

## Garden State Region News - March 20, 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!

Adar is off and running. Did you play it up with Purim last week? Sure hope so! Now it is all about the preparation for Passover. I hope you were able to attend our last Coffee and Conversation of the year this past Monday. We had a great

Passover demonstration by Yvette Schlusel. And now we are collecting your favorite Passover recipe to share with you. Please send your recipe(s) to [Traci Sachs](#) by March 27. She will compile them all and send them out to those that had registered for the program that week. I know this month is a lot of work both physically and mentally. Cleaning the house, baking, cooking, and preparing for Passover. I will say, I enjoy the food much more now than I did when I was a kid. The new and varied recipes, the availability of food and a creative way to prepare our meals make the holiday much tastier.



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.

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 noticed, we are sending an eblast of programs during the week between Newsletters. So take advantage of us and our outreach. If you have a program please invite myself and Sindy Manas, if it is a Torah Fund program, we would love to come!

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](mailto:gsrpresident24@wlcj.org)

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

### MESSAGE FROM SUSAN WINTER, GSR VP PROGRAMMING

No one deserves to be hungry. Today a staggering number of Americans and others around the world struggle to put food on their tables. To address this issue and for Sisterhoods to take an active role, WLCJ has a new resolution on Food Insecurity. Information on the resolution can be found [HERE](#).

On Monday, March 24, the Resolution Committee is sponsoring an Educational Program "Mazon's: The Hunger Museum: A Digital Journey Through America's History of Hunger."



Mazon is a national organization dedicated to ending hunger among all faiths and

backgrounds in the United States and Israel. This digital project explores the history of hunger in America revealing how the past can inspire hope for a hunger free world. A live docent will take us on a journey through history in this virtual museum.

## 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



## SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS



## Mah-Jongg Madness 2025

6 Rounds of play (3 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon with lunch in the middle)

\$\$ Cash Prizes will be Awarded \$\$

**Sunday, March 30th**

Congregation Torat El

301 Monmouth Rd, Oakhurst, NJ 07755

**9:00-4:00**

Play begins at 9:30a.m. SHARP

**Register by March 14th**

Please RSVP by mail only using registration form below

Registration Fee: \$47.00 CTE Sisterhood Members, \$52.00 for Non-Members

Fee includes entrance, light breakfast nosh & lunch

**CLOSED**

Mah Jongg Madness Reservation Form (Return this portion of flyer only)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current CTE Sisterhood Member? **Yes or No (please circle one)**

I want to be an East\* - **YES NO "Only if Desperate" (circle one)**

\*Being East requires bringing a Mah Jongg set and assisting with scoring.

Mail completed form along with **check made payable to: CTE Sisterhood**

Mail To: CTE Sisterhood, c/o Carol Klein, 26 Stonehenge Dr., Ocean, NJ 07712

**No Refunds will be given for cancels within 3 weeks of Tournament**

In January the Highland Park Conservative Temple-Cong. Anshe Emeth (HPCT-CSE) Sisterhood made vegetarian soup. Six types including mushroom barley, lentil, minestrone, and broccoli. We sold soup to our synagogue members. We then donated 25 soup quarts to seniors at the Highland Park Senior Center. We donated 5 soup quarts to people in our community who are ill. We still have soup quarts in our freezer and will distribute to families in need.

In January we made dinner for 16 homeless men and 2 staff members at a shelter in New Brunswick. We served chicken, cookies, broccoli roasted, mixed white and sweet potatoes roasted.







**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](mailto:mitzvah@jfedgmw.org).

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*Please send your programs that you would like posted to both [Traci Sachs](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#) as well as a couple of photos from your event.*

**GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION**

Share your news and nachas with us!

**Birthday Wishes**

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

**Mazel Tov**

- Susan Winter, GSR VP Programming, daughter Yiddish book was published
- Helene Knee, GSR Program Team, son, is now Pediatric Education Director at local hospital.

**Refuah Shlemah**

- Teri Manes, GSR Program Team, husband recovering from surgery
- Marlene Oslick, GSR Program Team
- Arlene Berhnhardt, GSR TF team
- Wanda Pitzele, CGLR President

**Baruch Dayan HaEmet**

- Jared Bienenfeld z"l, son-in-law of Sue Bengele, Past President of the former

## 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](mailto: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.



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](http://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](http://inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund)  
Or send your check to the Torah Fund office.

**FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS**, go to [torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian](http://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.

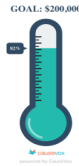
**TORAH FUND**  
3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027  
(212) 678-8876  
[www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund](http://www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund) • [torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu)

[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](mailto:lipaule@jtsa.edu) or Sherrill Moss-Solomon [shsolomon@jtsa.edu](mailto: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](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu) or call (212) 678-8977.**

[jtsa.edu/torah-fund](http://jtsa.edu/torah-fund) [torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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

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

[Sign Up](#)

## Sisters Helping Programs and Message



### Shabbat Message

March 8, 2025 | 8th of Adar, 5785

**By Julia Loeb,**  
WLCJ International President



### Reflections on our trip to Israel: The Land, Zionism, and Resilience

In Genesis, God tells Avram, "Go forth...to the land that I will show you." For thousands of years, The Land—now called Israel—has been more than a homeland. It is a living, breathing testament to the resilience, faith, and determination of the Jewish people. I just returned from The Land after a trip representing Women's League on the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' 50th mission to Israel. During that trip, I witnessed firsthand the strength of Israelis, particularly in the agricultural communities of the *kibbutzim*, who have endured immense suffering since the attacks of October 7, 2023.

One of the most profound aspects of Zionism is the intimate relationship between the people and the land of Israel. Nowhere is this more evident than in the farming communities of the South, including Kibbutz Nir Oz. Seventy percent of the fresh produce in Israel comes from Nir Oz and other *kibbutzim* in this region. However, the events of October 7 brought devastation beyond imagination to both the people and the land.

[Read More](#)

PRAYER FOR HOSTAGES





# WL Resolutions: The Hunger Museum

(A virtual project of MAZON)

 ONLINE



REGISTER



QUESTIONS? SEND  
EMAIL TO:

**Laurie Silverblatt**  
WLCJ Resolutions and  
Public Policy Chair  
[lasilverblatt@gmail.com](mailto:lasilverblatt@gmail.com)

**Monday, Mar. 24, 2025 @ 8:00pm ET**

## THE HUNGER MUSEUM

**Regardless of a person's circumstance, no one deserves to be hungry.** Today, a staggering number of Americans struggle to put food on the table. **The Hunger Museum** explores how we got here as a nation, telling the story of the last 100+ years of U.S. hunger and anti-hunger public policy, alongside the cultural touchstones that accompany that history.

**With a robust government response, we can end hunger, and almost did.** Join us to learn about this as a live docent takes us on a journey through history in MAZON's virtual Hunger Museum.

## MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Inspired by Jewish values and ideals, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is a national organization fighting to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States and Israel.

**MAZON puts policymakers at the center of the solution, providing comprehensive guidance on smart, scalable legislation that helps people live better and more productively.**

[mazon.org](http://mazon.org)

## 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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Traci Sachs  
GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor  
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Garden State Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism | 24 Yale Street | Maplewood,  
NJ 07040 US

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