

Garden State Region Programs - March 27, 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**

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**
- **Sun.-Wed. July 12-15, 2026** - WLCJ Convention 2026, Alexandria, VA; WLCJ Shabbaton is July 10-11. **REGISTRATION OPEN**



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 / \$46.35 |
| **Regular: April 19 | \$55 / \$56.65 |
| Craft (20 person limit) | \$10 / \$10.30 |
| Installation & Reception Only | \$10 / \$10.30 |
| Tributes | \$18 / \$18.54 |

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



[MAHJONG DAY AT TEMPLE BETH EL](#)

Karen Gooen loves puzzles, games, and writing. She found a way to unite those passions by writing "Searching for Bubbe Fischer," a memoir of her experiences as a Mahjong novice, as well as a manual for all players looking to improve their own game. Karen has delivered her lecture, "The Psychological Benefits of Mahjong," to audiences who share her enthusiasm for the camaraderie and challenge of the game and also offers her insights into each new card as it comes out.

And she will be doing just that at Temple Beth El, as she gives us

["Tips and Tricks for the 2026 Card!"](#)



Join us for her talk

[Thursday, April 16, at 11 am](#)

**Then have lunch and spend the afternoon playing Mahjong!
Bring your Mahjong group and all your friends!**

- ❖ *The cost for lunch and refreshments during the game is \$36.*
- ❖ *Please make checks payable to "Temple Beth El".*
- ❖ *If you are coming to hear the talk only, there is no charge.*
- ❖ *This program will not be on Zoom; in person only.*

[RSVP by April 9th](#) to phyllis.miller@gmail.com



RSVP

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
[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.

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 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

Dear JTS Community,

For me, the seder is an evolving communal experience—one that demonstrates how Jewish tradition holds continuity and change in creative tension. While the obligation to tell the story of the Exodus remains constant, how that story is told responds to the moment in which we find ourselves.

In this year's Passover supplement, I reflect on the Haggadah as a living text that balances the ongoing exchange between teaching and learning. Each generation is called upon to interpret and express the story of liberation in ways that speak to its own realities. For me, the Haggadah is the Jewish people's quintessential educational document—one that encourages questioning, personal engagement, and adaptation.

[Read more](#)

WLCJ CONVENTION 2026

WLCJ SHABBATON & CONVENTION 2026

Friday–Wednesday, July 10–15, 2026

Registration is Now Open! Take advantage of our **Early Bird discount available through April 30, 2026** and secure your spot today.

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



[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](#)

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](#)

SUPPORT SCHECHTER & ELEVATE YOUR SEDER: SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON BEAUTIFUL HAGGADOT

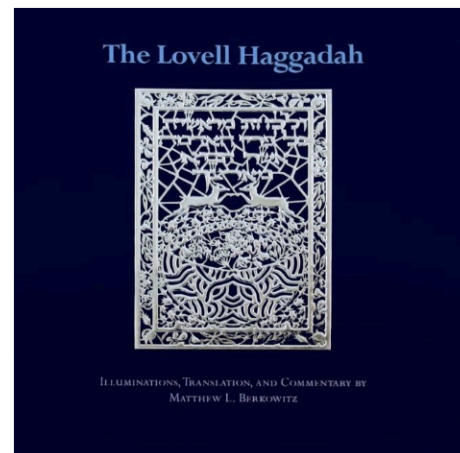
Enhance your Passover table and support the Schechter Institutes in Jerusalem! Schechter is offering a special holiday discount on two beautifully illuminated *Haggadot*.

Choose between the fascinating, history-rich **Schechter Haggadah** (featuring 115 classic illustrations and deep commentary) or the vibrant, family-friendly **Lovell Haggadah** (featuring 27 original illuminations and an egalitarian translation). All profits go directly to the Schechter Institutes.

Click haggadah picture below to purchase.



The Schechter Haggadah: Art, History and Commentary



The Lovell Haggadah

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

ALL THAT JAZZ AND MORE: SESSION 3

NOT YOUR PARENTS' KIND OF MUSICALS—ROCK AND CONTEMPORARY MUSICALS

Mon | Apr 13 | 3:00 pm ET | Online

The 1970s changed the silver screen forever. Join us for a deep dive into the Jewish creators who redefined Hollywood. Using film clips and a presentation, we'll explore the Jewish connections behind iconic hits like *Saturday Night Fever*, *Hair*, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Stay after the presentation for an engaging Q&A about the films that broke the mold.


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



REGISTER

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.



[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.



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 Tzav

Why does the Torah ask for the exact same sacrifice from someone overflowing with gratitude and someone reaching out from despair? Rabbi Margie Cella explores the mystery of the *zevach shelamim*, "the peace offering," in *Parashat Tzav*, challenging our understanding of what it means to be "whole."

[READ THIS WEEK'S WWOT](#)

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

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



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