

Garden State Region News - November 7, 2025



Garden State Region
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



We are
Women's League
Engaging, Teaching and Empowering Jewish Women
Women's League for Conservative Judaism



STAND
WITH
ISRAEL



WL Week

Visit GSR Website

[Registration for the GSR Fall Torah Fund Event](#)
[extended till Sunday, Nov. 9.](#)
[Don't BEE left out.](#)

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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

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

I have started going to different sisterhood events this year. Thank you for inviting me. I look forward to meeting all of you. Please keep the requests coming. Below are a few pictures from Morristown and West Orange's Paid-Up dinners and Millburn's Torah Fund Benefactors.

The Region is helping out at the NJ Community Food Bank in Hillside, NJ on December 18th and I have to apologize that it is now closed for volunteers. The sight closed within a couple of days of announcing the date. Who knew that it would be so popular. If you signed up, please reach out to [Tova Rothschild](#). Also, we will schedule another day in January as soon as the calendar is published. In anticipation of that, please email Tova of your interest with your address and phone number.

The Garden State Region Fall Torah Fund Event is just over a week away on Sunday, November 16 at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell. Doors open at 12:30 pm with the Chinese lunch and program beginning at 1 pm.

Registration is still open. The deadline is extended to Sunday, Nov. 9. Please register, there will be no walk-ins. The information is below. We are honored to have JTS student Maya Krouse as our guest speaker and we will have a tribute for the late Ruth Aach z"l, who passed away last year.

The GSR Nominating Committee is now in full swing looking for the next group of women to lead our wonderful region for the 2026-29 Administration. If you or you know someone who would be interested in a position on the board, please reach out to [Lynette Seader](#), GSR Nominating Chair. See her article below.

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](#)

Message from SINDY MANAS, GSR TORAH FUND VP

Congratulations to all sisterhood/affiliates who participated in the 2024-2025 Torah Fund campaign "Am Yisrael Chai". The following sisterhood/affiliates will receive a certificate of participation at our Fall Torah Fund Event on November 16, 2025 at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell.

Aberdeen, Temple Beth Ahm
Caldwell, Congregation Agudath Israel
Clark, Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah
Closter, Temple Emanu-El



Cranford, Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim
East Brunswick, East Brunswick Jewish Center
Fair Lawn, Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Cong. B'nai Israel
Fort Lee, The Jewish Community Ctr. of Fort Lee/Gesher
Shalom
Highland Park, Highland Park Cons. Temple-Cong.
Anshe Emeth
Howell, Congregation Ahavat Olam
Livingston, Temple Beth Shalom
Metuchen, Congregation Neve Shalom
Millburn, Congregation B'nai Israel
Montville, Pine Brook Jewish Center
Morristown, Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael
North Brunswick, Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Oakhurst, Congregation Torat El
Old Bridge, Congregation Beth Ohr
Ridgewood, Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center
Scotch Plains, Congregation Beth Israel
Somerset, Temple Beth El
South Orange, Miriam Sisterhood, Oheb Shalom Congregation
Teaneck, Congregation Beth Sholom
Toms River, Congregation B'nai Israel
West Orange, B'nai Shalom
Woodcliff Lake, Temple Emanuel of Pascack Valley



Non-affiliated participants in Torah Fund

South Orange, Congregation Beth El
Summit, Cong. Ohr Shalom, The Summit Jewish Center

Participated in Torah Fund for 2024-25

Met Torah Fund Goal for 2024-25

Registration for the Fall Torah Fund Event has been extended until Sunday, November 9, 2025.

Thank you for your continued, generous support of Torah Fund.

Shabbat Shalom,

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

Registration deadline extended until Sunday, November 9.



Oseh Shalom
Maker of Peace



Fall Torah Fund Event And 2024-25 GSR Torah Fund Achievement Awards

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Check in begins: 12:30 pm

Program/Lunch: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Congregation Agudath Israel, 20 Academy Road, Caldwell

Presents

Maya Krouse

My Journey to JTS

Maya is a first-year Rabbinical student at JTS.

She feels called to pursue a career in the Rabbinate because of a love of Judaism and particular interest in interreligious dialog. In recognizing the power that people of faith have in strengthening each other, she hopes to strengthen Jewish communities by engaging them with communities outside of Judaism. She has a lifelong passion for the Spanish language and more recently Hebrew. Maya hopes that both languages will allow her to engage with a diverse range of Jewish communities. Before attending JTS, Maya was teaching English to elementary school students in Spain. She holds a BA from Occidental College where she studied Politics and Spanish.

Tribute to

Ruth Aach z"l

March 5, 1925 – October 11, 2024

Ruth was a past member at Temple Emanu-El, Closter; WLCJ Torah Fund Cabinet member and board member; and a major Torah Fund donor.

Chinese Buffet Luncheon

Cost & Registration

\$40/\$41.20 Early Bird Registration by **Oct. 26**

\$50/\$51.50 Regular Registration and no later than **Nov. 5**

Donations in memory of Ruth Aach z"l are greatly appreciated and will go to Torah Fund. Tributes will be posted in the program.

➤ [Register Online HERE - You must register, there will be no walk-ins.](#)

➤ **Send Checks:** payable to **Garden State Region WLCJ**

Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Include Name(s), contact information and Sisterhood/Town, dietary needs, and Tribute message.

➤ **Credit Card:** (VISA or MasterCard only) accepted with a 3% increase shown in blue.

Questions: Sindy Manas, GSR TF VP, smanas750e@gmail.com

REGISTER

If you are using a credit card for payment, please be sure to include the service charge in your payment. Only VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted. We will follow-up with you if the service charge is not included.

Questions: Sindy Manas, GSR TF VP, smanas750e@gmail.com

The Garden State Region Needs You!

The GSR Nominating Committee has begun its work to prepare a new slate of Region officers for the 2026-2029 administration. We want to hear from you for suggestions of



women in your Affiliate Sisterhood who you believe would be interested in joining our leadership team and should be considered for nomination. There are a variety of positions to match different areas of experience, skills, and interests of your talented Sisterhood leaders. Most meetings are held online.

The GSR Region Board of Directors is friendly, cohesive, and welcoming. We work closely with the International Women's League for Conservative Judaism administration to support, connect and strengthen the Affiliate Sisterhoods in Central to Northern New Jersey.

Positions include Region President, Torah Fund Vice President, Membership/Sisterhood Support Vice-President, Program/Education/Sustainability Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, Corresponding/Administrative Secretary and Communications Secretary as well as members of the Sisterhood Support, Program/Education and Torah Fund teams. [Full Position List.](#)

You may suggest someone (including yourself!) by completing and submitting the attached [ONLINE BIOGRAPHY FORM](#), or completing and mailing the [PRINTABLE BIOGRAPHY FORM](#). **Deadline for submission is November 23rd.** Please feel free to contact **Lynette Seader**, GSR Nominations Chair with questions and to receive detailed job descriptions.

Thank you for your dedication to your Affiliate Sisterhood and the Garden State Region.

Lynette Seader
GSR Nominations Chair
28 Bosko Drive
East Brunswick, NJ 08816
LynetteSeader59@gmail.com

Nominations Team:
Heddy Belman, Arlene Bernhardt, Donna Burkat, Phyllis Miller, Teresa Samtur, Susan Sferas



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



Announcing Our 2025-2026 Campaign Theme:

Oseh Shalom

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם

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 torahfunddecards.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.

[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

- **Mon. Nov. 10, 2025 @ 7:30 pm - "Joys and Oys" for Sisterhood Presidents**
- **Sun. Nov. 16, 2025 @ 12:30 pm - GSR Torah Fund Event at Congregation Agudath Israel, Caldwell**
- **Thurs. Dec. 18, 2025 - GSR helping out at NJ Community Food Bank - Closed**
- **Sun. Jan. 4, 2026 - Coffee & Conversation on Zoom - Israel Program**
- **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](#).

West Orange, B'nai Shalom
Paid Up Member Dinner



Morristown Jewish Center Beit
Yisrael Paid Up Member
Dinner



Millburn, B'nai Israel
Torah Fund Benefactors



GOOD & 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 November anniversaries and birthdays, **Yom Huledet Sameach!**

Refuah Shlema

- Marion Mohl on her upcoming surgery

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

- Miriam Bergwerk, z"l, past Northern NJ Branch President 1998-2000, WLCJ Board member, died October 31, 2025. Messages of condolence may be sent to her daughter Naomi Bergwerk, 4309 Pointe Gate Drive, Livingston, NJ 07039.
- Mitzi Ayn Goodis z"l, Past Pacific Southwest Region Branch President 1974-1976.
- Carey Glass z"l, son-in-law to Lila Frost, past BQLI President and WLCJ Board Member, husband to Hillary.

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.

PROGRAMS FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE



Shabbat Message

November 8, 2025 | 17th of Cheshvan, 5786

Reflections on the World Zionist Congress

Julia Loeb

WLCJ International President



Last week we read *Parashat Lekh-Lekha*, which opens with a divine call that continues to shape Jewish destiny: "Go forth from your land, from your birthplace, and from your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1).

That journey, leaving comfort for purpose, is the Torah's original act of Zionism. Abraham's response to God's call became the model for generations of Jews who have heard their own summons to build and renew Jewish life in the Land of Israel.

This past week, that same spirit of *Lekh-Lekha* was alive in Jerusalem at the 39th World Zionist Congress (WZC). Like Abraham, more than 100 MERCAZ representatives from over 15 countries on five continents in our worldwide Masorti/Conservative movement "went forth," joining hundreds of other proud Zionists. Together, we reaffirmed our covenant with Israel and helped shape the future of the Zionist movement.

[Read more](#)

Reflections on Yitzhak Rabin



The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, 30 Years Later

30 years ago today, **Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin** was coldly assassinated. A leader whose courage and vision for peace continue to echo through the generations, we remember not only his role as a statesman and soldier, but as a man who believed deeply in the power of dialogue, understanding, and hope.

As we reflect on his legacy, we renew our own commitment to building bridges, fostering peace, and upholding the values that guided his life's work.

May his memory be for a blessing, and may his dream of peace continue to guide our hearts and actions.

NEXT WLCJ LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

IN-PERSON

Sunday, January 25 - Tuesday, January 27, 2026



Women's League for Conservative Judaism – committed to developing skilled and dedicated leaders – invites you to attend an inspiring Leadership Institute that will expand your skills as a leader and enhance your knowledge as a Jewish woman while strengthening your connection to Women's League, your Sisterhood Affiliate, your community, and *Klal Yisrael*.

The next Women's League Leadership Institute is scheduled for **January 25-27, 2026** at **Temple Sinai in Hollywood, FL**.

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE?

A multi-day workshop that will enhance your personal style of communication with interactive exercises and role-playing, and will help you discover tips and techniques for using language that motivates, stimulates and encourages women to volunteer. An opportunity to network with other women, master goal-setting, time management and team-building. Learn the secret of keeping yourself challenged.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT THAN OTHER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS?

The Leadership Institute's unique format allows participants to build a personal program to expand **Jewish knowledge and leadership skills**.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

\$299 includes materials, programming, and meals. This fee does not include hotel or transportation to Temple Sinai in Hollywood, FL.

Registration for the hotel is \$134/single and \$144/double + tax per night. [Click here](#) to reserve a room in the Leadership Institute room block at the **LaQuinta Suites by Wyndham in Hollywood, FL**.

Make sure that your check-in/check-out dates are listed appropriately. According to WLCJ guidelines, please do not travel on Shabbat. These rooms can be accommodated into double occupancy. Before booking, please let us know who you will be sharing the room with for our records and explain how split payment will be handled.

The learning and sense of community created during the Institute comes both from the shared experiences during the formal program and the unstructured time together at the hotel. To facilitate this, we strongly urge local participants to stay with the rest of the group at the hotel.

[Register](#)



QUESTIONS?

Debbie Zimmerman

WLCJ Leadership Institute Logistics Chair

dzimmerman@wlcj.org



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](#).

This week's *parashah* begins with three celestial messengers paying a visit to Abraham and Sarah. They come to tell Sarah that she will have a child within the year (God had previously shared this news with Abraham).

Leaving the household, Abraham accompanies the three visitors as they head towards Sodom. God shares with Abraham a plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because their sin has become severe . . .

[Continue Reading](#)

PREVIOUSLY PROMOTED - REVISIT THE DETAILS

**Still need
to
register?**

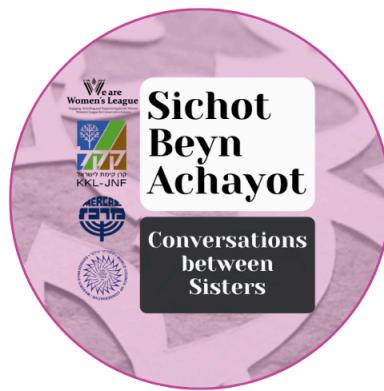
Click the image to explore each program series on Zoom. We'd love to have you join us!



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



Sunday, November 23
7pm ET



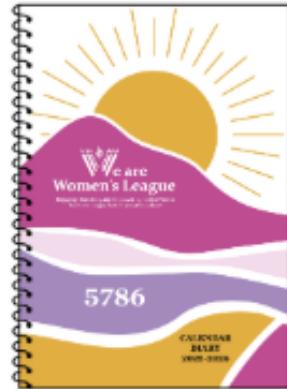
Sunday, December 7
12:00 PM ET
Session 3



Thursday, December 11
7:30 pm EST

Authentic communication – an opportunity to discover practical, powerful tools for expressing yourself with clarity and integrity.

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

PRAYER FOR HOSTAGES

Prayer for the Return of Slain Hostages

(in English & Hebrew)

**תפילה עם שובם של
חללי המלחמה**

ברוך אתה יה' אלקיינו מלך טהולם דין קאמת
אכית מלכיך, שמע קולך חס ורוח אליכנו,
קפאל בגדעוןיהם ובקראון אוח רפלקס
אכית טבכון, עשה למן זורבם על שם ברוך
ולמפני טהורתם על יושעך.
אכית מלכון, אל נך קשינו וריקם מלךינו,
ונתנו צלות וועל שלל צפונם.

יה' רצון טהורהך וך אל ליטותך ואלך אבגנותך וך
שענשנותך, קבונך, שטחןך וטחונך אוח טפוחונך וטחונך כל
סכללי מלומדך גראן זמאנך וטחונך ורוצחן בירן גני זלה וחוותן פיהם.
לקיוטהן על מלכים אוצרן פרעה לאורהן 503 לילון זמיים.

קורא לך קוראי לך ווחש לעצובותך,
חכם בAKEROT שסרך תות ואורחותך, ובש את געחים
לון לון ולטן ולטן ורומאה לטען החואב וולעטן הבונחן.

ואי שפניך וילטנץ מטען גוזלה ישור טפוחן קבוריות שטויים
אנדר בעל דרכיהם, צשאה לטען ישבותן במנוחה
ויר אדרות גאנזיטוטן אונדער זונען,
מי פאלטחן - לחיים ולשיקום, ומי בבדער - למתנת עזקהין,
ויזקען בון זעטנו גאנזים ובקותן לאונזעלם
ואנדר אונן

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

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.



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

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NY 10027 US

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