

Garden State Region News - September 10, 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,

September reminds me of shorter days, cooler nights and the kids returning to school. Fall is a season of transition – a time when we can look back at the summer and prepare for the months ahead.

On Friday evening September 11, we will light candles and welcome Rosh Hashanah 5787. That same date, 25 years ago, is one that is forever etched in our collective memory. On that date, thousands of innocent lives were lost, families and communities were changed forever, and our sense of safety and security was deeply shaken.



For many of us September 11 remains personal. We remember where we were, who we called and how we gathered in the days that followed. We remember the courage of the first responders, the compassion of strangers and the strength found in community.

This year as we honor the memory of those we lost on September 11, may we also embrace the renewal of Rosh Hashanah. May the shofar awaken us to our responsibilities to one another and to the wider world. May it remind us to lead with compassion, cherish our relationships and use our voices and strength to help build a more peaceful and caring community.

Wishing you and your families a meaningful time of reflection and a Shana Tova U'metukah -a sweet and good new year.

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

Dear Sisters,

Our tradition states on Rosh Hashanah that God writes down everyone's fate for the coming year. Writes, but does not seal. During the ten days between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we can improve our "inscriptions" for the coming year by giving tzedakah.



At the heart of the High Holidays are **three pillars: teshuvah, tefillah, and tzedakah**. Each element is essential, but tzedakah carries a special power because it transforms reflection into action. Giving is a way to embody compassion and bring tangible blessings into the lives of others as we begin a new year. We can do this by supporting the Torah Fund campaign and the Legacy Society. Recently, I made the decision to participate in the Legacy Society - to leave something for the future when I am no longer here. I want to "ensure that the values and services of Jewish educational institutions that Torah Fund supports will be part of our community's resources long into the future."

The Shema Koleinu campaign is for today - the Legacy Society is for future generations. Just like DNA is a double helix wrapped around each other carrying the building blocks of life, today's Torah Fund campaign and the Legacy Society carry the building blocks of today and tomorrow.

Perhaps this is something you could do as well?

On Rosh Hashanah, we pray for a sweet and prosperous year. However, what makes a year truly sweet is not only what we receive, but what we share.

Shana Tovah,

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

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

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

[Click Here](#) for Latest Issue of Chadashot

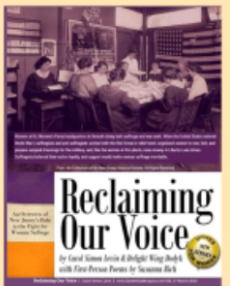
[Click Here](#) for FAQs about Torah Fund

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

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

**Reclaiming Our Voice- The Role of NJ Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage
Coffee & Connections LIVE Event, at JCC Metrowest, West Orange**



Members of the Garden State Region affiliates
are invited to attend our first
Coffee and Connections: LIVE!

RECLAIMING OUR VOICE

THE ROLE OF NJ WOMEN IN THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Carol Simon Levin

Carol Simon Levin is a professional storyteller,
impersonator and historian specializing in telling the
stories of "fascinating women who history forgot"
through captivating first person portrayals
<https://tellingherstories.com/>

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st
7:00 PM "In Person"
at
JCC MetroWest
760 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, NJ

Light Refreshments will be served

Program proudly sponsored by the Evelyn
Auerbach z"l GSR Education Fund

Please RSVP to Bonnie Isaacson
GSR VP Programming
by October 16th
bonnie.isaacson17@gmail.com

[RSVP here to](#) Bonnie Isaacson

YRosh Hashanah message from Chancellor Mike Uram



**Please view the first Message from JTS
Chancellor Michael Uram for the New Year 5787**
[Click HERE](#)

Among the popular traditions associated with the holiday is called **Tashlich**, where people throw crumbs or pieces of bread, symbolizing their sins, into flowing water.

Are you familiar with Reverse Tashlich?

Reverse Tashlich program this year takes place on September 6th or an alternative Sunday in September. Reverse Tashlich was created in 2018 as **Repair the Sea / Tikkun HaYam**. The program turns symbolism into hands-on action by removing trash and plastic *out* of the water. This movement is fully endorsed by WLCJ/Masorti and we encourage your support and contributions to help us protect our environment for future generations.

[Repair the Sea Website](#)

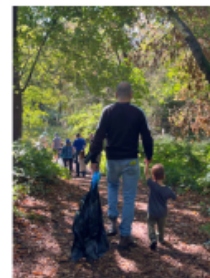
Reverse Tashlich



Sisterhood

Highland Park Conservative Temple-Congregation *Anshe Emeth*

201 South Third Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904 | 732-545-6482 | Fax 732-246-3100 | www.hpcd-cae.org



**ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US, SHORASHIM, AND MEMBERS
OF THE GREATER HP COMMUNITY FOR THE**

9th Annual Repair the Sea

REVERSE TASHLICH

International Waterfront Cleanup

SUNDAY, SEPT. 20

10 AM- 12 PM



REPAIR THE SEA
Tikkun HaYam

**MEET AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HIGHLAND PARK MEADOWS TRAIL
Bottom of South 5th Avenue**

Purpose

By joining Reverse Tashlich, you help restore local waterways, protect marine life, and raise awareness about water pollution—turning a spiritual act into tangible environmental action and inspiring others to care for our shared planet.

Role

During Tashlich on Rosh HaShanah, we symbolically cast our "sins" into water. In Reverse Tashlich, we turn that ritual into action—removing human "sin" from the water by cleaning up our local waterways and beginning the year with purpose and care.

Check out [//www.repairthesea.org/2026-reverse-tashlich](http://www.repairthesea.org/2026-reverse-tashlich)

Children welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Wear clothes that can get wet and muddy!

For Registration go to <https://tinyurl.com/ytw33ypr>

Questions - Contact Marsha Goldwasser at mbgold@goldwasserfamily.org



Environmental Shabbat at Congregation Agudath Israel

CAI JEWISH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Presents



DISCOVERING THE JOY,
PURPOSE, AND POWER OF
JEWISH LIFE, TOGETHER

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

Bella, An Immigrants Tale at Cong. Torat El, Oakhurst



**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**

WLCJ RESOLUTION 2026 - CLIMATE CHANGE
Great Ideas for your Sisterhood

Read the entire resolution that includes these great ideas to utilize with your Sisterhood.

[Climate Change Resolution 2026](#)

1. "Reverse Tashlich" Program: Clean debris from waterways.

2. Letter-Writing or Phone-Bank Night: Focus on specific legislation or climate funding initiatives aligned with WLCJ priorities.

2. Climate Mitzvah Day:

Partner with local organizations for tree planting, urban gardening, park or beach cleanups and habitat restoration. Close with a brief ritual or prayer for the Earth.

3. Tu B'Shevat Seder:

Host a climate-focused Tu B'Shevat seder highlighting: water scarcity, deforestation, sustainable agriculture and climate justice. Include actionable commitments that participants can take home.

4. Climate-Conscious Cooking Demo:

Host a plant-forward cooking class focusing on reducing meat consumption, using seasonal/local foods, farm to table program, focusing on waste reduction and sharing Jewish recipes with sustainable twists.

5.Climate Advocacy 101 Workshop:

Teach participants how to read climate data, contact elected officials, support accountability legislation and provide scripts and action toolkits.

6.Biodegradable Utensils: Use for meals and encourage using reusable products where possible, including water bottles and reusable bags.

7.Recycling Education Program: Collect items that can be recycled, such as egg cartons, returnable cans, etc.

8.Virtual Lobby Days: Meet with your legislators on these days regarding climate change and other environmental issues.

Jewish Organizations Supporting Protection of the Environment

- Adamah (People Planet Purpose)
- Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)
- Dayenu (A Jewish Call to Climate Action)
- Hazon
- Jewish Climate Action Network
- Jewish Earth Alliance
- Jewish Farm Network
- Jewish National Fund
- Masorti Environmental Sustainability Initiative (MESI)
- Repair the Sea

WLCJ Sustainability Survey

A Note from Susan Farber – WL Sustainability Chair

As we begin another year of WLCJ activities and virtual programming, we want to hear your voice. Your feedback will help shape future programs focused on environmentalism and sustainability.

Two core principles of WLCJ – Shema Koleinu (Hear Our Voice) and Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) – guide this initiative and our invitation to participate in this survey.

We hope you will take fewer than 10 minutes to complete the survey by September 24, 2026, sharing your priorities and selecting the topics that most interest you for future learning and action. Closing open-ended questions offer an opportunity to share additional thoughts and ideas.

[Link to Sustainability Survey](#)

A Virtual Toast to Sherrill Moss Solomon

A Virtual Toast to Sherrill Moss Solomon

REGISTER

DONATE TO TORAH FUND

FOR HER 23 YEARS OF SERVICE AS TORAH FUND ADMINISTRATOR

Mon | Sep 14 | 8:00 pm ET | Zoom

Sherrill has helped literally thousands of Torah Fund volunteers make Torah Fund so successful. She has become their problem solver, guide to procedure, and, most of all, friend!

Please come and show your appreciation for all Sherrill has done.

Feel free to make a donation to Torah Fund in her honor. To send an acknowledgement to Sherrill use smsolomontribute@yahoo.com.



[Register Here](#)

[Click HERE to](#)
[View Bat Mitzvah Video, July 13, 2026 at WLCJ Convention](#)



THIS COULD BE YOU!

Here is your opportunity to become a member of the Bat Mitzvah Class of 2026-2029. This three-year program, taught by Rabbis, Educators, and Leaders of the Conservative movement, will meet once a month. Joining this class will not only enrich your knowledge of Judaism, but you will become a part of a special community of women with a common goal and bond.

Please let us know your interest by emailing Toby B. Holtzman, the Bat Mitzvah Chair, at tholtzman@wlcj.org by September 16, 2026.



[Click to](#)
[to view International Installation of Officers Ceremony](#)



Rosh Hashanah

Pam Schlossberg

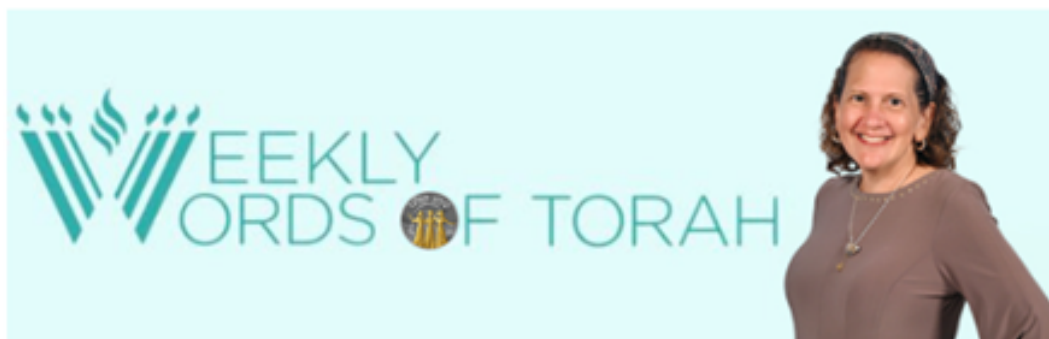
WLCJ International President

There is something magical about seeing the world through the eyes of children. Children are our greatest teachers of wonder and awe; they have a PH.D. in exuberance—pausing to watch an airplane cross the sky, bending down to marvel at a ladybug on a leaf, delighting in an “Oh, so pretty!” patch of dandelions, or discovering a rabbit in the clouds. To them, the world is alive with wonder, and every discovery is worthy of a breathless whisper: “Wow!” It is joy in its purest, most uninhibited form.

Children simply are flat out open to the world around them—and, thankfully, eager to share every discovery. When we see the world through their eyes, they can give voice to our inner child of astonishment, surprise, and just pure happiness.

[Click HERE](#)

WLCJ International President Pam Schlossberg's Message for the New Year (full article)



Read WWOT for Rosh Hashanah Days 1 & 2

Written by WLCJ Executive Director Rabbi Ellen S. Wolintz-Fields

One of the most powerful phrases in the Rosh Hashanah liturgy is “Shema Koleinu” — “Hear our voice.” We ask God not merely to hear our words, but to listen deeply to the voices that emerge from our fear, hope, vulnerability, and longing.

This theme appears in the Torah readings of both days of Rosh Hashanah.

[Read Full Message WWOT](#)

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

Garden State Region Donation Opportunities, Simchas and Sorrows, Links

Simchas- Wedding Anniversaries in our Region

Mazel tov to Jackie and Steve Walzer on their 54th Wedding Anniversary
Mazel to to Janice and Jeremy Saferstein on their 50th Anniversary, Sept.12th
Mazel tov to Donna and Arthur Franklin on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Sept.11
Mazel Tov to Leslie and David Gleaner on their 40th Wedding Anniversary
Mazel Tov to Donna and Steve Burkat on the upcoming wedding of son Randall and Jessica
Mazel Tov to Tova and Barry Rothschild on the engagement of their daughter Ariella
Lovett to Gabe Gralla

Mazel tov to Joan Gillman on receiving an Honorary Doctorate Degree

Wishing all who have September birthdays, **Yom Huledet Sameach!**

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

Gloria Steinam z"l, trailblazing feminist activist, writer, and advocate.

Diana Dickson z"l, sister of Wanda Pitzele, Immediate Past President off the Central Great Lakes Region of WLCJ.

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

Garden State Region 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.

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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