

In April 2022, the Family, Youth, and Children (FYC) Committee reconvened after many years of hiatus. The committee's mission, as stated in new terms of reference, include:

- Enhancing children's experience of Jewish life.
- Building cohorts of members to sustain Or Shalom's future.
- Empowering parents of all backgrounds with practical skills and a supportive community for raising Jewish children.
- Positioning Or Shalom as synagogue young families look to in order to connect with the wider Jewish community through child-centered activities.

Since forming, the committee has:

- Coordinated a monthly Shabbat potluck for families with young children.
- Coordinated a monthly parent-tot playgroup.
- Gathered informal feedback on families' needs (a comprehensive survey is forthcoming).
- Advised Rabbi Hannah and the Board on families needs.

Or Shalom has experienced some attrition of young families during the COVID-19 pandemic due to reduced programming and loss of a sense of community. However, Or Shalom continues to attract members with young children at a steady rate, and is well positioned to provide an inclusive and participatory community for young families that is unique in Vancouver. Therefore, we are highly encouraged by the steps that Rabbi Hannah and staff are taking in response to the committee's feedback, and we will continue to collaborate with Rabbi Hannah and the Board to build capacity and community. We encourage you to reach out to us with feedback. If you would like to work with us to build a vibrant community for young families at Or Shalom, please consider joining the FYC committee!