifer Segal Joel & Peggy Sloane Mitch & Randi Zimmer

TIGERS

David Cohen & Dea Reece Doug & Heather Fritts 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!

TOP SPECIALISTS. WORLD-CLASS TEAM. Here at Lankenau Medical Center.



John Marks, MD COLORECTAL SURGEON

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

Sharing Our Sinndhas, Sharing Our Sorrows

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 RoombergSue Samuels

THE EDUCATION FUND

To the Resnick family

In honor of Stella's Bat MitzvahRhonda & Larry Rosenthal

THE GENERAL FUND

To Karen Kleiman

In memory of Larry Raskin.....Greg Falatek

Ron Krader Harry Keller

Joel Śloane and Dave Averett

Larry and Susan Paul

To Debbi and Peter Weidman

In honor of Rachel & Adam's

To Judith Steier

In memory of Sheila Gottlieb......Mr. & Mrs. David Kane

To the Davis family

In memory of Susan VogelJodi, 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 Cindi 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 SteinbergMr. & Mrs. Henry Margulies

To Robert and Faye Miller

In memory of your motherMr. & Mrs. Mark Salaman

THE NANCY ROOMBERG FUND

To Cindi 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

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Kevin & Jane Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Irv Askow
David and Bonnie Averett
Melanie, Michael, Meredith and
Madeline Bacine
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bass
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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



Sar Mizrah

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

Ravi & Alka Jani

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kahn

Mr. & Mrs. David Kane

Mr. & Mrs. Gushner Kent

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Mr. & Mrs. Bill Koelewyn

Mr. Alvin Kolchins

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Suzanne and David Krieger

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Kathy Roseberg

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Rosen

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Ms. Linda Rosensweig

Mr. Ken Rothweiler

Susan Rubin and Family

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Ruder

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Howard & Sandy Salasin

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Marlyn Stern

Phyllis & Bud Stern Robin & Eric Raskin

Jay Strouss

Jodi Taylor

The National Association of Town

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Adam Weiss

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

RABBI ETTMAN DISCRETIONARY FUND

To Rabbi Glenn Ettman

Thank you for conducting

the baby namingMr. & Mrs. Donald Kneitel

for conducting the serviceMr. & Mrs. Alan Roomberg

RABBI PRYSTOWSKY DISCRETIONARY FUND

To Rabbi Prystowsky

Thank you..................Judith Steier

To Cochava Prvstowsky

In Memory of Hannah Tocatly..... Ellen Pesin

TORAH CARD FUND

To Cindi Grodanz

In Memory of Robert GrodanzMr. & Mrs. Bill Koelewyn

Mr. & Mrs. David Feldheim Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Berr

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Housenet Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Warchaizer

To the Roomberg family

In Memory of Mila Gray Roomberg.....Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Berr

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Warchaizer

Sharing Our Sinnchas, Sharing Our Sorrows

To Karen Kleiman

In Memory of Larry RaskinDr. & Mrs. Craig Israelite
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Koelewyn
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Michels
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Salasin

To Judy Steier

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Koelewyn 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 RabinowitzMarvin and Lorie Balistocky
In memory of Peter & Kevin BergerLaurence and Debra Berger
In memory of Ann Solomon - Mother.Stephen & Barbara Berr
In memory of Naomi KleinmanMaris Delano
In memory of Rita LebedJoel & Iris Lebed
In memory of Esther Weinstein Helene & Alexander Levinson
In memory of Clare RonayLowell & Jane Raeder
In memory of Gertrude RubinSteven & Marsha Rubin
In memory of S. Robert RubinSusan Rubin
In memory of Herman L. RubinSusan Rubin
In memory of Esther Weinstein Madeline Winsten

THE YOUTH FUND

To Peter and Debbi Weidman

In Honor of Rachel and Adam's



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









CONGREGATION OR AMI

interfaith ministerium seder

OR AMI HOSTS AN INTERFAITH SEDER!

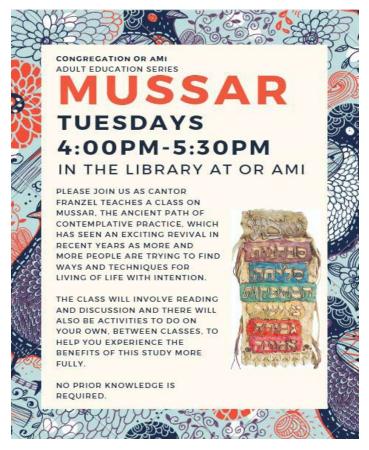
COME SHARE A TASTE OF PASSOVER WITH MEMBERS OF OR AMI, THE PW INTERFAITH MINISTERIUM, & OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY!

THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2019 6:30PM-8:30PM

GO ONLINE TO
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FOR DINNER MENU &
MORE DETAILS

\$36 PER ADULT \$18 PER CHILD

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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 aseidman4@comcast.net

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CONGREGATION OR AMI

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	Mon	Tues	WED	Thurs	Fri

Sun

JUN	IVION	IUES	VVED	Inuks	I KI	JAI
31 Adar II 24	1 Adar II 25	2 Adar II 26	3 Adar II 27	4 Adar II 28	5 Adar II 29	6 Taz Nisan 1
9:00a Religious School 9:00a Campaign Solicitation Training 10:00a Religious School Family Ed Program 2:00p The Curious Incident	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program	4:00p Religious School	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 6:30p ECE Center Staff Meeting 7:00p Finance Committee - Budget Meeting	11:30a Thursday Mornings with Rabbi Ettman 7:00p The Story of the Jews - Film Series	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 6:15p Tot Shabbat 6:30p First Fridays Wine and Cheese "Pre-Neg" 7:00p Erev Shabbat Service 7:11p Candle Lighting	9:00a Torah Study 8:20p Havdalah
7 Nisan 2	8 Nisan 3	9 Nisan 4	10 Nisan 5	11 Nisan 6	12 NFTY Spring Nisan 7 Kallah	13 M Nisan 8
9:00a Religious School 9:15a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 10:45a School Seder 11:00a RSPO Meeting 4:00p Illuminations and Libations Series	9:00a PTO Meeting 1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program	4:00p Religious School 6:30p Confirmation Class 6:30p Omdim 7:00p Executive Committee Meeting	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 7:00p PTO Sponsored Mom's Night Out	11:30a Thursday Mornings with Rabbi Ettman 6:30p Interfaith Ministerium Seder	10:00a ECE Center Model Seder 1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 7:00p Erev Shabbat Service 7:18p Candle Lighting	Bar Mitzvah of Max Baer NFTY Spring Kallah 9:00a Torah Study 8:27p Havdalah
14 NFTY Nisan 9 Spring	15 ECE Nisan 10 Center	16 ECE Nisan 11 Center	17 ECE Nisan 12 Center	18 ECE Nisan 13 Center	19 Erev Nisan 14 Passover	20 Nisan 15
Kallah Spring Break - No Religious School	Spring Break for Half Day Students	Spring Break for Half Day Students ECE Open for Full Time Students Only Spring Break - No Religious School	Spring Break for Half Day Students	Spring Break for Half Day Students ECE Open for Full Time Students Only 11:30a Thursday Mornings with Rabbi Ettman	Business Office Closed ECE Center Closing at 1:00PM for ALL Students ECE Center Spring Break for Half Day Students ECE Open for Full Time Students Only NOTE: FIRST SEDER- NO SHABBAT SERVICE 7:25p Candle Lighting	3:00p Askow family seder 8:34p Havdalah
21 Chol Nisan 16	0.1.01		0.1.01	onoi -	26 Passover Nisan 21	27 Nisan 22
Hamoed Passover	Hamoed Passover	Hamoed Passover	Hamoed Passover	Hamoed Passover	Yizkor ECE & BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSED	[
No Religious School	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program	4:00p Religious School	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 7:00p Board of Trustees Meeting	11:30a Thursday Mornings with Rabbi Ettman 7:30p Yizkor Service 7:32p Candle Lighting	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 7:00p Erev Shabbat Service 7:33p Candle Lighting	9:00a Torah Study 8:42p Havdalah
Nisan 23	29 Nisan 24	30 <u>Last</u> Nisan 25 Tuesday of	1 Nisan 26	2 Yom Nisan 27 HaShoah	3 Nisan 28	4 A Nisan 29
9:00a Religious School 9:15a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 11:00a Omdim Parent Meeting 12:30p RS Faculty	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program	Religious School 4:00p Religious School 6:30p Confirmation Class 6:30p Omdim	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 6:30p ECE Staff Meeting 6:30p PTO Teacher Appreciation Dinner	11:30a Thursday	1:00p ECE Spring Creative Arts Program 6:15p Tot Shabbat 6:30p First Fridays Wine and Cheese "Pre-Neg" 7:00p Erev Shabbat Service 7:00p Confirmation and	9:00a Torah Study 8:49p Havdalah

SAT

