

# Garden State Region News - April 17, 2026



**STAND WITH ISRAEL**

**HOLA!**



**STAND UP TO JEWISH HATE**

**WL Week**

**Visit GSR Website**

**Registration Open for  
GSR Spring Conference & Installation of Officers  
"JEWISH LATINOS - COMING TO AMERICA"  
Sunday, May 3, 2026  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Congregation B'nai Israel, Millburn**

**Registration Closes April 19.**

## GSR REGION PROGRAMS

- **Sun. May 3, 2026 @ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm** - GSR Spring Conference and Installation of Officers - "Jewish Latinos - Coming to America" at Congregation B'nai Israel, Millburn. **REGISTRATION OPEN**
- **April 20, 2026** - GSR WL Convention Scholarship Application Deadline
- **July 10-15, 2026** - WLCJ Convention 2026; Alexandria, Va  
**REGISTRATION OPEN**
  - Fri.-Sat. July 10-11 - Shabbaton (add-on)
  - Sun.-Tues. July 12-14 - Convention
  - Tues.-Wed. July 14-15 - Evening Program & WLCJ Board Meeting (add-on)



# 2026 Garden State Region Spring Conference & Installations

Sun., May 3, 2026 ~ 16 Iyar 5786

Congregation B'nai Israel ~ 160 Millburn Ave, Millburn, NJ

8:30 AM ~ 4:30 PM

Check-In/Continental Breakfast 8:30 am

Conference officially begins at 9:15 am SHARP!

Installation begins at 2:30 pm

### Sign Up for Workshops:

- Genealogy
- Jewish Jeopardy
- Latino Music & Dance
- Craft Project (add'l \$)
- Mexican Flowers & Painted Vase

### Tentative Agenda:

- Business Meeting including Slate Approval
- Panel Discussion
- Latino Lunch
- Workshops
- Installation
- Dessert Reception

### Jewish Latino Panelists:

- Heddy Belman, Ecuador
- Deborah Bendayan, Venezuela & Mexico
- Vicki Kleinberg, Panama

### Social Action Project:

Please bring **baby formula & diapers, wipes, kids' socks** to donate to these organizations in our region:

- Bobrow K kosher Food Pantry, South Orange
- 180 Turning Lives Around Shelter, Hazlet
- Ida Kushner Central Jersey Diaper Bank, New Brunswick

### Cost & RSVP Deadlines:

payment by check or *credit card* (3% service fee)

**Early Bird: April 10	\$45 / <del>\$46.35</del>
**Regular: April 19	\$55 / <del>\$56.65</del>
Craft (20 person limit)	\$10 / <del>\$10.30</del>
Installation & Reception Only	\$10 / <del>\$10.30</del>
Tributes	\$18 / <del>\$18.54</del>

Sheila Kaufman, GSR President  
 Susan Winter, GSR Conference Chair  
 Helene Knee, GSR Vice Conference Chair  
 Toby Maser, WL Consultant

more info: Susan Winter — winter.susan@gmail.com

**Click to Register**



**\*\*You MUST register - There will be NO walk-ins!\*\***

*All Sisterhood & WL Individual members are invited and encouraged to attend!*

Mazel Tov to our Outgoing and Incoming GSR Boards who will be discharged and installed at our Spring Conference. Thank them and wish them well with a Tribute to be included in the Spring Conference program.

OUTGOING BOARD 2024-2026

INCOMING BOARD 2026-2029

REGISTER / PROVIDE TRIBUTE



Questions? Susan Winter at [winter.susan@gmail.com](mailto:winter.susan@gmail.com)

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## PARTICIPATE IN OUR SPRING CONFERENCE SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT

We are collecting Baby Formula & Diapers, Baby Wipes, and Kids' Socks. These items can be brought either to a collection box at your individual shul (**by Friday, May 1**) or directly to the GSR Spring Conference on May 3. [The attached sign can be printed and attached to a collection box in your shul lobby.](#)

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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



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## SUPPORT OUR SPRING CONFERENCE TZEDAKAH PROJECT



## Adraba: Bar/Bat Mitzvah for Children with Disabilities

### Adraba: Bar and Bat Mitzvah for Children with Disabilities

Adraba is a program that partners with special education schools to offer tailored bar and bat mitzvah lessons designed to meet the unique needs of each student. The program culminates in an unforgettable group ceremony, conducted in an egalitarian manner so that everyone can feel comfortable and involved in the celebration. The ceremony takes place in one of the Masorti kehillot.

The program has been operating for over 30 years and collaborates with approximately 40 schools across all of Israel, empowering over 100 students annually to celebrate this significant milestone. Since its founding, over 5,000 students have marked their bar and bat mitzvah with Adraba!

### “ Yarden's Mother

*This process for Yarden was exciting and happy. The event itself was amazing, emotional, and well adapted for him. Yarden learned to read and sing the prayers, and was surrounded by a lot of love, where he was surrounded by his immediate family, school staff, and his classmates.*



**Wendy Keter (in Israel)**  
Mail: [Wendyketer@yahoo.com](mailto:Wendyketer@yahoo.com)  
Philadelphia phone number –  
**please remember the time difference**  
215-909-5208 ( local call)

Scan to support Adraba



## GOALS OF OUR PROGRAM:

- Prepare youngsters to celebrate their bar/bat mitzvah in a synagogue including having an Aliyah to the Torah
- Develop a sense of belonging to the Jewish People
- Increase self-awareness and a positive self-image
- Provide a peak life experience
- Contribute to helping youngsters mature
- Celebrate like everyone else!
- Nurture acceptance and appreciation of people with special needs on the part of their families, communities and society at large.

The Adraba Center invites you to join us at the 2026 ceremonies of the  
**Bar and Bat Mitzvah for Children with Disabilities program**

POSTPONED!!!!

*"Know that each and every shepherd has their own tune"* Rabbi Haiman of Buczko

March Adar-Nissan	April Nissan-Iyar
<p><b>12</b> Szold School, Kfar Saba Kehilat Hod V'Hadar 4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba</p>	<p><b>27</b> Oz School, Holon Kehilat Adat Shalom Emanuel 6 Miller Street, Rehovot</p>
<p><b>16</b> Horsha School, Ein HaMifratz Beit Knesset Avraham Avinu 31 Shaked St., Naharya</p>	<p><b>30</b> Agam School, Ra'anana Kehilat Hod V'Hadar 4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba</p>
May Iyar-Sivan	June Sivan-Tamuz
<p><b>4</b> Gvanim School, Ashdod The Egalitarian Kotel Jerusalem</p>	<p><b>1</b> Ofarim School, Haifa Kehilat Meriah 7 Hareev Street, Haifa</p>
<p><b>7</b> Shikmim School, Rishon LeZion Kehilat Adat Shalom Emanuel *2 Ceremonies 6 Miller Street, Rehovot</p>	<p><b>4</b> Gvanim School, Natanya Kehilat Beit Israel 19 Yehuda Harari St., Natanya</p>
<p><b>11</b> Li Or School, Ra'anana Kehilat Hod V'Hadar 4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba</p>	<p><b>11</b> Adam School, Beit Berl Kehilat Hod V'Hadar 4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba</p>
<p><b>17</b> On School, Tel Aviv Kehilat Hod V'Hadar 4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba</p>	<p><b>15</b> Ofakim School, Haifa Kehilat Meriah 7 Hareev Street, Haifa</p>
<p><b>18</b> Venezuela School, Tel Aviv Kehilat Tarat Hayim 52 Yehuda HaNasi Street, Herzliya</p>	<p><b>16</b> Sami Michael School, Tel Aviv Kehilat Neve Tzedek Masorti 42 Chelouche Street, Tel Aviv</p>
<p><b>25</b> Gil School, Tel Aviv Kehilat Tarat Hayim 52 Yehuda HaNasi Street, Herzliya</p>	<p><b>18</b> Shirat Halev School, Bney Dror Kehilat Hod V'Hadar 4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba</p>
<p><b>28</b> Anoch School, Tel Aviv Kehilat Neve Tzedek Masorti 42 Chelouche St., Tel Aviv</p>	<p><b>22</b> Henrietta Szold School, Haifa Kehilat Meriah 7 Hareev Street, Haifa</p>

Please contact us with any questions:  
[rakeretbhm@masorti.org.il](mailto:rakeretbhm@masorti.org.il)

Most ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. Please verify beforehand.

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible

## WLCJ Convention 2026 Scholarships are available!

The Garden State Region is offering scholarships to its Sisterhood and Individual Members to attend the WLCJ Convention 2026 taking place July 12-15, 2026 in Alexandria, VA.

You can apply by filling out the scholarship application form below by either completing the online application or printing a hard copy of the application and mailing it to Sheila Kaufman at 24 Yale St., Maplewood, NJ 07040. **Scholarship applications must be received by April 20th.**

Many will be seeking scholarships, so you are required to seek other available stipends before applying. For example, some Sisterhoods will provide stipends to its members attending WLCJ Convention. In some cases, synagogues may have funds available such as the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. In the scholarship application, you will be asked about your efforts to secure other stipends.

There is also a link below to the WLCJ Convention Website so that you can easily register for the convention.

#### Important Dates to Remember

- **GSR Scholarship Application deadline: Received by April 20th**
- **WLCJ Early Bird Registration deadline: May 1st (Best pricing)**

If you are awarded a GSR Scholarship, please note that the money will be paid to you when you **return** from convention. You will be notified of your scholarship decision by email on or before April 27th.

Online  
Scholarship  
Application

Print  
Scholarship  
Application

Register for WL  
Convention  
2026

## SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Sisterhood Affiliates,

Do you have any programs that you would like others to know about? Either to publicize your event in advance or to share your affiliate program afterwards.

- To publicize your event in advance, send a flyer in jpg or pdf format with Registration link.
- To showcase your affiliate programs post event, submit up to 3 photos with captions and a few sentences to describe your program. (We will shorten if necessary.)

*Please e-mail your programs that you would like posted in this newsletter to both [Ilene Rothman](#) AND [Sheila Kaufman](#).*



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



[Click HERE](#) to send a Torah Fund E-Card **(Check out new Mother's Day cards)**

[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

Any questions please e-mail Sindy Manas at [smanas750e@gmail.com](mailto:smanas750e@gmail.com).

## 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 [gstrtreasurer@wlcj.org](mailto: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

## WLCJ PROGRAMS AND MESSAGES

# Shabbat Message

April 18, 2026 | 1 of Iyyar, 5786

## Healing, Isolation, and the Modern *Metzora*

**Teresa Samtur**

WLCJ Recording Secretary



*"I am a stranger in this world, and there is a severe solitude and painful lonesomeness in my exile." — Kahlil Gibran*

When I began thinking about this week's double Torah portion, *Tazria-Metzora*, I thought I would write about adoption, motherhood, and my adult bat mitzvah. *Tazria-Metzora* was the Torah portion for that Shabbat. But, oh, how life interferes!

Read more

## WLCJ CONVENTION 2026

There is no reason to wait—[register for WLCJ Convention 2026 TODAY!](#)

Don't miss out on the complete VIP experience and

[register for PACKAGE 1](#) before it sells out!

Early Bird special pricing ends May 1!

Need help registering for Convention? [Watch our tutorial here.](#)

April 20 is deadline to submit GSR Application for WL Convention Scholarship.

Online Scholarship Application

Print Scholarship Application



### WLCJ SHABBATON & CONVENTION 2026

Friday–Wednesday, July 10–15, 2026

Registration is now open!

Take advantage of our **\$1,150 Early Bird special through May 1, 2026!** Regular registration is **\$1,295 beginning May 2.**

Hotel room rates are guaranteed through **June 7, 2026**, so be sure to make your reservations early.

Click [here](#) to register and learn more. We look forward to seeing you there!



VISIT THE  
CONVENTION 2026  
WEBSITE

REGISTER

### PURCHASE YOUR AD FOR THE CONVENTION 2026 VIRTUAL AD JOURNAL TODAY!

Don't let the moment pass without honoring the people who make our community shine. Whether it's a thank you, "*mazel tov*," or a personal note of appreciation and gratitude, now is the time to secure your spot in the Virtual Ad Journal!

PURCHASE YOUR AD

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: WHY WL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP?

### AVIVA EZRING AND THE FEELING OF BELONGING

Aviva Ezring always loved her Jewish heritage, but a secular career and a lack of local synagogue affiliation left a gap in her life. Discover how her Individual Membership to the Women's League for Conservative Judaism opened the door to a vibrant sisterhood, giving her a space to learn, celebrate, and stand alongside a community of Jewish women.

READ

## HELP KEEP WLCJ UNITED NATIONS NGO STATUS!

WLCJ needs your help to renew our UN credentials! If your Sisterhood Affiliate hosted programs between **2022–2025** addressing UN goals (like ending poverty, promoting peace, reducing inequality, etc.), we need to include them in our application. Please use the link below to submit a brief summary and a copy of your event flyer.

SUBMIT YOUR PROGRAM INFO HERE

## MATERIALS FROM MERCAZ OLAMI FOR ISRAEL'S 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

MERCAZ Olami is excited to offer you virtual "MERCAZ Shabbat" materials package for use by you and all Sisterhood Affiliates on the Shabbatot adjacent to **Yom Ha'atzmaut (possibly April 17-18)**. These materials are intended to be integrated into your programming, services, and more during these Shabbatot so we can continue to raise awareness about MERCAZ, update fellow members and congregants on their impact of their votes in last year's elections, and to maintain engagement with MERCAZ.

[DOWNLOAD & PRINT MATERIALS](#)

## WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

### MEGILLAT HA'ATZMAUT AT THE KOTEL 2026

Sun | Apr 19 | Online

Join the World Zionist Organization for a powerful, live-streamed reading of **Megillat Ha'atzmaut** at the Egalitarian Kotel. Connect with the global Jewish community as we honor Israel's independence and our shared sense of peoplehood.

[REGISTER FOR LIVESTREAM](#)



#### The Schedule (Eastern Time):

**10:45 AM:** *The Story of Israel's Founding Document* with Yuval Malchi

**11:30 AM:** *The Declaration of Independence* Live from the Kotel

## WL SUSTAINABILITY



[REGISTER](#)

### OUR PLANET: PROTECT, SAVE—KEEP IT BEAUTIFUL!

Wed | Apr 22 | 7:00 pm ET | Online

Celebrate Earth Day with a solutions-focused look at climate change. Join Nobel Peace Prize nominee **Yosef Abramowitz** and Jewish Farmer Network director **Shani Mink** (with more speakers to come!) for a deep dive into the innovative world of solar energy and sustainable agriculture. This panel explores the factual insights and cutting-edge solutions being developed by researchers and entrepreneurs to protect our environment. Building on our previous climate discussions, this session focuses on actionable outcomes and how you can contribute to a greener future.

## ZOOM MEETING ON NEW WLCJ RESOLUTION: CLIMATE CHANGE

Thurs | Apr 23 | 7:30 pm ET | Online

Join us on Zoom to share your comments on the most recent resolution, related to climate change.

[REGISTER](#)

[READ THE RESOLUTION](#)



### LET'S TALK



[REGISTER](#)

## NEXT-GEN WOMEN LEADERS: IN CONVERSATION WITH CAMERON FIELDS

Wed | Apr 29 | 8:00 pm ET | Online

What does the future of Jewish leadership look like? Join us for an inspiring conversation with **Cameron Fields**, a dynamic emerging leader, public health advocate, future medical student, and WLCJ Individual Member. From the front lines as an EMT to the heart of campus life at Hopkins Hillel, Cameron will share her journey and reflections on the unique challenges and bold opportunities facing the next generation of women leading with purpose.

### UPDATES: PROGRAMMING WITH PANACHE

## HELP SHAPE THE WLCJ PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK

The Kehilah and Education Committee is updating our collection of creative, meaningful programming, and we need your ideas. Submissions are open to everyone! **The deadline for submissions has been extended to April 30.**

**QUESTIONS?** Fran Hildebrandt

at [fhildebrandt@wlcj.org](mailto:fhildebrandt@wlcj.org) or 248-318-8301.



[SUBMIT A PROGRAM](#)

For reference, you can view past editions here:

[Volume I](#)

[Volume II](#)

# 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 Tazria-Metzora***

How can ancient laws of ritual impurity offer a cure for the despair of 2026? Rabbi Margie Cella explores the isolating nature of *tzara'at* in this week's double *parashah*, challenging us to overcome the contagion of modern negativity and embrace the personal positivity required for the collaborative work of *tikkun olam*.

**READ WEEKLY WORDS OF TORAH**

### OTHER WLCJ PROGRAM REMINDERS

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



MATHILDE'S  
MASTER CLASS

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



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

**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 our newsletter 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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**Garden State Region**  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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Ilene Rothman  
GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor  
[gsrcommunications@wlcj.org](mailto:gsrcommunications@wlcj.org)

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