

Garden State Region News - January 23, 2026



STAND
WITH
ISRAEL



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TO JEWISH
HATE

WL Week

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MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

This past Monday, we celebrated the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. I cannot help but think of the similarities between MLK and Judaism.

One of the values is Social Justice, where everyone is given an equal opportunity in jobs, being treated fairly and equally regardless of their background, race, or religion. Another is *Tikkun Olam*, Repairing the World. By making the world a better place, we are giving of ourselves in acts of kindness and volunteerism. This past Wednesday, the Garden State Region acted upon this and volunteered at our second opportunity at the Community Food Bank of NJ (CFBNJ) in Hillside. Sixteen of us, including two husbands, plus two other volunteers under the guidance of Reed from CFBNJ, eagerly braved the cold to pack 74 boxes of food in 1.5 hours. That was a great feat for being a small bunch. Yasher Koach team! A fun time was had by all. Thank you Tova Rothschild, GSR Social Action Chair, for organizing the event. Some photographs are below and others will be posted on our [website](#).



Consider bringing this event to your sisterhood or synagogue for a mitzvah day! Or grab a buddy and just volunteer, they are always looking for help! It is quite fulfilling and you will feel great. Check out www.cfbnj.org to learn more and sign up!

New this year in our Programming Newsletter, in addition to publicizing your upcoming sisterhood affiliate events, we will showcase your events, so get those phone cameras rolling! And do not forget to invite me to your programs, too! Presidents, please reach out to me to come to one of your programs, meetings or events. I would love to be with your members.

Shabbat Shalom,

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](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GSR NOMINATED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2026-2029

Thank you to Lynette Seader, Nominations Chair and her nominating committee of Heddy Belman, Arlene Bernhardt, Donna Burkat, Phyllis Miller, Teresa Samtur and Susan Sferas for preparing our Slate of Officers for 2026-2029.

We are proud to present our List of Officers.



**Garden State Region - WLCJ
Board of Directors
Nominated Slate for the 2026-2029 Term**



President	Sindy Manas, Temple Beth Ahm, Aberdeen
Vice Presidents	
Programming VP	Bonnie Isaacson, B'nai Shalom, West Orange
Sisterhood Support VP	Cheryl Sessler, Cong. Beth Shalom, Livingston
Torah Fund VP	Ilene Weber, Pine Brook Jewish Center, Montville
Secretaries	
Communications	Lynette Seader, Highland Park Conservative Temple-CAE, Highland Park
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Leveene, Temple Beth Ahm, Aberdeen
Recording Secretary	Ilene Rothman, East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick
Financial Secretary	Lisa Katz, Cong. Beth Shalom, Livingston
Treasurer	Donna Franklin, Cong. Agudath Israel, Caldwell
Parliamentarian	Dorothy Cohen, Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael, Morristown
Immediate Past Pres./Nominations	Sheila Kaufman, Miriam Sisterhood, Oheb Shalom Cong., South Orange
Advisor to Exec./Past Pres. Council	Meryl Balaban, Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael, Morristown
Advisor to Exec. Comm.	Heddy Belman, Pine Brook Jewish Center, Montville
Archives	Heddy Belman, Pine Brook Jewish Center, Montville
Directory	Teresa Samtur, Cong. B'nai Tikvah, North Brunswick
Hospitality - Events	Teri Manes, Highland Park Conservative Temple-CAE, Highland Park
Madricha	<i>Selection to be made by Region President</i>
Sunshine Fund	Fran Katz, Cong. Ahavat Olam, Howell
Ways & Means	Nancy Mayrowetz, Cong. Ahavat Olam, Howell
Webmaster & Zoom Support	Helene Davis, East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick
Programming Team	
Education	Leslie Gleaner, B'nai Shalom, West Orange
Sustainability/Environmental	Helene Knee, Highland Park Conservative Temple-CAE, Highland Park
Public Policy	Marlene Oslick, Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, Cranford
Social Action	Tova Rothschild, B'nai Shalom, West Orange
Israel Affairs	Rahel Shapiro, Temple Israel & JCC, Ridgewood
Social Justice/Community Affairs	Susan Winter, Highland Park Conservative Temple-CAE, Highland Park
Sisterhood Support/Membership Team	
Team	Arlene Bernhardt, Temple Israel & JCC, Ridgewood
Team	Joan Gillman, Cong. Beth Shalom, Teaneck
Team	Sebley Hausler, Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah, Clark
Independent Member	Jacalyn Walzer, Cong. Agudath Israel, Caldwell
Torah Fund Team	
Consultant	Sharon Hammerman, Cong. Agudath Israel, Caldwell
Torah Fund Team	Donna Burkat, B'nai Shalom, West Orange
Torah Fund Team	Elise Norwitz, B'nai Shalom, West Orange
Torah Fund Team	Janice Saferstein, East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick
Torah Fund Team	Susan Sferas, Cong. Torat El, Oakhurst
Region Representative	Helene Knee, Highland Park Conservative Temple-CAE, Highland Park
Region Representative	<i>Open</i>

Election of the Slate of Officers for 2026-2029 will take place at the Garden State Region Spring Conference on May 3, 2026. Following are the Garden State Region by-laws for handling region nominations and elections. Any questions can be addressed to Nominating Committee Chair [Lynette Seader](#) or 732-429-9777.

Article IX, Section 3 – Nominations/Elections

Garden State Region by-laws

- A. By 90 days prior to the region conference at which elections, take place the nominating committee shall report to the region board, immediately sending its written report to the League nominating committee, and circulate its report to the region's affiliates together with a copy of Article IX, Sec.3b, which states the right to petition.
- B. Additional nominations may be made 45 days prior to the Region Conference at which elections take place by petition signed by the representatives of at least 3 affiliates within the region, together with the written consent of the nominee, submitted to the region nominating committee.
- C. Upon expiration of the final date for additional nominations where no additional nominations are presented, the slate of the nominating committee shall become the electoral ballot.

D. The slate of the region nominating committee plus the nominations by petition shall be in the hands of the affiliate boards of directors at least one month before election at region conference. The names shall be listed alphabetically for each office if there is more than one candidate.

GSR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF NJ OUTING



The Team (l to r): Michelle Bobrow, Mirabella Sheppard, Maxine Levitt, Tova Rothschild, Sheila Kaufman, Barry Lovett, Susan Winter, Bonnie Isaacson, Bonnie Smiler, Donna Burkat, Jane Kaplan, Leslie Gleaner, Lynette Seader, Elise Norwitz, Gavin Norwitz, Suzanne Grossman



Gavin and Elise Norwitz



Mirabella Sheppard and Bonnie Smiler



Maxine Levitt and Sheila Kaufman



Suzanne Grossman and Leslie Gleaner



On the right, are the pallets of food to go through and organize into the boxes on the left.



The warehouse. Once the boxes are filled in the middle tables, they are brought over to get weighed and labeled. The boxes are then sealed and placed onto the pallets on the far left for distribution.

GSR REGION PROGRAMS

- **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 and Installation of Officers; Congregation B'nai Israel, Millburn
- **Sun.-Wed. July 12-15, 2026** - WLCJ Convention 2026, Alexandria, VA

SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Temple Beth El of Somerset

presents

A Women's Seder

A Celebration of the Women in Our Lives

*Sunday,
March 8, 2026*

4:30 pm

\$36 pp

*Be a part of this event with
Special Guest Chef, Naomi
Lasky and Special Guest
Leader, Sherri Morris.*

See below for details.



A dedicated Haggadah has been written for this very special event.

All women are invited, and you do not need to be a temple member or Jewish. To make this event memorable, we do ask for just a few things from you to help us prepare.

Submission for Haggadah: Think of a woman in your life you would like to celebrate by having her picture and a dedication in our personalized Haggadah.

\$5 - Please email or bring to the temple a picture of her, with a 1-2 sentence dedication written below.

\$3 - If you would like to do just a dedication **or** just a picture.

*Please provide this information ***no later than Jan. 30th***: Complete the information below, email this form and the picture you've chosen to Lisa, tbesomerset@gmail.com. You can also come by the temple during office hours and provide this form, payment and your picture will be scanned and returned to you.

Your name: _____

Your email: _____

Name of pictured person: _____

Their relationship to you: _____

**If you are doing a dedication, please provide 1-2 sentences about this person: _____

Your submissions will become part of the Haggadah, making this event even more special and memorable! Please join us!

An email invitation will be sent separately. Invite and bring your family, friends, neighbors!

TO PRINT FORM

Questions? Lisa at tbesomerset@gmail.com

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.)



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



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 your 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](mailto:SindyManas@gmail.com) at SindyManas@gmail.com.

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 January anniversaries and birthdays, **Yom Huledet Sameach!**

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

- **Mona Gross z"l**, past President of the former Pacific Northwest Branch of WLCJ. Messages of condolence may be sent to Mona's husband Don Gross, 202-6623 172nd St NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T5T 6J2, Canada.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

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 gstrasurer@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

WLCJ PROGRAMS AND MESSAGES

Shabbat Message

January 17, 2026 | 28th of Tevet, 5786

Cruising into 2026 with Jewish Pride and Joy

Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields

WLCJ Executive Director



At the end of December 2025, my husband and I were privileged to take a seven day cruise for an early 25th wedding anniversary celebration. One of my favorite activities on a cruise is attending the art auction. When I was waiting for the art auction on the cruise to begin, a couple sat in front of me, and he turned to me and said, “*Am Yisrael Chai*,” and pointed to my necklace. I thought I was wearing last year’s Torah Fund pin, but he was actually pointing to this year’s pin. Seeing Hebrew, he made the connection with me, and I noticed that he too and the woman he was with had something on their Apple Watch that said *Am Yisrael Chai*. He told me that he has made a point of speaking to everyone he saw with some symbol of Judaism. And of course, after meeting them, I saw them every few hours of the rest of the cruise.

[Read more](#)

WLCJ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BE HONORED AT JTS CONVOCATION

 **ONLINE**

Monday, February 23, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM ET



Please join us as **WLCJ Executive Director Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields** receives an honorary doctorate from JTS.

[Register for the Livestream](#)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



New Feature: Why WLCJ Individual Membership?

WHY *ALMOST* INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP?

Rediscover the power of community in our new series highlighting the diverse journeys of our Individual Member. We begin with **Doreen Bornfreund**, who reveals the personal experience that sparked it all: how she *almost* became an Individual Member.

[READ THE FIRST INSTALLMENT](#)

Submit your stories (300 words max) to:

Doreen Bornfreund

WLCJ Membership Chair

dbornfreund@wlcj.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PROGRAMMING WITH PANACHE

Searching for new programs to showcase and present? Wondering what kinds of educational programs are available to offer?

The WLCJ Kehilah and Education Committee are putting together a third edition of program ideas. We have not updated our reservoir of ideas in almost three years. Our hope is to create a new and updated guidebook that will not only provide you with spectacular program ideas but will also give you a plethora of information and resources that you can use in your Region and with your Sisterhood Affiliate.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please send us program ideas and descriptions that we can include in our guidebook. There is no restriction on topic nor is it only Officers that can submit; this is open to anyone! These can be programs that have already been presented over the last few years or will soon be presented. Please include the following in your submission:

- The name of the program
- A brief description of what the program is about
- Any other pertinent information you would like to include (name of the presenter/s, necessary materials, what made it such a great program, etc.)
- The name and contact information of someone for more information

All submissions must be sent to Fran Hildebrandt at fhildebrandt@wlcj.org by March 15. If you have further questions, contact Fran via email or Whatsapp 248-318-8301.

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](#)

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

SPECIAL ONLINE BRIEFING | IRAN: A TURNING POINT... BUT TO WHERE?

 **ONLINE**

Sunday, February 1, 2026
1:00 pm ET | 12:00 noon CT | 11:00 am MT | 10:00 am PT |



Senior Researcher at INSS and ex-senior Mossad official
SIMA SHINE | Former Mossad Research Chief and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Affairs



Join us for a special Zoom briefing on developments from Iran with **former senior Mossad official and Deputy National Security Advisor Sima Shine.**

[Register](#)

For more information or questions:
mercaz@mercazolami.org

SPRING 2026 WLCJ CLASSES: LEARN HEBREW, FROM THE SIDDUR TO THE TORAH



ONLINE

Learning Hebrew

Prayerbook Reading
For Women's League Members



SPRING
Classes start
**February
2026**

Registration for
**ALL Levels is
NOW OPEN!**

Registration Is Open for All Spring Semester Classes

If you would like to expand your Jewish literacy skills, and/or improve your ability to read Biblical Hebrew, you should take one of our classes.

Classes begin on February 4, 2026.

Our **Level 2+** is for students who have previously taken this class before and do not yet read smoothly. Prayers from Shabbat and holidays will be used to improve reading fluency and understanding.

Our **Level 3+** class is for students who have taken this class before and wish to continue at this level.

Our **Level 4 - Chumash** class is for proficient Hebrew readers who want to strengthen their skills and learn vocabulary through the weekly Torah and Haftarah portions.

Our **Level 4 - Advanced Siddur** class is for students who previously took our Level 3 Grammar class and members with strong Hebrew reading ability. This class will delve into prayers by examining word roots, prefixes, suffixes and essential grammar.

A minimum of 6 students is required for each class.

[Register](#)



QUESTIONS?

Rachel Ferber
rferber@wlcj.org
Hebrew Course Chair

WLCJ WORKSHOP: TOOLBOX TALKS SERIES



Announcing: Toolbox Talks for Sisterhood Affiliates
a dynamic Zoom series open to all Women's League members

Are you looking for solutions to today's leadership challenges?
Would you like to learn the difference between having a title and being an effective leader?
Do you want to turn goals into accomplishments?

If you said yes, then Toolbox Talks for Sisterhood Affiliates is for you!

Join us for one session, all six, or however many work with your schedule.

[Register](#)

Upcoming Toolbox Talks sessions:

February 5, 2026
March 5, 2026
May 7, 2026
June 4, 2026

Anise Parnes
WLCJ International Vice President and
Consulting Services Vice Chair
aparnes@wlcj.org

 **ONLINE**

Sunday, February 8, 2026
16:50 Israel Time | 9:50 am ET



Schedule Update for February 8
This program is moved to Zoom. Please join us online!

NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Zoom ID	Meeting ID	Meeting Password

The Search for Harmony: Text, Prayer, Song

Schedule (via ZOOM)

Welcome (16:50): Rabbi Diana Vila

First session (17:05-18:15)

Class in English with Rabbi Diana Vila

Class in Spanish with Vila Balter

Second Session (18:25-19:35)

Class in English with Dr. Shana Mauer

Class in Spanish with Rabbi Diana Villa

Final Words (19:45-19:50): Rabbi

Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields

The Masorti Women's Days of Study were created and directed by Women's League for Conservative Judaism, in cooperation with the Schechter Institutes of Jewish Studies and the Masorti Movement.

[Register](#)



QUESTIONS?

Diane Friedgut

friedgutdiane@outlook.com

WORLD WIDE WRAP

 **ONLINE**



FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Registration form for U.S. and Canadian Clubs [here](#). Information and registration for other 2026 International participation [here](#) – [English](#), [Español](#), [Français](#).

[Register](#)

For more information or questions:

FJMC WWW Committee

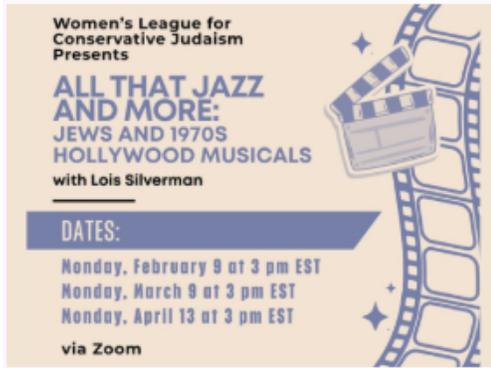
www@fjmc.org



ALL THAT JAZZ

 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

NEW - Click here to view the video of the application procedure.

WEEKLY WORDS OF TORAH



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 Bo 5786

January 24, 2026

Often when I am preparing to write each week, I refer to what I wrote in my book to jog my memory. This week I was drawn to my commentary on the ninth plague, which I wrote on January 18, 2021. I'd like to quote parts of my own words because their relevance is perhaps even stronger today than when I first wrote them:

Moses raised his hand towards the sky and a thick, tangible darkness descended upon Egypt, so thick that people could feel it, so thick that people were immobilized, unable to move from their place for three days' time [Exodus 10:21-23]. Darkness can be very frightening because it contains the unknown. Not only could [the Egyptians] literally not see their hands in front of their faces, but they could also feel the darkness like a physical entity. And it enveloped them.

[Read more](#)

OTHER WLCJ PROGRAM REMINDERS

Click the image to explore each program series and to register.



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

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



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

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