

Garden State Region News - June 20, 2025



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**

Sweet As Can Bee



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!

I can't say thank you enough! Our 2025 Women of Achievement Gala on June 9 was successful. Thank you to everyone that came and travelled the distance. Congregation B'nai Tikvah for hosting; Classical Caterers for a delicious spread, Security for keeping us safe. Thank you for the Social Action response. We had four locations that received Kosher food and feminine hygiene products, not just a few bags, but a lot of items. See the photo, and that was not all of it! Our

region is the best! We had a terrific bunch of honorees that really shone! And finally, a huge thank you to the committee that made the evening beautiful and memorable from the invitations and visuals on the table to the Journal to the Tricky Tray items. Kol haKavod!

You can find the Virtual Journal and the Honorees on the [region website](#). In the near future the photographs from the evening will be there as well. Here are just a few.



This past week, I went to Highland Park Cons. Temple-Cong. Anshe Emeth for their dinner and installation. A beautiful evening and I was so happy to see so many that I knew and got to meet a lot of the women. Please continue to invite me to your programs, I will be thrilled to be with you.

WL Leadership Institute will be in our neck of the woods this summer, July 27-29 at Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange. You can find the information about it below. Scholarships are available through the region, after you have touched base with your Affiliate President and Rabbi. Please reach out to [me](#) ASAP.

I cannot help but be distraught on the Israel-Iran conflict. I pray that people are safe and this ends very soon.

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 Sindy Manas, GSR Torah Fund VP

The Torah Fund Campaign Am Yisrael Chai will end on June 30th. Many thanks to everyone who donated to this year's campaign. Your donation in any amount is greatly appreciated. You can continue to donate online for this campaign and to Spaces through June 30th.

Our next campaign which begins July 1, is Oseh Shalom – Maker of Peace. Oseh Shalom Bimromav, "may the One who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us and all of the people of Israel," appears at the end of the Kaddish and in other prayers and is also a song. We help foster Jewish unity by our support of the five global Conservative/Masorti Institutes of higher education. Please see the flyer for the new campaign and a picture of the beautiful pin below.



The pins will be produced in Israel and will again be sterling silver with gold plate

accents. The pouches will have purple writing. We expect them to be mailed to the affiliates during the summer.

I will be reaching out to the Torah Fund Chairs to review pin quantities for the benefactor and guardian level pins. Those pins will be sent to each sisterhood/affiliate for distribution. Please make sure I have up to date contact information for where and to whom the pins should be mailed. Pins for donors at higher levels will again be sent to each donor from the Torah Fund office.

Thank you for all you do for Torah Fund.

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 - SUMMER 2025

- Summer Workshops; all at 7:30 pm on Zoom
 - Mon. Aug. 4 - Programming
 - Wed. Aug. 6 - Sisterhood Presidents only
 - Mon. Aug. 11 - Membership
 - Wed. Aug. 13 - Torah Fund

Women of Achievement Gala Event June 9 - Congregation B'Nai Tikvah





SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

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

PROGRAMS FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

- **Leadership Institute;** July 27-29, Oheb Shalom Congregation, South Orange, NJ. See below for more information. Last and final call for region scholarships by 6/22, contact [Sheila Kaufman](#)

GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION

Share your news and nachas with us!

Birthday Wishes

Wishing all who have June anniversaries and birthdays, **Yom Huledet Sameach!**

Mazel Tov

- Wishing all the High School Graduates a hearty mazel tov on completing your studies and all the best in your careers and college studies.
- The Garden State Region 2025 Women of Achievement Honorees.

Refeuah Shlemah

- Allan Freeman z"l, brother of Betty Crane, past President of the former Northern New Jersey Branch of WLCJ.
- Selma Green z"l, mother of Carol J. Green, past President of the former Metropolitan Branch of WLCJ.

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.

Donate to GSR using Credit Card



Announcing Our 2025-2026 Campaign Theme:

Oseh Shalom

עשה שלום

Maker of Peace

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 The Abraham J. Heschel Seminary.

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

Oseh Shalom Bimromay, "may the One who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us and all the people of Israel," appears at the end of Kaddish and in other prayers, and is also a song. We help foster Jewish unity by our support of the five global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education.



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO TORAH FUND!

TORAH FUND GIVING LEVELS

Golden Supporter: \$8,100
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.

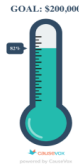
FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS, go to torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian
Make a donation of any amount with the minimum purchase of one ecard.
Or send a check to The Jewish Theological Society, 100 Elder Street, North York, Ontario, M3H 5G7.

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

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.

[Click HERE](#) to send a Torah Fund E-Card
[Click HERE](#) to donate to this year's 2025-26 Torah Fund Campaign
[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 lpaul@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.

**We are
Women's League**

Engaging Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

DONATE TO WLCJ

3080 Broadway Suite K900 | New York, NY 10027 | 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

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.

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

Ari'nu 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.

Ari'nu 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 דיין האמת אבינו מלכנו. שמע קולנו חס ורחם עלינו. וקבל גרמנום ונרצחם את הפלגות. אבינו מלכנו. עשה למען הרועים על שם קדשך ולמען סבוחים על יחידך. אבינו מלכנו, אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניך, תחמל עלינו ושל עללנו תעט.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמהותינו, שחשמו, ותקצר, ותחזק, ותשקף ותנחם את משפחותיהם של חללי המלחמה אשר נחטפו ונרצחו בידי בני עולה החושבו היום למנוחת עולמים בארץ קדשך לאחר 503 לילות וימים.

הרפא לשבורי לב ותקבש לצבוחם, חנק באגרת חסדך את אוהביהם, תבש את ישוריהם, רפא את פצעייהם ותן להם ולנו נחמה ורפואה לעוף החואב ולקש הבוגיה.

ואין לפניך ולפנינו מצוה גדולה יותר מפדיון עבדות ושבוים. אלא בשל דר'חמים, עשה למען ישובו במהרה יקר ארצנו וארץיהינו אשר בשבי, מי בשטחה - לחיים ולשקום, ומי בבשר - למנוחת עולמים.

ותקנים בנו דשבו ננים וקנות לנבולם ונאמר אמן



Programs from Women's League



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

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



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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