



## Or Ami “Light of My People” Award for Special Achievement

Women of Reform Judaism established the Or Ami “Light of My People” Award in 1973 to recognize and honor those WRJ-affiliated women’s groups/sisterhoods and WRJ Districts undertaking replicable programs or projects of distinctive character and significance. Those whose programs and projects are selected as recipients will be recognized in early 2026. All programs and projects will be available on the Women of Reform Judaism website and in other resources.

### Guidelines for Submission

1. The program/project should have occurred between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2025, and cannot have previously been submitted for an Or Ami Award or have received a WRJ Microgrant (formerly WRJ Incubator Grant). The program/project should have significant impact for its target audience.
  - a. A program/project that was sponsored by multiple WRJ affiliates can be submitted by a women’s group/sisterhood, a collection of women’s groups/sisterhoods, or a WRJ District. The program/project cannot be submitted more than once.
2. Applications are due by July 31, 2025.
3. Applications should include program/project flyer(s) and other relevant marketing materials, including electronic materials, as well as up to five (5) photos that represent any phase of the program/project.

### Program/Project Focus -

All programs/projects submitted should have at least one of the following themes as a primary focus:

- a. Tikkun Olam – Social Justice
  - i. Based on recent or longstanding WRJ resolutions, initiatives, or action alerts
  - ii. Based on interest or current need relevant to the mission of WRJ or the women’s group/sisterhood
- b. Education
- c. Leadership development
- d. Spirituality
- e. Interfaith and/or interreligious
- f. Outreach to other groups
- g. Multi-generational programs
- h. Youth
- i. Local congregation or community
- j. Existing WRJ/URJ initiatives
- k. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
- l. Other



## **Award Criteria**

The following criteria will be used in considering each submission for an Or Ami Award:

### **1. Content**

- a. Creativity
- b. Innovation
- c. Overall Quality

### **2. Audience**

- a. Target audience was identified as part of the planning process (e.g. women only, new members, children, the broader community)
- b. Target audience(s) attended or benefited from the project/program
- c. Program is accessible for the intended audience (e.g., accessible for people with disabilities, affordable, transportation available if relevant, etc.)

### **3. Impact**

- a. Number of WRJ women's group/sisterhood (or WRJ District) members involved as organizers or participants
- b. Number of people benefiting from or participating in the program
- c. Reached out beyond the local women's group/sisterhood to include partnering/building bridges with groups both inside and outside the women's group submitting the application. Examples include - other faith-based women's group(s); local, regional, national or international organizations; and, for WRJ-affiliated women's groups/sisterhoods, other areas of the congregation (Early Childhood Education/Preschool, Religious School, Brotherhood/Men's Club, Adult Education, Ritual, etc.)
- d. Increases membership and/or engagement of current members.

### **4. Goals**

- a. Goals were clearly stated – including target audience, expected impact, and budget.
- b. Goals were met or exceeded.

### **5. Replication Potential**

- a. Ease of replication by other WRJ-affiliated women's groups/sisterhoods, WRJ Districts, or others.
- b. Submission includes sufficient information for replication.

Please include the following in your application if relevant:

### **1. Post-Program/Project Evaluation**

- a. A post-program/project evaluation was completed by those who attended.
- b. A post-program/project evaluation was completed by those who planned/executed the program.
- c. Evaluation methods used were objective, including both quantitative and qualitative as applicable.



## 2. Connection to WRJ

- a. WRJ was promoted through the program/project.
- b. WRJ branding was included in this program/project.

## Who May Apply

1. Any WRJ-affiliated women's group/sisterhood.
2. A collection of women's groups, if the program/project was initiated or executed by at least one WRJ-affiliated women's group/sisterhood. The application will be submitted on behalf of the collective.
3. A WRJ District, provided that the program/project was implemented under its auspices.

## How to Apply

1. Carefully read the guidelines and the application before beginning.
2. Applications should be [submitted online here](#). If you need assistance with the online application, please contact Talia Blank using the contact information below.
3. A group may submit multiple programs/projects for consideration, but each program/project must be submitted separately.
4. Completed applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by July 31, 2025. Note: Winners will be announced by email/on WRJ's website in Fall 2025 and awarded in early 2026.
5. We recommend including all marketing and program materials, and up to five photos. A short video will also be accepted. Please upload any additional PDFs, documents, PNG or JPEG files within the online application. Should you find that something is unable to be submitted or you have any questions, please email Talia Blank using the contact information below. If you upload a photo or video, please provide a caption to accompany it.
6. By submitting your application, photos, and other documents, you authorize WRJ to use this content in our videos, website, and other publications. Only high-resolution (PNG or JPEG file) photos or videos can be used for video and publication.

For more information, please contact WRJ Program Associate Talia Blank at [TBlank@wrj.org](mailto:TBlank@wrj.org) or 212-650-4045.