

On behalf of Congregation Or Ami, the gala committee would like to thank the following vendors for helping to make this evening so special.

AV Masters

Howard Entin, David Entin and Family

For designing and donating all the lighting that allowed us to transform our sanctuary into a true award show experience.

This night would not have been possible without your generosity of time and considerable donation.

Kensington Caterers Kenneth Heidt

For creating an award caliber menu of the most delicious food.

You and your staff are a master class in excellence.

SpotlightLA

Joel Macht

For elevating our party ambience with an Emcee and DJ that kept our program moving and our guests on the dance floor.

Your generosity also gave us a killer Photo Booth!

Pixelwerks Michael McDonald

There would not have been a Show without the Audio and Visual components you provided. Your time, expertise and resources brought our Production to life.

Welcome To

The ONE RED CARPET Celebration

MARCH 25, 2023

6:15	Doors Open
6:30	Passed Appetizers, Food Stations, Cocktails, and Silent Auction
6:45	Havdalah on the Dance Floor
7:45	Silent Auction Closes
8:00	Program and Award Presentation
8:45	Coffee, Dessert, Candy Bar, and Dancing
9:30	Live Music
11:00	Celebration Ends

Congregation Or Ami is a sanctuary of kindness, a safe Jewish community for today, your second home





Bask in our welcoming, inclusive, musical, innovative Jewish community.

Connect with warm, accessible, insightful clergy.



Be Be

Be spiritually inspired.

Discover deep connections with Torah, Israel and the Holy One.



Partner with others who seek justice to change the world.



If this kind of community feels exciting to you, then stop by to *schmooze* (talk) or grab a cup of coffee with our rabbis. We know you will feel the warmth.

Come home to Judaism. Come home to Congregation Or Ami.

Rabbi Paul Kipnes rabbipaul@orami.org Rabbi Julia Weisz rabbijulia@orami.org
President Craig Steinhauer csteinhauer@nwfadvisory.com

A Message from our Clergy

Thank you for coming to celebrate as Congregation Or Ami and the Caring Community Foundation honor our own Rabbi Julia Weisz.

Tonight, Rabbi Julia Weisz receives the Samuel A. Wolfson Community Leadership Award in recognition of the outsized influence she has had on Congregation Or Ami and the field of Jewish education.

All over the Jewish world, Jewish educators recognize Rabbi Julia's tremendous influence on Jewish education. She is a disruptor in the Jewish educational space, a builder of community and collegiality, an educational visionary, and an inspiring mentor. She promotes excellence in Reform Jewish education by the transformational work here at Or Ami and through the consultation and brainstorming she does with other Jewish educators nationwide who reach out to her regularly. She is equally comfortable evaluating the sacred cows of Jewish education and within Or Ami's Jewish learning programs, and unflinchingly will tear down tired programs to build up new models that will inspire.

Rabbi Julia has mentored or co-mentored 26 HUC-JIR interns (education and rabbinic students), guiding them, teaching them the keys to her success, and maintaining relationships to help them reach excellence themselves. Her work creating a teen travel program, family retreats, and the Kid-ish Club for tots, has inspired others to do the same. Her efforts to address teen mental health and wellness, that preceded the pandemic by 6 years, has influenced the work of other colleagues. She is a regular presenter at gatherings (formal and informal) of Reform Jewish educators because colleagues recognize her expertise.

We thank our event chairs Deanna Glassberg and Jessica Nedick, sponsorship maven Susie Gruber, their volunteers, and all our donors. You help sustain this sacred community and are ensuring the continuation of Rabbi Julia's profoundly inspirational legacy.

Mazel tov to our Rabbi Julia Weisz and to our whole community for reaching this *simcha*. As your partners in prayer and co-leaders in learning, we cherish how you have made being on the bimah so much fun!

We will miss you! And we love you!

Rabbi Paul Kipnes Cantor Emeritus Doug Cother

Thank You to The ONE Red Carpet Celebration Sponsors

RED CARPET SPONSOR

Lynn Franklin

WELCOME AREA SPONSORS

Ike and Brooke Praw

HAVDALA SPONSORS

Robert and Jodi Groff

SILENT AUCTION SPONSOR

Jerry and Nina Treiman

PHOTOGRAPHY SPONSORS

Craig and Tracy Steinhauer Cathy and Richard Rutkin

DESSERT SPONSORS

Steve and Laurie Keleman Ike and Brooke Praw Gary and Rochelle Gluck Dan and Bonnie Germain Stephen and Marla Landis

BEVERAGE SPONSORS

Sid and Sharon Goldberg
Matthew and Hedi Gross
Fred and Susie Gruber
Ralph and Jackie Lacher
Randy and Allison Levine
Joe and Jodi Miller
Jeff and Kellie Singer
Mark and Frieda Swedelson

Thank You to The ONE Red Carpet Celebration Sponsors

VIDEO SPONSORS

Harry and Judy Friedman

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORS

Hugh and Lisa Roberts

BID PADDLE SPONSORS

Steve and Laurie Keleman

CANDY BAR SPONSOR

Mark and Jill Shear

COFFEE BAR SPONSORS

Terry and Rich Abrams Andy and Helene Baker Joel and Sandee Greene Fred and Susie Gruber

DECOR SPONSORS

Curt Gorlick
Jeff and Donna Hennes
Scott and Gaynor Rabin
Greg Wiviott

РНОТО ВООТН

Brad and Beth Cohan
Paul and Rachel Dashevsky
Seth and Michelle Finkelstein
Peter and Lesli Kraut
Marc and Erin Mayer
Jared and Rachel Paul
Karin Pofsky
Alan Lazar and Gustavo Ruiz

HAVE THE BEST. PARTY. EVER.

CONGREGATION OR AMI'S #1
DJ ENTERTAINMENT
& PHOTOBOOTH

BAR/BAT MITZVAHS. WEDDINGS
BIRTHDAYS. CORPORATES

323-571-4025 www.SpotlightLA.com





Acknowledgements

PRODUCERS

Deanna Glassberg Jessica Nedick

SPONSORSHIP SALES

Susie Gruber

AUCTION COMMITTEE

Susie Gruber Deanna Glassberg Jessica Nedick Laurie Keleman

VIDEO PARTICIPANTS

Samantha Bookman Yale Coopersmith Alan Lazar and Gustavo Ruiz Debby Pattiz Sara Schwartz Carrie Slatoff

OR AMI STAFF

Lisette Tuohy
Icela Alcala
Rachel Altfeld
Andrew Fromer
Kellie Gilmore
Diane Townsend
Rabbinic Intern Samantha Thal
Retreat Coordinator Yael Farber

CLERGY

Rabbi Paul Kipnes Rabbi Julia Weisz Cantor Emeritus Doug Cotler

President's Welcome

Thank you to everyone who helped make this special event possible. Our annual Or Ami ONE event allows our amazing Or Ami community to continue our mission of providing much needed care and services within our community, country, and around the world. Now more than ever, our mission of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, calls out to all of us. Or Ami ONE helps us answer that call. Additionally, this year, Or Ami ONE will help us sustain our nationally-recognized youth and family education program.

As they have in past years, our amazing co-chairs, Deanna Glassberg and Jessica Nedick, have stepped up to create another magnificent venue in their own special way. Their professional skills and expertise combined with their love and passion for Or Ami, and with the amazing involvement of Susie Gruber, has brought us to this special night. Deanna and Jessica, I and your Or Ami community thank you for another wonderful event.

We are here on this very special night to honor a very special person, Rabbi Julia Weisz. Since 2011, Rabbi Julia took our relatively small education program and grew it into a thriving community for Or Ami youth that is admired by synagogues and Jewish youth programs across the nation. Rabbi Julia created and recreated our teen program (currently called Makom), each a new and innovative approach to teen engagement that embraces multiple paths to Jewish connection. LOMPTY, SOMPTY, and most recently, GOMPTY – our amazing youth groups for teens to tots - keeps kids of all ages engaged and connected. While we all know and love Rabbi Julia for her love and attentiveness. towards our children, she has been equally loved and respected as one of our rabbis, helping guide us through so many of our life events. Rabbi Julia, we are so fortunate that you decided to become a Rabbi and that you selected Congregation Or Ami as your spiritual home. We love you, respect you, and cherish all that you bring to our special community.

L' Shalom,

Craig Steinhauer President

Congregation Or Ami Officers and Board Members

Craig Steinhauer, President

Susie Gruber, Vice President

Marla Landis, Vice President

Karin Pofsky, Vice President

Richard Rutkin, Vice President

Rachel Dashevsky, Board Secretary

Alan Kazden, CFO

Lesli Kraut, Immediate Past President

Brad Cohan, Advisor to President

Michael Kaplan, Advisor to President

Colin Mayer, LoMPTY President

Brad Cohan

Donald Cutler

Michelle Finkelstein

Judy Friedman

Dan Germain

Sid Goldberg

Brad Halpern

Laurie Keleman

Alan Lazar

Erin Mayer

Kevin Palm

Debby Pattiz

Rachel Paul

April Powers

Thank You from Rabbi Julia

There are so many people who have supported me and enabled me to do my work as a rabbi and Jewish educator. Below is but a partial list of those I am thankful for.

The Past Presidents of Congregation Or Ami: Gene Student, Michael Kaplan, Lucille Goldin, Helayne Sharon, Hedi Gross, Gary Kaplan, Fred Gruber, and Lesli Kraut.

Current President Craig Steinhauer, and the many incredible board members and volunteers who make this place soar.

The incredible clergy and staff of Congregation Or Ami: Rabbi Paul Kipnes, Cantor Emeritus Doug Cotler, Andrew Fromer, Rachel Altfeld, Kellie Gilmore, Lisette Tuohy, Icela Alcala, and Susie Stark.

Our many Rabbinic and Education Interns whom I've had the honor to work with and be inspired by. You all continue to teach me, including Rabbinic Intern Samantha Thal, Retreat Coordinator Yael Farber, College Fellow Hannah Finkelstein and our one-of-a-kind Faculty Team.

The incredible Gala Queens who made this night possible: Jessica Nedick and Deanna Glassberg. And Sponsorship/Auction Queen Susie Gruber.

The many people who sat on Dream Teams and served as my sounding boards whenever it was time to shake things up, including Patti Jo Wolfson, Melinda Pittler, Beth Cohan, Rachel Paul, Erin Mayer, Rachel Dashevsky, and Sari Ratican.

Those who helped me with our students' mental health and wellness, especially Samantha Bookman LMFT, who helped ensure our Or Ami education programs were safe and brave spaces.

My Sukkat Shalom Social Justice Family.

My many teachers, especially Rabbi Richard Levy (z'l), Debbie Friedman (z'l), Rabbi David Stern and Rabbi Nancy Kasten.

My personal Crochet Advisor: Michelle Finkelstein.



My close friends who make up my village and are here to celebrate and dance with me.

My beloved family who traveled to be here today, and never leave my side: Dad Randy, Ima (Mom) Emily, Sister Jo, Uncle Joe and Aunt Janet.

My Stepdad Dan and Zayda Gil, who were instrumental in my becoming a rabbi and would have been so proud to see me today.

My amazing children: Noam, Maddie and Eve.

My best friend and favorite person: David Weisz.

In truth, so many extraordinary people touched my life in some way and helped shape me as the rabbi that I am. It would be impossible to mentioned you all by name but please know how much you mean to me and how grateful I am that you are in my life.

With deepest gratitude,

Rabbi Julia

Thank You to Our Generous Auction Donors

Alan and Susie Stark

Anat Phil-Golan

Andrew Fromer

Art's Delicatessen & Restaurant

Barry Monblatt

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

Boccaccio's Restaurant

Brent's Deli

Calabasas Country Club

Cantor Kyle Cotler

Capital Genealogy

Carol Liberstein

Carrie and Matt Slatoff

Caryl Kaplan

Chef Jodi Levine

Congregation Or Ami

Davidson and Debby Pattiz

Diane Townsend

Doreen and John DeRoy

Doris Luster

Fireglass Studio

Fred and Susie Gruber

Gio Cucina Napoletana

Hedi and Matthew Gross

Heidi Padveen

Helen Geier

HOPE Organizers

Ike and Brooke Praw

In-N-Out Burger

Jason and Samantha Scherr

Joel Macht

King's Seafood Restaurant

LA Exposures Photography

Ladyface Brewery

Landry's

Larsen's Restaurants

Lovi's Deli

Magic Castle

Marlene Hurst

Marmalade Cafe

Thank You to Our Generous Auction Donors

Melinda Pittler

Michal Dukler

Mitch and Gayle Plessner

Mitch and Jessica Nedick

Mort's Delicatessen

Mountain Gate Country Club

Museum of Tolerance

Pacific Park

Paul and Rachel Dashevsky

Rabbi Julia Weisz

Rabbi Paul Kipnes

Richard and Cathie Rutkin

Richard Shamban

Saban Theatre

Sam Thal

Sandee and Joel Greene

Sarah Klein

Shelly and Gary Gluck

Sit 'n Sleep

Sonabella Fine and Fashion Jewelry

SpotlightLA

Steve and Laurie Keleman

Stephen and Marla Landis

Studio One Salon

Tavern Tomoko

The Canyon

The Hideaway Wine Co.

The Landing Grill and Sushi Bar

The Powers Family

The World Famous Laugh Factory

Trader Joe's

URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy

URJ Camp Newman

VJB Cellars

Wellington Cellars

West Valley Medical Aesthetics

Westlake Academy of Art

Wood Ranch BBQ & Grill

Woodland Hills Country Club

Yasmine Alvarez

We appreciate the generosity of

THE WOLFSON FAMILY

in Creating this prestigious award in Sam's memory.



Congregation Or Ami and the Wolfson Family joyously created the **Samuel A. Wolfson Community** Leadership Award to honor the memory of **Samuel A. Wolfson**, our community's great leader, a builder of synagogues, supporter of families and children, and a believer in the importance of supporting the Jewish community.

The Samuel A. Wolfson Community Leadership Award is presented to leaders in the community whose life and work promotes the cherished Jewish values including *kehillah kedoshah* (community), *mishpacha* (family), *henaynu* (being there for each other), *tikkun olam* (social justice), *Torah* (learning), and *tzedakah* (charity).

PREVIOUS HONOREES:

Michelle November (2020)

Ike and Brooke Praw (2019)

Jodi Miller (2018)

Fred and Susie Gruber (2017)

Jeff and Kellie Singer (2016)





Jules,

About 14 years ago, we took a small trip that turned into an incredible journey. It only took about an hour to drive from Pico-Robertson to the Calabasas Rec Center for Rosh Hashanah services but that ride would change our lives in ways we could not have imagined.

After twenty-four hours with this community, as we were driving home from tashlich in Malibu, I realized I was totally enamored with Congregation Or Ami. The warmth of the welcome I received before services; the inclusiveness of inviting non-Jewish partners raising their children as Jews for an aliyah; the sheer joy of friends new and old celebrating on the beach at Paradise Cove; the rabbinic intern's sermon, brilliantly edited by her husband. You may have thought my suggestion that you talk with Rabbi Paul about a full-time job, even before you were ordained as a rabbi, was for the benefit of your career. It's time to come clean: it was all about me!

Since that time, I've been lucky to be a fly on the wall as you've created retreats for all ages, reimagined family learning over and over, and built a community organizing team from the ground-up. While these are all amazing accomplishments, they are not what actually differentiates you from your peers and make you worthy of the numerous awards you've won. To me, the true measure of your impact as a rabbi is the number of times you've created unique paths for individuals to remain in — or rejoin — the Or Ami community. No matter how challenging the situation, or how difficult the relationships, your answer to these students in need has always been "there is a place for you here at Or Ami." The Talmud teaches that saving a single life is equivalent to saving the world, and if that is so, you have undoubtedly saved the world many times over.

I've told you many times, but probably not often enough, how proud I am of your work as a rabbi. You have done so many incredible things in your time at Congregation Or Ami, and I'm so happy to see you recognized at this year's Or Ami One celebration. I love you, and I can't wait to see what you do with the next 13 years of your rabbinic journey.

With love, admiration, and gratitude,







Mommy,

We love having you as our "rebbe-mama."

You are the most amazing rabbi - and

mom - in the world. You are energetic,

enthusiastic, and the "or" of Dr Ami.

- Noam (9)

You're great at being a mom and a rabbi, and you make great relationships with all the kids at Or Ami. — Maddie (7)

I love you. I like that you're a rabbi because I get to come to Or Ami with you and play. You always make me smile when I go to Or Ami.

- Eve (4)



We love you! Noam, Maddie and Eve







Julia,

Ever since you were young, you found comfort and connection within the Jewish community. First in your Jewish day school in Tucson and later at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, you developed a love of Judaism and

found that Jewish places could be safe spaces for you.

So it makes sense that you have created a similar feeling at Congregation Or Ami for so many young people and their families during your 13 years as one of its rabbis.

Your passion for engaging youth, as well as your interfaith work and community organizing, all blossomed at Or Ami. But they really grew out of your innate ability to connect deeply with people from all walks of life.

I love your warmth and compassion for others and I have been a very proud mama, watching you grow over the years as a woman, a spouse, a mother, and a rabbi.

I know that your decision to step back from the congregation was not easy. It took great courage and conviction. I am proud of you for prioritizing your children and family. In this way, you are reflecting the highest Jewish values you have taught others, and in doing so, have become a powerful role model for us all.

I also know that Or Ami will continue to be a guiding light for you and your family, because you poured your heart and soul into it to help shape Or Ami into the warm, welcoming Jewish home that it is. I look forward to being with you at Or Ami in the future as we celebrate holidays and family simchas together.

Mazel tov, my daughter. I couldn't be more proud of you if I tried, and I love you beyond words.

Mom (Ims)



Julia Weisz — our daughter, sister, and rabbi — is an incredible inspiration. From her sister, Livia, "she's friendly, is always positive, and always ready for an arts and crafts project." No matter how crazy busy you are, you are always willing to listen and are a great listener. We know that as a sister and rabbi, you were the only person able to get your brother, Ben, to complete his bar mitzvah, learning his Torah and Haftarah portions, and genuinely enjoying doing so. You are always willing to get involved in any project and get kids around you engaged and joyful.

Julia, you have an innate ability to see the big picture for others and help them feel included and connected. You are very patient as a mother and so loving to your three children, Noam, Maddie, and Eve, and to your husband, David.

We are immensely proud of you for your tireless effort in transforming Jewish education. Your hard work and dedication created an inclusive and vibrant learning environment based on Jewish values, culture, and history. Moreover, you strive to bring innovative ideas, activities, and resources to keep your students engaged and inspired. You are helping to bridge the gap between generations and revive the Jewish spirit through your passion

for education. We are so proud of your accomplishments and thrilled for this recognition.

We love you!

Randy, Geren, Ben, and Livia Aronson





Julia,

You are such an incredible person, sister, rabbi, and friend. I am amazed at how much you do on a daily basis for others and it shows in all of your actions over the years.

I am so thankful to have YOU as my

sister. What started as the normal sisterly love/hate relationship (maybe my pushing you into cactus wasn't so normal) blossomed into a beautiful friendship.

I have learned so much from you. Most recently after having our son Brooks. I was so lost and don't think I would have stayed sane during such a truly hard time without you checking on me— sometimes multiple times a day. What's even crazier is you were focused on me and my struggles when some days you couldn't even see straight yourself. I look up to you, big sister, because your strength and ability to deal with the difficult times in our lives is something I will always admire.

There is not enough Diet Dr. Pepper/Diet Coke or candy in the world to celebrate your accomplishments over the years. I hope you realize how much you are loved by your family and friends and most of all, by me.

I love you so very much, Sissypoo,





Julia,

Mazel tov on being honored both by Congregation Or Ami and previously as a Distinguished Jewish Educator by the Association of Reform Jewish Educators. You are more than deserving of both honors

Our whole family has enjoyed having you and your family in our lives. We cherish memories of celebrating together *BMitzvah* (ours), *britot* (yours), and *chagim* (everyone's). We loved our

(fire season) slumber party and watching each other's kids grow up (too fast). Your children – including our goddaughter Eve – are dear to us as our own. Thank you for inspiring our children too! Watching you and David celebrating and struggling through the vicissitudes of life remind us of the significance of having an ezer k'negdo, a partner of equality and love. May you be blessed always as you truly are the blessing!

Paul adds: Who would've thought that we could have so much fun and laugh so much as we carry the very heavy responsibility of holding people through the vicissitudes of their lives, educating our youth with Jewish values to carry them through challenges of life, and celebrating the cycles of holy days and regular days too. You make it seem easy – or at least regularly joyful – because of your unique outlook in life, and of course, your willing to laugh at Paul's jokes.

These past 13 years shaping, imagining, strategizing, and visioning a Jewish future have so enriched my rabbinate in my life. From the first Havdala you led on the bimah – during which I asked you to extinguish the candle with the wine so you dumped the wine over the candle onto the carpet (hysterical!) – through every moment that you present an idea that initially feels far out until we realize how innovative it was (visionary!), you have redefined the clergy partnership relationship. Thank you for enhancing my life and uplifting my rabbinate!

Congregation Or Ami shines brightly because of you. But dare we say that the whole Jewish world blossoms because of the work you do. More young people than we can count have found healing and wholeness amidst the brokenness because you show them the way.

Mazel tov on this honor. We love you!

Paul Kipnes & Michelle November Rachel, Daniel and Noam, Noah and Becca



March 25, 2023

To: Our Dear Rabbi Julia Weisz From: Cantor Emeritus Doug Cotler

You came to us as an eager student,
And soon became a Rabbi,
And then became Our Rabbi.
You listened with your heart;
You led our children dancing in the pleasant ways of Torah.
Rabbi Julia, you open your mouth with wisdom.

You came to us as a remarkable woman, And then became a mother, And then became Our Mother. You nurtured us and held us close. Rabbi Julia, you are clothed in strength.

And now we,
Your students, your children, and your community
We rise up and rejoice in you.
We rise up now and celebrate you, our teacher and our friend.
Rabbi Julia, we laugh with you until your last day.



Rabbi Julia,

I want to wish you the best of luck on the next chapter of your journey. You have been a stalwart friend and confidant to me since you joined Congregation Or Ami.

While I am sad that we won't be able to continue that professional relationship in the coming months, I will look forward to observing *chagim* with you and celebrating the *BMitzvah* of your three children. You have created a nationally-recognized youth program; I am committed to helping make sure that we build upon your legacy.

May you go from strength to strength and I know Or Ami will continue to echo with the inspiration you have shared.

Warmly,

Cantor Rabbi Kyle Cotler





"What we need more than anything else is not textbooks, but text people"

- Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Rabbi Julia, you are the exemplar of text people
— inspiring, teaching, and caring for all of the
students and teachers who know you.

Thank you for being our leader, our teacher, and our friend. Your compassion and love for each of us shines through in every conversation. We can always rely on you to offer a listening ear, a warm smile, a friend to laugh with, or a snack; we are so grateful to have learned from you and with you over the years.

All our love,

The Kesher Faculty





Rabbi Julia,

We are blessed to have you in our lives.

Our community, congregation, and our family cherish your leadership, kindness, and friendship.

Your contributions to the education of our children and the lifting up of our souls will forever be an inspiration.

All Our Love,

Susie, Fred, Adam, and Tori Gruber

Dear Rabbi Julia,

You taught me that rabbis have to wear many hats, and you wear them all with style.

As a rabbi -

You opened my eyes to the beauty and complexity of Jewish tradition.

As a community leader -

You inspired me with the joy and warmth with which you approach your holy work.

As a mentor -

You devoted generous time, energy, and sincerity to helping me navigate my path to the rabbinate.

As a friend -

Your presence in my life has been a profound gift. Your friendship has helped me grow into someone I am proud to be.

I feel so, so lucky to have you as one of the most influential adults in my life. Thank you for being you.

All our love.

Dani and the Pattiz Family











Rabbi Julia,

Your warm heart and mega-million watt smile have brought so much joy of learning to the children of Congregation Or Ami!
Thank you for all you've done for our community.
We wish you good luck and Godspeed now and always.

With gratitude,

Olivia, Andy, Donnie, Abby, Micah, & Jack





We are delighted that Rabbi Julia is the Gala honoree this year!

We joined Or Ami after our children had left home so have not had an opportunity to witness firsthand your amazing skills with the Or Ami youth but have heard a lot about it! We've always loved your contributions to Or Ami events and holiday celebrations and have greatly admired your great intellect and wisdom, deep knowledge of Judaism, incredible warmth and sense of humor, and your devotion to family.

We wish you the best in the next pathways taken and know that you will be loved by all who are lucky enough to be your friend or colleague.

Jessie and Steven Galson





RABBI JULIA,

THANK YOU
FOR ALL
YOU HAVE GIVEN
TO OR AMI.
YOU ARE
A SHINING STAR.
WE WISH YOU
ALL THE BEST!

FAYE AND GARY WALDMAN





Rabbi Julia,
We wish you luck
in the future with
good health for you
and your family.

Sincerely,
Mark and Linda Wolfson





Rabbi Julia,

Thank you for sharing yourself to teach our children, guide their parents and grandparents, and pave the way for generations of children to come at Congregation Or Ami!

Always inspiring us, we will miss your smile, warmth, knowledge, and caring which will always remain in our hearts.







Your light, love, and soul spread further than you will ever know. We are blessed to call you our colleague and dear friend. Wishing you and your whole family a deep connection, incredible new memories, and a lifetime of joy. Mazel Tov on helping foster, build, and uphold the holiness of Congregation Or Ami.

Lots of love, Terkels and Fisches







From the beginning
of your tenure at Or Ami,
we've been touched by your
innovation, vision, intelligence,
inspiration, caring, and patience.
You have impacted us and our
entire congregation in ways
we will never forget.

Thank you!

Nina and Jerry Treiman





It has been said that people come into our lives for different reasons and at different times. They have an impact on our hearts and our souls. They are always there to listen and to hug, offering unwavering support and guidance. Thank you for doing all that and much much more. This not the end but a new beginning and we can't wait to join you on this journey!

With love and much appreciation,

The Landis, Kollee, and Rozenberg Families





Rabbi Julia,

You are a light for Or Ami that will continue to shine for years to come through the countless lives, young and old, that you have impacted as our Rabbi. May the Holy One bless you and your family as you have blessed us! Zephaniah 3:17 "For the Holy One is living among you. He is mighty to save. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs." As you begin this new chapter in your life, may this verse bring comfort and assurance of the Holy One's love and care for you. Thank you for the love and care you have given to us at Or Ami!

Lisa and Hugh Roberts



Thank you for your tireless leadership and commitment to social justice, for embodying and modeling the spirit of Tikkun Olam within our congregation, and for making such a significant impact on housing the unhoused. Through your work, Rabbi Julia, you have connected us with colleagues and friends in the interfaith community, vastly expanding what we call community on behalf of the unhoused, truly a Sukkat Shalom. The impact of your work and words will be felt within our communities and our hearts for years to come!





Your partners in social justice,

Or Ami's Sukkat Shalom Committee

Myron & Nancy Dembo Scott Dinovitz

Aaron Frank

Amy Geriak

Pamela Goldstein

Jaime Haile

Pastor Kathy Huck

Rabbi Jocee Hudson

Lyn Kabakoff

Michael Kaplan

Steve Keleman

Lesli Kraut

Glenn Levie

Beth Lieberman

Harry Sherman

Toby Caplan-Stonefield

Rabbinic Intern Samantha Thal

Nina Treiman







How fitting that you became such an integral part of Or Ami, "Light Of My People".

Your very presence created a warm and welcoming light that shines brightly, unfailingly, day in and day out.

You are loved and you will be missed.

With lasting gratitude,

Harry & Judy Friedman





Mazel tov, Rabbi Julia!

Thank you for your spiritual guidance and inspiration.
We treasure the memories of your presence at Estee and Marlie's B'not Mitzvah.
Wishing you much happiness now and always.

Jodi, Robbie, Estee, and Marlie Groff





We treasure your
wisdom, teachings, and guidance.
You have taken Or Ami education
and other programs to a higher level.
Congratulations and continued success
and happiness in your future.

With love,

Bonnie & Dan Germain
Shelly & Gary Gluck
Laurie & Steve Keleman
Marla & Stephen Landis
Brooke & Ike Praw





MAZEL TOV Rabbi Julia for being awarded with the Samuel A. Wolfson Community Leadership Award.

You are so deserving of this impressive award not only for all you do as our very own Congregation Or Ami Rabbi, but particularly as an amazing and creative educator and inspirational mentor. This continues to be profoundly demonstrated by you also receiving the ARJE Distinguished Jewish Educator Award.

You have such strength of character and wisdom not only for bringing new concepts for helping the Jewish youth of today to be "mensches" so to put them on the right path to adulthood, but you also bring your wisdom, strength, kindness, and compassion to Or Ami adults. Your warmth and loving and caring spirit spans all generations.

I am in awe of what you have accomplished during your career and time at Or Ami. As a mother of two beautiful adult children, I fully support you with the difficult decision you made to leave us as our wonderful Rabbi. You will be truly missed by all at Or Ami. I personally will miss you especially at the High Holy Days but I am excited for you with this new chapter in your life. Although this is goodbye to being our awesome Rabbi, it is not goodbye to Or Ami, which makes me very happy!

You are a rockstar, Rabbi Julia!

All my very best wishes and love, Lynn Franklin





Thank you Rabbi Julia
For being our spiritual leader
and for being our friend.
We all feel so blessed
to have you in our lives!

The Abrams, Baker, Greene, and Gruber Families





Dear Rabbi Julia

"Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire" – W.B. Yeats

May your future journey
with your family be filled with
happiness, good health
and fulfillment.
You will truly be missed
by all of us at
Congregation Or Ami.

With all our love and admiration, lke and Brooke Praw





You entered our lives
as an intern,
and we have been there
as you continue to amaze us.
Thank you for being here for us,
our children and grandchildren.
Bless you on your
next journey.

With much love,
Laurie and Steve Keleman





Rabbi Julia,

Your bright light has brought so much warmth and insight into our lives. We have loved all of our one-on-one time as well as the many services and High Holy Day sermons that have been so meaningful.

While we will miss your smile and teaching from the bimah, we will continue to enjoy seeing you, David, and the children at services and other events lighting up the room. We wish you much happiness and thank you for all the meaningful lessons and warmth you've shown to us.

All our Love,

Cathie and Richard Rutkin





RABBI JULIA, YOU WILL BE MISSED!

Sid and Sharon Goldberg

Matthew and Hedi Gross

Fred and Susie Gruber

Ralph and Jackie Lacher

Randy and Allison Levine

Joe and Jodi Miller

Jeff and Kellie Singer

Mark and Frieda Swedelson



Rabbi Julia has been an exceptional leader and educator to our congregation. Your passion for creating meaningful experiences for our families and children has left an indelible mark in our hearts.

Through your guidance and teachings, you have instilled knowledge, values of kindness, compassion, and empathy in our children. Your contributions to our warm and inclusive environment have brought us closer as a community.

As you embark on the next stage of your life, we wish you all the best. You will be missed, but your legacy will continue to live on through the memories and traditions that you have helped to create.

Thank you, Rabbi Julia, for your unwavering dedication and love for our community. You will always have a special place in all our hearts.

The Cohan, Dashevsky, Finkelstein, Kraut, Mayer, Pattiz, Paul, Pofsky, and Ruiz-Lazar Families.





Really fun to be around

An inspiration to us all

B eautiful inside and out

B right and shiny personality

 ${f I}$ nsightful and wise

J ewish scholar

Unmatched impact on so many

L oved by the entire community

I nteresting and intelligent

A bsolutely irreplaceable!

Dear Rabbi Julia,

Thank you for all you've done to enrich our lives and the lives of our children. With your warm, supportive presence and strong leadership, you have instilled Jewish values and inspired us to act to repair and improve our world. We wish you all the best as you embark on this new "chapter" of your life.

With love and admiration,

Congregation Or Ami Book Group

Robin Feldman

Lynn Franklin

Michelle Finkelstein

Cydney Fox

Carol Hanson

Erin Mayer Cynthia Moss Jessica Nedick Janice Orlowski Jill Reder

Carrie Slatoff Lisy Schwartz Lori Waldman



Mazal Tov Julia

You make us proud every day!

With love from the clergy team and all your friends and colleagues at

Temple Emanu-El of Dallas







You were one of the main reasons we joined the Or Ami family. Your warmth and genuine humanity were apparent from our very first conversation at the Calabasas Fall Festival many years ago when our kids were preschoolers. A number of years later, when we were looking for a new Jewish home, you took the time to talk with us and make us feel welcomed.

Thanks in a large part to you, our kids have developed a love for Judaism and a connection to the synagogue. They have eagerly looked forward to attending the family camp each year, and when they were getting too old for it, you instituted a JCIT program so they could still attend and be a part of the fun. Your caring has made such a difference and your commitment has been so evident!

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you've done for the congregation and beyond. We're so grateful that you have been such a big part of our kids' Jewish education, and we'll always think warmly about our chats about Judaism, parenting, and life in general. Wishing you all the best!

Much love,

Amber, Peter, Carly, and Mason Klein





Dear Rabbi Julia,

Thank you for all of your support, compassion and love over the years. You have helped our children to grow and fly.

You will be missed.

Love,

Rick & Andrea
Sam, Max, Tabitha,
and Sterling Levy





Thank you for all of your support,

mentorship, and friendship.

You helped us reimagine

Jewish education and engagement

while empowering us as

we developed into Jewish leaders.

With gratitude and love,

Your current and former HUC-JIR interns!



Rabbi Julia -

—…∞∞∞∞∞∞

You are a visionary,
a leader, and a mensch who has
transformed Jewish education
at Congregation Or Ami and in
the greater community.

You are a blessing to your family
and to our congregation.
And thank you for always
including our Brandon
in the Shabbat service.

Michael, Dina, and Brandon Kaplan

To our friend and colleague, Rabbi Julia Weisz



Mazel Tov
on your years of service
to Congregation Or Ami.
You are a wonderful rabbi,
educational leader, and
human being.

With love,

Rabbi Dan Levin
Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Mates
Rabbi Greg Weisman
Rabbi Elana Rabishaw
And all of Temple Beth El of Boca Raton



Rabbi Julia,

You have been a source of strength and support during some of life's more turbulent times.

You have also brought beauty and laughter to life's more joyful times.

And you have brought inspiration and wisdom all of the time.

We love you Rabbi Julia and we will miss you terribly.

Jill & Mark Shear



You have brought so much love and light to our Or Ami Community over the years guiding our little ones from tots to teens.

Thank you for all you do for our kids.

We love you!!

Craig, Tracy, Alex, and Sarah Steinhauer



Rabbi Julia,

We are so very blessed to have you and your beautiful family as a treasured part of our school community.

We know your congregation treasures you and will greatly miss your leadership.

Your Ilan Ramon Day School community wishes you all the best as you go from strength to strength!





Julia,

I have watched you go from a university student to a beloved and respected rabbi while also being a great wife and mother. Congratulations on getting this national recognition of all your hard work.

Love, **Vera Weisz**

To our Dear Rabbi Julia,

Your years of dedication to our
Or Ami youth have resulted in the
creation of a strong and sustaining
Judaic educational environment.
May your endless contributions serve
as a source of inspiration
throughout the years ahead.

With Thanks, Appreciation & Love,
Shirley Newman

אֲשֵׂה לְךָּ רַב ,וּקְנֵה לְךָּ חָבֵּר

Get for yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a friend.
- Pirkei Avot 1:6

To a wonderful teacher and an incredible friend, mazel tov on all of your accomplishments and everything that you have brought to the Jewish people and to us.

Love and Blessings,

Howie and Jen

Dearest Rabbi Julia,

You are the heart of Congregation Or Ami. Thank you for your warmth and ever-calming presence. Thank you for always sending pictures to us parents who are excited but miss our children dearly during day and weekend retreats. Thank you for always being a good listener. Thank you for telling us stressed out parents that it is okay when we cannot add one more single thing to our calendars. We are so happy that you are taking pause and spending this really important quality time with your family.

Love, The Kass's

What a blessing it has been to watch you grow as a rabbi. From the day you started at Or Ami, you created a safe space that allowed all ages to express themselves, understand the principles of Judaism, and feel valued as an individual. You truly see others for the beauty that they are, and immediately bring comfort to those around you. Your compassion for the education program has allowed children and teens to build a healthy relationship with religion, something that will be cherished forever. It has been an honor to be part of your journey.

Thank you for being our leader, our support, and our friend.

With love,

Kenny, Melinda, and Zoey Pittler

Rabbi Julia, You have been an educational role model, spiritual leader, and genuine friend to our family for years. You helped us feel connected to Judaism, created a strong community, and taught valuable lessons. The work you do is special. You have made Or Ami a more welcoming environment where people of every age have a space to grow and lead. Your hugely positive impact on us does not go unnoticed and we hope you can see the way you have shaped us for the better. We feel honored to have seen your success as a rabbi since the beginning and look forward to continuing our relationship with you.

Love, The Sharon Family

Rabbi Julia ~ Thank you for your passion, dedication & caring.
We have grown so much together.
You are a part of us always.

We love you! xoxo

Lucille, Paul, & Ryan Goldin Heidi, Scott, Lisa, & Joshua Friedman

Dearest wonderful Julia,

We are so awed by the difference you have made in the lives of your congregants and their children. You are an amazing woman and we are blessed to have known you for so many years & life-cycle events.

We love you,
Robin & Bob Sachs

Or Ami has been very fortunate to have your dedication, nurturing, and rabbinical presence in enriching our community.

With Warmest Regards,
Richard and Susan Shamban

"It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world." - Pirke Avot 1:17

Julia, thank you for making all the difference in the world to the families, teens, and adults who have been graced by your compassion, wisdom, and friendship.

With admiration and love,

Marsha and Jeff Rothpan

Rabbi Julia

Mazel Tov on receiving
this well-deserved honor!
You have been an inspiration, spiritual
leader, and educator for us, our family,
and the Or Ami community.

With love, Jodi and Joe Miller

Rabbi Julia, you did more than

lead us; you opened doors, welcomed us in, and showed us to our places. When you sat on the bimah with Darah on your lap during our first Or Ami Shabbat, we knew we were home. There, years later, with your warmth and wisdom shining, you watched over Dani and Darah as they became B'not Mitzvah, a moment we treasure.

With kindness and support, you sponsored and guided Kiren's conversion, engaging her in discussions she holds dear. With your knowing heart, you have mentored Dani and helped her find her path. As your journey continues, Rabbi Julia, please know that our door stays open to you, and that you hold a special place in our grateful hearts. L'shalom,

Kiren, Bruce, Dani, and Darah Zucker

The Chambers would like to thank you for all that you did for us as family, for Or Ami as a community, and for so many others outside your community.

Your insight, humor, understanding, and wise words will always be a part of us. We wish you the best and know wherever you are, you will bring your light and special spirit.

Wishing you and your beautiful family love and shalom.

Love, The Chambers

Rabbi Julia...

You are a friend, a mentor, and a spiritual leader to the Kaplan family. We've shared laughs together and we've cried together. We've seen you help grow our ever-changing congregation is such a positive way.

Texas brisket is different from Calabasas brisket...but when you look closely its really all the same. You'll never really know how much you've meant to our family and for that we are forever grateful.

We love you Rabbi Julia...and wish you and your family love, happiness and good health.

Love the Kaplans...Caryl, Gary, Alyssa, Michael, and Jordan







To our dear friend,

Thank you for your incredible labor of love.
You made an immeasurable impact
on the lives of our Or Ami youth.
It was a joy to work with you.

With admiration and love,

Miss Patti and DB (dentist)



Rabbi Julia,

It has been our honor to work with you and get to know you over the years.

Women supporting women is our guiding principle and we can think of no woman more deserving of this celebration and love than you.

Thank you for all the laughs! And thank you for your warmth and your smile...that always made us feel appreciated.

Love, Deanna & Jessica

PS - If you ever need a scrappy production team to redesign your personal space, we're just a phone call and a ring light away!

Thank you for all your heart, soul, creativity, and dedication to Congregation Or Ami. You have been a shining light for all of us.

The programs, learning, and activities you've created for our youth have been nothing short of amazing.

We wish we were kids again, just to be part of the youth programs that you have created and implemented.

May your new journey exceed all of your expectations.
We're rooting for you!

With much love,

Curt Gorlick and Terri Novak

With love
and appreciation
to Rabbi Julia Weisz,
from Beth Shalom:
The Progressive Jewish
Community of Auckland,
New Zealand
and
Rabbi Dean Shapiro,
your classmate and friend

Rabbi Julia -

Your impact on the lives of the individuals you have supervised and taught will last throughout their lives.

We believe you will always be a teacher and role model, first for your own children, and secondly to anyone who will interact with you.

We hope that the future brings you much happiness and good health.

Love,
Myron and Nancy Dembo

Rabbi Julia,

When I first met you, I knew that
Or Ami would be a place my kids
would grow up comfortable and
proud to be Jewish and part of this
community. Thank you for your
warm welcome to my family and for
being a strong advocate for the kids
of the congregation. Your love and
passion for our Jewish education
is evident and we are so grateful
for all you have done. Thank you.

With Love,

Caroline, Jakob, Nathan, and Maya Admon

Rabbi Julia,

Your presence at Or Ami and your contributions to the entire congregation have been a blessing and made our family feel like we have been part of the Or Ami community since long before joining. We have loved worshipping with you and elevating our spirituality as a result of your knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm. You have made a particularly powerful and positive impression on our children as well — whether they were enjoying services or having a blast at camp with you. With admiration and love, we thank you for your guidance, patience, and support, and for all you have done and continue to do for our family and to build a strong Jewish community. Best wishes for health, happiness and fulfillment as you begin your next chapter.

With love, **The Scher Family**(Evan, Ali, Gaby, Matthew, and Ethan)

Oh, how we will miss you, Rabbi Julia!

We are eternally grateful for the love, compassion, and leadership you have shown our children over the years.

We cannot even imagine the people they would be without your tremendous influence. Your impact is unparalleled, and we cannot thank you enough for all you have given them — and each and every one of us.

With endless gratitude,

Liora & Mark Echols Sheryl & Gary Kramer

Thank you Rabbi Julia for being such an exemplar of what a rabbi and educator should be.



I am honored to be one of the many who grew and learned so much from you and am even luckier to continue to call you my mentor and my friend. Until the next time at Marmalade Cafe...

With love, **Rabbi Julie Bressler**

Rabbi Julia,

Thank you for the blessing of your loving guidance, your caring presence, your wisdom, and your friendship as I have navigated the twists and turns of my life the past two years. You lead with such grace and for that I am forever grateful.

Diana Barnes

Rabbi Julia...

You are the best and will be missed by all who know you! Chazak, Chazak, V'nitchazek!

Love,
Jill and Lenny Fromer

Dear Rabbi Julia -

You have celebrated with our family in joyous times and sat beside us in times of deep sadness; however, the biggest blessing you have shared with us is your friendship.

We love and adore you,

The Ratican Family

Rabbi Julia,

You have been such a positive influence and joy for our family since the minute we joined Or Ami.

Thank you for always filling our hearts and supporting us through our many struggles.

You will be greatly missed and will always have a special place in our hearts.

With love and affection we say good luck!

Eric, Blythe, Tobin & Piper Williams

Rabbi Julia,

It has been wonderful working with you!

You have added so much to our congregation and have been amazing with our youth.

Wishing you all the best! I will miss you.

Lots of love,

Diane (Townsend)

Rabbi, Teacher, Mentor, Friend

You have been all this and more.

May your future be as bright as the light you have brought to Or Ami.

We look forward to seeing where you shine next.

With love,

Marcy, Clark, Jessa, & Ethan

My forever chevruta:

I am beyond proud of you and so grateful and privileged to walk every step of this journey with you. "I love you" doesn't quite capture it, but I know you know exactly what I mean.

Love, Beks Rabbi Rebekah Stern

Rabbi Julia makes everyone feel comfortable and important at Or Ami. You immediately knew me and my children from our first week as partners. I love chatting with you at Kesher drop-off or pickup; you always share something sweet and funny about my boys.

You are a huge part of makin Or Ami a wonderful Jewish community.

Heather Frimmer

When we look to Rabbi Julia, we are always amazed at how naturally and confidently she supports and educates our most important assets — our children. We have often lamented how much we wish our own children would have benefitted to have had her as a Jewish mentor.

You are a true treasure.

We wish nothing but happiness.

Robert and Cynthia Moss

You brought so much light and beautiful language to the High Holy Day services.

We thank you and will miss you.

Best of luck with your future endeavors.

Illece Buckley Weber and Joe Weber

Rabbi Julia,

We thank you for the sharing of your life and wisdom with us.

We are all grateful and know you cannot be replaced.

You will be sorely missed.

Wishing you and your family the best.

The Wiviott Family

Rabbi Julia,

Thank you for being the calm in a storm and a source of humor during a difficult few years for our human family. We knew we could send our children to you and they would find even more love for their Jewish heritage. We wish you all good things in this next stage of your journey and look forward to calling you a fellow congregant.

With love and gratitude,
Mark, April, Jason, & Hudson

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication in making Jacob and Max's Congregation Or Ami experience life changing. It's been such an honor getting to know you and your beautiful family. I'm so grateful to have you and your family in our lives.

Mark, Heather, Jacob, and Max Gilbert-Bakalor

Dear Julia,

The Kasten/Stern Family

congratulates you on all your accomplishments to date, and we will take joy in all those to come.

We send you,

David, and the kids

much love and admiration.

Rabbi Julia:

You have inspired us, taught us, celebrated with us, and most of all, have been a beloved leader and friend.
We wish you all the best on the wonderful journey ahead.

Mazal Toy!

With Love,

Marty and Lisy Schwartz

We are grateful
to you, Rabbi Julia,
for your
exceptional leadership
and your warm and
compassionate presence.
We will miss you!

With love,

Rabbi Beth Lieberman, Steve, Hannah, and Sarah Landau

Dear Rabbi Julia,

Thank you for your teaching, your guidance and your mentorship.
You have touched so many lives in our community.
We offer our heartfelt gratitude for all you have done and wish you love and blessings as you continue this next chapter of your life.

Donna and Jeff Hennes

Mazel Tov and Congratulations!!

From

Brad Mallie,

Gut Fitness Los Angeles and

Marc Rosenberg,

Law Offices of Marc C. Rosenberg

Julia,

Our lives have been so enriched because of you.
We are so proud to call you family.

All our love, Nancy and Bob Bendik

Thank you, Rabbi Julia,

for your
passionate dedication
and engagement at Or Ami.
You were instrumental in
guiding our daughters'
Jewish identities, and we are
so appreciative of your
energy and commitment.
Best wishes in your
next chapter.

Much love from

Doreen, John, Laura, and Becky DeRoy The Baal Shem Tov taught
that we can
"learn something from everything."
Rabbi Julia embodies that philosophy
for our children, our families,
and our congregation.

Julia, you haven't just taught us, you have created the opportunity for connection, for sharing, and for learning that is at the heart of Congregation Or Ami.

Thank you for everything!

Scott and Gaynor Rabin

The Following Families Would Like to Honor Rabbi Julia Weisz

Rabbi Erin Binder
Pamela and Michael Goldstein
Jordan, Tamara, and Shana Haberman
Ken, Yvonne, and Aaron Meyer
Avi and Francis Minsk
Robert and Cynthia Moss
Elise and Mitchell Plaksen
Sheri and John Reynolds
The Seiden Family

Howard, Jessica, Micah, Avi and Sophia Simpson

The ZACHOR Holocaust Remembrance Foundation Mindy Zipperstein



Thank you for your loving commitment to Or Ami.

We wish you much mazel in the future.

Linda and Mark Wolfson

Patti Jo Wolfson and Dennis Bernstein

Stephanie and Jonathon Wolfson