

Garden State Region News - May 29, 2026



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**



**STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE**

WL Week

Visit GSR Website

Spring Conference & Installation of Region Officers

Sunday, May 3, 2026 - 16 Iyar 5786
Congregation B'nai Israel
Millburn, NJ

PICTURES ARE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE
(click here)

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**
 - **Convention Regular Registration closes June 1 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time**
 - Hotel registration guaranteed rates are until June 7 and they are booked directly with the hotel.

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

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

REGISTER FOR WLCJ CONVENTION 2026 TODAY



WLCJ SHABBATON & CONVENTION 2026

Friday–Wednesday, July 10–15, 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!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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](#)

[SUPPORT THE AMAZON WISHLIST](#)

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

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

Lori Snow
Torah Fund Vice President
lsnow@wlcj.org

Pam Schlosberg
Incoming President
pschlosberg@wlcj.org

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

[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

SHAVUOT/SHABBAT MESSAGE



PARASHAT NASSO

Parashat Nasso brings us the sacred Priestly Blessing, but revelation is an ongoing story. Read this week's Shabbat message from Mindy Steinholz, WLCJ Finance Chair, to see how we bring Torah to life today through community, learning, and leadership. Mindy explores the timeless power of the *Birkat Hakohanim* and offers a heartfelt blessing of protection and peace to her WLCJ sisters.

[READ](#)

MAY IS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH (JAHM)



Jewish American Heritage Month ([JAHM](#))
Resources: Explore the Conference of Presidents' latest focus on the Turn of the Century and Waves of Immigration (1876-1925), featuring partner resources, history, and action items celebrating American Jewish contributions. [View Resources](#)

WL RESOLUTIONS

YOUR VOICE, OUR PLANET: VOTE ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION

Thank you to everyone who joined our recent Zoom session and shared feedback on the proposed Resolution on Climate Change. Your insights are invaluable as we work together.

Human-induced climate change is an existential threat driven by fossil fuel emissions that trap heat, causing global temperatures to rise. This shift leads to catastrophic weather events and irreversible environmental damage. Jewish tradition provides a moral framework for this crisis, emphasizing our responsibility to "till and tend" the Earth as stewards.

Immediate action is required to

prevent reaching critical temperature thresholds that would lead to worsening devastation for future generations.



Don't miss out!
Voting ends **June 1, 2026.**

CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION

VOTE

WL KEHILAT/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

KOTEL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Following the ceasefire, political machinations have continued, and we are writing to inform you about important developments regarding the coalition's Kotel Legislation, which threatens those who pray in an egalitarian fashion at the Egalitarian Kotel with a **seven-year prison sentence**.

The legislation, which passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset plenum earlier this year, is now scheduled to be discussed at a Constitution, Law and Justice Committee hearing on May 20th. We at MERCAZ are working closely with our allies and partners across the Conservative/Masorti Movement and in Israel to make our voices - your voices - heard at this hearing and to stop this legislation from moving further forward before elections later this year. We are grateful to the over **13,000** of you who signed our Conservative/Masorti petition against the legislation – but with this hearing on the horizon, we are asking for your help in spreading this petition further so we can collect even more signatures and strengthen our position before Israeli legislators. Our communities have stood by Israel these trying past few years – and this legislation threatens to undermine the crucial bond between Israel and Jewish communities around the world.



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.

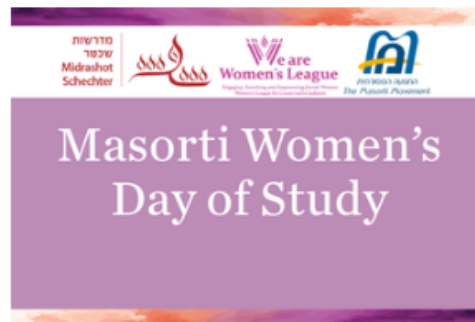
SIGN THE PETITION

MASORTI WOMEN'S DAYS OF STUDY

"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

WEEKLY WORDS OF TORAH



by Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields

Nasso

This week's Torah portion, ***Parashat Nasso***, concludes with the ultimate blessing: peace. Read Rabbi Ellen's latest reflection on how *Birkat Kohanim* calls us to build stronger, holier communities through mutual respect, patience, and the everyday pursuit of *shalom*.

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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