

Garden State Region News - June 5, 2026



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**



WL Week

Visit GSR Website

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from Sheila Kaufman, GSR President
- 2025-2026 Executive Officers
- Message from Cindy Manas, GSR Torah Fund VP
- WL Convention 2026 Deadlines
- Torah Fund Update
- Good & Welfare
- Donation Opportunities
- WLCJ Programs and Messages

MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

My term is coming to a close at the end of the month. I am tying up loose ends as we transition to our new administration team headed by Cindy Manas. There is still a lot that I need to accomplish. It is like leaving your job or moving to a new home, you want to make sure everything is neat and tidy. Finalizing all the projects and sweeping up, making sure there is no dust gathering in the corners! Sound familiar?



I was honored to go to Livingston's Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood Installation Gala. The event was at a local venue that helped to enhance the beautiful evening. I was honored to perform their installation. I wish their new administration much success.



Temple Beth Shalom, Livingston Installation.
(l-r) Noreen Deutsch, Incoming President; Ronni Harte,
Outgoing President; Sheila Kaufman, GSR President

The **Women's League Convention** is July 12-15 in Alexandria, VA. Registration is now closed. We have 23 region women attending throughout the week. Whether they are coming for the Shabbaton, the full megillah or one day. I look forward to being with all of you. We will celebrate everyone, including our region's 3 B'not Mitzvah women, 6 Jewels in the Crown awardees, 12 women on the WL Board, and thanking 3 for serving on the WL Board.

We will have a zoom meeting later this month to get to know each other and answer any questions. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to [Teresa Samtur](#), our Madricha or [myself](#) with any questions.

The Convention has a Social Action project called [Comfort Cases](#). This initiative supports youth entering foster care providing essential needs in a backpack in the Virginia, Washington DC region. You do not need to go to the Convention to participate, [Amazon](#) can help you out! During checkout, please select "Gift Receipt" and include WLCJ, your Region name, Sisterhood Affiliate name, or Individual Member name so we can track our impact.

WL Convention Deadlines:

- June 7 - Hotel registration guaranteed rates booked directly with the hotel
- July 7 - Virtual Ads are due

Just a reminder, that you should plan on getting any Torah Fund donation **checks into the Torah Fund office by June 15, 2026, using trackable mail. Online donations will be accepted up to June 26.** See Sindy's message.

Only 25 days left for me to visit your sisterhoods. If I have not been to yours, please let me know and let's make it happen!

Shabbat Shalom,

Sheila

Sheila Kaufman
President, Garden State Region WLCJ
gsrpresident24@wlcj.org

"Networking to engage, enrich and empower Conservative Jewish women"

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

Shalom,

The Oseh Shalom Campaign will end in June. Please send all checks to the Torah Fund office to arrive no later than June 15, 2026, using trackable mail. All online donations need to be made no later than June 26, 2026.

Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) is pleased to announce that WLCJ will administer the Torah Fund Campaign starting July 1, 2026. This marks an exciting new chapter in the program's 84-year history. This transition will streamline operations and enable WLCJ to enhance engagement and efficiency while continuing to ensure robust support for all beneficiary institutions.

As of July 1, 2026, the new Torah Fund office will be located in the WLCJ offices:

Torah Fund
3080 Broadway, Suite K900
New York, NY 10027

We proudly announce that the 2026-2027 Torah Fund Campaign theme is:



Torah Fund
Announcing our 5787 Torah Fund Campaign

Shema Koleinu
שמע קולנו

Hear Our Voice



Shema Koleinu - Hear Our Voice - marks 40 years since the first female cantor was invested. This year's Torah Fund pin with its joyful women and musical symbolism expresses the right of every woman's voice to be heard as we celebrate this anniversary.

TORAH FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

This year's campaign launches on July 1. The website will be accessible as of July 1. We will keep you updated with the transition process.

The Torah Fund pins will be available for pickup at the WLCJ Convention. Sisterhood Torah Fund Chairs, please let me know who will pick up the pins for your sisterhood affiliate. If no one will be attending convention from your sisterhood, we need to know if someone from another sisterhood can pick up your pins, or if you prefer the pins be mailed to you.

Thank you for all your support of Torah Fund. Every donation, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated.

I so enjoyed being the Garden State Region Torah Fund Vice President.

Shabbat Shalom,

Sindy Manas
Torah Fund VP
Garden State Region
Smanas750e@gmail.com

WL CONVENTION 2026 DEADLINES

- Registration is now closed.
- June 7 - Hotel reservations are guaranteed booked directly with the hotel
- July 7 - Virtual Ad deadline!

B'not Mitzvah Women from GSR

Mazel Tov to our Region Women who will become a Bat Mitzvah at the WL Convention 2026!



- ❖ Betty Needleman - Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah, Clark
- ❖ Ilene Rothman - East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick
- ❖ Janice Saferstein - East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick

Consider placing a [Virtual Ad](#)

JEWELS IN THE CROWN AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mazel Tov to the GSR Region recipients of the Jewels in the Crown Award to be presented at the WL Convention 2026



- ❖ Congregation Agudath Israel, Caldwell
- ❖ East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick
- ❖ Highland Park Conservative Temple-
Congregation Anshe Emeth, Highland Park
- ❖ Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael, Morristown
- ❖ Congregation Torat El, Oakhurst
- ❖ B'nai Shalom, West Orange

SUPPORT THE AMAZON WISHLIST

Consider placing a [Virtual Ad](#)

WLCJ CONVENTION 2026

Email jkirschner@wlcj.org with any questions.



THE DEADLINE FOR WLCJ GROUP HOTEL RATE IS THIS SUNDAY

Friday–Wednesday, July 10–15, 2026

Hotel accommodations are **not** included in your Convention package, nor are they made through the WLCJ office, and room rates are only guaranteed until **Sunday, June 7**. Rooms are filling up fast, so lock in your guaranteed group rate before prices skyrocket or availability runs out!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



TORAH FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



Special arrangements will also be available for those interested in receiving batches of pins from a specific year.

The pins will be available at a special table at Convention and organized by year. Now is the perfect opportunity to finish that shadow box of pins! All proceeds will benefit Torah Fund. In addition, instructions will be available on how to create beautiful tallit clips from Torah Fund pins. This could be a wonderful project for you or your affiliate! These clips are not only beautiful, but also serve as meaningful Torah Fund keepsakes.

PIN COLLECTORS' CORNER **PIN IT FORWARD:** **BUILDING COLLECTIONS,** **SUPPORTING TORAH FUND**

We are delighted to invite our Torah Fund donors to bring their surplus pins to Convention to donate to Torah Fund. All pin donations will be gratefully accepted on Friday, July 10, and Sunday, July 12. Please note that we will not be able to accept any pins after **1:30 pm** on Sunday.

To help complete your collections—or simply enjoy pins from past years—we will be offering these vintage Torah Fund pins for a small donation to Torah Fund. A donation of \$10 per individual pin, or \$100 for unlimited pins (one per year from the years selected), will help you find the pins you need while supporting Torah Fund. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted.

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



SUPPORT THE WL CONVENTION 2026 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.



DONATE

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.





May 2026

Women's League for Conservative Judaism is pleased to announce that we will assume the administration of the **Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism**, effective July 1st, 2026, marking a new chapter in the program's proud 84-year history of supporting Conservative/Masorti Jewish education and leadership. This transition will streamline operations and enable WLCJ to enhance engagement and efficiency while continuing to ensure robust support for all beneficiary institutions.

As of July 1, 2026, the new Torah Fund office will be located in the WLCJ offices:

Torah Fund
3080 Broadway, Suite K900
New York, NY 10027

We proudly announce that the 2026-2027 Torah Fund Campaign theme is:

Shema Koleinu

שמע קולנו

Hear our Voice

This year's campaign launches on July 1. Checks will continue to be made payable to Torah Fund. The donor button on the JTS website will directly connect to our new donation page on the WLCJ website. *From June 27 until June 30, 2026, the link for on-line donations will not be operational due to the transition.*

Please join us in welcoming Morgan Long, Torah Fund Manager, to our Torah Fund team.

As the transition goes forward, we will continue to provide Torah Fund Campaign updates.

Julia Loeb
President
jloeb@wlcj.org

Pam Schlosberg
Incoming President
pschlosberg@wlcj.org

Lori Snow
Torah Fund Vice President
lsnow@wlcj.org

Janet Kirschner
Incoming Torah Fund Vice President
jkirschner@wlcj.org

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.

TORAH FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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.

TORAH FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

TORAH FUND
The Jewish Theological Seminary
3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund
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.

GOOD & WELFARE - GARDEN STATE REGION

Share your news and nachas with us!

Let us know if you have any simchas, special birthdays/anniversaries, well wishes, and sorrows to pass on to [Sheila Kaufman](#).

Birthday Wishes

Wishing all who have June anniversaries and birthdays, **Yom Huledet Sameach!**

Refuah Shlema

- **Anne Spring**, B'nai Shalom West Orange Sisterhood co-President, and her husband **Albert**
- **Sheila Kaufman**, GSR Region President

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

SHAVUOT/SHABBAT MESSAGE FROM WENDY GLASSER



THE TRUE MEANING BEHIND "WE ARE WOMEN'S LEAGUE"

In 2017, a simple brainstorming session birthed our defining tagline: "We Are Women's League." For **Wendy Glasser, International Vice President, Convention Vice Chair for Logistics**, those words represent a lifetime of finding instant community. Read how cross-country moves and a chance encounter about Japan proved the true power of an open door.

READ

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

ON BEHALF OF THE WLCJ 2023-2026 MEMBERSHIP TEAM, "THANK YOU!"

As the 2023-2026 Membership Team concludes its term, **International Vice President and Membership Chair Doreen Bornfreund** shares a heartfelt message of gratitude to the community. Her farewell reflects on the success of the recent "Why WL?" and "Why WLCJ Individual Membership" campaigns, which highlighted inspiring personal stories from our members over the past three years. Members are encouraged to explore these moving testimonials on the WLCJ website to discover the many educational and personal benefits of our network. Read Doreen's full message below to learn more about accessing these stories and her reflections on an enriching three-year journey.

[READ](#)

NEW: WL CALENDAR DIARY 5787/2026-2027

PRE-ORDER YOUR 2026-2027 / 5787 CALENDAR DIARIES TODAY!

It's time to get organized for the upcoming year! The Women's League 2026-2027 (5787) Calendar Diaries are officially available for pre-order. Every diary includes essential daily resources: Shabbat and holiday listings, Torah readings, candle lighting times for the US, Canada, and Israel, prayers, *berakhot*, and the Mourner's Kaddish, and much more!

Secure your copies for 5787! Place your order online or call 405-870-1260 for assistance or additional shipping inquiries.

NEW! Condensed Planner (8.5"x11"): A streamlined 49-page comb-bound desk planner that includes all the essential features and reference guides, designed efficiently without the weekly pages. Available for \$20.00.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

WL CALENDAR DIARY
5787 | 2026-2027



Pocket Size (4"x6"): The classic 72-page spiral-bound companion with ample room for notes, perfect for taking on the go. Available for \$13.00, with bulk discounts starting at 11 copies.

Full Planner Size (8.5"x11"): Our comprehensive 72-page comb-bound planner featuring everything above, plus dedicated weekly planning pages. Available for \$28.00.

[ORDER YOUR CALENDAR DIARIES](#)

KOTEL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Despite the ceasefire, political maneuvering continues. The Kotel Legislation—threatening egalitarian worshippers with a seven-year prison sentence—has passed a preliminary reading and faces a Constitution, Law and Justice Committee hearing on May 20th. MERCAZ and our Conservative/Masorti partners in Israel are fighting to halt this bill before the upcoming elections. Our communities have steadfastly stood by Israel through trying times, and this legislation threatens that crucial global bond.

Stand for Jewish Pluralism at the Kotel

STOP MK MAOZ & LEVIN'S BILL

In cooperation with:

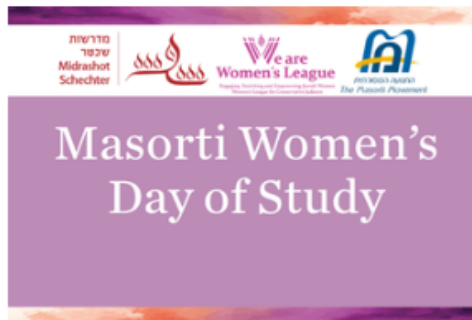


To increase your impact, we ask that you sign onto this urgent petition <https://lp6.me/6NN2S?i=213> and forward the link to your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we'll continue to stand up for a Jewish and democratic Israel that's safe and a welcoming home for every Jew.

[SIGN THE PETITION](#)

"Lu Yehi" (May It Be)**Fri | Jun 12 | 2:30 - 8:30 am ET | Online**

Join Conservative/Masorti women from across Israel and around the diaspora for the Masorti Women's Day of Study this June! Broadcasted in-person and on Zoom from the Schechter Institutes in Jerusalem, this year's theme explores Naomi Shemer's iconic song "Lu Yehi" to help us renew ourselves, our values, and our people. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to pray, sing, and study alongside our Israeli sisters with sessions offered in English, Hebrew, Spanish, and Russian.


[VIEW SCHEDULE](#)
[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 Beha'alotcha

When the Israelites left Mount Sinai, the tribe of Dan marched dead last. While the rear is usually seen as a lower place, their place was actually a sacred mission. Read Rabbi Margie Cella's insights on this week's Torah portion to discover why looking out for the "left behind" is the ultimate expression of faith.

[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



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

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