Garden State Region News - October 9, 2026

Garden State Region
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM





Read the latest WL Week

Visit GSR Website

2026-27 Calendar



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- Pictures:WLCJ BOD &Torah Fund Cabinet Meeting & Lunch in JTS Sukkah
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- Parsha Weekly Words of Torah - Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields

Message from Sindy Manas, GSR President



Dear Affiliate,

Recently, my husband and I traveled to Rindge New Hampshire, a rural town, for the wedding of his college friend's daughter. Over the years, our families got together when our children were young, so we wanted to be there to celebrate this special occasion. It was a gorgeous fall day, and the foliage was beautiful. The ceremony was outdoors, followed by a small reception. The officiant was a friend of both the bride and groom. The groom is not Jewish, but at the end of the ceremony it was announced that, in keeping with the bride's Jewish heritage, both the bride and groom would break the glass. Everyone shouted "Mazel Tov!" Later, some Jewish music was played, and we all got up and danced. Although she married someone who isn't Jewish, she still has traditions she wants to keep, and that came from her upbringing.

Join us for our first GSR program in person on Wednesday October 21, 2026, at 7pm at the JCC Metro West in West Orange. **Reclaiming Our Voice – The Role of NJ Women in the Fight for Women's Suffrage.** Carol Simon Levin is our speaker. She specializes in telling the stories of "fascinating women who history forgot. "This program is proudly sponsored by the Evelyn Auerbach z"l GSR Education Fund. Please see the flyer in this newsletter and RSVP.

Our **Fall Torah Fund Event** will be at Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen on Sunday November 15, 2026. Check in will be at 12:45 pm and we will start at 1:15 pm. Our honorees are Marlene Oslick and Meryl Balaban. Our theme is **Women in Song, Where We Belong.** Esther Schwartz, a second-year Cantorial Student at JTS is our speaker. Registration is required and tributes are appreciated. Please see the flyer in this newsletter to register, for early bird pricing.

As you schedule events this year for your Sisterhood/affiliate, please share them with the GSR. You can send them to Lynette lynetteseader59@gmail.com and myself gsrpresident26@wlcj.org.

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

The costs of Rabbinical Education since 1948



Dear Sisters,

There is something about the start of the fourth quarter of the year — a time to think about year end donations and securing necessary receipts for the upcoming tax season. It's all about looking back on the year that will be ending soon.

I spent some time looking back through the Women's League archives. From a Torah Fund Scholarship Fund brochure circa 1948, I found this: "The Cost of Student Maintenance and Instruction." These were the costs to educate a rabbi in 1948:

$611 pays a year's dormitory cost and maintenance.
$1,250 provides for a full year's instruction as well as maintenance.
$5,000 covers the all-expense cost for a full four-year course of training for the rabbinate.

While the rabbinate may be a five year course of study today, $5,000 in 1948 is equivalent in purchasing power to about $69,277 today. A full rabbinic education for $5,000 back then, and today's purchasing power not quite covering one year of study.

We know the need is most important and urgent. We have the opportunity to make a difference. Torah Fund makes a difference, a huge difference for so many. For example, from Rabbi David Wolpe: (Rabbi emeritus of Sinai Temple), “If it weren’t for Torah Fund, I don’t think I could have received my rabbinic education.”

Please register for the “Torah Fund Changes Lives: Hear Our Stories” program on November 1, 2026 at 12 PM EST. We’ll hear from four amazing students who will share their personal journey to rabbinical school and how scholarships have helped make that journey possible.

Registration is also open for our own GSR Fall Torah Fund event on Sunday November 15th, 2026 at Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen, NJ. Esther Schwartz, a second year cantorial student at JTS will share her story from a 16 year filmmaker career to cantorial school.

As we head into the fourth quarter of the year, please donate generously as you plan for year end. Thank 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 'Women in Song, Where We Belong' TORAH FUND EVENT

Garden State Region
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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

Coffee &Connections: LIVE Reclaiming Our Voice: Please RSVP to attend



RSVP to Attend

Sisterhood Temple Beth Shalom, Livingston, October 19th, 7:00 PM
Jewish Voice in the Publishing World, RSVP with the Register Button

Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood invites you to a special evening exploring whats happening to Jewish Authors and Jewish stories in publishing today.

Across the industry, Jewish writers are finding it harder to get book deals, and Jewish characters and narratives are increasingly being pushed out or erased, a trend many attribute to the rise in antisemitism we've seen in recent years. We look forward to seeing you **Mon, Oct 19**

Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood
193 East Mount Pleasant Avenue. Livingston



REGISTER HERE for Oct. 19th Book Club

Challah Baking Event, Oct 22 sponsored by Miriam Sisterhood of Oheb Shalom, S. Orange

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The Big Braid with Jake Cohen
"A Challah Bake Event"
October 22nd 7-9 PM

Sponsored by the Miriam Sisterhood of Oheb Shalom, South Orange
170 Scotland Road, South Orange

Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring challah making with "Nice Jewish Boy"Jake Cohen, vibes by Thomas the DJ, drinks by TipTop cocktails and special surprises. Expect high energy, laughs and an overflow of Jewish joy.

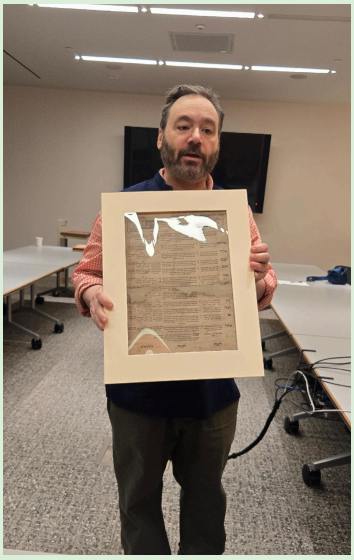
We look forward to sharing challah baking and a fun-filled evening, sponsored by our Sisterhood. Admission is $72.

Questions: Melinda Hecht
melindaghecht@gmail.com

Register Here

Sukkot Luncheon Business & Torah Fund Cabinet Meeting, Sept. 29th at JTS

















pictured:
Pam Schlosberg conducting Board Meeting in person and on Zoom. TF VP Janet Kirschner

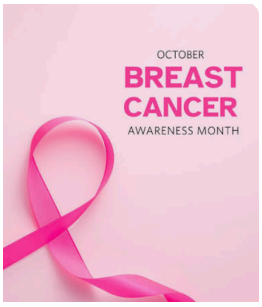
Rare Books workshop with by Dr. Rabbi Mordy Schwartz. JTS Chancellor Emeritis Arnold Eisen, Rabbinical Students (Melvin and Madeline) Sindy Manas GSR President, Ilene Rothman, Teresa Samtur, Lynette Seader, Cory Schneider, Past International President. Ilene Weber, GSR TF VP Rachel Farber, GSR Advisor Helene Herman(RP-Florida)Barbara Kaplan BQLI. JTS students singing Birkat Hamazon in the Sukkah







October Breast and Cancer Awareness Month, About Sharsheret



October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Whether it be breast cancer or other cancers such as ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, melanoma or male breast cancer; Jewish families are more susceptible to hereditary cancer.

BRCA genes are tumor suppressor genes that produce proteins responsible for repairing damaged DNA. Do you know that 1 in 40 Ashkenazi Jews, both men and women, carries a BRACA gene mutation? Ashkenazi Jews have ten times the rate in the general population, and are at high risk. Yearly mammograms are essential.

Sharsheret is the only national not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing the needs of women and families of all Jewish backgrounds facing breast cancer and ovarian cancer. The Sharsheret website, Sharsheret.org, has many valuable resources and is a great support system.

Sharsheret celebrates their annual Lee Shull Pink Day on February 2, 2027. Or host a teal and pink Shabbat. See Sharsheret website for great ideas for programming for your Sisterhood and congregation to spread awareness.

Sichot beyn Achayot on Sunday, October 11, 12:00 PM. - Register to Attend

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.

Session 1: *Shimor haKolot shel HaNitzolim* – Preserving the Voices of Survivors

Sun | Oct 11 | 12:00 pm ET | Zoom

The *Shoah* (Holocaust), October 7, and September 11 – three of the most traumatic events of modern history. We will hear personal stories from both Israeli and American survivors of these events and learn how important it is to preserve their stories for future generations.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Rabbi Chaya Rowan-Baker**, Dean of Schechter Rabbinical Seminary
- **Irene Shashar**, Holocaust Survivor and Retired Professor from Hebrew University
- **Leni Wesley**, Holocaust Survivor and Psychotherapist at Shalvata Hospital
- **Asher Gendelman**, Maggid G2 Speaker for JCRC of Greater Washington
- **Sandy Goldwasser Berenbaum**, Holocaust Speaker and WLCJ Member
- **Sheila Kaufman**, Survivor and WLCJ Member
- **Margie Miller**, WLCJ Past International President, Consultant, and Activity Chair

Speaker Bios

Click to Register

Rosh Chodesh Chevan-Women of the Wall
LIVESTREAM this Sunday at 12 Midnight at the Kotel

YOU'RE INVITED: WOW ON FACEBOOK – LIVE!

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan – Livestream at the *Kotel*

Sun | Oct 11 | 12:00 am ET or **Mon | Oct 12 | 7:00 am Israel Time**

Please join the Women of the Wall on ***Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan*** to show our support as they raise their voices in prayer to welcome the month of *Cheshvan*. In Canada, your WLCJ "sisters" will be celebrating the secular holiday of Thanksgiving. We can use this opportunity to raise our voices with those of our sisters worldwide in joy and thanksgiving.

Our comments on the Facebook livestream should be uplifting voices to drown out the taunts of those heckling them at the *Kotel*. A woman's voice in prayer should be of a blessing.

Click here to watch the livestream on Facebook.

Facebook Livestream -Sunday|Oct 11|12:00 AM

World Affairs: UNITED NATIONS UPDATE: from Florence Wolpoff, WLCJ NGO Representative reporting on UN Week



United Nations Update: We Have a Voice and We Must Use It

Florence Wolpoff

WLCJ United Nations NGO Representative

End AntiSemitism And Promote Peace

EASAPP

NGO Committee • United Nations • New York

Introduction

As one of your United Nations NGO representatives, I had the opportunity to attend this year's opening sessions. Known as UN week, this is the time when world leaders come to address the General Assembly. I now share with you some of the messages I heard.

Read Full Article

Weekly Words of Torah

WEEKLY WORDS OF TORAH



Read WWOT for *Parashat Bereshit*

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

In ***Parashat Bereshit***, the world itself comes into being through speech: "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." Creation is framed as an act of divine voice, where words bring order, meaning, and possibility out of chaos. From the very beginning, language is not just communication—it is creative power.

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.

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

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

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
3080 Broadway, Suite K900
New York, NY 10027
Office: (405) 870-1260

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WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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