

# Garden State Region News - January 2, 2026



STAND  
WITH  
ISRAEL



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. 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

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT WILL NOT BE RECORDED.**



## 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](mailto:winter.susan@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT WILL NOT BE RECORDED.**

**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](mailto:tovacrothschild@gmail.com) .**

**Spaces are limited.**

Questions: Tova Rothschild, GSR Social Action Chair, [tovacrothschild@gmail.com](mailto:tovacrothschild@gmail.com)

**PLEASE SIGN UP BY JANUARY 6, 2026.**

**Sign Up**

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 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  
Esta Lichtenstein  
Teresa Samtur

## Alternates:

Jeanette Brownstein  
Marcia Toppall

WLCJ SHABBAT JANUARY 17, 2026 - MATERIALS AVAILABLE

# WOMEN'S LEAGUE Shabbat

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** **Vivian Leber**  
WLCJ Individual Membership Co-Chairs  
[sfarber@wlcj.org](mailto:sfarber@wlcj.org) [vleber@wlcj.org](mailto:vleber@wlcj.org)

**Doreen Bornfreund**  
WLCJ Membership Chair  
[dbornfreund@wlcj.org](mailto:dbornfreund@wlcj.org)

## 2026 UN Holocaust Remembrance Observation - January 27, 2026



**United  
Nations**

**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

Women's League for  
Conservative Judaism  
Presents

**ALL THAT JAZZ  
AND MORE:  
JEWS AND 1970S  
HOLLYWOOD MUSICALS**  
with Lois Silverman

DATES:

Monday, February 9 at 3 pm EST  
Monday, March 9 at 3 pm EST  
Monday, April 13 at 3 pm EST

via Zoom



**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](mailto:lsilverman@wlcj.org)

## WL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



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

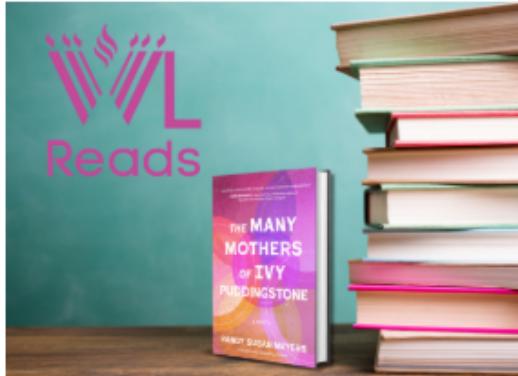
**Debbie Bettan**  
Health & Wellness Chair  
[dbettan@wlcj.org](mailto:dbettan@wlcj.org)

## 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](mailto:kblock@wlcj.org)

## WLCJ CONVENTION - JEWELS IN THE CROWN

### WLCJ Convention 2026



WHEN?

**Shabbaton:** Friday–Saturday, July

10–11, 2026

**Convention:** Sunday–Wednesday,  
July 12–15, 2026



WHERE?

**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 והתגונה המסורתית

### Two Winter Masorti Women's Study Days

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

February 8, 2026

מפגש פ'יזי

Sunday / Domingo / Воскресенье

16:15 – 20:30

Eshel Avraham, Beersheva

אשל אברהם, באר שבע

March 9, 2026

zoom session- זום

Monday / Lunes / Понедельник

19:00 – 21:45

ההיפוש אחריו הרמונייה: מקורות, פסנתר, מוזיקה, רוחניות  
Поиск гармонии: текст, молитва, песня La búsqueda de la armonía: Texto, Oración y Canción

משאים 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

לשמר 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!

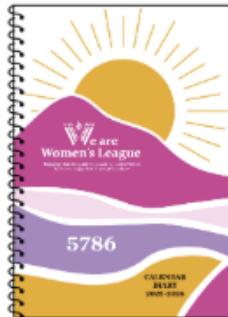


Sessions will meet on a Tuesday night each month over Zoom at 7:30PM ET Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9

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.

**We are  
Women's League**

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

[WL WEEK](#)

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

[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.



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GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor  
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