

# Garden State Region News - May 1, 2026



**STAND  
WITH  
ISRAEL**



**STAND UP  
TO JEWISH  
HATE**

**WL Week**

**Visit GSR Website**

## 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 and Tributes are now closed.**
- **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)
- **Convention Deadlines**
  - **EXTENDED to May 6** - GSR Scholarships Applications due
  - **EXTENDED to May 14** - Early Bird Registration
  - After May 14 - Regular Registration

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND TRIBUTES ARE NOW CLOSED.**

**2026 Garden State Region Spring Conference & Installations**  
**Sun., May 3, 2026 ~ 16 Iyar 5786**  
**8:30 AM ~ 4:30 PM**  
 Registration/Continental Breakfast 8:30-9:15 am  
 Conference officially begins at 9:30 am SHARPI  
**Congregation B'nai Israel ~ 160 Millburn Ave, Millburn, NJ**

**Jewish Latino Panelists**

- Hedy Belman, Ecuador
- Debra Bandayan, Venezuela & Mexico
- Vicki Kleinberg, Panama

**Cost & RSVP deadlines:**  
*payment by check or credit card (3% service fee)*

Early Bird: April 3	\$45/\$46.35
Regular: April 19	\$55/\$56.65
Craft (20 person limit)	\$15/\$15.45
Installation & Reception Only	\$10/\$10.30
Tributes	\$18/\$18.54

**Proposed Agenda**

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

**Sign Up for Workshops:**

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

**Social Action Project**  
 Please bring **diapers, wipes, socks, kosher baby formula** to donate to these organizations in our region: Bobrow Kosher Food Pantry, SOrange; 180 Turning Lives Around Shelter, Hazlet; and Ida Kushner Central Jersey Diaper Bank, New Brunswick.

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

**Registration Closed**

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

Mazel Tov to our Outgoing and Incoming GSR Boards who will be discharged and installed at our Spring Conference.

**OUTGOING BOARD 2024-2026**

**INCOMING BOARD 2026-2029**

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

**PARTICIPATE IN OUR 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)



## 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.

POSTPONED!!!!



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

*"Know that each and every shepherd has their own tune"* Rabbi Helman of Beetzor

### March Adar-Nissan

**12** Szold School, Kfar Saba  
23 Adar  
Kehilat Hod V'Hadar  
4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba

**16** Horsha School, Ein HaMifratz  
27 Adar  
Beit Knesset Avraham Avinu  
31 Shaked St., Naharya

### May Iyar-Sivan

**4** Gvanim School, Ashdod  
17 Iyar  
The Egalitarian Kotel  
Jerusalem

**7** Shikmim School, Rishon LeZion  
28 Iyar  
Kehilat Adat Shalom Emanuel \*2 Ceremonies  
6 Miller Street, Rehovot

**11** Li Or School, Ra'anana  
24 Iyar  
Kehilat Hod V'Hadar  
4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba

**17** On School, Tel Aviv  
1 Sivan  
Kehilat Hod V'Hadar  
4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba

**18** Venezuela School, Tel Aviv  
2 Sivan  
Kehilat Tarat Hayim  
52 Yehuda HaNasi Street, Herzliya

**25** Gil School, Tel Aviv  
9 Sivan  
Kehilat Tarat Hayim  
52 Yehuda HaNasi Street, Herzliya

**28** Anoch School, Tel Aviv  
12 Sivan  
Kehilat Neve Tzodok Masorti  
42 Chelouche St., Tel Aviv

### April Nissan-Iyar

**27** Oz School, Holon  
10 Iyar  
Kehilat Adat Shalom Emanuel  
6 Miller Street, Rehovot

**30** Agam School, Ra'anana  
13 Iyar  
Kehilat Hod V'Hadar  
4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba

### June Sivan-Tamuz

**1** Ofarim School, Haifa  
16 Sivan  
Kehilat Moriah  
7 Hareev Street, Haifa

**4** Gvanim School, Natanya  
19 Sivan  
Kehilat Beit Israel  
19 Yehuda HaNasi St., Natanya

**11** Adam School, Beit Berl  
26 Sivan  
Kehilat Hod V'Hadar  
4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba

**15** Ofakim School, Haifa  
30 Sivan  
Kehilat Moriah  
7 Hareev Street, Haifa

**16** Sami Michael School, Tel Aviv  
1 Tamuz  
Kehilat Neve Tzodok Masorti  
42 Chelouche Street, Tel Aviv

**18** Shirat Halev School, Bney Dror  
3 Tamuz  
Kehilat Hod V'Hadar  
4 Hachsh Street, KfarSaba

**22** Henrietta Szold School, Haifa  
7 Tamuz  
Kehilat Moriah  
7 Hareev Street, Haifa

Please contact us with any questions:  
rakeretbhm@masorti.org.il

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

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible

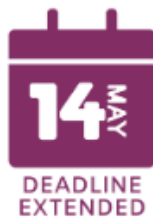




## WLCJ Convention 2026

07-12-2026

The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center  
**Shabbaton:** Friday–Saturday, July 10–11, 2026  
**Convention:** Sunday–Wednesday, July 12–15, 2026



We know how busy things can get, and we've been listening! If you were worried you missed the window to get the best possible price for WLCJ 2026 Convention, we have exciting thrilling news:

**We are officially extending the Early Bird registration deadline!**

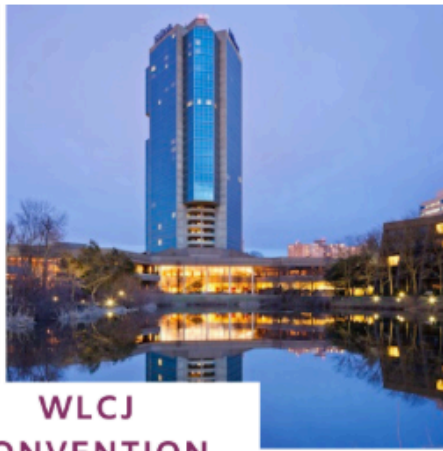
You now have until **May 14 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time** to lock in your discounted registration.

Why wait until the absolute last minute when you can cross this off your list right now? This is your chance to guarantee your spot at the most anticipated WLCJ gathering. The excitement is building, spots are filling up incredibly fast, and we want to make sure you are there to experience every second of it.

Don't let this second chance slip by and secure your registration today and get ready for an unforgettable July!

[Register Today!](#)

Funds are still available for GSR Convention Scholarships. If you are interested, submit the Scholarship Application either [online](#) or [print, scan and email](#) to Sheila Kaufman at [gspresident24@wlcj.org](mailto:gspresident24@wlcj.org) by Wednesday, May 6. You will be notified within a week.



**WLCJ  
CONVENTION  
2026**



# COMFORT CASES



## **SUPPORT THE CONVENTION SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT: COMFORT CASES**

No child's suitcase should be a trash bag. Join us in supporting **Comfort Cases**. Help us bring dignity to youth entering foster care by replacing trash bags with backpacks filled with pajamas, fresh toiletries, and comforting blankets.

**There is a critical need for teen items!** Teenagers are often the most underserved group in the foster system. Your donations of adult-sized pajamas, full-size hygiene products, and journals will make a massive difference to an older child navigating a difficult transition.

[Support Comfort Cases](#)



### GET YOUR VIRTUAL JOURNAL AD TODAY

Whether you want to honor a trailblazing President, past or present, celebrate a major Sisterhood Affiliate milestone, or simply share a heartfelt message of gratitude, a virtual ad ensures your tribute will be seen and celebrated by attendees far and wide.

Place a Virtual Ad

Explore all the updates on our website!

[www.wizevents.com/wlcj2026](http://www.wizevents.com/wlcj2026)

## 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.





Show your 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



### **Tsach Saar**

**Deputy Consul General,  
Consulate of Israel, New York**

As Deputy Consul General, Tsach plays a pivotal role in managing the diplomatic activities of Israel's

Consulate in New York. His responsibilities include fostering relationships with elected officials and various community leaders in the consulate's areas of operation. He leads the consulate's engagement with Jewish communities and major organizations. Tsach guides the activities of all departments, overseeing the allocation of resources and assumes the role of Acting Head of Mission in the Consul General's absence.

AND

**A Special Dvar Torah—Guest to be  
Announced**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 7:30pm ET on Zoom**

**RSVP to [torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu)**

(The Zoom link will be provided prior to the program.)



**TORAH FUND**

The Jewish Theological Seminary  
3080 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

[www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund](http://www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund)  
[torahfund@jtsa.edu](mailto:torahfund@jtsa.edu)

[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](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 [gstreasurer@wlcj.org](mailto:gstreasurer@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

May 2, 2026 | 15 of Iyar, 5786

## A Recipe That Guides Us Through Life

**Lymor Wasserman**

International WL Budget Chair, WLCJ Consultant, WLCJ Executive Committee, Southern Region Treasurer



This Friday afternoon, I will be sitting in the Breslin Center at Michigan State University watching my youngest graduate from college. Many of you have been in this same spot, and I imagine you've felt the same emotions I'm feeling today: Did I prepare him for the world he is about to enter? Did I teach and nurture him well? Will he be a good employee, friend, husband, father, son, and grandson? He's hardly all grown, and I'm sure he will still come to me for advice and motherly wisdom. I'm 54 years old, and I still ask my mother for hers (and I know how lucky I am that she can still give it).

[Read more](#)

### PREPARE FOR WL CONVENTION 2026



[REGISTER](#)

### DRESS AS YOUR BEST SELF!

**Thurs | May 28 | 12:00 pm ET | Online**

In preparation for Convention, join us for an exclusive webinar on mastering your Convention wardrobe. Learn from **travel expert Alexandra Jimenez** (*Travel Fashion Girl*) on how to "Dress as Your Best Self," and get creative tips from **WLCJ Creative Judaic Arts Chairperson Jody Glass** on perfecting your look for our "Midnight at the Masquerade" gala. From capsule wardrobes to masquerade masks, we've got you covered.

### HIGHLIGHTING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## THE PRE-REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

As we celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month and look ahead to America 250, **the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations** has launched an inspiring initiative to highlight the rich history and enduring contributions of Jewish Americans. This week, they explore the Pre-Revolutionary Period (before 1776). From early pioneers like Joachim Gans, the first practicing Jew to step foot in North America, to trailblazing women like Bilhah Abigail Levy Franks, who navigated secular society while fiercely maintaining her Jewish observance, these stories laid the foundation for Jewish life in America.

[READ THE FULL NEWSLETTER](#)

## 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.

## WL TOOLBOX TALKS

### TURNING SISTERHOOD GOALS INTO ACTION

**Thurs | May 7 | 7:30 pm ET | Online**

Is your sisterhood ready to move from planning to performing? Join us for our next Toolbox Talks session featuring **Past International President Carol Simon**, where she will break down how to bridge the gap between holding a title and truly leading. Whether you're looking for real solutions to leadership challenges or want to turn big ideas into meaningful accomplishments, this dynamic session is for you.



[REGISTER](#)

## 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](#)

## WL KEHILA/EDUCATION

### STRATEGIES FOR PROGRAM SUCCESS

**Thurs | May 28 | 7:30 pm ET | Online**

Ready to add some serious zest and zing to your sisterhood events? Join Kehilah-Education for an energizing workshop dedicated entirely to strategic programming and fresh ideas. You'll learn proven best practices directly from **Region Vice Presidents Gilda Schwartz, Rona Walters, and Susan Winter.** Additionally, **WLCJ Vice President Anise Parnes** will show you exactly how to unlock available program materials on the WLCJ website.



[REGISTER](#)



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 Emor

How can the ancient rhythms of the harvest teach us to protect the dignity of the vulnerable? In this week's reflection on *Parashat Emor*, Rabbi Margie Cella explores the sacred bridge between the appointed seasons of the Omer and the quiet compassion found in the Book of Ruth. By embracing the commandment to leave the edges of our fields for the poor, we learn to turn the blessings of our personal abundance into a radiant, collective commitment to nourish those in need.

**READ WEEKLY WORDS OF TORAH**

### 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.



3080 Broadway, Suite K900  
New York, NY 10027  
Office: (405) 870-1260



**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)

Garden State Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism | 3080 Broadway Suite K900 | New York, NY 10027 US

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