

Garden State Region News - May 15, 2026



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**



**STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE**

WL Week

Visit GSR Website



Commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem under Jewish sovereignty during the Six-Day War in 1967

WLCJ CONVENTION DATES

- **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**
 - Regular Registration deadline is June 1
 - Hotel Registration deadline is June 7

REGISTER FOR WLCJ CONVENTION 2026 TODAY

"Further your relationship with Jewish tradition, G-d, and your Women's League Sisters!"

Shalom Sisters,



I hope to see all of you at the WLCJ Convention in July of 2026! While we will stream a few parts of the convention, this convention is planned as an in-person event.

We will gather in Alexandria, Virginia on Sunday, July 12, 2026. During the convention, we will engage, enrich, and empower ourselves by focusing on education, leadership development, and fundraising, to forge a stronger tomorrow for ourselves and for Women's League. We will be with friends, including those we have only interacted with on Zoom for at least the past three years. Training sessions for

incoming Region Presidents and Torah Fund Vice Presidents will be held during the Shabbaton as well as prior to the Opening Plenary on Sunday. A first time delegate workshop will also be offered prior to the Opening Plenary. The convention will continue through the afternoon of Tuesday, July 14. After the Closing Plenary, we invite you to stay for a Tuesday evening murder mystery "Midnight at the Masquerade" and our Women's League Open Board Meeting which will take place Wednesday morning.

I encourage you to enhance your Convention 2026 experience by participating in our Shabbaton beginning Friday, July 10. All services will be led by our members and held at the hotel. Kabbalat Shabbat will be followed by dinner and a trivia session led by Rabbi Cella "Who Wants to be Smarter than a Talmud Chacham?" Kiddush luncheon and a relaxing afternoon with games available to play will follow Saturday morning services.

We are looking forward to strengthening relationships both old and new and to having our voices heard. Please join Women's League President, Julia Loeb, Convention Vice Chairs, Wendy Glasser, Ellen Weiss, Debbie Lempert, Toby Holtzman, and me at Convention 2026 to further your relationship with Jewish tradition, G-d, and your Women's League Sisters!

See you in Alexandria!

Marsha Strongin
WLCJ Convention 2026 Chair



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

WLCJ SHABBATON & CONVENTION 2026

Friday–Wednesday, July 10–15, 2026

Registration is now open!

Regular Registration Deadline is
June 1, 2026.

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!

[Register](#)

[Program Schedule](#)

[Convention Speakers](#)

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](#)

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 - Torah Beth O'r/Beth Torah, Clark
- ❖ Ilene Rothman - EBJC, East Brunswick
- ❖ Janice Saferstein - EBJC, East Brunswick

JEWELS IN THE CROWN AWARD RECIPIENTS IN GSR

Mazel Tov to the GSR Region recipients of the Jewels in the Crown Award to be awarded 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

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](#).



The current 2025-2026 Torah Fund Campaign "Oseh Shalom" and will end on June 30, 2026. To receive credit for your donation to this campaign, please send your checks to the Torah Fund office or donate online by June 15, 2026. If sending in checks, please use a trackable method of delivery.

[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 Cindy 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

Shabbat Message by Julia Loeb



THE WILDERNESS ACCORDING TO WOMEN'S LEAGUE

What do the Israelites in the wilderness and the upcoming WLCJ Convention 2026 have in common? Think "*Bamidbar* in business casual." Read International President Julia Loeb's message to discover why our July gathering in Alexandria, VA, is the perfect start to a brand-new chapter, complete with shared purpose, familiar and new faces, and great coffee. Plus, catch the extended early-bird deadline!

[READ](#)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: WHY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

FROM A SISTERHOOD OF NONE TO ONE OF MY OWN

Where do you turn when your local synagogue is no longer an option? For **Lori Beth Susman**, finding connection meant embracing the path of a WLCJ Individual Member. Discover how joining a virtual space to say Kaddish blossomed into building a vibrant new *chavurah* (a small, informal Jewish fellowship group that meets for study, prayer, and socializing) on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and finding her voice in our community.

[READ](#)

HIGHLIGHTING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

THE MID-19TH CENTURY AND CIVIL WAR

As we celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month and look ahead to America 250, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations continues its inspiring initiative to highlight the rich history and enduring contributions of Jewish Americans. This week, they explore the Mid-19th Century and Civil War (1826-1875). From heroic military figures like Uriah P. Levy, the first Jewish Commodore in the U.S. Navy, and Benjamin Levy, the first Jewish Medal of Honor recipient, to cultural and religious trailblazers like Adah Isaacs Menken and Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, who pioneered American celebrity stardom and organized the American Reform Movement respectively, the stories of these individuals highlight the vital role Jewish Americans played in shaping the nation's cultural landscape and defending its unity during a time of profound division.

[READ THE FULL NEWSLETTER](#)

WOMEN OF THE WALL

ROSH CHODESH SIVAN WITH WOW: FIGHTING AVI MAOZ'S '7 YEARS LAW'

**Sun | May 17 | 7:00 am Israel Time;
12:00 am ET | In Person and Online**

Extreme new legislation by MK Avi Maoz threatens to punish women with up to seven years in prison simply for holding a Torah at the Kotel. Stand in solidarity with Women of the Wall at their *Rosh Chodesh Sivan* prayer service to send a clear message: women's prayer is not a desecration, and the Kotel belongs to all Jews.



[WATCH THE LIVESTREAM](#)

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](#)

[SUPPORT THE AMAZON WISHLIST](#)

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.

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 Bamidbar

How can the structured encampments of the wilderness teach us to heal the fractures of our modern community? In this week's reflection on Parashat Bamidbar, Rabbi Margie Cella explores the sacred bridge between the ancient tribes united around the Tabernacle and the diverse landscape of the Jewish people today and how we can turn our divided camps into a radiant, collective commitment to stand together as one nation, honoring our distinct identities while protecting our sacred inheritance.

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.



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