

## Garden State Region News - August 15, 2025



**STAND  
WITH  
ISRAEL**



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- Garden State Region (GSR) Programs
- WL Programs
  - "Women Rabbis as Change Agents" starts Wed. Sept. 3, 2025 7PM ET. Must Pre-Register
- New Torah Fund Campaign - "Oseh Shalom"
- Good and Welfare

[Click on the Calendar icon for 2025-2026 GSR Calendar](#)  
All times listed are Eastern Time



### MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

The Garden State Region has been busy this summer.

We hosted the WL Leadership Institute at Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange. Miriam Sisterhood and the Garden State Region graciously welcomed 29 attendees from across the country. Our region had 7 attendees. The women left feeling empowered and raring to go. See below for our GSR photograph with WL Leadership.





L-R: Terry Rothberg; Debbie Lempert, WLCJ; Rachel Modiano; Marcia Klioze; Elise Norwitz; Heather Loregere; Dina Feivelson; Julia Loeb, WLCJ International President; Sheila Kaufman, GSR President; Margie Miller, WLCJ; Sandy Gomez

We wasted no time and started our Summer Workshops the following week and ending this week. Kol haKavod to our leaders. Last week's workshops were the Programming Workshop led by Susan Winter, GSR VP Programming, and Helen Knee, Education Chair, and the Sisterhood/Affiliate Presidents' Workshop given by Toby Maser, our WL Advisor along with myself. Then this week we had Membership led by Cheryl Sessler, GSR VP Sisterhood Support, and Lisa Katz, Financial Secretary, and ended with Torah Fund led by Sindy Manas, GSR VP Torah Fund. Each and every session was chock full of information with programming ideas for fundraising, membership, and socialization. I must say, they were all great programs that were brought up by the leaders AND participants. I really need to be invited to them!!! All the workshops were recorded and will be made available online. You now have the tools for a successful year. I look forward to hearing all about your events.

The Garden State Region calendar for the 2025-26 year is [attached](#). Please click on the button and download it. The September 14 Coffee and Conversation with our Israel Kehilot is postponed until winter, a date to be announced.

May the hostages continue to come home to their loved ones.

Am 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"*

### 2024-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President - [Sheila Kaufman](#)  
VP, Programming - [Susan Winter](#)  
VP, Sisterhood/Affiliate Support - [Cheryl Sessler](#)  
VP, Torah Fund - [Sindy Manas](#)  
Secretary, Communications - [Ilene Rothman](#)  
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 REGION PROGRAMS

- Sun. Sept. 14, 2025 - Coffee & Conversation with Our Israeli Kehilot - POSTPONED until winter.
- Sun. Nov. 16, 2025 - GSR Torah Fund Event
- Sun. May 3, 2026 - GSR Spring Conference

## SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Do you have any programs that you would like others to know about? **Let us know.** Please send your programs that you would like posted to both [Ilene Rothman](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#).

## PROGRAMS FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

### WL CONVENTION 2026 SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, July 12 -  
Wednesday, July 15, 2026  
Alexandria, VA**

WEBSITE COMING SOON



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

**Engage, Enrich, Empower  
Forging A Stronger Tomorrow**

## Women Rabbis as Change Agents



Join us for a 3-part series that celebrates the 40-year anniversary of women in our RA hosted by the Rabbinical Assembly, Women's League For Conservative Judaism, and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Speakers include JTS Chancellor Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, representatives of women rabbis marking "firsts" of many kinds, and members of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards.

### Wednesday, September 3

7:00 - 8:30 pm ET / 4:00 - 5:30 pm PT

#### *Shattering the Glass Ceiling: Women and the Reimagining of American Judaism*

JTS Chancellor, Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz  
Rabbi Ayelet Cohen, Pearl Resnick Dean of the Rabbinical School, Dean of the Division of Religious Leadership, The Jewish Theological Seminary  
How did the twentieth-century movement for women's equality in Judaism end up serving as a catalyst for a reimagined Judaism in our own times? Together we will explore the ways in which new opportunities for American Jewish women paved the way for broader, creative changes in Jewish ritual, scholarship, and inclusion.

### Wednesday, November 5

7:00 - 8:30 pm ET / 4:00 - 5:30 pm PT

#### *Halutzot: Pioneering Women Rabbis*

Rabbis Chaya Rowen Baker, Analia Bortz, Sass Brown, Nina Beth Cardin, Nicole Guzik, Nitzan Stein-Kokin, and Ariella Rosen & Becca Walker

WLCJ Executive Director Rabbi Ellen

Wolintz-Fields, Panel Host

Rabbi Noam Raucher, FJMC Executive Director will offer dvar Torah; Julia Loeb, WLCJ International President to offer greetings

Co-presented by the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

What is HerStory? How has the rabbinate changed in 40 years? How have these pioneers - firsts in so many ways - impacted Jewish life? How has the experience of being a "first" changed as we have learned to be more welcoming and flexible? Who are the next pioneers of Conservative/Masorti Judaism and how will they impact our Jewish future?

### Wednesday, December 3

7:00 - 8:30 pm ET / 4:00 - 5:30 pm PT

#### *Tradition and Impact: How Halakhah has Been Shaped by Women*

Committee on Jewish Law and Standards  
Rabbis Aaron Alexander, Pamela Barmash, Susan Grossman

Rabbi Gesa Ederberg, Incoming RA President, will offer Dvar Torah

How has the presence of women in the rabbinate reshaped our interpretation of halakhah over the past forty years? We will explore this question through personal experience, historical reflection, and halakhic insight, considering the evolution of Jewish legal thought within and beyond the Conservative/Masorti Movement.

[Register](#)



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](http://www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund)

*Oseh Shalom Bimromav*, “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](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)

# We have beautiful new ecards! Think of Torah Fund for any greeting.

**We're expanding our collection with two new designs by Israeli artist Bracha Lavee—a thank-you card and a mazal tov card.**

**Show you care** by sending a Torah Fund ecard for any occasion. For only \$5 per recipient you can send an attractive ecard—and you can even schedule it for a specific time!

Revenue from ecard purchases benefits the Torah Fund general campaign, and our affiliates receive credit for purchases. Make your selection today at [torahfundecards.jtsa.edu](http://torahfundecards.jtsa.edu)

For our Canadian supporters, go to [torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian](http://torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian)

And for our Canadian donors:  
Make your gift to Torah Fund online via our ecards!  
For a minimum C\$5 ecard purchase, you can add a contribution of any amount to Torah Fund.

It's easy! Select the card design you'd like to send and follow the user-friendly prompts to complete your transaction.



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

Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, Schechter Institutes in Jerusalem, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, and The Abraham J. Heschel Seminary.

Thanks to our donors, we ensure quality education and diverse opportunities for students to become future Jewish leaders serving the broader Jewish community.

Our Jewish future is in your hands!  
Visit [torahfundecards.jtsa.edu](http://torahfundecards.jtsa.edu)  
and send an ecard today.

**TORAH FUND**  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

**TORAH FUND**  
The Jewish Theological Seminary  
3080 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

[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 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 Sindy Manas at [smanas750e@gmail.com](mailto:smanas750e@gmail.com).

**GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION**  
Share your news and nachas with us!

## Birthday Wishes

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

## Refeuah Shlemah

Rabbi Richie Hammerman, husband of Sharon Hammerman, Congregation Agudath Israel Sisterhood Affiliate President and GSR Torah Fund Team

Meryl Balaban, GSR Advisor and Past President

### **Baruch Dayan HaEmet**

Myra Promisel z"l, past member of the WLCJ Executive Committee, past International Vice President-Finance Chair, and past President of the former Seaboard Branch. Condolences can be sent to husband Larry Promisel, 2101 Connecticut Avenue NW, Apartment 42, Washington, DC 20008

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### **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**

## **SHABBAT MESSAGE**



# Shabbat Message

August 2, 2025 | 8th of Av, 5785

**By Florence Wolpoff,**  
WLCJ United Nations Non-  
Governmental Observer



## United Nations



After covering the United Nations these last few weeks, I feel the need to share with you what I have witnessed.

For several months, the UN has been anticipating a summit conference chaired by President Macron of France, and the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia. This conference was scheduled to take place in the middle of the month of June. It was postponed due to the current situation in the Middle East. The goal of the conference was to explore the creation of a Palestinian state.

In meeting after meeting at the UN, Israel is accused of genocide. The United States has invoked the veto power in the Security Council in support of Israel, and for resolutions that did not condemn Hamas as terrorists.

[Read more](#)



# 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 דיין האמת. אבינו מלכנו. שמע קולנו חס ורחם עלינו. וקבל נרצחים ונרצחות את התפילה. אבינו מלכנו. עשה למשכן הרועים על שם קדשך ולמנוח סבוחים על ידך. אבינו מלכנו, אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניך, תחמל עלינו ושל על עלינו תעמל.

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

הרפא לשוכרי לב וקטבש לצבוחם, חסן באגרת חסדך את אהביהם, חבש את יסוריהם, רפא את פצעייהם ונתן להם ולנו נחמה ורפואה לנוף הדואב ולקש הבוגר.

ואין לפניך ולפנינו מצוה גדולה יותר מפדיון עבדות ושבויה. אלא, בעל ה' חמים, עשה למנוח ישונו במחנה יקר אבינו ואמהותינו אשר בשבי, מי בשטחה - לחיים ולשקום, ומי בבשר - למנוח עולמים.

ותקנים בנו ידשנו ננים וקנות לנבולם ונאמר אמן



MAKOM B'YACHAD



**Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday**

**12 noon ET, 9am PT, 10am MT, and 11am CT**

A virtual service for our WLCJ Sisters to recite *Mishaberach* (the Prayer for Healing) and Psalms, and study *Kaddish*.

<https://zoom.us/j/630830287>

Meeting ID: 630 830 287

Password: 875936

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 [Ilene Rothman](#) 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.

# We are Women's League

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

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WL WEEK

DONATE TO WLCJ



Garden State Region  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



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