Garden State Region News - October 23, 2026

Garden State Region
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Read the latest WL Week

Visit GSR Website

2026-27 Calendar



We are Women's League
STAND WITH ISRAEL

In This Issue - Great Programs to attend and register for!

- Message from Sindy Manas, GSR President
- Message from Ilene Weber, GSR VP Torah Fund
- **Registration Open for GSR Fall Torah Fund Event, Nov. 15th @ 1pm-4pm, "Women In Song, Where We Belong" at Temple Beth Ahm, Aberdeen- Early Bird Registration ends Oct. 25**
- Pictures from Oct. 21 Coffee & Connections LIVE "Reclaiming Our Voice"
- Torah Fund Changes Lives: Hear Our Stories via Zoom, Sun. Nov. 1 @12 noon
- Register for next Coffee & Connections via Zoom: Dec. 16 @ 7:30pm "Our Jewish Responsibility as Guardians of Creation"
- Buy Tickets for "SIX13 Concert Live" at B'nai Tikvah, Sun. Dec. 6 @ 2pm
- Improvisational Theatre at Highland Park, Sat. Nov. 7 @ 7:30pm
- A few spaces available for WL Hebrew Classes & Adult Bat Mitzvah Class
- WL "Membership a Recipe for Success," Thurs. Nov 5 @ 7pm
- New WLCJ Rosh Chodesh Program, Tues. Nov. 10 @ 8pm
- WL Sichot Beyn Achayot 2026 Session 2, Sun. Nov. 22 @12 noon
- WL Membership presents "Thanksgiving Delights & Disasters", Nov. 19 @ 7pm
- Parsha Weekly Words of Torah - Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields

Message from Sindy Manas, GSR President



Dear Affiliate,

This week I want to talk about staying connected, communicating and keeping in touch. Each of our Sisterhoods does wonderful work. We can do even more when we share ideas and talk with one another. When one Sisterhood has a successful program or fundraiser, other Sisterhoods can learn from it.

In November, Sisterhood Affiliate Presidents will receive the new Garden State Region directory. This directory is a way of communicating and networking with all the GSR Sisterhood Presidents and Garden State Region Officers. Please keep it close and use it often.

Here are some ways to keep in touch:

- Call or email a Sisterhood President or Region officer.
- Share your programs and ideas with the Region.
- Come to Region events.
- Reach out to a member you have not heard from in a while.

We do not need to wait for the directory to get started. This week, please reach out to one Sister and say hello.

Register today for the GSR Fall Torah Fund Event on November 15, 2026 at Temple Beth Ahm, Aberdeen @ 1 PM. The theme is "Women In Song, Where We Belong". Esther Schwartz, who is a second-year cantorial student at the Jewish Theological Seminary is our speaker. Our Women of Distinction to be honored are Marlene Oslick and Meryl Balaban. Please come and support them. Take advantage of Early Registration through October 25, 2026.

The next Coffee & Connections will be on Zoom on December 16, 2026 @ 7:30 PM. The program is "Our Jewish Responsibility as Guardians of Creation" presented by Rabbi Melanie Aron, Co-Chair of the Jewish Earth Alliance. Registration is now open.

The GSR Spring Conference is May 2nd, 2027. Details to follow. Please save the date.

I look forward to seeing you at future Region 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

Pickleball and Torah Fund



Dear Sisters,

I love pickleball, and I'll admit there may be some good, old-fashioned addiction involved! There are many physical health benefits, including moderate exercise that benefits the heart and lungs, improved balance and coordination, and increased bone and muscle strength. If that weren't enough, there are also mental and social benefits, such as stress relief, cognitive sharpness, and social connection. I am grateful that I can play six or more hours a week in an open-play environment.

There are many different types of pickleball players who show up for open play, each with their own style and personality. Two common on-court playing styles are the Banger, who hits every shot with maximum power and speed from the baseline, relying on force rather than patience, and the Counterpuncher, who plays a calm, defensive game, using consistency and well-placed returns to wear down aggressive hitters. I am very happy playing patiently, allowing the opposing team to make the mistakes!

I like to draw a parallel between pickleball and the Torah Fund campaign. There has been an incredible response since the July 1 launch. Every time I log on and see the number of donors and the rising donation total, I feel proud of all the work being done to support our philanthropy. Then I ask myself: How can we maintain this momentum and consistency throughout the campaign year?

While the campaign launch can feel like a pickleball Banger, bringing lots of energy and excitement, it is the slow and steady effort that wins matches over time. That same consistency will help us continue to increase the number of donors supporting this year's Torah Fund campaign. The old adage "slow and steady wins the race" makes sense to me, and I hope it does to you, too.

On November 1, we will have a wonderful opportunity to see firsthand why our continued efforts matter. Our Torah Fund program, *"Torah Fund Changes Lives: Hear Our Stories,"* will feature four students from our Conservative/Masorti seminaries. Each student will share their personal journey and how Torah Fund scholarships have helped make that journey possible. Their stories will remind us that behind every donation is an opportunity to support a student, nurture Jewish learning, and invest in the future of our movement. What better reason could there be to keep our momentum going?

Let's keep doing what we're doing in the Garden State Region! Through our steady efforts, we are making a difference in the lives of students and in the future of our Conservative/Masorti movement.

To our GSR affiliates, please send me an invitation as you plan your Torah Fund events this year. I would love to come and meet you!

Shabbat Shalom,

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 participate in 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

Registration Open for Fall Torah Fund Event: Sun. Nov. 15 @ 1pm-4pm
Temple Beth Ahm, Aberdeen
"Women In Song, Where We Belong"
Early Bird Registration ends Oct. 25

Garden State Region

Fall Torah Fund Event

Women In Song, Where We Belong

Shema Koleinu
Hear Our Voice

Sunday, November 15, 2026

Check in begins 12:45 pm
Program/Lunch 1:15 pm to 4:00 pm
Temple Beth Ahm, 550 Lloyd Road, Aberdeen



Guest Speaker

Esther Schwartz

Second year cantorial student at the Jewish Theological Seminary. After 16 years of a rich and full film career she found the pull towards a Jewish life was too much to ignore and decided to pivot to a career in the cantorate.

Honoring two women of Distinction



Marlene Oslick

Marlene Oslick served from 2002-2004 as Central NJ Branch President and most recently Women's League Chair Social Action Resolutions Committee 2020-2023.



Meryl Balaban

Meryl Balaban was Vice President of Torah Fund for the Northern NJ Region from 2006-2008 and completed her third year as the President of the Garden State Region in 2011. Currently, Meryl serves as the Vice Chair of Programming for Women's League.

TORAH FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Cost & Online Registration

$45/$46.35 Early Bird Registration by **Oct. 25**

$55/$56.65 Regular Registration and no later than **Nov. 5**

Credit Card: (VISA or MasterCard only) accepted with a 3% increase shown in **red**.

Donations in honor of Marlene and Meryl are greatly appreciated and will go to Torah Fund. Tributes will be posted in the program. Please use the online registration form whether you will be attending or not.

Online Registration & Tributes HERE – ALL registrations are online. There will be no walk-ins.

Send Checks: payable to **Garden State Region WLCJ**
Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006
Include Name(s), contact information and Sisterhood/Town, dietary needs, and Tribute message.

Questions: Ilene Weber, GSR TF VP, ileneweber22@gmail.com

Scan to register

REGISTER HERE

Torah Fund Changes Lives: HEAR OUR STORIES



Sun | Nov 1 | 12:00 pm ET | Zoom

Join us for a special program highlighting the impact of the Torah Fund campaign through the stories of four rabbinical students from The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, The Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, and The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary of Jerusalem.

Each student will share their personal journey to rabbinical school and how scholarships have helped make that journey. The program will conclude with a moderated Q&A session.

Learn more about the students here.

REGISTER HERE

Brought to you by the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

This program is co-sponsored by Ramah, Keshet, The Rabbinical Assembly, The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, The Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, and The Schechter Rabbinical Seminary of Jerusalem.

Pictures from October 21, 2026 Coffee & Connections LIVE: "Reclaiming Our Voice"





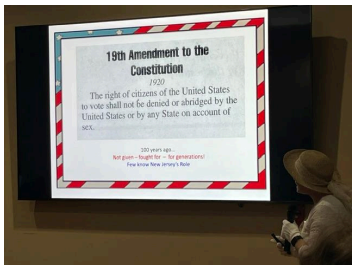
Leslie Gleaner, GSR Program Chair; Carol Simon Levin, Program Storyteller; Bonnie Isaacson, GSR Programming VP



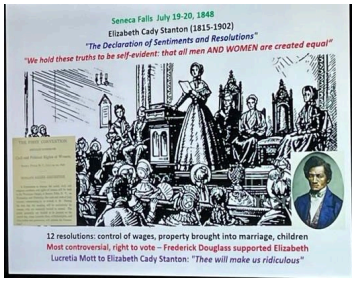
Bonnie Isaacson, GSR Programming VP; Carol Simon Levin, Program Storyteller; Sindy Manas, GSR President



League of Women Voters Representatives: Robin Weiss and Amy Ipp









Sheila Kaufman, GSR Immediate Past President; Sindy Manas, GSR President; Teresa Samtur, GSR Past Region President; Ilene Weber, GSR Torah Fund VP



The audience



Sindy Manas, GSR President with GSR Past Region Presidents: Ilene Rothman, Sheila Kaufman, Heddy Belman, Teresa Samtur

Coffee & Connections via Zoom: Wed. Dec. 16 @ 7:30pm
"Our Jewish Responsibility as Guardians of Creation"

Garden State Region

COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

JEWISH EARTH ALLIANCE

Garden State Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism
Presents

"Our Jewish Responsibility as Guardians of Creation"
Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at 7:30 PM
Presenter: Rabbi Melanie Aron,
Co-Chair of the Jewish Earth Alliance

The Torah calls upon us to be Shomrei Adama-Stewards of the Earth- in order to protect and preserve it for future generations. Please join us for a workshop with Rabbi Melanie Aron, a Jewish educator, scholar, and environmental activist who will lead us in a discussion about why we, as Jews, need to be concerned about the environment using Jewish texts as our guide. In addition to changes, we can make as individuals and organizations to promote environmental stewardship, we will discuss the importance of legislative initiatives and international agreements to protect our planet.



Register here to obtain the Zoom link for our program

This program is being offered at no charge on Zoom. Registration required to attend. A recording will be offered to all registrants.

For questions, please contact Helene Knee at kneenote@gmail.com

REGISTER

Sisterhood EBJC & B'nai Tikvah present
SIX13 CONCERT Live at B'nai Tikvah, No. Brunswick
Sun. Dec. 6 @ 2pm



BUY TICKETS

Highland Park Conservative Temple-CAE Sisterhood presents Improvisional Theatre, Sat. Nov. 7 @ 7:30pm



RSVP to Martha Kovac

WL Learn Hebrew or Join Adult Bat Mitzvah Class - Few spaces still available



Did you miss the deadline to register for one of our Hebrew reading classes? We are pleased to announce that a few spaces are still available in the following classes.

If you are interested, please email **Barbara Finkel**, WLCJ Education Vice President, as soon as possible.

Level 1: Tuesdays at 11:00am ET.
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.

Level 2: Thursdays at 10:00am ET.
For students who know all the Hebrew letters and vowels and want to increase their ability to read the Siddur.

Level 3: Fridays at 10:00am ET.
For capable Hebrew readers who would like to be more comfortable with reading, siddur choreography, prayer vocabulary and an understanding of the meaning of prayers.

Level 4: Tuesdays at 10:30am ET.
A Chumash-based class for proficient Hebrew readers looking to strengthen their skills and learn vocabulary through the study of weekly Torah and Haftorah portions.



Here is your opportunity to become a member of the **Bat Mitzvah Class of 2026-2029**. This two and a half-year program, taught by Rabbis, Educators, and Leaders of the Conservative movement, will meet once a month beginning in January 2027. By joining this class you will enrich your knowledge of Judaism, become part of a special community of women with a common goal and bond, and have the chance to participate in the Bat Mitzvah service at the WLCJ Convention in 2029.

Please let us know of your interest by emailing **Toby Holtzman**, Bat Mitzvah Chair, as soon as possible. Classes will begin in January 2027.

WL Toolbox Talks



Membership: A Recipe for Success

Thu | Nov 5 | 7:00 pm ET | Zoom

Presented by:

Debbie Lempert, Consulting Services VP
Teri Fields, Membership VP

This session will discuss tools and specific strategies to create and realize your membership goals.

This is the first session in a Zoom series open to all Women's League members.

REGISTER

WL Rosh Chodesh Group

WLCJ *ROSH CHODESH* GROUP

1st in series, featuring

WLCJ Educator Rabbi Margie Cella

Tue | Nov 10 | 8:00-9:30 pm ET | Zoom

REGISTER







As a lead up to live-streaming with WOW during the year, WLCJ will be providing a series of *Rosh Chodesh* Group programs on Zoom, on some evenings before we join WOW at the *Kotel* individually.

We will participate as a group, enjoying the women's holiday of *Rosh Chodesh* while welcoming the new month together – *B'Yachad*.

Please consider inviting the members of your Sisterhood Affiliate to join you.

As women of WLCJ, we will usher in the new moon and officially start the month of *Kislev* in the first of this series.

Shema Koleinu – Hear Our Voice.

Doreen Bornfreund, Women of the Wall Chair, WLCJ

Sichot Beyn Achayot 2026 Sessions

Sichot beyn Achayot – Conversations Between Sisters

SHEMA KOLEINU – HEAR OUR VOICES

There are many ways in which we use our communal voices to strengthen our relationship with God. We will look at three very different instances of using our voices for *Tikkun Olam*, repairing our world, while imploring God to hear us and support us.

TO WATCH SESSION 1, CLICK HERE.

Session 2: *Koach Koloteinu* – The Power of Our Voices: Giving a Voice to Those Unable to Speak for Themselves

Sun | Nov 22 | 12:00 pm ET | Zoom

Our voices form such an integral part of our worship, through singing, talking, and studying. But what about those among us who are non-speaking? We will look at how, using new technological advances, we can enable those who are non-speaking to fully engage in religious life.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Rabbi Judith Edelman Green**, Rabbi-Chaplain at Tel Hashomer Hospital
- **Rabbi Ruti Regan**, Consultant with Matan
- **Dror Levy**, Founder and CEO of BarVox
- **Orly Ziv-Maxin**, Speech-Language Pathologist and BarVox Consultant
- **Judy Chinitz**, Founder and Director of Hand to Mouth Learning Center
- **Rena Roberman**, Founder of Communication4All/C4A Academy
- **Dr. Gila Vogel**, Founder of Adraba B'nei Mitzvah program for children with disabilities
- **Marianella Kreiman**, Director of Adraba B'nei Mitzvah program

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GUEST SPEAKERS HERE.

MEMBER REGISTRATION

WLCJ NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

WL Membership Program

THANKSGIVING DELIGHTS AND DISASTERS

Presented by the WLCJ Membership Committee

Thurs | Nov 19 | 7:00-8:30 pm ET | Zoom

Come share a memory, recipe, or an item specific to Thanksgiving!

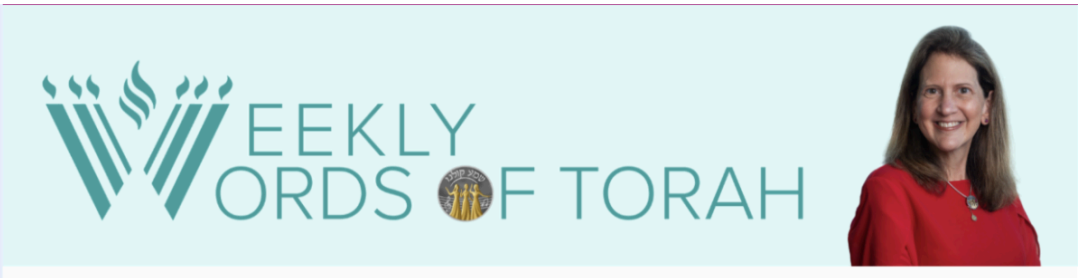
REGISTER



Please join us for a relaxing program about Thanksgiving, which will include a D'var Torah about being thankful for the small moments, time to share your Thanksgiving delights and disasters in the form of a memory, recipe, story, or item specific to your family celebration. We will end with celebrations to share and schmooze time.

Our entire WLCJ Membership is encouraged to attend, especially our Individual Members.

Weekly Words of Torah



Read WWOT for *Parashat Lekh-Lekha*

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

In ***Parashat Lekh-Lekha,*** Avram is called to leave everything familiar—his land, his birthplace, and his father's house—and journey toward an unknown future. It is a command rooted in trust without guarantees. Avram responds not with certainty, but with movement: "*Vayelech Avram ka'asher diber elav Hashem*"—*he goes as God has spoken to him.*

Read Full Article

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

List of Additional WLCJ resources and shortcuts here.

Mazel Tov

Sebley Hausler celebrating her 99th birthday.

Donna and Stephen Burkat on the wedding of their son Randall Burkat to Jessica Gutierrez.

Refuah Schlema

Jeremy Saferstein

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

Condolences to Fran Katz, GSR Board Member on the passing of her daughter Susanne Riva Bernado z"l

With sadness, we inform you of the passing of Martin Pomerantz z"l, beloved husband of Maxine Pomerantz, past President of the former Southwest Branch of WLCJ. Messages of condolence may be sent to Maxine at 5521 Williamstown Road, Dallas, Texas 75230, or by email to Maxpom@swbell.net. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Maxine and the entire Pomerantz family and pray that they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Support the Garden State Region - Donate to Our Funds:

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.

Please specify which fund(s) to make the donation to.Donna Franklin, GSR Treasurer
Mail your check payable to "GSR-WLCJ" to Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ. 07006. email mumzynj@gmail.com. Donations can also be made via Credit Card.

Please Notify Us of your Happenings

If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to our newsletter please forward to **Lynette Seader**.

Follow the Garden State Region!

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.

We are Women's League
Engaging, Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

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