Garden State Region News - March 7, 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!

This month we celebrate International Women's Day, which happens to be this Saturday, March 8th and Purim a few days later. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a

call to action for accelerating women's equality. So what are you doing for it? Women's League is honoring WLCJ Sisters for Women's History Month. Visit WLCJs social media pages to follow, like, and share the women we honor this month! Check out their Facebook and Instagram pages and you will see the current and Past International Presidents. My company is noting a special day highlighting the five major directors who all happen to be women. Is your Sisterhood or synagogue celebrating this special day? I know mine is to a certain degree, we are sponsoring a synagogue-wide Shabbat dinner celebrating Purim with a Vashti's banquet style and the women of our sisterhood culminating with Sisterhood Shabbat/Torah Fund combo! It is all about the women this month!



Send us your Women's Day celebrations and we will post them in the next Newsletter!

Voting for the World Zionist Congress opens March 10 and ends May 4, 2025. Please look below for more information or <u>click here</u>. 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

"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 - <u>Lynette Seader</u> Advisor to the Board - <u>Meryl Balaban</u>

GSR PROGRAM DATES 2024-2025

March 17 at 7:30 pm; Coffee and Conversation Passover Cooking Program on Zoom June 9 at 6:00 pm; Women of Achievement Gala Event



Passover Cooking with The Chef's Daughter - Yvette Schlussel

Monday, March 17, 2025 7:30 PM Via Zoom





Yvette Schlussel, "the Chef's Daughter," has given numerous cooking demonstrations over the years to women's organizations to share her love of delicious, nutritious meals and healthy cooking techniques. Yvette is a member of the East Brunswick Jewish Center Sisterhood.

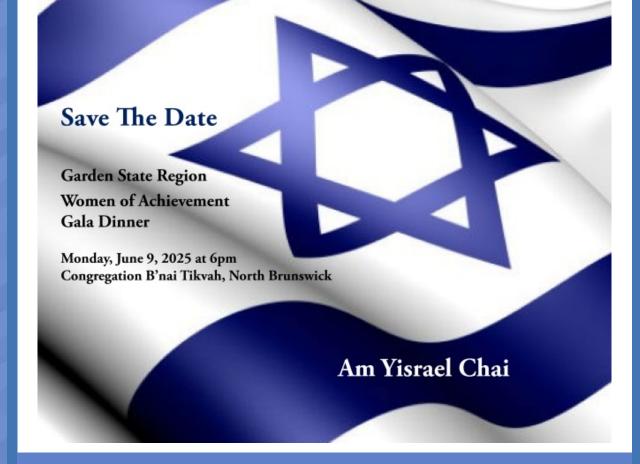
Yvette will be making Argentine Roast Chicken, Health Salad, Sephardic Macaroons, and Moroccan Muhammar. The recipes will be sent out before the program, so you can get the ingredients if you want to cook along with Yvette.

The Garden State Region is putting together a digital Passover cookbook of your favorite recipes. A digital copy will be sent out after the event to all registrants. Please send your recipes to Traci Sachs at gsrcommunications@wlcj.org by March 14. When you submit the recipes, please include the ingredients and step by step directions. Let us know if it is a vegetarian dish, and if it contains nuts, dairy and/or gluten.

Upon registration, you will receive a link for the ingredients and recipes.

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

Register



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

PROGRAMS FROM ACROSS THE REGIONS



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 <u>mitzvah@jfedgmw.org.</u>

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!

Refuah Shlemah

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

- Passing of Brenda Levine z"/, Past President of the former Southwest Branch of WLCJ
- Passing of Sheila Trossman z"l, Past President of the former New York State Branch of WLCJ and Past Torah Fund Director of the Florida Region.

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 gsrtreasurer@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.

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)
- <u>Updated list of hostages, to be used in prayers for their speedy and safe</u>
 <u>return</u> (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 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 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

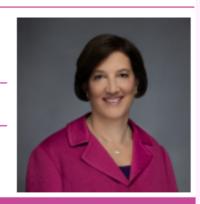




Shabbat Message

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 anomalous of the fact of the fact of 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 מַלְרְ הַעוֹלִם דִּיוָ 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 ושבויים אָנַא, בעל הְרַחָמִים, עשה לְמען יָשובו במַחָרָה יָהֶר אַמִינו וָאַמִיוֹמִינוּ אַשְׁר בּשְׁבִי, מי בשמחה - לחיים ולשקום, ומי בצער - למנוחת עולמים.

> וְיִתְקֵיֵם בָּנוֹ 'וְשְׁבוּ בָנִים וְבָנוֹת לְנְבוּלְם' ונאפור אפון









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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 propriates—a sociately the celebrates democratic principles, enthrose developes airchail tradition, and sellipsent in the rights, dignity and inclusions 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 perceiptes and gasts:

- Balludding least in the alternation of Cetalise 7 and Supporting Clar Healingse: We self notic to oracs the WOD and its officease; play obcoled the conventions downstanded on Codalise 7 and provides vibra support to those who have 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 is travel 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 on and Addressing Maintermations We promote understanding of the States value, states in the states of the stat
- 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.
- Achieving 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!

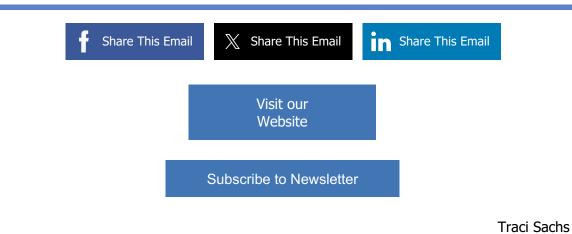
If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to upload please forward to Traci Sachs and Sheila Kaufman.

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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