



Garden State Region News-December 25, 2024



**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!

How often does Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa coincide? This happened only five times since 1910! Remember that Kwanzaa is more of a recent holiday beginning in the 1960s. Each holiday is rich with traditions.

Chanukah is a Jewish festival that's been celebrated as long as Christmas, since the Second Century B.C., and runs for eight nights. The occasion commemorates the rededication and liberation of the Second Temple, in Jerusalem – following a rebellion led by the Jewish priest Mattathias and his five sons against King Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Antiochus had invaded Judea, looted its temples, and banned the practice of Judaism. When Mattathias died, his last son, Judah, successfully completed his father's rebellion in 165 B.C., that ended with the Second Temple's liberation.



Christmas has always been about Jesus Christ, who was born by virgin birth to Mary, and her husband, Joseph. For Christians, the story of Jesus's birth is "the reason for the season" – one that's also associated with images of the Nativity, and displayed in many homes and public places, to mark the occasion.

And **Kwanzaa** dates back to 1966, when Maulana Karenga created it to help African Americans reconnect with their African heritage. The name comes from a Swahili phrase, "*matunda ya kwanza*", meaning "first fruits of the harvest." Kwanzaa observances take place over seven days, in honor of seven principles. Each day is dedicated to a principle, followed by the lighting of a candle. The seven principles are Imani (faith), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Kuumba (creativity), Nia (purpose), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), and Umoja (unity).

There are some reminders that I want to bring to your attention.

Hope you were able to attend our Coffee and Conversation, Alice Paul: NJ's Crusader for Equality. Thank you to Susan Winter and Helene Knee for organizing and blending in Jewish Suffragists. Below, you will find what you can do to get President Biden to inform the archivist to complete the amendment once and for all. This is too important not to let everyone know, so by all means, PLEASE forward this message to everyone that you can think of.

Sisterhood Affiliate Presidents, Treasurers, and Financial Secretaries, please get your Per Capita into the WLCJ office by January 10, 2025. [Lisa Katz](#), the GSR Financial Secretary will be more than happy to help you.

Remember to send in your sisterhood program flyers that you want to invite others to as well as a couple of photos from your programs to [Traci Sachs](#) and myself for inclusion in our Newsletters. If you have a program please invite myself and Sindy Manas if it is a Torah Fund program!

Ahm Yisrael Chai,

Sheila

Sheila Kaufman

President, Garden State Region WLCJ

gsrpresident24@wlcj.org

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

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

January 22 at 7:30 pm; Health Program with BQLI and MetroNorth on *Zoom*

February 10 at 7:30 pm; Coffee and Conversation on *Zoom*

March 10 at 7:30 pm; Coffee and Conversation on *Zoom*

June 8 or 9, TBD; Women of Achievement Event

Torah Fund Message - Sindy Manas

Hanukkah means dedication and we dedicate our time and energy to make sure the Conservative/Masorti movement continues to thrive by raising funds for Torah Fund. We are determined to make sure we have strong Jewish leaders going forward.

Consider donating to our Creating New Spaces campaign which will equally fund two important projects: the Women's League Study Space in the new undergraduate residence hall of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a special course of training for students at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies on gender bias and harassment. Our goal is to raise \$200,000 which will be split equally between the two projects. We are very close to accomplishing this objective. Our Creating New Spaces campaign has a balance of \$18,415 to reach our goal of \$200,000.



Save the Date

Sunday January 12, 2025 - Torah Fund Stands with Israel 2:00 pm featuring Tal

Itzhakov, Spokesperson for the Embassy of Israel in Spain. Please remember to register so that the Zoom link for the program is sent to you.

Please remember to send your donations to your affiliate chair promptly if you want it to be included for 2024. Of course, online donations may be made for 2024 until December 31.

I would love to attend the Torah events you are planning. Please send me an invitation.

Wishing Happy Hanukkah to you and your family.

May the war in Israel end and may our hostages be safely returned to their families.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Sindy Manas
Torah Fund Vice President Garden State Region
Smanas750e@gmail.com
(908) 208-8230

Coffee & Conversation - Ways You can Help

The Garden State Region's Coffee and Conversation was held on Wed. December 11, 2024 of **Alice Paul: New Jersey's Crusader for Equality** presented by Quincy Wansal, Asst. Manager of Programs.

- Recording from the Program

This was a wonderful program. We can certainly make a difference by contacting President Biden to ask the Archivist to certify the Equal Rights Amendment as soon as possible, before he leaves office on January 20, 2025.

Ways you can help

1. Contact the White House

Call and text the White House comment line: 202-456-1111 and tell Joe Biden he must make the call to tell the National Archivist to publish the Equal Rights Amendment.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

2. Write Postcards.

<https://voteequality.us/activate/write4rights/>

Write 4 Rights

Join Equality Now by writing postcards to Joe Biden urging him to tell the archivist to publish the Equal Rights Amendment!

You can address all postcards to:

President Biden

1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20500

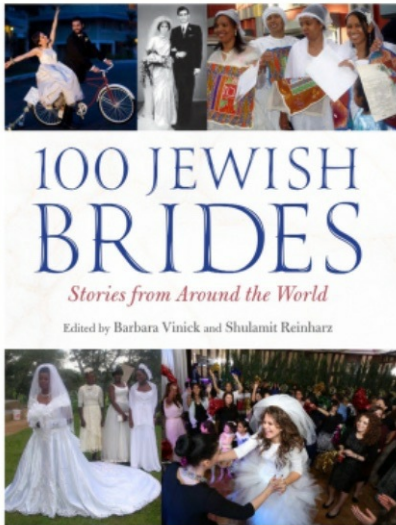
3. Online.

The League of Women Voters created this easy form to quickly contact the White House and urge them to publish and certify the ERA!

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/president-must-immediately-publish-equal-rights-amendment>

Sisterhood Region Programs

Schmooze with Author Barbara Vinick
100 Jewish Brides: Stories From Around the World
Sunday, January 5, 4:00pm, on Zoom

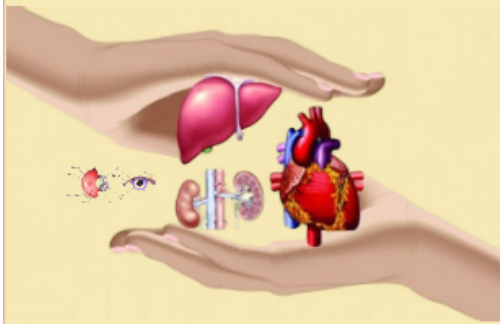


Join us on Sunday, January 5 at 4:00pm for a presentation by Barbara Vinick, author of the book [**100 Jewish Brides: Stories from Around the World**](#). Barbara will share a slide show and more about her writing with us on Zoom.

Register



BQLI Region Health Program
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
7:30 PM Via Zoom



SAVE A LIFE: JEWISH VIEWS ON
ORGAN
DONATION

FEATURING RABBI JOSH RABIN
Community & Government Affairs Liaison for LiveOnNY*

RSVP: [WIZEVENTS.COM/BQLIHEALTH](https://wizevents.com/BQLIHEALTH)

*LiveOnNY is a nonprofit organization committed to helping New York live on through organ and tissue donation and to caring for the families touched by donation. We serve as the federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) for the greater New York City area. Every day, we work to further our mission by facilitating lifesaving organ donations, caring for the families of the selfless donors who give the gift of life, educating the community about the power of donation, and advocating on behalf of those who are waiting for transplant.

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



STAND
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[Register](#)

Please send your programs that you would like posted to both [Traci Sachs](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#).

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.



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 for Ahm Yisrael Chai
[Click HERE](#) to donate to *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.

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.jtsa.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!

A Legacy Gift to Torah Fund Helps Fortify the Jewish Future

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.

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

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

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

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

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

WL Leadership Institute

IN-PERSON

Sunday, February 2-4, 2025

REGISTRATION IS OPEN



**WL Leadership Institute
February 2-4, 2025**

Hotel deadline is January 10th!

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 **February 2-4, 2025** at **Congregation Brith Shalom in Bellaire, Texas.**

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 challenged.

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 Congregation Brith Shalom Sisterhood or transportation to Houston, TX.

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, Houston by the Galleria. 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.



**Discounted
Night Rate**

Register by Jan 10

REGISTER



QUESTIONS? SEND EMAIL TO:

Debbie Zimmerman

Leadership Institute Logistics Chair

dzimmerman@wlcj.org

WOMENS LEAGUE RESOLUTION

To the Membership of WLCJ,

PLEASE VOTE!

Judaism teaches us that one of our most important tasks is to feed the hungry, and we are commanded to do it. You shall not pick your vineyard bare or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the LORD am your G-d (Leviticus 19:9-10).

This is a huge responsibility. Despite all the wealth and resources in the world's developing countries, we still have food insecurity. In the US alone, one in five children faces hunger every day. And from a global perspective, around 2.33 billion people last year faced moderate or severe food insecurity. But once we recognize the need, we and our Sisterhood Affiliates must work on this difficult issue.

You can make a difference! No one deserves to go hungry. Read the Food Insecurity Resolution, learn some ways to help address this problem, and help us approve this resolution.

To read the Food Insecurity resolution, click [HERE](#). Please submit your vote by January 6, 2025.

Thank you,
Laurie Silverblatt

PLEASE VOTE - CLICK HERE

QUESTIONS? SEND EMAIL TO:

Laurie Silverblatt
Public Policy & Resolutions Chair
lasilverblatt@gmail.com

Photos from Congregation Torat-El Torah Fund Event



L-R: Susan Sferas, GSR Corr. Sec'y and IPP of CTE, Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields-WLCJ Exec. Dir., Sheila Kaufman-GSR President, Robin Bauer-CTE President, Rabbi Margie Celas-WLCJ Educator and Speaker



(L-R) Sheila Kaufman, Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields, Susan Sferas



(L-R) Sheila Kaufman, Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields



Rabbi Margie Cellas

GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION

Share your news and nachas with us!

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

- Charlotte Ellner z"l, mother-in-law of Athena Carpousis Ellner, member of the WLCJ Board of Directors and Past President of the former Southern New Jersey Branch
- Joan Elfenbein z"l, sister of Anne Schimberg, past President of the Florida Region of WLCJ, member of the WLCJ Board, and Co-Chair of the Bat Mitzvah program

DONATIONS

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

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

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