

Garden State Region News - May 22, 2025



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**

Sweet As Can Bee



**STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE**

WL Week

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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 past weekend was my daughter's college graduation from SUNY Oneonta. We are so proud of her and her accomplishments, including receiving an Award for Excellence in Fieldwork. She has come a long way from the shy, little book nerd (yes, she is proud of that and has a t-shirt stating it) to the adult she is now, more open, still shy, but has a focus of where she wants to go. She doesn't have a job lined up because she was so bogged down with papers and projects all semester up to the night before commencement. She will get there. Like most kids,

they find their way in life, we just need to have trust in them and support them in the way that they need for now.

As we near the end of the fiscal year, some of your affiliates are changing administrations, and just like my daughter, we have to trust our new officers that they will find their way. Give them the support they need, let them learn and they will grow into their positions.

I went to East Brunswick's Torah Fund Friday night Shabbat services and the next morning went to Somerset's Shabbat services followed by their installation. Both were wonderful events and I was really happy to spend time with both groups. Please reach out to me so that I can come to your synagogues and get to see all of you.



It is just over two weeks until our Women of Achievement Gala on June 9th at Congregation B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick. The plans are coming along nicely and we have a wonderful group of people attending. I am sorry to say that registration and Ad Journal submissions are now closed. Those of you attending, please bring with you feminine hygiene and/or kosher non-perishable items to be distributed throughout the region as this is our Social Action project for this program. Thank you in advance for participating.

The Garden State Region will be hosting the WL Leadership Institute July 27-29 at Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange. I hope you will consider attending. It is the best gift that you can give yourself. See the below in this Newsletter, for more information. See below for more information.

In recognition of Memorial Day, let's honor the fallen heroes who have died in service to the United States, both in peace and war. May their memories be a blessing.

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"

Note from Tova Rothschild, GSR Social Action Chair

Jewish philosophy emphasizes Tzedakah, the obligation to donate to the poor and needy, as a fundamental aspect of ethical living and a means of bringing social justice. This isn't seen as a charitable act but as a religious duty and a way to fulfill the covenant with God. Tzedakah is derived from the Hebrew word for "righteousness" and "justice," highlighting its core moral imperative. It's not just a matter of giving generously, but of ensuring that the needy receive what they are due. Donations are seen as a way to address social inequality and promote a more just society. Judaism emphasizes the inherent dignity of all individuals, regardless of their financial status. Judaism also teaches that donors benefit from tzedakah as much as or more than the poor recipients themselves, and this belief remains a common theme in Jewish tradition. Whereas the poor receive donations of material assistance or money, the donor receives the merit of sharing God's work.

In the spirit of social justice please consider bringing non-perishable kosher food items and/or feminine hygiene products to the Women of Achievement Gala on June 9, 2025.

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

Women of Achievement Gala Event
June 9 - Congregation B'Nai Tikvah
Doors open at 5:30pm, Program starts at 6:00 pm
 Registration and Ad Journal submissions are Closed.

We are proud to be honoring the following:

Aberdeen	Temple Beth Ahm	Vicki Cohen
Caldwell	Congregation Agudath Israel	Donna Franklin
Clark	Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah	Helene Davis
Closter	Temple Emanu-El	Jill Besnoy
East Brunswick	East Brunswick Jewish Center	Gail Kosher
Fair Lawn	Cong B'nai Sholom/Fair Lawn Jewish Center	Fran Kessler
Fort Lee	Cong Gesher Shalom/JCC of Fort Lee	Evelyn Bauer Ann Block
Highland Park	Highland Park Conserv Temple – Cong Anshe Emeth	Helene Knee
Livingston	Temple Beth Shalom	Diane Gottlieb
Morristown	Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael	Dorothy Cohen
North Brunswick	Congregation B'nai Tikvah	Shelly Wistreich
Oakhurst	Congregation Torat El	Susan Sferas
Ridgewood	Temple Israel and Jewish Comm Center	Stephanie Gottesman
Scotch Plains	Congregation Beth Israel	Laura Queller
South Orange	Miriam Sisterhood, Oheb Shalom	Adele Nagelberg
Teaneck	Congregation Beth Shalom	Joan Gillman

West Orange	B'nai Shalom	Bonnie Isaacson
Woodcliff Lake	Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley	Susan Liebeskind

SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Do you have any programs that you would like others to know about? [Let us know here.](#)

GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION

Share your news and nachas with us!

Birthday Wishes

Wishing all who have May birthdays, Yom Huledet Sameach!

Mazel Tov

- Wishing all the College Graduates a hearty mazal tov on completing your studies and all the best in getting your careers off and running.
- Sheila & Stu Kaufman, GSR President, daughter, Kayla, graduated from SUNY Oneonta with Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology, minors in History and Classical Studies. She received an Award for Excellence in Fieldwork.

Refeuah Shlemah

- Iris "Rusty" Zackheim z"l, WLCJ Board member, past President of the International Northeast Region, and past International WLCJ Vice President.

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



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

[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 or Sherrill Moss-Solomon shsolomon@jtsa.edu or call the Torah Fund Office 212-678-8027.

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 WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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

TORAH FUND
LEGACY SOCIETY

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@jtsa.edu or call (212) 678-8977.

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

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

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

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

[Sign Up](#)



Previous WLCJ Programming

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

[Visit Youtube](#)

PRAYER FOR HOSTAGES

Prayer for the Return of Slain Hostages

(in English & Hebrew)

☆ **Prayer for the Return of Slain Hostages** ☆

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

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

Arise Malkinu, 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.

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

May it be Your will, *Adonai* our God and God of our ancestors, watch over, safeguard, strengthen and embrace and comfort the families of the slain hostages who were kidnapped and murdered 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 חללי המלחמה** ☆

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם דין האמת אבינו מלכנו. שמע קולנו חס ורחם עלינו. וסבל גורמים ונרצח את הפלסטינאים.

אבינו מלכנו. עשה למען הרועים על שם קדשך ולמען סבוחים על יחידך.

אבינו מלכנו, אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניך, תחמל עלינו ושל עללנו ותסמך.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו אבותינו ואבותיהם, שחשמו, ותקצר, ותקצר ותקצר את משפחותיהם של חללי המלחמה אשר נחטפו ונרצחו בידי בני עולה וחושבו היום לקטרת עולמים בארץ קדשך לאחר 503 לילות וימים.

הרפא לשבויי לב ותקבע לב צעבורם, חסד באגרת חסדך את אהביהם, חבש את יסוריהם, רפא את פצעייהם ותן להם ולנו חסדך ורחמים ושלום ושלום ושלום.

ואין לפניך ולפנינו מצוה גדולה יותר מפדיון שבויים. אבא, בעל הרחמים, עשה למען ישובו בטהרה ויהי אבינו ואחיהם אשר בשבי, מי בשטחה - לחיים ולשלום, ומי בבשר - למנוחת עולמים.

ותקנים לנו יצונו ביום וקנות לנפשותינו ונאמר אמן





Your **Region, Sisterhood Affiliate** or **your Rabbi** might have **scholarship money** to help cover these costs. **Don't forget to ask!**



 **IN-PERSON**

Sunday, July 27 - Tuesday, July 29, 2025

The hotel rate **changes** after **July 6th**.

Registration for WL Leadership Institute closes on July 20th.

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.

Join **International President Julia Loeb**
at our next **LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE** on
JULY 27-29, 2025
AT OHEB SHALOM CONGREGATION,
SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

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 Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange, NJ.

Registration for the hotel starts at \$169 + tax per night. [Click here](#) to reserve a room in the Leadership Institute room block at the Courtyard by Marriott West Orange. 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.

Debbie Zimmerman
dzimmerman@wlcj.org
WLCJ Leadership Institute Logistics Chair

Register

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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