

Garden State Region News - August 14, 2026



**STAND
WITH
ISRAEL**



WL Week

Visit GSR Website

2026-27 Calendar

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Message from Sindy Manas, GSR President

Dear Affiliate,

I have been getting my steps in this summer on the boardwalk from Asbury Park to Bradley Beach. It's the kind of walk that makes you realize summer isn't over yet and awareness it will end soon enough. It's a great way to think about the weeks ahead.

Please join us for our Summer Workshops scheduled on Zoom at 7:30 pm as follows:

August 24, Torah Fund

August 25, Membership

August 26, Programming

August 27, Sisterhood Presidents only

Registration is required to attend. The workshops are very informative and will provide many ideas for your Sisterhood for the year ahead. Please register on the flyer below to receive the Zoom link.

Sisterhood Presidents and Financial Secretaries, please update your membership and Sisterhood/affiliate Board positions on the WLCJ website. Stay up-to-date and receive all



news from Women's League on **WL Week** publications on Thursday and in our Newsletter link above.

Mark your calendars and please don't schedule any programs on the following dates:

Save the Dates
Torah Fund Event November 15, 2026
Spring Conference May 2, 2027

To publicize your events in our Region, please send your programming event flyer to GSR Communications Secretary, Lynette Seader lynetteseader59@gmail.com and myself Gsrpresident26@wlcj.org.

The Garden State Region is here to support you in having a successful and productive year. I look forward to seeing you at future programs and visiting your Sisterhood/affiliate.

Shabbat Shalom,

Sindy

Sindy Manas

President, Garden State Region WLCJ

gsrpresident26@wlcj.org

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

Message from Ilene Weber - GSR VP Torah Fund

Shalom,

I loved our recent convention in Alexandria, VA. The energy, uplifting tefillot, making new connections and friends, the inspiring speakers, and receiving my Torah Fund training were my many highlights.

At the Shabbaton, I had the privilege to circle around the prayer room and found tables of back issues of *Outlook Magazine*. Since it wasn't practical to take them all, I looked for 2 issues from 1966, the year of my birth. I found gems within the yellowed and brittle pages. In the December 1966 issue I read an amazing insight about the the 1966 national convention! Rabbi Eli Bohnen, National President of the Rabbinical Assembly, delivered the installation address. He brought greetings to 800 rabbis at the Women's League Jubilee!

"He acknowledged the debt our Rabbis owe, and how they realize how different Judaism in this country would be without *the devotion that Women's League has brought to the American Jewish scene.*"

Today, the Rabbinical Assembly boasts nearly 1,700 members, who serve as congregational rabbis, educators, military and hospital chaplains, professors of Judaica, and officers of communal service to organizations throughout the world. The mandate of the Rabbinical Assembly is "To kindle the passion of the Jewish People in the service of God, Torah and *Klal Yisrael*, to strengthen the Conservative/Masorti movement, and to support the Conservative/Masorti rabbis."

Torah Fund aligns perfectly. "Torah Fund supports scholarships, programs, and special projects in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher Jewish learning. Every donor has the opportunity to help preserve, promote, and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism by giving to the Torah Fund Campaign to WLCJ.

Torah Fund, the dedicated philanthropy of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, has raised over **\$113 million since its inception in 1942**. This is why we do what we



do. This is why Torah Fund is so near and dear to me. I hope it is to you as well.

Please be sure to register on the flyer below with QR Code for the Torah Fund workshop on Monday August 24th. It is one of many training workshops offer to our Sisterhood leadership to attend.

Thank you for all you do - together we can make a difference!

Ilene Weber

VP Torah Fund - Garden State Region

ileneweber22@gmail.com

[Click HERE](#) to donate to this year's 2026-27 Torah Fund Campaign

[Click HERE](#) to donate to the Torah Fund Legacy Society

[Click HERE](#) to send a Torah Fund E-Card

[Click HERE](#) for the latest Torah Fund Chadashot Newsletter

[Click Here](#) for FAQs about Torah Fund

Any questions please e-mail [Ilene Weber](mailto:ileneweber22@gmail.com). **GSR VP Torah Fund**



2026 GSR SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Let's get ready for the year ahead!

The Garden State Region is providing 3 workshops open to our region members this summer to help you plan, answer questions and help you produce a productive year. Plus, one for Presidents only. The workshops will give you insights on Membership, Programming, and Torah Fund with the new campaign *Shema Koleinu-Hear Our Voice*.

All workshops are open to Garden State Region members only.



**All Workshops are
at 7:30 pm**

**Mon. Aug. 24
Torah Fund**

**Tues. Aug. 25
Membership**

**Wed. Aug. 26
Programming**

**Thurs. Aug. 27
Sisterhood
Presidents Only**

**Any questions
Sindy Manas
GSRpresident26@wlcj.org**

REGISTER HERE



Or

For one or all!
Zoom link will be sent prior
to Workshop.

[Register](#)

Message from Sheila Kaufman, GSR Immediate Past President WLCJ Convention 2026 - Our Convention was Fantastic!

Shalom,

WL Convention 2026 is now in the books. This was the pinnacle of my Region Presidency. We had been told for the last couple of years that this would be the 2024-2026 Region Presidents' "convention". It was a good one, too! The Garden State Region had 23 attendees. Our madricha, Teresa Samtur, was our lead in making sure our delegates' needs were met. She along with our GSR convention team provided the delegates with a great "bee themed" swag bag, and T-Shirts. It was the talk of the convention; people knew who the GSR was!



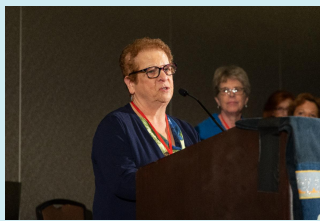
Shabbaton was a wonderful and laid back get-together, davening, eating, playing Mah Jongg, and playing a game led by Rabbi Margie Cella that was a cross between several

TV games. The delegates checked in on Sunday, shopped the vendors, and the plenary began. After the welcome by WL International President, Julia Loeb, it was the 2024-2026 Region Presidents' time to strut their stuff.

As part of training in June 2024, we had to write an opening song; and now in 2026, at the end of our term, we had to prepare our closing song. Thanks to one of my fellow Region Presidents who wrote a bang-up song and everyone enjoyed it! We certainly did our presidency "Our Way" and led our respective regions the best way that we could. That night was the Region parties with our spouses and families in attendance. Helene Knee wrote a fun region song, she always comes through with great lyrics.

On Monday, there was the B'nai Mitzvah service. Mazel tov to Betty Needleman, Ilene Rothman, and Janice Saferstein, who did an outstanding job. I was given the honor to lead Ha Motzi for lunch. A classy presentation was made by the Past International Presidents. We thanked Julia Loeb for her leadership and extended well wishes to Pam Schlosberg. There were Torah Fund highlights and the Jewels in the Crown presentation. Mazel Tov again to GSR's six affiliates that received the awards.

Read on



Message from Cheryl Sessler - GSR VP Membership/Sisterhood Support *Membership is Everyone's Business!*

Greetings to all,

It is time to prepare for a new year of Sisterhood. If you're new to your role as Membership VP or President of a Sisterhood affiliate, this may be new to you, it was new to me when I started on our Sisterhood's board, but my predecessors were right there to guide me, and from there I learned the value of support, new friendships and shared experiences. The GSR works the same way, we are parallel organizations!



As an extension of your synagogue's sisterhood, your WLCJ region provides support, guidance, programming ideas, keeping local sisterhoods in the loop regarding Jewish life. Our Women's League Region Board is here to work with all affiliates to ensure continuity and involvement as well as growth of your Sisterhood.

A big part of my job as region Sisterhood Support/Membership Vice President is to be your information hub, sharing with you your successes and 'almost successes' while providing information and inspiration.

Membership brings you: Camaraderie, belonging, fun and purpose.

**It is an important goal to get your committed membership involved.
*Recruit, Retain, Reclaim.***

Attend Sisterhood events, engage hospitality and let them know "We would like to meet you, we would like to share with you and build community." Arrange a variety of programs that appeal to a wide swath of women in your synagogue community.

[Read More](#)

Environmental Shabbat at Cong. Agudath Israel, Caldwell



CAI JEWISH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
Presents

ENVIRONMENTAL SHABBAT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

YOU ARE INVITED!

For those unable to join us in person, this program is available on Livestream at: agudath.org/livestream

On the First Day of Sukkot
Learning from Parashat Bereshit (Genesis)
LESSONS FOR SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT
INNOVATIONS FROM ISRAEL:

- * *ADAM V'ADAMA* – Agricultural Boarding High School
- * *ARAVA INTERNATIONAL CENTER* for Agricultural Training (AICAT)
- * *KASSER JOINT INSTITUTE* for food, water, and energy security
- * *PROJECT WADI ATTIR* – a sustainable, organic desert farming initiative

Guest Speaker
ALLISON ZINBARG NAGELBERG, ESQ



Northeast Director of Planned Giving for Jewish National Fund-USA. Since her day school education at Solomon Schechter School of Queens, after decades as general counsel for public companies, she pivoted to serving the Jewish world, and has exemplified important leadership including as co-President of her Conservative synagogue Cong. B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick; Director of MetroWest Federation's Global Connections; National and NJ Councils of AIPAC; NJ Board Friends of IDF; Chair of Steering Committee of Camp Ramah Nyack; Board of Golda Och Academy; and appointed by the State of New Jersey to the NJ-Israel Commission.

Enjoy Kiddush Lunch with no plastic tableware!

Environmental Shabbat & Kiddush are supported by the Jerry Sepinwall Jewish Environmental Fund

Congregation Agudath Israel • 20 Academy Road, Caldwell NJ 07006 • 973-226-3600 • www.agudath.org

Good & Welfare - Garden State Region
Share your simchas and sorrows with us!

Let us know if you have any simchas, special birthdays/anniversaries, well wishes, and sorrows to pass on to [Sindy Manas](#) or [Lynette Seader](#)

Birthday Wishes

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

Refuah Shlema

Julie Baron, Co-Pres of Temple Beth Ahm. Aberdeen, hip surgery

Mazel Tov

Dorothy and Irving Cohen, Immediate Past President, MJCBY, Morristown on their 60th Anniversary

Donation Opportunities

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 mumzynj@gmail.com and specify 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.

WLCJ Programs and Messages

WLCJ Convention 2026 Pictures



Julia Loeb, Outgoing International President WLCJ and Pam Schlosberg, Incoming International President at opening plenary



WLCJ Past International Presidents. Sitting: Gloria Cohen, Janet Tobin, Julia Loeb, Rita Wertlieb. Standing: Cory Schneider, Debbi Kaner Goldich, Margie Miller, Carol Simon, and Pam Schlosberg, newly installed WLCJ International President 2026-2029



Rabbi Bradley Artsen, Julia Loeb, Pam Schlosberg and new JTS Chancellor Mike Uram

WLCJ New Torah Fund Platform and Website Training Workshops

Join us for a live walkthrough of the new Torah Fund donation platform and website! Learn how to navigate the new system, make donations, assist your members, and get your questions answered during a live Q&A.

To accommodate different schedules and time zones, we are offering two identical sessions. Please register the one that works best for you.

Session 1: Your Guide to the New Torah Fund Platform & Website Tuesday, September 1, 2026

10:00 to 11:30 p.m. ET / 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. CT / 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. MT /

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. PT

Register [here](#).

Session 2: Your Guide to the New Torah Fund Platform & Website

Thursday, September 3, 2026

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. ET / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. CT / 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. MT /

4:00 to 5:30 p.m. PT

Register [here](#).

Designed for Sisterhood Affiliate Torah Fund Chairs/Vice Presidents, but open to anyone interested in learning more about the Torah Fund donation platform and website.

Programming with Panache- Volume 3.

View 100 pages of great programming to enhance your Sisterhood's events!

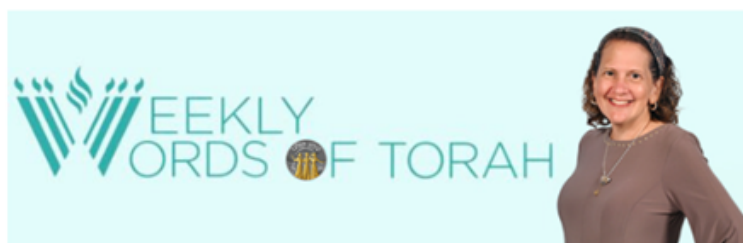


**ACCESS PROGRAMMING
WITH PANACHE VOLUME
III HERE**

PROGRAMMING WITH PANACHE VOLUME III IS AVAILABLE NOW

Elevate your next event with *Programming with Panache*, which is Volume III of Programming! This comprehensive resource features 82 unique programs that have been submitted by WLCJ members, alongside a dedicated guidebook section on how to program and toolkit tips to enhance the programming that Sisterhood Affiliates are presenting. For additional information, contact **Fran Hildebrandt** (fhildebrandt@wlcj.org) or **Jeanette Brownstein** (jbrownstein@wlcj.org).

Weekly Words of Torah



Read WWOT for All of August

WLCJ Executive Director Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields has written words of Tora for all the *parshiyot* for August. We hope they inspire you to engage with the mea behind the new Torah Fund Campaign theme, and we invite you to share these reflections in your own communities.

READ WEEKLY WORDS OF TORAH

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

Find additional WLCJ resources and shortcuts [here](#).

SHARE YOUR SISTERHOOD HAPPENINGS WITH US!

Follow the Garden State Region!

If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to our newsletter please forward to [Lynette Seader](#).

[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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