

Garden State Region News - September 26, 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

"Shabbat Shalom and wishing you an easy fast."

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

This Rosh Hashanah brought some very moving and touching moments for me. I knew I would have limited time for meal preparation, so the chicken soup was done a few weeks ago and the kugels were squeezed in the last couple of days.

We had three simchas at our shul, a baby naming, an aufruf, and a conversion. Wonderful celebrations for all of them. Sunday, we took my mother to see my son's last

ballgame of the season, a major fete. We then celebrated Erev Rosh Hashanah in the park with our clergy, synagogue and the community at-large. This was the first time in the three years that we were able to participate. This was so inspiring, heartwarming, and soulful. I was so glad to be there.

The days were beautiful and inspirational. Dinner brought wonderful conversations with both family and friends. My son surprised us by coming home for winter break early. And my daughter was with us for the first time in five years. I look forward to being with our family again for Yom Kippur and Sukkot. I have much to be thankful for.

I hope all of you were filled with love during the holiday.

Shabbat Shalom and wishing you an easy fast.

Sheila

Sheila Kaufman

President, Garden State Region WLCJ

gsrcpresident24@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

"May you have an easy fast."

The Torah Fund pins will be packed promptly upon arrival and sent by priority mail. Thank you for your patience and your continued support of Torah Fund.

This year's Torah Fund theme is **Oseh Shalom (Maker of Peace)**. May peace come very soon to the State of Israel and all over the world.

As you receive Torah Fund checks for the current campaign, please make sure the checks are payable to Torah Fund. It is suggested you don't hold onto the checks. The checks need to be submitted with a transmittal form and sent with trackable mail. Please keep a copy of the transmittal form and also send



a copy to me.

Our Fall Torah Fund Event will be on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell. Check in will be at 12:30 pm. We are finalizing the details and will send them to you shortly.

May you have an easy fast.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Shabbat Shalom,

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



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.

TORAH FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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

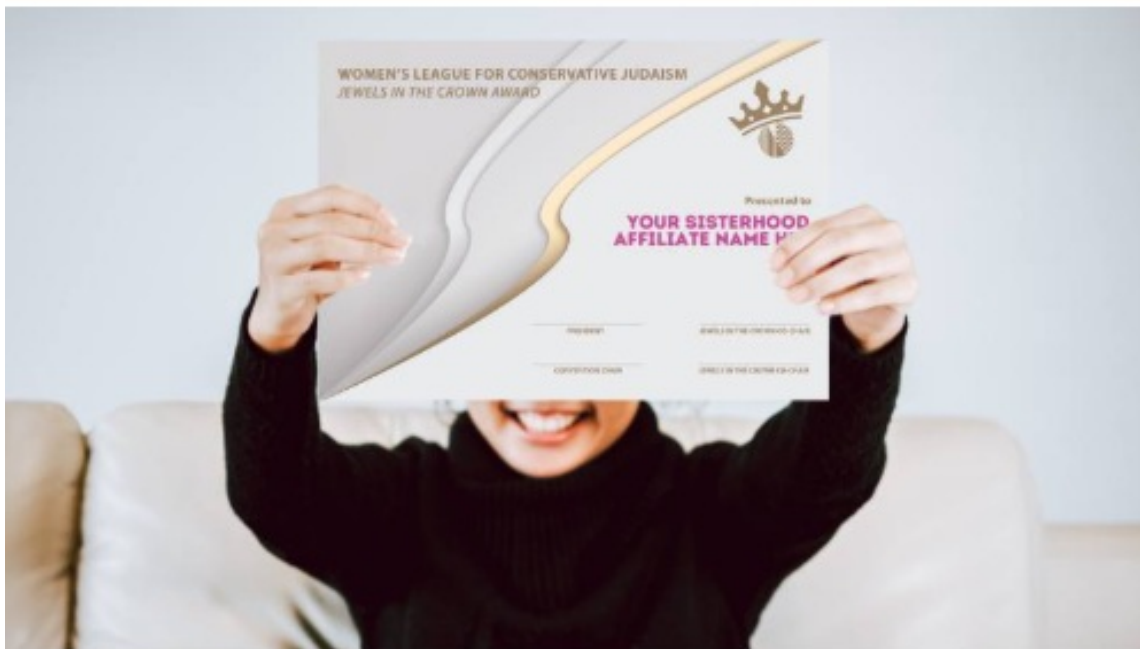
WEBSITE COMING SOON



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Engage, Enrich, Empower
Forging A Stronger Tomorrow

JEWELS IN THE CROWN 2026 APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!



We are excited to announce that the next Jewels in the Crown Award ceremony will take place during our upcoming **WL Convention** in **Alexandria, VA** in **July 2026!**

This signature award recognizes and celebrates Sisterhood Affiliates for their outstanding accomplishments in education, cultural programming, social action, and WL engagement.

[Read more](#)

SHABBAT MESSAGE

Finding Our Spiritual “App”

Pam Schlosberg

WLCJ Financial Secretary



Have you been paying attention to the Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution with its ever-increasing circle of applications? Depending on how they're used, these tools are hailed either as transformative innovations or disruptive forces.

If AI came with a user manual, we'd discover algorithms applied in countless ways: organizing healthcare records, editing videos, creating marketing strategies, or summarizing meetings. Other applications allow us to input key words and generate cover letters, recipes, or creative content. AI promises to shape our lives in unimaginable ways. It's an enabler for our culture of faster, quicker, better.

But if we pause, we recognize where AI is not the answer. Each application is a sort of compromise missing something essential, the human fingerprint.

[Read more](#)

MATHILDE'S MASTER CLASS YEAR THREE

ONLINE

2025-2026

2nd Tuesdays of each month

7:30 pm ET / 4:30 pm PT

Dates: Oct 21 • Nov 11 • Dec 9 • Jan 13 •
Feb 10 • Mar 10 • Apr 14 • May 12 • Jun 9



Meet this year's faculty:



Join us as we continue our three-year educational journey with Mathilde's Master Class, open to **WLCJ members**.

This year our theme is **Women's Voices in Ritual**. Our amazing group of instructors will be exploring how we can incorporate our voices in liturgy, life cycle events, (how to create) rituals and conclude with a discussion on how we as individuals can find our own Jewish voices.

- Taught by outstanding women scholars
- Sessions recorded (live attendance encouraged)
- Hebrew reading helpful, not required
- **Annual fee: \$36**

[Register](#)



EMAIL

Fran Hildebrandt

fhildebrandt@wlcj.org

WLCJ International Vice President and
Kehilah/Education Chair

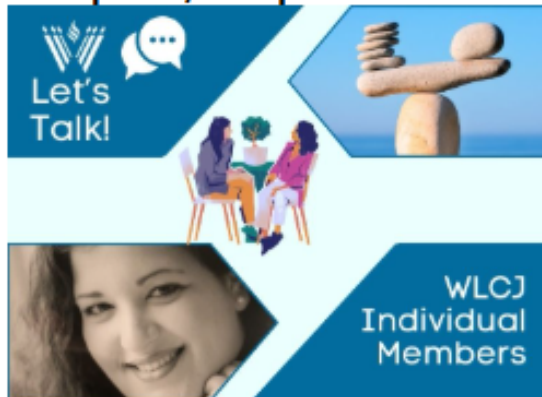
Meet the instructors and see what they'll be teaching – click [here](#).

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](#)



EMAIL

Susan Farber

sfarber@wlcj.org

WLCJ Individual Membership Co-Chairs

Vivian Leber

vleber@wlcj.org

Doreen Bornfreund

dbornfreund@wlcj.org

WLCJ Membership Chair

 **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!



WLCJ 5786 CALENDAR DIARIES



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Calendar Diaries are available.
Order yours today!

Pocket Size = \$12.00
Planner Size = \$26.00

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[Mail-in Order Form](#)

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

Arise Malkeinu, 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 Malkeinu, 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, וסבל נדבמים ונרצחו את הפלסטי.

אבינו מלכנו, עשה למען הרועים על שם קדשך ולמען סובחים על ידך.

אבינו מלכנו, אל נא תשיבנו ריקם מלפניך, ותמל עלינו ושל עללינו וטפט.

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

הרפא לשוכרי לב וטובש לעצבותם, חסד באגרת חסדך את אהביהם, חבש את יסוריהם, רפא את פצעייהם ונתן להם ולנו נחמה ורפואה למיך החואב ולנפש הבוכיה.

ואין לפניך ולפנינו מצוה גדולה יותר מפדיון עבדות ושבויה.

אנא, בעל הרחמים, עשה למען רשוכו במחנה יתר אמינו ונאחזימינו אשר בשבי, מי בשמחה - לחיים ולשקום, ומי בצער - למנוחת עולמים.

ותקנים בנו דשוכו 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

We are Women's League
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

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

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

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

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