

Garden State Region News-January 24, 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!

What a weekend it has been... There was a ceasefire and 3 hostages were returned safely, Martin Luther King, Jr. observance, the inauguration of our 47th President, and our drive to SUNY Oneonta. Our emotions were all over the place. During morning minyan on Sunday, our Rabbi informed us that the three hostage women were safe in Israel. She was crying, the person reading a Prayer for Israel has a granddaughter in the IDF, he could not make it past the second sentence and the next person was overcome with

emotion. This was just the beginning of how we all felt. Let's pray that this continues and that all of the hostages continue to return safely. Then Monday, after leaving late because of the snow storm, we were taking my daughter back to college for her very last semester and I streamed the inauguration as we drove. I was filled with very mixed emotions and can only hope that everything works out ok. I was exhausted by the time we got home at 10 pm as it was a little longer drive to avoid the roads that we took up there as we thought they would be bad at night.



Let us pray for both Israel and the United States.

FYI...I am not sure what happened to the request for President Biden to inform the archivist to complete the amendment for equality. I will look into it and get back to you.

Click on WL Week to see all the great programs that WLCJ has to offer.

Please 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 and it will be forwarded to be included on our website. If you have a program please invite myself and Sindy Manas if it is a Torah Fund program, we would love to come!

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

February 10 at 7:30 pm; Coffee and Conversation *on Zoom* Debra Green, author of **Mahjong at Mara's**

March 17 at 7:30 pm; Coffee and Conversation Passover Program on Zoom

June 8 or 9, TBD; Women of Achievement Event

It was a blessing to see the 3 female hostages released on Saturday January 18, 2025. Looking forward to the safe return of all hostages.

Join us in our efforts to remind the world that Am Yisrael Chai (The People of Israel Live) by continuing to donate to Torah Fund to support our five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education. Your generous donation to Torah Fund helps The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, Schechter Institutes of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and the new Abraham Joshua Heschel Seminary in Potsdam, Germany.



Our Creating New SPACES campaign will equally fund two important projects: A "Women's League Study Space" in the new undergraduate residence hall at The Jewish Theological Seminary and a special course of training for rabbinical students at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies entitled "Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment". Our goal to raise \$ 200,000 will be split equally between the two projects. We have raised \$186,860 to date. Consider a donation to help us reach our goal.

WL – Gender Bias Workshop
Monday, Jan 27, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

In the description of the program it states: Torah will be studied as a lens for identifying the stereotypes or beliefs that can be harmful and as the source of the tools to overcome those unintended moments to become our best selves. Rabbi Peretz, one of the deans of the Ziegler school, will help us build the skills to overcome bias and harassment. The work that Rabbi Peretz has developed has been made possible by the Torah Fund Spaces Campaign.

[Click here to Register at WLCJ website](#)

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

Am Yisrael Chai.

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

Coffee & Conversation



Author Talk with Debra Green

Monday, February 10, 2025

7:30 PM

Via Zoom

Zoom link will be sent out the week of the program.



There are the families you are born into and the families you choose. Suburbia—the quintessential quagmire of coexistence in which strangers of varied ethnicities and financial statuses meet at the local gas station, supermarket, and café and speak in snippets of feigned and genuine cordiality. People with whom we rarely envision sharing anything more of ourselves ... until we do.

Seventeen years after losing the love of her life on 9/11, Lila, a nurse aide, and her teenage son Dante, find solace in unlikely companions— a group of Mahjong-playing octogenarians. There's Lila's client, Thea, struggling with Alzheimer's, and her sweet husband, Joseph; Mali, a lonely Holocaust survivor living far away from her only daughter; childless and recently widowed Frank; and the persnickety, divorced Gladys, whom Mali disliked from the moment the two met. When Brian, a duplicitous new neighbor, and Dante's friends Rashon and Giselle, join the mix, all their lives take surprising turns that raise questions about the concepts of family, loyalty, and love.

A bighearted novel with an endearing and diverse cast of characters, **MAHJONG AT MARA'S** illustrates the bumpy ride to understanding experienced by the complicated patchwork of people who make up suburban America.

To read the book before the author talk you can purchase the book at
[MAHJONG AT MARA'S AMAZON SOFTCOVER](#)
[MAHJONG AT MARA'S AMAZON Kindle](#)

Debra has been a JCC of Central New Jersey member for 29 years and has served twice on its Board of Directors. She also belongs to Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, where she has served on its Board of Directors.

More Info: Susan Winter - Winter.Susan@gmail.com
Sheila Kaufman - GSRPresident24@wlcj.org

Register

March 30, 2025 - Community Mitzvah Day at Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

Sisterhood Affiliate Programs

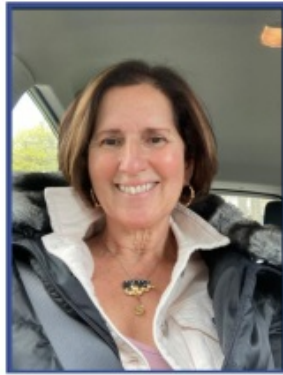
B'nai Shalom Sisterhood

Invites you to

Yoga for Torah Fund

with Donna Burkat

Sunday, January 26th at 10:15am – 11:15am



Men and women are invited to bring a mat or towel, wear comfy clothes and come to unwind and stretch!

Donna is a certified Yoga instructor and she will lead us in gentle Hatha Yoga for everyone. You can even sit in a chair and follow along!

We request a \$18 donation to Torah Fund. If at least \$180 is raised, a beautiful Women's League Torah Fund pin will be raffled.

RSVP by Friday, January 24th to

bswo.shulcloud.com/event/yoga5785 or sisterhood@bnaishalom.net

B'nai Shalom supports full inclusion
and participation of individuals
having all abilities in both religious
and communal life.



B'nai Shalom

MORRIS AND MIRIAM HAMMER CAMPUS

300 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ 07052

(973) 731-0160 • www.bnaishalom.net

RSVP



Save the Date!

**Community Mitzvah Day
Community-wide day of service
Sunday, March 30**

Registration coming soon!

Join us and create positive change in Greater MetroWest NJ!

Hundreds of people will unite for a full day of volunteer opportunities, putting our Jewish values into action by doing hands-on service and *mitzvot* (good deeds) that make a real impact on the lives of others and our community.

Stay tuned for more information and registration coming soon! We'll have activities for volunteers of all ages, both in-person and at-home.

We support and #StandWithIsrael as we continue to build a strong Jewish community here in NJ.

Questions? Contact mitzvah@jfedgmw.org.

Programs from the Across the Regions



Building Shared Society & Partnership Between Arabs & Jews in Israel

*We invite you to join us for a Zoom session to learn about
Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel*

Sunday, January 26, 2025 7:00 PM

Sponsored by North Atlantic Region

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Zoom link provided upon RSVP

In the midst of the Hamas attacks and subsequent war in Gaza, Hand in Hand continues its important work building Jewish-Arab partnership and shared society in Israel. With over 2,000 Jewish and Arab students in its network of integrated and bilingual schools across Israel, Hand in Hand is a model of what Israel *can* and *should* look like.

Over the next ten years, Hand in Hand aims to create a network of up to 10-15 integrated bilingual schools, supported and enhanced by active communities, involving thousands of Israeli citizens.

MEET:

Hand in Hand Co-Founder Lee Gordon

Open to all!

Please RSVP to Debbie Pransky at debbie@pranskyfinancial.com

Make sure to include your full email address and the name you will use on your Zoom profile. The Zoom link will be sent out the day of the event to the email you provide.

Note that everyone will be automatically muted until the end of the program when it will be opened for questions

RSVP

Pacific Southwest Region

Women's League for Conservative Judaism



Presents on Zoom

Torah Fund Study Day



"Am Yisrael Chai— A Celebration of Israel"

Session 1: Rabbi Peretz Rodman presents

"Being / Becoming Jewish: Jewish Identity in Israel"

Session 2: Anne Greenbaum presents

"Connecting with Our Sisters in Israel"



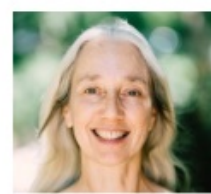
Rabbi Peretz Rodman



Anne Greenbaum



Linda Avitan



Sigalit Ur

RSVP

<https://forms.gle/cK2iT9D4oodHgEBc6>



February 2, 2025

9:00 AM — Noon

For Questions call Marcy Melton 310-892-2555

email pswrtorahfundVP@gmail.com

Cost: \$18

Link will be emailed a few days before the event.

RSVP

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.

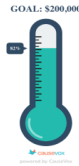
The dedicated philanthropy of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning.

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!



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.

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



Previous WLCJ Programming

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

Visit Youtube

Want to sing, teach, help with technology,
and more during Daily Psalm Study, and
Kaddish?

[Sign Up](#)

WL Leadership Institute

Postponed - More information to follow

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](#)

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

Birthday Wishes

Wishing all who have January birthdays, **Yom Huledet Sameach!**

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.

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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