

Garden State Region News - August 28, 2026



We are
Women's League



STAND
WITH
ISRAEL

WL Week

Visit GSR Website

2026-27 Calendar

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Message from Sindy Manas, GSR President

Dear Affiliate,

August has been a very busy month in the Garden State Region. Early in August we had our GSR Board orientation, our First Executive meeting, and this past week we had our summer workshops. I wanted to thank our presenters, Ilene Weber (Torah Fund); Cheryl Sessler (Sisterhood support/membership); Bonnie Isaacson and Leslie Gleaner (Programming) and Rachel Ferber (Sisterhood Presidents). If you were unable to attend, we will post the recordings to our GSR website when they are available to us from WLCJ. Thanks to Sheila Kaufman for helping with IT Support.



Our Programming Committee has been very busy planning the year's programs. As soon as they are finalized, we will share them with you. We are looking to have a few in person programs.

Save the Date for our annual Torah Fund Event which will be on Sunday, November 15th at Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen, NJ. Details to follow.

Also Save the Date for our Spring Conference Sunday May 2, 2027.

As your Sisterhood/affiliate begins the new year ahead, remember the GSR is here to support you in having a successful year. Check out the WLCJ.org website to see all

available resources for you.

Enjoy the last weeks of summer. Since Labor Day is late this year, I hope we can all enjoy the extra week before we head back into our fall activities.

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"

[Click HERE](#) to
VIEW CONVENTION VIRTUAL JOURNAL



[Click HERE](#) to

ELUL- Elul is an Acronym of Love and An Alarm Clock for the Soul

The letters of Elul are "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li" ("I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"), symbolizing the close bond between humanity and God. During Elul we blow the shofar every morning, except Shabbat to wake the soul and turn back our consciousness toward goodness. The wailing sound of the shofar symbolizes our brokenness, urging reflection, yearning and hope.



During Elul we look carefully at our lives – our actions, thoughts, decisions and choices. In doing so, we may find parts of ourselves that need a little “refresher” – some polishing – where perhaps our intentions get a little rusty or our thoughtful plans get buried under masses of emails.

Elul is basically "our December." The Jewish New Year is almost here, and we are given an entire month to ramp up. Rosh Hashanah asks us to take a real accounting of our lives. We ask for forgiveness and forgive other people. Elul is a serious time of soul-searching, reflection as we evolve with God, his commandments and mitzvot, for the coming year 5787.

Shanah tovah u'metukah (שנה טובה ומתוקה)

The Garden State Region wishes you and your loved ones a good and sweet year.

Message from Ilene Weber - GSR VP Torah Fund

Dear Sisters,

Recently, I was blessed with a family trip to Alaska. The raw beauty of the snow capped mountains, the grizzlies, the whales and other ocean creatures, and perhaps my favorite, the glaciers, left me in awe and speechless! From a distance and from the safety of my ship's balcony, it was hard to really comprehend the scale of the glacier's magnificence, formed by incredible amounts of snow that has transformed into ice over decades and centuries!



While in Glacier Bay, three park rangers from the National Park Service came on board to narrate what we were seeing, the humpbacks that came to show off and to tell the tale of receding tidewater glaciers. They talked about their mission statement: *"To conserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park system for the enjoyment, education, and **inspiration of this and future generations.**"*

Something about “inspiration of this and future generations” brought me back to Torah Fund. We raise funds for the perpetuation of our Conservative/Masorti movement for the present and for future generations. Just like the National Park System, we at Women's League wish to preserve that which we value the most - our traditions, our families, Israel, Torah and our way and life and heritage
"Mah yafah yerushataynu" (How beautiful is our heritage!)

While there is only so much, unfortunately, that can be done about receding tidewater glaciers, we who support Torah Fund can do our part to ensure our Movement is here and strong for those that follow us! What a beautiful legacy to leave behind!

Please mark your calendars for GSR's Fall Torah Fund Event - Sunday November 15, 2026, at Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen, NJ. Details to follow.

As you plan your Torah Fund events this year, please send an invitation! I would love to come and meet you!

Shabbat Shalom,

Ilene Weber

VP Torah Fund - Garden State Region

ileneweber22@gmail.com



Shema Koleinu שמע קולנו *Hear Our Voice*

Help preserve and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism
through active giving to the Torah Fund Campaign

For just \$5 per recipient, you can email these cards to family and friends

Best of all: Revenue from e-card purchases benefits the Torah Fund

Shema Koleinu – Hear Our Voice – campaign.

You can add a personal note and select a specific time to send your card all while supporting your Affiliate's Torah Fund Campaign for Conservative and Masorti Institutes of Higher Learning.



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

[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](#) for Latest Issue of Chadashot

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

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

Any questions please e-mail Ilene Weber. **GSR VP Torah Fund**

Announcing Our 2026-2027 Campaign Theme:

Shema Koleinu שמע קולנו *Hear Our Voice*

We strive to make a significant impact through scholarships and programs to benefit students at the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning in New York, Los Angeles, Israel, South America and Europe.

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 align with those who value learning, and knowledge. You also provide future generations with the relevant skills needed to fortify the Jewish people and support the continuation of the Conservative/Masorti Movement.

Visit www.wlcj.org/about/torah-fund

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. We help foster Jewish unity by our support of the 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 wlcj.org or send your check to the Torah Fund office
3080 Broadway, Suite K900, New York, NY 10027

FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS

please send a cheque to
The Jewish Theological Society
100 Elder Street, Toronto, Ontario, M3H 5G7

The dedicated philanthropy of 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, Suite K900, New York, NY 10027
(405) 870-2159
Morgan Long, Torah Fund Manager, TFManager@wlcj.org

Cong. Torat El Sisterhood Presents:
Bella, An Immigrant Tale, Sunday, October 25th



Congregation Torat El Sisterhood Presents

Bella, An Immigrants Tale

Sunday, October 25, 2:00pm

Bella, An Immigrant's Tale is a one woman show that follows the life journey of Bella Indianer, a Russian Jewish immigrant who survived the pogroms in Russia (modern day Ukraine), and later emigrated to America in 1920. The play is performed and written by her granddaughter, Vicki Summers.

The play is followed by a brief slideshow, Q&A and refreshments.

Adults (18+) - \$18

\$25 at the door (limited tickets)

Ages 10-16 no charge but must be accompanied by an adult

Age 17 no charge

Please note this program is appropriate for children 10 and up

Register at upcomingevents.torat-el.org by October 11
301 Monmouth Road, Oakhurst NJ 07755

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!**

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.

Fall Hebrew Classes on Zoom Register by Sept. 16th

Learn Hebrew, from the Siddur to the Torah

WLCJ ZOOM classes for 2026-27 will start on October 15 and run through June 4. Registration ends September 16, 2026.

If you would like to expand your Jewish literacy skills, learn Hebrew from scratch (perhaps while also participating in the WL Bat Mitzvah class), or improve your ability to read Biblical Hebrew, consider enrolling in one of our classes today!

Level 1 is for students with no or limited knowledge of Hebrew. Students will learn to recognize the letters and vowels of the *alephbet*, read and understand basic words in the siddur. Offered on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Register for Level 1 – Tuesdays [here](#)

Register for Level 1 – Fridays [here](#).

Level 2 is for students who know all of the Hebrew letters and vowels and want to be more confident when reading the *Siddur*. Offered on Thursdays.

Register for Level 2 [here](#).

Level 3 is for capable Hebrew readers who would like to be more comfortable with reading, siddur choreography, prayer vocabulary and a general understanding of the meaning of prayers. Offered on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Register for Level 3 – Tuesdays [here](#).

Register for Level 3 – Fridays [here](#).

Level 4 is a Chumash class for proficient Hebrew readers who want to strengthen their skills and learn vocabulary through the study of weekly Torah and Haftarah portions. This class will delve into the meaning of text by examining word roots, prefixes, suffixes and other basic Hebrew grammar. Offered on Thursdays and Fridays.

Register for Level 4 – Thursdays [here](#).

Register for Level 4 – Fridays [here](#).

A minimum of 6 students is required for each class.

EMAIL

skatz@wlcj.org

Sharon Katz, WLCJ Hebrew Classes Chair

SAVE THE DATES!

**WL READS/WL YOUTH
ANNOUNCING 2026-2027 BOOK PICKS**

Lynette Seader and Corinne Hammerschlag are the new Book Chairs for **WL Reads** and are excited to introduce provocative discussions with authors. More information will appear in the next edition of WL Week. We are pleased to announce and share our upcoming authors and their incredible books with our Women's League Family.

On March 28, 2027, Corinne will launch **WL Youth**, where we feature children's author, Ruth Spiro and extend our book offering to our children and grandchildren!

Our first book selection is HENNA HOUSE with Author: Nomi Eve on Sunday, November 29th at 11am EST. Henna House is an engrossing, mystical and magical story of a powerful sisterhood of women in a unique culture of Yemenite Jews living in the mid twentieth century. We have provided a link to the book you to get started!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE READS/WL YOUTH- BOOK/AUTHOR EVENTS 2026-2027

Announcing : WL Read/WL Youth

Our reading selections, are available for purchase on Amazon.

November 29, 2026. HENNA HOUSE by: Author Nomi Eve

January 10, 2027 - CONCEALED by Author Esther Amini

March 28, 2027. WL YOUTH Children's Author Ruth Spiro

June 13, 2027 All Afternoon by Author: Susan Kleiman

All ZOOM discussion are on Sundays, 11am - 12:15pm EST

CONCEALED by ESTHER AMINI

CLIMATE SCIENCE

All Afternoon by Susan Kleiman

[CLICK FOR AMAZON LINK](#)

TORAH FUND GUIDE TO THE NEW TORAH FUND PLATFORM

Session 1 - September 1st. Session 2 - September 3rd



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

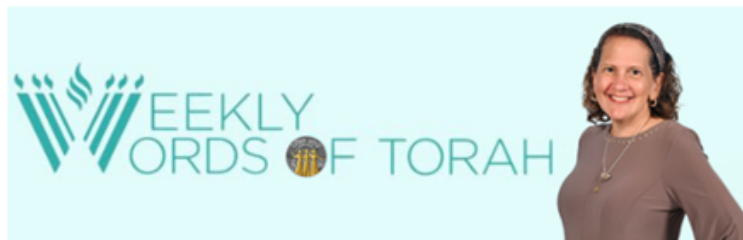
7:00 to 8:30 p.m. ET / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. CT / 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. MT /

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.

Weekly Words of Torah



Ki Tavo 5786 (August 29, 2026)

By Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields In Parashat Ki Tavo, the Torah describes the dramatic moment of bringing the bikkurim—the first fruits—to the Temple. The farmer does not simply drop off produce; instead,...

[READ MORE »](#)

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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