

Garden State Region News - December 26, 2025



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**



**STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE**

WL Week

Visit GSR Website

GSR Region Programs

- **Sun. Jan. 4, 2026 @12:30 pm** - Coffee & Conversation on Zoom - Volunteer Medical Clowning in Israel
- **Wed. Jan. 21, 2026 @1-3 pm** - GSR helping out at NJ Community Food Bank - [Still accepting volunteers](#)
- **Sun. Feb. 8, 2026 or Sun. Feb. 22, 2026 @11 am** - Coffee and Conversation on Zoom - Meet with our Israeli Kehillot counterparts on Joy in Judaism: Family & Community.
- **Mon. Mar. 9, 2026 @7:30 pm** - Coffee and Conversation on Zoom - Rabbi Stefanie Dickstein compares Vashti to Queen Esther
- **Sun. May 3, 2026** - GSR Spring Conference
- **Sun.-Wed. July 12-15, 2026** - WLCJ Convention 2026, Alexandria, VA



GSR Coffee and Conversation on Zoom
Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 12:30 PM ET

**Laughter really is the best medicine:
Volunteer Medical Clowning in Israel**

Presenter – Lynn Kra-Oz

Lynn has been a volunteer medical clown for 18 years. She is a retired speech and language pathologist from Highland Park, NJ who made Aliyah.



What does "medical clowning" mean, anyway? Do medical clowns volunteer only in pediatric wards? What is so special about a red nose? How does one train for this unique volunteer role in Israel? Learn about all of this and more....!

Please Register at

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/s1/MYS0zeo/clowning>

Questions? Susan Winter at winter.susan@gmail.com

Register



**Join the Garden State Region
as We Volunteer
with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey
at their Hillside, NJ location**



**Wednesday, January 21, 2026
1 pm - 3 pm
31 Evans Terminal Road, Hillside, NJ
07205**

**You must individually sign up below for
the above date/time.**

**After you sign up, send an email with
your phone number to Tova Rothschild
at tovacrothschild@gmail.com.**

Spaces are limited.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY JANUARY 6, 2026.

Sign Up

Questions: Tova Rothschild, GSR Social Action Chair, tovacrothschild@gmail.com

Show you care about Israel by joining us for
our virtual series

Torah Fund Stands With Israel



An educational forum on the current dynamics and the role of our Jewish State

WELCOMING



Sawsan Natour-Hasson **Minister for Public Diplomacy, Embassy of Israel, Washington**

Previously Director of the Middle East Economic Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Ms. Natour-Hasson has held a variety of posts in the Foreign Ministry including Deputy Chief of Mission in Athens and in Sofia. Prior to that, Ms. Natour-Hasson was an attorney specializing in civil and labor law. Awarded the Prize of Excellence for her work at the Foreign Ministry, Ms. Natour-Hasson holds LL.B. and LL.M. law degrees from Haifa University. Married with two children and a cat, she is Druze and from Daliyat Al-Karmel.

AND



A Special Dvar Torah—Rabbi Murray Ezring

Rabbi Ezring was ordained by JTS in 1978, then served congregations in NJ, FL, and NC. In retirement Rabbi Ezring has served as an interim rabbi in VA, FL and MD. In addition to his congregational work, Rabbi Ezring was a member of the Community Building Initiative in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC and served on the NC Hate Crimes Task Force and as a volunteer Chaplain with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. Rabbi Ezring has taught at events of the Rabbinical Assembly, Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. He is married to Barbara Markman Ezring and they have four children and three grandchildren.

Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 2:00pm (eastern) on Zoom

[Register](#)

SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Please send your programs that you would like posted to both [Ilene Rothman](#) AND [Sheila Kaufman](#).

- Do you have any programs that you would like others to know about? Easy way to publicize your event! Let us know. Send a flyer in jpg or pdf format.
- Starting in January, we will also showcase affiliate programs. Submit up to 3 photos with captions and 2 sentences to describe your program. (We will shorten if necessary.)

PROGRAMS FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The WL Office will be closed from Thursday, December 25, 2025, through Thursday, January 1, 2026. We will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026.

The New WLCJ Slate Has Been Announced!

The WLCJ Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers for the 2026-2029 term. See below.

According to Section 7 Nominations by Petition of the WLCJ Bylaws, nominations may also be made by petition, provided the eligibility of the individual(s) so nominated has been established and is in accordance with these Bylaws. The nomination must be made by petition of an aggregate of seventy-five (75) WLCJ members representing at least three (3) Regions. The written consent of such individual(s) must have been secured and submitted with the petition to the WLCJ President within 21 days of the announcement of the slate.

Nominating Committee

Debbi Kaner Goldich, Chair
Barbara Ezring
Madeleine Gimbel
Gail Goldfarb
Judi Kenter
Iris Lasky
Margie Miller
Sherry Lynn Rubin
Edna Schrank

2026-2029 Slate of Officers

President: Pam Schlosberg | Central Great Lakes

Vice Presidents*

*Portfolios are recommended and subject to Board approval:

Torah Fund | Janet Kirschner | Mid-Atlantic and Seaboard
Education | Barbara Finkel | Seaboard
Membership | Teri Fields | Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island
Region Services | Deborah Bruce | North Atlantic
Consulting Services | Debbie Lempert | Central Great Lakes

Recording Secretary:

Lisa Green | MetroNorth

Treasurer:

Vivian Leber | Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island

Financial Secretary:

Jennifer Kalenscher | North by Northwest

2026-2029 Nominating Committee

Marilyn Berkowitz
Sandy Blumenthal
Debbi Kaner Goldich
Helene Herman
Toby Holtzman
Barbara Kaplan
Esti Lichtenstein
Teresa Samtur

Alternates:

Jeanette Brownstein
Marcia Toppall

WLCJ SHABBAT JANUARY 17, 2026 - MATERIALS AVAILABLE



2026/5786 – January 17/28 Tevet
Parashat Vaera

You are invited to tailor the following texts to meet the needs and goals of your Women's League Shabbat committee. We are pleased to offer a collection of poems, songs/music videos, articles, rabbinic excerpts, and readings based on the current Torah Fund theme of *Oseh Shalom*.

A generic *D'var Torah* is also included for those communities scheduling their Women's League Shabbat on a date other than *Parashat Vaera*.

Please stay tuned for additional materials that may be read at your services: letters of greeting from *Women's League International President Julia Loeb*, *Women's League Torah Fund Chair Lori Snow*, and *Women's League Executive Director Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields*, as well as a dedicated *D'var Torah* for *Parashat Vaera* to be used specifically on January 17, 2026.

[Learn More](#)

WL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

 **ONLINE**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
7:15 pm ET | 4:15 pm PT



Meet Jerilynn Payne:
Her Journey to Judaism, amid a Life of Service and Activism

Join us for an inspiring conversation with Jerilynn Payne, a Sisterhood Affiliate member, a "Jew by Choice," and WLCJ Board Member, serving as Co-Chair of the Women's League Cares Program.

Jerilynn will share her unique path to Judaism, along with stories from her varied careers, passions, and extensive volunteer work. Known for being "all-in" in everything she does, Jerilynn's vibrant energy and dedication make her story one you won't want to miss.

Discover how faith, service, and activism can come together in a life well-lived—come hear Jerilynn's journey!

[Register](#)



QUESTIONS?

Susan Farber

WLCJ Individual Membership Co-Chairs
sfarber@wlcj.org

Vivian Leber

WLCJ Individual Membership Co-Chairs
vleber@wlcj.org

Doreen Bornfreund

WLCJ Membership Chair
dbornfreund@wlcj.org

2026 UN Holocaust Remembrance Observation - January 27, 2026



**Tuesday, 27 January 2026 United Nations Holocaust Memorial Observance
11:00 am ET, General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters**

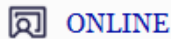
The Holocaust Memorial Observance will take place on the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The observance will feature Holocaust survivors sharing their testimonies, and official remarks by the Secretary-General, the President of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly and Representatives of the Permanent Missions of Israel and the United States to the United Nations. Ms. Melissa Fleming, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, will host the proceedings.

We hope you will follow the links below and join Sandy Koppel and Florence Wolpoff, WLCJ United Nations NGOs, on January 27, 2026, either in person or via live streaming to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day.

[Register by January 18, 2026](#) | Watch the event on [UN WebTV](#), [YouTube](#) and [X](#)

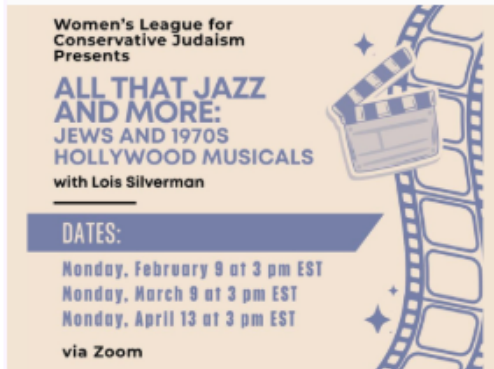
[Register](#)

ALL THAT JAZZ AND MORE



ONLINE

**Monday, February 9, 2026
at 3:00 pm ET**



All That Jazz and More—Jews and 1970s Hollywood Musicals

Explore the Jewish connections behind iconic 1970s Hollywood musicals. Through film clips and visuals, these stand-alone sessions highlight the Jewish actors, composers, writers, and directors who shaped films like *Cabaret*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Star Is Born*, and *Saturday Night Fever*. A must for movie and music lovers alike.

Session One—Monday, February 9, 2026
—*Fiddler on the Roof* and Tradition—
Traditional musicals

REGISTER

Upcoming sessions:

Session Two—Monday, March 9, 2026—
No Laughing Matters—Dramatically
themed musicals

REGISTER

Session Three—Monday, April 13, 2026
—Not Your Parents' Kind of Musicals—
Rock and contemporary musicals

REGISTER



QUESTIONS

Lois Silverman
lsilverman@wlcj.org

WL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



ONLINE

**Sunday, February 22, 2026
at 7:30 pm ET**



Join us for an engaging conversation with **Nina Manolson, M.A., NBC-HWC**, Body-Peace Coach, as we explore the complicated relationship Jewish women have with food, body, and tradition. Discover why it's so complex—and how to create more ease, nourishment, and peace for yourself and your legacy.

REGISTER



QUESTIONS

Debbie Bettan
Health & Wellness Chair
dbettan@wlcj.org

WL READS

 ONLINE

**Sunday, April 12, 2026
at 1:00 pm ET**



Join WL Reads for a lively conversation with international bestselling author Randy Susan Meyers. Known for her compelling voice and acclaimed novels, Meyers will discuss her latest book, *The Many Mothers of Ivy Puddingstone*, a thought-provoking exploration of altruism, justice, and sacrifice. **Registration is now open.** Read along and join us on Sunday, April 12 at 1:00 pm ET—even if you haven't read the book yet.

REGISTER

 QUESTIONS

Karen Block
WL Reads Chair
kblock@wlcj.org

WLCJ CONVENTION - JEWELS IN THE CROWN

WLCJ Convention 2026



Shabbaton: Friday–Saturday, July 10–11, 2026
Convention: Sunday–Wednesday, July 12–15, 2026



The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22311



Click the image to go to the online application or [here for PDF version](#).

Online Application

Download PDF Application

MASORTI DAYS OF STUDY

שני ימי לימוד נשים מסורתיות בחורף

של ליגת נשים, מדרשת שכטר והתנועה המסורתית

Two Winter Masorti Women's Study Days

Dos fechas Invernales de estudio Masorti para Mujeres | Два учебных дня для женщин

February 8, 2026

in person session - מפגש פיזי

Sunday / Domingo / Воскресенье / יום ראשון

16:15 – 20:30

Eshel Avraham, Beersheva באר שבע

March 9, 2026

zoom session - זום

Monday / Lunes / Понедельник / יום שני

19:00 – 21:45

The Search for Harmony: Text, Prayer, Song רחניות, מוזיקה, ספרות, מקורות, חזונית
Поиск гармонии: текст, молитва, песня La búsqueda de la armonía: Texto, Oración y Canción

Different subjects and lecturers at each event נושאים ומרצים שונים בכל אירוע

temas y profesores diferentes en cada evento На каждом семинаре большой выбор тем и лекторов

Save the Date: registration opens soon:

Reserva la fecha: Запомните дату

לשמור את התאריך:



The WWOT, the Weekly Words of Torah, each week through the end of June 2026, will connect to the **2025-2026 / 5786** Torah Fund general campaign, *Oseh Shalom – Maker of Peace*. To read more Weekly Words of Torah, [click here](#).

Parashat Vayigash | December 27, 2025

Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to obtain food a second time. This time they brought Benjamin along. To test them, Joseph accused Benjamin of stealing his goblet and threatened to keep him as a prisoner ...

[Continue Reading](#)

Parashat Vayechi | January 3, 2026

Seventeen years after moving to Egypt, Jacob's death was now at hand. Calling Joseph to him, he made him promise to bring his body back to Canaan for burial ..

[Continue Reading](#)

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!

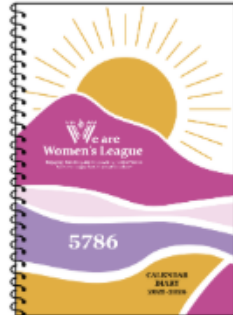


Sessions will meet on a Tuesday
night each month over Zoom at
7:30PM ET Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan
13, Feb 10, March 10, April 14,
May 12, June 9

Sun, Jan 25 - Tues, Jan 27,
2026
Hollywood, Florida

Registration ends soon!

WLCJ 5786 CALENDAR DIARIES



ORDER TODAY

Calendar Diaries are available.
Order yours today!

Pocket Size = \$12.00

Planner Size = \$26.00

Order Online

Mail-in Order Form

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

Schedule Update:

After this week, Makom B'Yachad will meet only
on Tuesday, December 23, and Tuesday, December
30 as we conclude the secular year.

Missed Giving Tuesday yesterday? You can still make a meaningful
gift to support the Masorti Women's Days of Study campaign!

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday contributions will be accepted for the full month of December.



Support our Giving Tuesday Campaign

Donate Now

WL WEEK

DONATE TO WLCJ

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.



Garden State Region
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



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