

Garden State Region News - July 11, 2025



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**



WL Week

Visit GSR Website

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[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!

It may be summer and you are busy with vacation, barbecues and fun in the sun. The GSR board is busy preparing for our summer workshops and the year ahead.

We will have our Summer Workshops that are open to the Garden State Region. A laid back time to discuss how the Region can help you and you can bring your questions, ideas and thoughts to the table. This will take place over 4 evenings. Each night is a different

subject so that you can attend as many as you would like. Mon. 8/4 is Programming, lead by the GSR VP of Programming, Susan Winter and Helene Knee, Education Chair. Mon. 8/11 is Membership, lead by Cheryl Sessler, GSR VP Sisterhood Support and Lisa Katz, Financial Secretary. And the last workshop on 8/13 is on Torah Fund lead by Cindy Manas, GSR Torah Fund VP. And lastly, Wed. 8/6 is for Sisterhood Presidents only whether you are new or ongoing with our WL Advisor, Toby Maser. All workshops start at 7:30 PM. Come to the workshops with your questions and ideas to discuss.

The 2025 Women of Achievement Gala Virtual Journal, the Honorees, and photos can be found on the [region website](#). This will be up all year.



The Region Newsletter will come out one or two more times over the summer and then we will be back for every other week beginning in September.

Let's pray for the victims, survivors and families of the Texas flooding.
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

"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



2025 GSR SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Take a Break, Catch up and Refresh with us in your cool home!

The Garden State Region is providing 3 workshops open to our region members this summer to help you plan, answer questions and help you produce a productive year. Give you insights on Membership, Programming, and Torah Fund with the new campaign *Oseh Shalom* for this year. Plus, a session just for Sisterhood Presidents (ongoing and new).

All workshops are open to Garden State Region members only.



All at 7:30 pm

**Mon. Aug. 4
Programming**

**Wed. Aug. 6
Sisterhood
Presidents Only
with Toby Maser,
WL Consultant**

**Mon. Aug. 11
Membership**

**Wed. Aug. 13
Torah Fund**

**Please register &
Zoom link will be
sent at time of
confirmation**

REGISTER HERE

For one or all!

Any questions

Sheila Kaufman

GSRpresident24@wlcj.org

2025 GSR Summer Workshops

The Garden State Region of WLCJ offers various summer workshops focused on enhancing Sisterhood Affiliate leadership skills. GSR members are invited to attend this summer's upcoming workshops. All sessions will be conducted via Zoom starting at 7:30 PM on the designated date. Please register for the session appropriate for your position in your Sisterhood Affiliate 2025-2026 administration and/or session(s) that you would be interested in. A Zoom link will be provided in the registration email confirmation.

Only GSR region members can register for these workshops.

Register

GSR FUTURE PROGRAMS - SAVE THE DATES

- September 14, 2025 - Coffee & Conversation with Our Israeli Kehilot
- November 16, 2025 - GSR Torah Fund Event
- 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 here.](#)
Please send your programs that you would like posted to both Ilene Rothman and Sheila Kaufman.

PROGRAMS FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Leadership Institute; July 27-29, Oheb Shalom Congregation, South Orange, NJ
 Reservations are now CLOSED.

GOOD AND WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION

Share your news and nachas with us!

Birthday Wishes

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

Refeuah Shlemah

Morton "Mort" Lasky z"l, husband of Iris Lasky, Past Pacific Southwest Region Branch President, member of WLCJ International Board and Torah Fund Cabinet. Messages of condolence may be sent to Iris's home or by email to RNBOWGAL1@aol.com

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.

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 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
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 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.


**We are
Women's League**

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

WL WEEK

DONATE TO WLCJ

PRAYER FOR HOSTAGES

Prayer for the Return of Slain Hostages

(in English & Hebrew)

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

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

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

Avinu 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.

Avinu 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.

ושלל ברחמים ונצחון את הפלסטי.

אבינו מלכנו, עשה למען הרחובים על שם קדשך ולמען סבוחים על ידך.

אבינו מלכנו, אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניך, וחסל עלינו ועל עוללנו חסד.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמהותינו, שתשמור, ותגור, ותחנך, ותשפץ ותגמל את משפחותיהם של חללי המלחמה אשר נחטפו ונרצחו בידי בני עולה וחושבו היום למנוחת עולמים בארץ קדשך לאחר 503 לילות וימים.

הרפא לשבויי לב ומחבש לעצבותם.

חבק באגרת חסדך את אהביהם, חבש את יסוריהם, רפא את פצעיהם ונתן להם ולנו נחמה ורמאות לגוף הרואב ולנפש הבוכה.

ואין לפניך ולמניט מצוה גדולה יותר מפיון שביות ושבויהם.

אנא, בעל הרחמים, עשה למען ישובו במהרה ויחזרו לארצנו ואלהינו אשר בשבי.

מי בשמחה - לחיים ולשקום, ומי בבכי - למנוחת עולמים.

ותקנים בנו ירשנו נעים ונאות לנפשותינו ונאמר אמן



 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.



Previous WLCJ Programming

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

[Visit Youtube](#)

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](#)

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.



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