



Rabbi Julia Weisz is Congregation Or Ami's Director of Education and one of Or Ami's rabbis.

An innovative educational leader, Rabbi Weisz created new approaches to teen engagement, HUB (Hadricha U'chesed v'bina: Leadership through Wisdom and Compassion), that embraces multiple paths to Jewish connection. She has revitalized our Kesher (Hebrew Language and Judaica Learning) and Mensch-ify (Family Learning) programs. She has introduced Shabbat Pajama Parties for our Kindergarten through 3rd grades, Tot Shabbat for younger children, 4-6th and 7-12th Grade Retreats, GoMPTY (4-6th) and SoMPTY (6th-8th grade) youth groups.

Ordained as Rabbi in May, 2011, Rabbi Weisz previously earned her Masters degree in Jewish Education in 2009, both from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. Rabbi Weisz grew up in Dallas, Texas, and graduated from Southern Methodist University with a BA in Psychology and Religious Studies.

Rabbi Weisz sits on the clinical faculty of the Rhea Hirsch School of Jewish Education, and teaches sessions on pastoral counseling in the rabbinic program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She served on the editorial committee for *Mishkan R'fuah: Where Healing Resides*, a healing prayerbook of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. She is passionate about social justice and community organizing work within the synagogue and dedicates her rabbinate to creating safe spaces for all people to wrestle, challenge and confirm their beliefs and Jewish practice.

Rabbi Julia lives with her husband David, and their son Noam, daughters Madeline and Eve, and dog Pitzi. She spends her free time playing with her kids, working out, watching fun TV shows and eating great food.