

Garden State Region News - September 12, 2025



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**



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[Click on the Calendar icon for 2025-2026 GSR Calendar](#)
(Revised 9-4-25)
All times listed are Eastern Time



MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

"L'shanah tovah tikatevu v'techatemu"

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

This week begins the beginning of my retrospect along with all the other Jews in the world. For me, it started this past Wednesday at our Region Board meeting with my delivery of the d'var torah for Selichot Ki Tavo, 9/11 occurring the next day, and further contemplating this month of the High Holy Days. Ki Tavo focuses on gratitude, remembrance, and the consequences of our actions and Hope/Renewal. All of the emotions that take us through this period of the Jewish calendar.

I count myself very lucky to be here as a 9/11 survivor and hug my family extra tight during this time. I know that there are many others that are not so lucky. I also get to celebrate my daughter, who was born 2 years 2 days later. She is my bright star that came out of a dark time. With all this self reflection and notes of bettering myself I cannot help to think about the hostages still not with their families after more than 700 days. Please get them home to their loved ones.



Please remember that the Garden State Region Board members and I are here to support and answer all of your questions and offer guidance. 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 help publicize your events!

I wish all of you and your families *"L'shanah tovah tikatevu v'techatemu."* May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

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 - [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](#)



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



Message from SINDY MANAS, GSR TORAH FUND VP

"Wishing you and your family a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness."

The Women's League Torah Fund office in NYC has begun packing the 2025-2026 Torah Fund pins for direct shipment to the individual sisterhood/affiliates. Members of the Garden State Region volunteered to help with the packaging. (See pictures below.) Please be patient as the pins are made in Israel and delivery to the USA is experiencing some delays.

I am looking forward to wearing my pin for Rosh Hashanah. I

always receive many compliments on the beautiful piece of jewelry, but it is so much more than a pin. This year the theme for Torah Fund is **Oseh Shalom (Maker of Peace)**. "May the One who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us and all the people of Israel" appears at the end of the Kaddish and in other prayers.

A donation to Torah Fund will help educate students at the five global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education. Your generosity will provide the support needed for Jewish students to become the rabbis, cantors, educators and leaders of tomorrow.



Have you seen our e-cards? The designs are beautiful, and it is easy to send one. There are two Rosh Hashanah cards to choose from, as well as many other cards, and you can personalize the card. The cost is \$5 and it will contribute to your sisterhood/affiliate goal.

Our Region Torah Fund event will be on November 16, 2025 at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell. Check-in will be at 12:30 pm. Details to follow.

If you are planning a Torah Fund event, please send me an invitation. I would love to attend!

Wishing you and your family a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness.

Shabbat Shalom,

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



Members of the Garden State Region, Brooklyn Queens and LI Region, and Florida Region assisted with the packaging of the Torah Fund pins. Pictured left to right are Linda Klempner (BQLI), Sandy Kopell (BQLI), Barbara Kaplan (BQLI), Lynette Seader (GSR), Ilene Rothman (GSR) and Sheila Blutstein-Green (BQLI & FL).



Julia Loeb, WLCJ International President, and JTS Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz visited the volunteers in the Torah Fund office.

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

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

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 FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

TORAH FUND
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
[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.

GSR REGION PROGRAMS

- Sun. Nov. 16, 2025 @ 12:30 PM - GSR Torah Fund Event at Congregation Agudath Israel, Caldwell
- 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

REPAIR THE SEA'S 8TH ANNUAL REVERSE TASHLICH

 **ONLINE**

Sunday, September 28, 2025
All Day



As you begin planning your calendar for the coming year, don't forget to register your team for **Repair the Sea's 8th Annual Reverse Tashlich**—the world's largest Jewish waterfront cleanup!

The official date is **September 28, 2025**, but any cleanup held during the High Holiday season qualifies as a Reverse Tashlich.

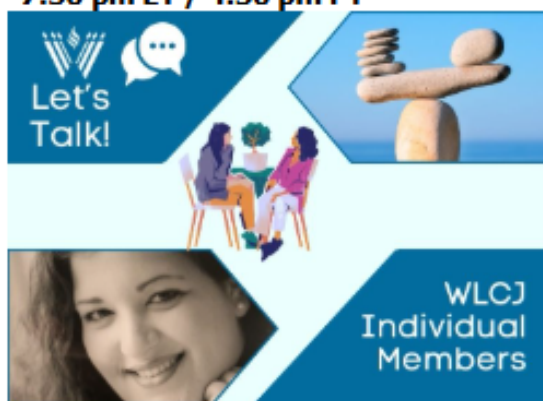
Last year, over **280 communities in 30 countries** participated, removing more than **11 tons of debris** from our waterways. This year, we're setting our sights even higher—and we need your help to make an even greater impact. **Register your team today and be part of this global movement for environmental repair.**

[Register](#)

LET'S TALK - WL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

 **ONLINE**

Wednesday, October 22, 2025
7:30 pm ET / 4:30 pm PT



How does a globe-trotting executive combine her career and Jewish identity?

Can you live a meaningful Jewish life while singing Christmas carols, coaching vampires, and touring the world with SpongeBob?

Aviva B. Ezring has done exactly that, balancing faith and tradition with a dynamic career managing live entertainment and global attractions. Aviva is an Individual Member of Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the daughter of longtime Women's League leader Barbara Ezring and Rabbi Murray Ezring.

Join us for a compelling conversation on identity, belief, and finding meaning in unexpected places.

[Register](#)



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Vivian Leber
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WLCJ Individual Membership Co-Chairs

Doreen Bornfreund
dbornfreund@wlcj.org
WLCJ Membership Chair

WL READS

 **ONLINE**

Sunday, November 23, 2025
7:00 pm ET / 4:00 pm PT



Tova Mirvis is the author of the memoir *The Book of Separation* as well as three novels, *Visible City*, *The Outside World* and *The Ladies Auxiliary*, which was a national bestseller. Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe Magazine* and *Real Simple*, and her fiction has been broadcast on NPR..

Inspired by a true story, ***We Would Never*** is a gripping mystery, an intimate family drama, and a provocative exploration of loyalty, betrayal, and the blurred line between protecting and forsaking the ones we love most.

Read along with your sisters and join WL Reads for a discussion with Tova Mirvis on **Sunday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm** Eastern Time. Even if you haven't had the opportunity to read the book by then, join us anyway. It will undoubtedly engage your attention.

[Register](#)



EMAIL

Karen Block
WL Reads Chair
kblock@wlcj.org

PREVIOUSLY PROMOTED - REVISIT THE DETAILS

Still need to register?

Click the image to explore each program series on Zoom. We'd love to have you join us!



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 [Sheila Kaufman](#).

Birthday Wishes

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

Refeuah Shlemah

Meryl Balaban, GSR Advisor, Morristown, heart surgery

Sharon Hammerman, GSR TF team and Sisterhood President's husband, Rabbi Richard, medical situation in hospital

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](#)

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.
וקבל גרממים ונרצחין את הפלסטה.
אבינו מלכנו. עשה למען הרומים על שם קדשך
ולמען סבוחים על ידך.
אבינו מלכנו. אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניך.
ותמל עלינו ועל עמלנו תמנו.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו ואמהותינו.
שחשמו, ותקברו, ותקונו. ותשפץ 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.
חנק באברת חסדך את אהביהם. חבש את יסוריהם. רפא את פצעייהם
ותן להם ולנו נחמה ורפואה לעוף הדואב ולקש הבוגר.

ואין לפניך ולפנינו מצוה גדולה יותר מפדיון עבדות ושבוים.
אנא. בעל הרחמים. עשה למען ישונו במחרת
יחד אבינו ואמהותינו אשר בשבי.
מי בשמחה - לחיים ולשקום. ומי בבשר - למנוחה עולמים.

ותקנים בנו דשבו נמים 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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Ilene Rothman
GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor
gsrcommunications@wlcj.org

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