## Garden State Region News - March 20, 2025





## Sweet As Can Bee





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

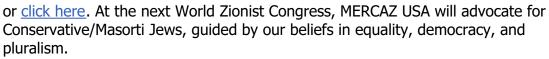
Dear Traci,

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 Schlussel. And now we are collecting your favorite Passover recipe to share with you. Please send your recipe(s) to <u>Traci Sachs</u> 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



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

"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 - <u>Traci Sachs</u>

Secretary, Corresponding - Susan Sferas

Secretary, Financial - Lisa Katz

Secretary, Recording - Carol Kotch

Treasurer - Donna Franklin

Parliamentarian - Dorothy Cohen

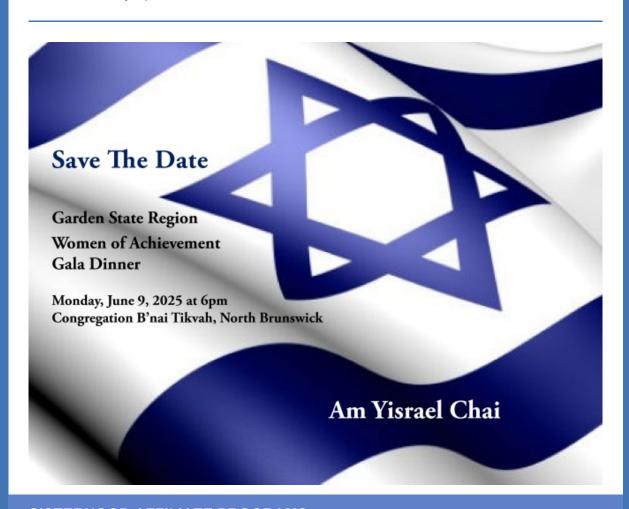
Immediate Past President - <u>Lynette Seader</u>

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



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.

Please send your programs that you would like posted to both <u>Traci Sachs</u> and <u>Sheila Kaufman</u> 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

Florida Branch of WLCJ and former member of the WLCJ Board and Executive Committee

## 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 <a href="mailto:gsrtreasurer@wlcj.org">gsrtreasurer@wlcj.org</a> 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.



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<u>lipaule@jtsa.edu</u> or Sherrill Moss-Solomon <a href="mailto:shsolomon@jtsa.edu">shsolomon@jtsa.edu</a> 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 rease consider consider the public act of the goal in every Women's League Hermite 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.

#### TORAH WFUND A Legacy Gift to LEGACY SOCIETY 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.

For more information please contact us at torahfund@itsa.edu or call (212) 678-8977. Please consult your financial advisor or attorney when making a bequest. Torah Fund does not offer financial,

jtsa.edu/torah-fund torahfund@jtsa.edu Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at t Conservative/Masorti global institutes of higher edu



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

## Sisters Helping Programs and Message

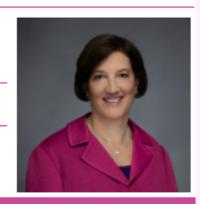




# **Shabbat Message**

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 the Return of Slain Hostages**

(in English & Hebrew)

#### Prayer for the Return of \$ Slain Hostages

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

Avina Malkeinu, hear our voice, be kind and have compassion for us, willingly and lovingly accept our prayer. Avina Malkeinu, 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.

Avieu Malkeine, do not turn us away empty-handed, and have compassion for us, our infants and our children.

May it be Your will, Adenai our God and God of our ancestors, ay it of the four with a manual or food and consider an easiers which over, safeguard, strengthen and embrace and comfort the families of the slain hostages who were kidnapped and mardered 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 坎 חללי המלחמה

ברוך אתה ה' אַלחינוּ מַלֶּךְ הַעוֹלָם דִּיַן הַאָּמָת.

אבינו מלכנו, שמע קולנו חום ורחם עלינו, וקבל ברחמים וברצון את הפלחנו. אבינו מלכנו. עשה למען הרוגים על שם קדשר ולמען סבוחים על יחודף. אַכינו מלכנו. אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניף.

וחמל עלים ועל שללים ושפט. יָהִי רְצוֹן מלפְנֵיךָ ה' אַלֹהִיט וָאלֹהִי אַבוֹתִינו ואַפּוֹתִיטו.

שמשמר, וְמִנְצֹר, וֹהְחַזָּה, וְהַשָּטֹף וֹתְנַחָם אָת מּשְּׁפְּתוּחַיהָם שֶׁל מללי ממלחמה אשר נחספו ונרצחו בירי בני עולה וחושבו היום למשוחת עולמים בארץ קדעה לאחר 503 לילות וימים.

הרפא לשבורי לב ומחבש לעצבותם, חבק באברת חסדך את אותביהם, חבש את יסוריהם, רפא את פצעיהם וְתָּן לָתָם וְלָנו נָתָמָה וּרְפּוּאָה לְנוּיף הַדּוֹאַב וּלְנָפֶשׁ הַבּוֹבֵיָה.

ואין לפניך ולפנים מצוה גרולה יותר מפריון שבויות ושכויים אָנַא, בעל הְרַחָמִים, עשה לְמען יָשובו במַחָרָה יָהֶר אַמִינו וָאַמִיוֹמִינוּ אַשְׁר בּשְׁבִי, מי בשמחה - לחיים ולשקום, ומי בצער - למנוחת עולמים.

> וְיִתְקֵיֵם בָּנוּ 'וְשְׁבוּ בָנִים וְבָנוֹת לְנְבוּלְם' ונאפור אפון









## M

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# **Voting for World Zionist Congress - Begins** March 10, 2025



#### MERCAZ USA Platform 2025

The Voice of Conservative/Masorti Judaism

MERICAT USA is the Tibrate Organization of the American Conservative/Masord Movement. At the east World Torist Congress, MERICAT USA will advocate for a strong and secure breef control in the more and spiking which of the Information proprieties—a collect the decisions democratic principles, enthrose devices advanta-tional formation, and sellipsent in the rights, dignity and instalation of all its obtains. As breaft recovers from Devoter 7 and with an effective indige out of the world, our relation increase or finds from even. MERICAT USA advocates for the Introduce perceptus and gasts:

- Balluliding listed in the aftermath of Ortobar 7 and Supporting Clar Healington We will work to orwane th WOD and its offissed produced the conventions downshilled on Ordobar 7 and provide vibra support to those with here been held notified and that families and their families.
- education that addresses the root causes of table.

  A. An Equilable and facilities because in the State was committed to spheeling democracy and divinights for all in traver and in including all seaso in the States whan of a democracial state expensionly with extremists seeking to take or own or will report the whith or as it.

  A. Educating on States or and Addressing Maintenastics We promote understanding of the States value, states in the states of the state
- Presenting a Foreintie Jewish Society We emission a future where Jewish prepire of all looking out the common of a secure planning and democratic boost with fair treatment of Jews and non-Jews who call losse home, segerdies of beliefs, garden or series of remaining.
- Strongthering the Band Bahvese American Jews and Break 190 dam space for Constructive (Majorit Jews in the Donate Tuber and Dring note securous into our convisuation to connect the next generation with Intel® of the Jewish deating.
- Familing, Researches, and Businest for Conservation/Mesont influence of a Yakines We objected for funding as entire, André the interest, including among upon an agreement of comprehension transfers. And the format and USC and more. We will fight to amove government except from all absorber of Judaien, impresent the Fater Agreement and appose of interests to restrict the Low of Petern.
- Achtering Peace and Stability in the Region: We stand in support of the vision of an israel integrated within the region and at power with all its neighbors, including the Peacetrians.

## VATE MERCAZ

## MERCAZ USA Platform 2025

# **WL Resolutions: The Hunger Museum**

## (A virtual project of MAZON)



**回 ONLINE** 

## The Hunger Museum



REGISTER



QUESTIONS? SEND **EMAIL TO:** 

#### Laurie Silverblatt

WLCJ Resolutions and Public Policy Chair 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

## 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!

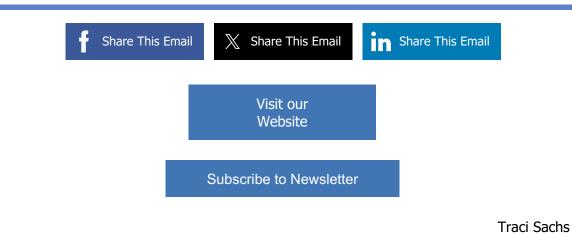
If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to upload please forward to Traci Sachs and Sheila Kaufman.

Click <u>here</u> 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.







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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