

Garden State Region News - April 18, 2025



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**

Sweet As Can Bee



**STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE**

WL Week

Visit GSR Website

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Click on the Calendar icon for 2024-2025 GSR Calendar
All times listed are Eastern Time



MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

Dear Traci,

Shalom!

I hope that you all had wonderful seders with your family and friends. I know I did. I felt that COVID was back in my home for the first seder, which was with my family. Unfortunately, my nephew, niece and her family, and both my kids could not make the seder for different reasons, from being sick to locations. So I sent them all a Zoom link to connect with us at the seder. Boy was that fun. Brought back memories from 5 years ago! But the best part, we

were all together. We certainly made lemonade from lemons. The silver lining in this, is that there are different ways to handle situations that are not planned and one needs to be open to them.

I look forward to spending time with your sisterhoods in the coming weeks. Please reach out to me so that I can come to your synagogues and get to see all of you.

Remember to vote for the World Zionist Congress. It is now open and ends May 4, 2025. Please look below for more information or [click here](#). At the next World Zionist Congress, MERCAZ USA will advocate for Conservative/Masorti Jews, guided by our beliefs in equality, democracy, and pluralism.

Our Women of Achievement 2025 Gala is June 9 at Cong. B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick. This will be a delightful evening honoring our women who have done so much for our communities. Registration is open. Please advertise your sisterhood's honoree in your bulletins and send in those ads for the Journal.

And finally, the Garden State Region will be hosting the WL Leadership Institute July 27-29 at Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange. I hope you will consider attending. It is the best gift that you can give yourself.

May the hostages continue to come home to their loved ones.

Ahm Yisrael Chai,

Sheila

Sheila Kaufman
President, Garden State Region WLCJ
gsrpresident24@wlcj.org

"Networking to engage, enrich and empower Conservative Jewish women"



Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at the five Conservative/Masorti global institutes of higher education.

Announcing Our 2024-2025 Campaign Theme:

Am Yisrael Chai

עם ישראל חי

The people of Israel live

We strive to make a significant impact through scholarships and programs that benefit students at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano and Zacharias Frankel College.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we help committed Jewish students become the rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers and lay leaders of tomorrow.

When you support Torah Fund, you help educate students in New York, Los Angeles, Israel, Latin America and Europe—and you align with those who value learning, knowledge and providing the future generation with relevant skills to fortify the Jewish people.

Visit www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund

Am Yisrael Chai is an expression of Jewish solidarity for the Jewish nation and the continuity of the Jewish people. We help ensure the future of worldwide Jewish communities through our support of the five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education.



PLEASE GIVE TO TORAH FUND!

TORAH FUND GIVING LEVELS

Keter Kavod \$5,000
Scholarship Patron \$2,500
Patron \$1,200
Associate Patron \$600
Guardian \$300
Benefactor \$180

FOR OUR U.S. SUPPORTERS, go to inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund
Or send your check to the Torah Fund office.

FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS, go to torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian
Make a donation of any amount with the minimum purchase of one ecard.
Or send a check to The Jewish Theological Society, 100 Elder Street, North York, Ontario, M3H 5G7.

The dedicated philanthropy of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning.

TORAH FUND
3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
(212) 678-8876
www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund • torahfund@jtsa.edu

[Click HERE](#) to send a Torah Fund E-Card
[Click HERE](#) to donate to this year's 2024-25 Torah Fund Campaign,
Am Yisrael Chai

[Click HERE](#) to donate to the *Creating New Spaces Campaign*

[Click HERE](#) to donate to the Torah Fund Legacy Society

[Click HERE](#) for the Torah Fund Chadashot Newsletter

Torah Fund pins will be distributed in September.
Any questions please e-mail Lisa Paule lipaule@jtsa.edu or Sherrill Moss-Solomon shsolomon@jtsa.edu or call the Torah Fund Office 212-678-8027.

2024-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President - [Sheila Kaufman](#)
VP, Programming - [Susan Winter](#)
VP, Sisterhood/Affiliate Support - [Cheryl Sessler](#)
VP, Torah Fund - [Sindy Manas](#)
Secretary, Communications - [Traci Sachs](#)

Secretary, Corresponding - [Susan Sferas](#)
 Secretary, Financial - [Lisa Katz](#)
 Secretary, Recording - [Carol Kotch](#)
 Treasurer - [Donna Franklin](#)
 Parliamentarian - [Dorothy Cohen](#)
 Immediate Past President - [Lynette Seader](#)
 Advisor to the Board - [Meryl Balaban](#)
 Advisor to the Board - [Heddy Belman](#)

GSR PROGRAM DATES 2024-2025

June 9 at 6:00 pm; Women of Achievement Gala Event

We are proud to be honoring the following:

Aberdeen	Temple Beth Ahm	Vicki Cohen
Caldwell	Congregation Agudath Israel	Donna Franklin
Clark	Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah	Helene Davis
Closter	Temple Emanu-El	Jill Besnoy
East Brunswick	East Brunswick Jewish Center	Gail Kosher
Fair Lawn	Cong B'nai Sholom/Fair Lawn Jewish Center	Fran Kessler
Fort Lee	Cong Gesher Shalom/JCC of Fort Lee	Evelyn Bauer Ann Block
Highland Park	Highland Park Conserv Temple – Cong Anshe Emeth	Helene Knee
Morristown	Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael	Dorothy Cohen
North Brunswick	Congregation B'nai Tikvah	Shelly Wistreich
Oakhurst	Congregation Torat El	Susan Sferas
Ridgewood	Temple Israel and Jewish Comm Center	Stephanie Gottesman
Scotch Plains	Congregation Beth Israel	Laura Queller
South Orange	Miriam Sisterhood, Oheb Shalom	Adele Nagelberg
Teaneck	Congregation Beth Shalom	Joan Gillman
West Orange	B'nai Shalom	Bonnie Isaacson
Woodcliff Lake	Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley	Susan Liebeskind



Garden State Region
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Cordially invites you to the

Women of Achievement

2025 Gala

"Am Yisrael Chai"

Come join in this celebration of the extraordinary women in the Garden State Region. We will honor one special woman in each of our sisterhoods who has given outstanding service to her Sisterhood, Synagogue, or Community.

Monday, June 9, 2025

Doors open at 5:30 pm | Program begins at 6:00 pm

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Catered by Evan of Classical Caterers

A delectable lavish Israeli buffet with meat & vegetarian options

Registration

Click Here to Register

All registrations **must** be received by **May 18, 2025** ♦ No walk-ins

\$60 per person - Early Bird Registration (Received by May 4)

\$75 per person - Regular Registration (Received May 5 to 18)

Social Action Project

Please bring Kosher non-perishable items and/or feminine hygiene products to help combat food and feminine hygiene insecurities in our region.

Questions and more info, please contact:

Lynette Seader, Chair -- lynetteleader59@gmail.com | Sheila Kaufman, President -- girlpresident24@wlcj.org



Register

Am Yisrael Chai



Virtual Ad Journal

A Virtual Ad Journal is being prepared to be viewed the evening of the Women of Achievement 2025 Gala as well as on the GSR website all year long. The Journal will highlight the honorees and display your ad.

Please join in this simcha and wish your honoree well with an ad in the Journal.

Journal Ad

- \$18 One-quarter page (horizontal - 6.6" wide x 3.6" high)
- \$36 Half-page (vertical - 6.6" wide x 7.5" high)
- \$54 Full Page (horizontal - 13.3" wide x 7.5" high)

**Ad Deadline:
May 4, 2025**

Submitted artwork is welcomed and should follow the dimensions listed above.
Please save them at 300 dpi as either jpg or pdf.

Submission and payment by credit card at registration and/or mail your check payable **GSR-WLCJ** and submit your journal ad by e-mail sheilakaufman24@gmail.com or snail-mail to: Sheila Kaufman, 24 Yale Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040 at (973) 610-2524 evenings (preferable!).
Include your name, phone number & email so that we can contact you with questions.

Questions and more info, please contact:
Lynette Seader, Chair -- lynetteseader59@gmail.com | Sheila Kaufman, President -- gsrcpresident24@wlcj.org

Virtual Ad Journal

SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

- April 23 - Yom HaShoah - Sisterhood of the Temple of Pascack Valley
Do you have any programs that you would like others to know about? [Let us know here.](#)

COMMEMORATE YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Wednesday, April 23 7:30pm

Service Followed by Peter Safirstein's Presentation
Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley

Join Peter Safirstein

Chair of the Advisory Board of the Ramapo College
Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies

**PETER WILL SHARE HIS PARENTS' STORIES AND HIS
FAMILY'S UNIQUE EXPERIENCES OF SURVIVAL IN
BERLIN, GERMANY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER
WORLD WAR II. HE WILL RELATE THEM TO CURRENT
THOUGHTS REGARDING ONGOING HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION IN OUR PRESENT CLIMATE**

QUESTIONS
Contact Melissa Starr
201-370-0816
melstarrsch@aol.com

Register

GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION
Share your news and nachas with us!

Birthday Wishes

Wishing all who have April birthdays, Yom Huledet Sameach!

Refeuah Shlemah

- Sebley Hausler, broken pelvis from a fall on Passover

Make a Donation to the Garden State Region to:

- Honor someone special

- Wish a Mazel Tov to a Bar/Bat Mitzvah family
- Send get well wishes
- Send condolences

Our **Scholarship Fund** helps to send women to WLCJ Convention and Leadership Institute where they learn necessary skills to share with our sisterhoods.

The **Sunshine Fund** supports members of the GSR Board in their time of need.

The **Evelyn Auerbach Education Fund** to sponsor an annual GSR Region educational event.

To make donations, contact Donna Franklin GSR Treasurer, at gstrtreasurer@wlcj.org and include which fund(s) to make the donation to.

Or mail your check payable to "GSR-WLCJ" to
Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006
Donations can also be made via Credit Card.

Donate to GSR using Credit Card

Prayer Links and Ways to Donate to Israel

<https://www.wlcj.org/supporting-israel-in-crisis-was-to-help-and-donate/>

Downloads to recite at home, in your synagogue and at other gatherings:

- [Prayer for the Welfare and the Return of our Kidnapped Brothers and Sisters](#) (Hebrew and English)
- [Updated list of hostages, to be used in prayers for their speedy and safe return](#) (English - the list is continually being updated and includes names of all hostages who we believe to still be alive)
- [Prayer in Times of War - Fall 5784](#) (Hebrew and English)

BRING THEM HOME NOW Freedom Tags

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum is offering a discount for WLCJ members on their freedom tags. To take advantage of this deal, please use this link:



[Click here to make your purchase](#)
use Discount code JNOW

Discount will show upon checkout.

A Legacy Gift to Torah Fund Helps Fortify the Jewish Future

TORAH FUND
LEGACY SOCIETY

Donating to Torah Fund through your estate will help provide student scholarships and programs at our five institutions of higher learning serving worldwide Jewish communities. Join our group of visionaries who value Jewish education and the future of the Jewish people by becoming a member of our Legacy Society.

Wishing you wellness and long life.

For more information please contact us at
torahfund@jtsa.edu or call (212) 678-8977.

Please consult your financial advisor or attorney when making a bequest. Torah Fund does not offer financial, legal or tax advice.

jtsa.edu/torah-fund torahfund@jtsa.edu

Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at the five Conservative/Masorti global institutes of higher education.

Creating New Spaces Campaign: We Need YOU to Make It Happen!

GOAL: \$200,000



We have made great strides toward reaching our \$200,000 goal for the **Creating New Spaces** campaign. If you have already donated to this worthy initiative, *todah rabah* – thank you.

Please consider donating to help us reach our goal. If every Women's League member and affiliate donates \$18 or more to the Creating New Spaces campaign, we can finish this important campaign. We are counting on our dedicated Torah Fund supporters, affiliates and regions for this help.

Together let's complete this special project and add it to our list of noteworthy achievements.

U.S. members, please make your donation to the Creating New Spaces campaign here:

<https://inspired.itsa.edu/give/314821/#/donation/checkout>

Canadian members, please make your donation payable to Jewish Theological Society and indicate it is for the Creating New Spaces Campaign.

Thank you for your wonderful support!

We are Women's League

Engaging Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

DONATE TO WLCJ

520 8th Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018 | Phone: 405-870-1260 info@wlcj.org

WL WEEK

ONLINE

**Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Friday at 9 AM PT; 10 AM MT,
11 AM CT; 12 PM ET**



A virtual service for our WLCJ Sisters to recite Mishaberach, the Prayer for Healing, recite the Psalm of the Day, study and recite Kaddish together.



Previous WLCJ Programming

Weren't able to join us? Visit our [Youtube Channel](#) for more videos. View our past recordings.

Visit Youtube

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/630830287>
Meeting ID: 630 830 287
Password: 875936

PRAYER FOR HOSTAGES

Prayer for the Return of Slain Hostages

(in English & Hebrew)

☆

**Prayer for the Return of
Slain Hostages**

☆

*Barokh atah Adonai, sovereign of time and space,
the Judge of truth.*

*Arise Malkinu, hear our voice,
be kind and have compassion for us,
willingly and lovingly accept our prayer.*

*Arise Malkinu, do this for the sake
of those who were martyred for Your holy name
and for the sake of those who were slaughtered
for their exclusive devotion to You.*

*Arise Malkinu, do not turn us away empty-handed,
and have compassion for us, our infants and our children.*

May it be Your will, *Adonai* our God and God of our ancestors,
watch over, safeguard, strengthen and embrace and comfort
the families of the slain hostages who were kidnapped
and murdered by ruthless enemies and
returned for eternal rest in Your holy land after 503 days.

The One who heals the broken-hearted and binds their wounds,
encircle their loved ones with Your kindness,
alleviate their suffering, dress their wounds
and grant them and us comfort and healing
for our agonizing bodies and crying souls.

There is no greater mitzvah than
the redemption of captives.
Master of mercy, ensure that the rest
of our brothers and sisters return swiftly from captivity,
those in joy to life and rehabilitation,
and those in sadness – to eternal rest.

And may it be fulfilled that
'the sons [and daughters] come back to their place.'
And let us say: Amen.



☆

**תפילה עם שובם של
חללי המלחמה**

☆

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם דין האמת
אבינו מלכנו. שמע קולנו חס ורחם עלינו.
וקבל גרמתיים ונרצחין את הפלסטינאים.
אבינו מלכנו. עשה למען הרועים על שם קדשך
ולמען סבוחים על ירחך.
אבינו מלכנו, אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניך.
ותמל עלינו ועל עוללנו חסד.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו אבותינו ואבותיהם.
שחשמו, ותקברו, ותחיהם ותקדם את משפחותיהם של
חללי המלחמה אשר נחטפו ונרצחו בידי בני עולה וחושבו היום
לקבורה עולמים בארץ קדשך לאחר 503 לילות ונמים.

הרפא לשבויי לב ומחבש לצבוחם.
חפז באגרת חסדך את אהביהם. חבש את יסוריהם. רפא את פצעייהם
ותן להם ולנו חסדך ורחמים לטוב הוואב ולקש המבנה.

ואין לפניך ולפנינו מצוה נוחלת יותר מפדיון שבויים ושבויים.
אנא בעל הרחמים. עשה למען ישובו בתורה
הקר ארצנו וארץיהם אשר נשפך.
מי בשמחה - לחיים ולשקום. ומי בצער - למנוחה עולמים.

ותקדים בנו ד' שבו נמים וננות לנבולם
ונאמר אמן



WL Leadership Institute - July 27-29, 2025

 **IN-PERSON**

Sunday, July 27 - Tuesday, July 29, 2025



Hotel deadline is July 6th!

Women's League for Conservative Judaism – committed to developing skilled and dedicated leaders – invites you to attend an inspiring Leadership Institute that will expand your skills as a leader and enhance your knowledge as a Jewish woman while strengthening your connection to Women's League, your Sisterhood Affiliate, your community, and Klal Yisrael.

The next Women's League Leadership Institute is scheduled for **July 27-29, 2025 at Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange, NJ.**

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE?

A multi-day workshop that will enhance your personal style of communication with interactive exercises and role-playing. Discover tips and techniques for using language that motivates, stimulates and encourages women to volunteer. An opportunity to Network with other women, master goal setting, time management and team building. Learn the secret of keeping yourself

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT THAN OTHER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS?

The Leadership Institute's unique format allows participants to build a personal program to expand **Jewish knowledge and leadership skills.**

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

\$299 includes materials, programming, and meals. This fee does not include hotel or transportation to Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange, NJ.

Registration for the hotel starts at \$119 + tax per night. [Click here](#) to reserve a room in the Leadership Institute room block at the Courtyard by Marriott West Orange. Make sure that your check-in/check-out dates are listed appropriately. These rooms can be accommodated into double occupancy. Before booking, please let us know who you will be sharing the room with for our records and explain how split payment will be handled.

The learning and sense of community created during the Institute comes both from the shared experiences during the formal program and the unstructured time together at the hotel. To facilitate this, we strongly urge local participants to stay with the rest of the group at the hotel.

REGISTER

 **EMAIL**

Debbie Zimmerman
Leadership Institute Logistics Chair
dzimmerman@wlcj.org

Register

Sisters Helping Sisters for the California Fires

Women's League has created this fund to support the Sisterhood of Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, Pacific Southwest Region, and any other

WLCJ Sisterhood Affiliates affected by the 2025 wildfires in California. 100% of the donations are going to emergency relief and will be distributed to and at the direction of our affected Sisterhood Affiliates.



Donate

Share your Sisterhood Happenings with us!
Look for all the info both here and on our Website & Facebook pages!



Follow the Garden State Region!

If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to upload please forward to [Traci Sachs](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#).

Click [here](#) to connect with the Garden State Region Facebook page.
Click [here](#) to visit the Garden State Region website.

Make sure to click both **Like** and **Follow**. It's another great way to learn about everything happening in our Region.



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Website

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Traci Sachs
GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor
gsrcommunications@wlcj.org

Garden State Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism | 24 Yale Street | Maplewood,
NJ 07040 US

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