## Garden State Region News - August 29, 2025











Visit GSR Website

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  - Registration is open for a 3-part series that celebrates the 40-year anniversary of women in our RA; 1st session is Wednesday, September 3, 2025
  - "Women Rabbis as Change Agents" starts Wed. Sept. 3, 2025 7PM ET. Must Pre-Register
- Good & Welfare

Click on the Calendar icon for 2025-2026 GSR Calendar (Revised 8-26-25)

All times listed are Eastern Time



#### MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

I can't believe summer is over this weekend, or at least the summer from June to Labor Day, I know we have a few

more weeks. But just the thought of getting back to a schedule of school, work, and of course the high holidays brings a cold blast to wake you up. We actually got away for a long weekend to visit our son up at Syracuse where we took in a few baseball games as he worked. He did come up and sit with us for a few innings! Then we took in a day at the NY State Fair. However brief it was, I tried my best to relax a bit before the beginning of my second year as President.

The summer workshops were quite successful. If you missed them or need to review. The videos with their presentations in them, are as follows:

Aug. 4 - GSR Programming Workshop

Aug. 11 - GSR Membership Workshop

Aug. 13 - GSR Torah Fund Workshop

They can also be found on the GSR website.

Please remember that the Garden State Region Board members and I are here to support and answer all of your questions. I look forward to hearing and going to your programs. Remember to send your program flyers in pdf or jpg format to be included in the Newsletter so that we can publicize it for you!

May the hostages continue to come home to their loved ones and let there be peace.

Shabbat Shalom,

## 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 - <u>Ilene Rothman</u>

Secretary, Corresponding - <u>Susan Sferas</u>

Secretary, Financial - Lisa Katz

Secretary, Recording - Carol Kotch

Treasurer - Donna Franklin

Parliamentarian - <u>Dorothy Cohen</u>

Immediate Past President - Lynette Seader

Advisor to the Board - Meryl Balaban

Advisor to the Board - Heddy Belman



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

#### Message from SINDY MANAS, GSR TORAH FUND VP

Our Torah Fund campaign theme for 2025-2026 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. Through Torah Fund, we help foster Jewish unity by our support of the five global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education.



Donors are encouraged to give online. Make sure you enter the name of your sisterhood/affiliate. Online donations receive a receipt at the end of the transaction. Online donations can be made at: <a href="https://inspired.jtsa.edu/give/649648/#!/donation/checkout">https://inspired.jtsa.edu/give/649648/#!/donation/checkout</a>

Benefactor pins are given to donors in recognition of their contribution to the campaign of \$180 or more. Guardian pins which include the pearl are given with a donation of \$300 or more. They are distributed by the local Torah Fund Chairs. Donors giving a donation of \$600 or more receive their pins directly from the Torah Fund office. The distribution of pins is expected during the first two weeks of September.

A donation in any amount is greatly appreciated. If you are mailing checks to the Torah Fund office please use a trackable mailing service.

A plaque commemorating the new Women's League Study Space at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in NYC will be presented on October 9th at JTS. This was made possible by completion of the special Torah Fund campaign "Creating New Spaces". I hope to attend in person. Let me know if you would also like to attend.

Our Region Annual Torah Fund Event will be on November 16, 2025. Please save the date. Details will follow.

Thank you for all you do for Torah Fund.

As we work for Torah Fund in the coming year to support our five schools of Conservative/Masorti Judaism, we sincerely hope the world finds peace and serenity.

Shabbat Shalom,

Sindy Manas Torah Fund VP Garden State Region Smanas750e@gmail.com (908) 208-8230



Torah Fund is excited to share that the **Creating New Spaces** campaign has just been completed. Thanks to hundreds of dedicated Torah Fund donors, we have achieved our goal of raising \$200,000 for this special project. The proceeds will be equally divided between Jewish Theological Seminary and Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, where the Women's League Study

Space and the Women's League Institute on Gender Bias & Harassment will respectively be endowed. This outstanding result would not have been possible without the generosity of many committed donors who saw the campaign through to fruition.

The Women's League Study Space at JTS is a designated section on the fourth floor of the new residence hall, where students can come together to study, discuss and pursue leisure activities in a convenient and secure area adjacent to the student dining room.

The Women's League Institute on Gender Bias & Harassment is a unique course of instruction to empower current and future Jewish leaders in creating safety and equity in our communities.

"Women's League for Conservative Judaism was very intentional in the creation of our special project when we began Creating New Spaces five years ago. Torah Fund leadership was focused on creating both a spiritual and physical space for our students and with your participation and support we achieved that goal. The students at both Ziegler and JTS have been benefitting for the past several years both in their physical space at JTS and through the Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment. Todah Rabah for all you do for Torah Fund and for completing our Spaces campaign."

**CAROL SIMON,** Chair, Creating New Spaces campaign

"I'm incredibly grateful for the extraordinary

generosity of our Torah Fund donors. The new Women's League Study Space will be a special place, offering JTS students a dedicated area for study just steps from their residence hall rooms. I can already envision the many books that will be read, the engaging conversations that will unfold, and the deep learning that will enrich our students' educational journey."

**SHULY RUBIN SCHWARTZ**, Chancellor, The Jewish Theological Seminary

"The Spaces campaign embodies the living partnership between Women's League and the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University. Now more than ever, our communities will only flourish if they learn to stretch beyond their automatic presuppositions and biases. The Women's League Institute on Gender Bias and Harassment has educated and empowered individuals, communities, and organizations to eliminate unintended bias and harassment in more than 60 different settings. Thanks to this campaign and those who contributed, we will move towards safer work places, schools, synagogues and leadership structures, utilizing workshops, tool kits, and speaking engagements for lay leaders, rabbis, search committees, and synagogue members. Together, we will continue to raise awareness and provide skills for what each of us can do to help eliminate unintended bias and harassment. We are grateful to Women's League and the individual donors for helping make possible these efforts that maanify our value of seeina every person h'zelem

Elohim, in the Divine image."

**RABBI CHERYL PERETZ,** Vice Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

We appreciate all the contributions received for the Creating New Spaces campaign and we are grateful for your ongoing support of Torah Fund.





#### **TORAH FUND**

The Jewish Theological Seminary 3080 Broadway New York, NY 10027

www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund torahfund@jtsa.edu



### 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. 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.



Visit www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund

## 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



# We have beautiful new ecards! WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATE 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

For our Canadian supporters, go to 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** and send an ecard today.



#### TORAH FUNI

The Jewish Theological Seminary 3080 Broadway New York, NY 10027

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 2025-26 Torah Fund Campaign

<u>Click HERE</u> to donate to the Creating New Spaces Campaign

<u>Click HERE</u> 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 atsmanas750e@gmail.com.

#### **GSR REGION PROGRAMS**

- 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 <u>Ilene Rothman</u> and <u>Sheila</u> 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

# Fall 2025 WLCJ Classes: Learn Hebrew, from the Siddur to the Torah





WLCJ Classes starting this Fall to Learn Hebrew, from the *Siddur* to the Torah

NOW OPEN!

### Registration Is Open

for All Fall Semester Classes

If you would like to expand your Jewish literacy skills, and/or improve your ability to read Biblical Hebrew, you should take one of our classes.

Classes begin on September 10, 2025.

Our Level 2+ is for students who have previously taken this class before and do not yet read smoothly. Prayers from Shabbat and holidays will be used to improve reading fluency and understanding. Our Level 3 class is for students who are proficient readers who want to improve their fluency through Shabbat and holiday prayers and have not previously taken this class before.

Our Level 3+ class is for students who have taken this class before and wish to continue at this level.

Our Level 4 - Chumash class is for proficient Hebrew readers who want to strengthen their skills and learn vocabulary through the weekly Torah and Haftarah portions.

Our Level 4 - Advanced Siddur class is for students who previously took our Level 3 Grammar class and members with strong Hebrew reading ability. This class will delve into prayers by examining word roots, prefixes, suffixes and essential grammar.

A minimum of 6 students is required for each class.

Register



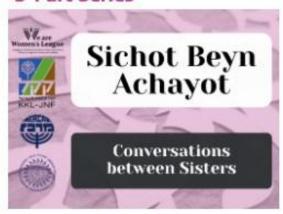
**EMAIL** 

Rachel Ferber <u>rferber@wlcj.org</u> Hebrew Course Chair

# שׂיחוֹת בַּין אָחַיוֹת, Sichot beyn Achayot



3-Part Series



אַרְחוֹת בֵּין אָחִיוֹת Achayot means "conversations between sisters." This program is designed to foster a deeper mutual understanding between the Masorti women in Israel and those in other countries around the globe. It is designed to address the question, "How are we the same, and how are we different?" The theme of this year's program is:

#### עושה שלום, Maker of Peace

The three sessions will each concentrate on one specific aspect of the contemporary quest for peace both personal and universal and will include presentations from speakers in both North America and Israel.



Rabbi Margie Cella mcella@wlcj.org WLCJ Educator

#### Session Two

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Making Peace With Others 19:00 Israel Time | 12:00 PM ET | 11:00 AM CT | 10:00 AM MT | 9:00 AM PT

עושה שלום, עזור לנו להשכין שלום בינינו לבין אחרים

Oseh shalom, azor lanu lehashkin shalom beyneynu l'veyn acherim Maker of Peace, help us to make peace between ourselves and others

God commands us to love the stranger as ourselves. How do we learn to acknowledge and accommodate the needs of others without ignoring our own? How can we support those whose lives have been shattered by war? And what would our world look like if we could strive for the peace of others as much as our own?

#### Speakers

Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Co-Chair of the Racial Justice Subcommittee of the Conservative Movement's Social Justice Commission Conflict Mediation

Topic: Conflict Mediation Through a Jewish Lens

Linda Avitan, MSW, Board Member Women of the Wall

Topic: History and Development of the Women of the Wall

Tamar Heimowitz-Richter, Co-founder and Chair, GFIDF—The Partners of Unmarried Fallen Soldiers of the IDF

Topic: GFIDF - How it Supports the Women (and Men) whose Partners were Lost in Battle

Rabbi Dorothy Richman

Topic: Blessing Practice

Register

#### Session One

Sunday, September 28, 2025

**Finding Peace Within** 19:00 Israel Time | 12:00 PM ET | 11:00 AM CT | 10:00 AM MT | 9:00 AM PT

עושה שלום,הענק לנו את מתנת השלום הפנימי

Oseh shalom ha'anek lanu et matnat hashalom hap'nimi

Maker of Peace, grant us the gift of inner peace

God commands us to love the stranger because we ourselves were strangers in Egypt. But we must learn to love ourselves first. This session takes place during Aseret Yemei Teshuvah, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. As we make our peace with God, how do we also make peace with ourselves? And how does one find peace after serving in the IDF?

#### Speakers

Rabbi Haviva-Ner-David, Mikveh Specialist Kibbutz Hanaton

Rabbi Jenny Solomon, founding director of Libi Er Awakened Heart Community Mikveh, Raleigh, North Carolina

Topic: Spiritual Experience of Mikveh Carly Coons, LSW, Director of Education and Programming Blue Dove Foundation Topic: Integrating Judaism and Mental

Wellness Rachel Landress, Lone Soldier

Topic: Experiences serving in the IDF

Register

#### Session Three

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Making Peace in Our World 19:00 Israel Time | 12:00 PM ET | 11:00 AM CT | 10:00 AM MT | 9:00 AM PT

עושה שלום, עזור לנו להביא שלום לעולם Oseh shalom, azor lanu le'havi shalom l'olam

Maker of Peace, help us to bring peace to the world

Isaiah proclaimed that God sent him to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to comfort all who mourn, and to bring joy instead of mourning. How do we make peace in a world that has been at war for almost two years? How does one resume life after being held hostage? How do we support soldiers who don't have a support system? And is it possible to extend a hand of friendship across a cultural divide?

#### Speakers

Rabbi Miriam Berkowitz, licensed Israeli tour guide, teacher, author Topic: Peace As the Ideal in Classic Jewish Texts

Lee Gordon, co-founder and director the American Friends of Hand in Hand/Yad b'Yad

Topic: TBA

A former hostage (TBD)

Topic: What it was like to be held captive in Gaza, and afterwards to rejoin Israeli society?

Stacie Stufflebeam, Executive Director, Michael Levin Lone Soldier Foundation Topic: Services offered by the Foundation to Support Lone Soldiers in Israel

Register

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

# 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

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

Let us know if you have any simchas, well wishes, and sorrows to pass on to heila Kaufman.

#### **Birthday Wishes**

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

#### Refeuah Shlemah

Wanda Pitzele, CGLR President Gina Seman, Pacific Southwest Region President

#### Baruch Dayan HaEmet

With sadness we advise you of the passing of Gary Zuckerman z"l, husband of WLCJ Board member Stacy Zuckerman. Messages of condolence may be sent to Stacy by email to seaboardcommunications@wlcj.org or to her home: 55 Garden Drive, Alexandria, VA 22304

#### 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** 

Read more

PRAYER FOR HOSTAGES

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

(in English & Hebrew)





#### **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 <u>here</u> to connect with the Garden State Region Facebook page. Click <u>here</u> 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.



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

3080 Broadway Suite K900 | New York, NY 10027 | Phone: 405-870-1260 | info@wlcj.org

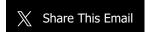
**WL WEEK** 

**DONATE TO WLCJ** 











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Ilene Rothman GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor gsrcommunications@wlcj.org

Garden State Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism | 3080 Broadway Suite K900 | New York, NY 10027 US

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