

Garden State Region  
**ROSHCHODESH**  
Study Program



*Counter Narratives:  
Women Abandoned  
Biblical and Modern Sagas*



**Lisa Kogen, Facilitator**  
**Education Director**  
**Women's League for Conservative**  
**Judaism**

**Five sessions at five locations.**  
**Attend one or all.**  
**Refreshments served.**

*Rosh Chodesh* was observed by women in antiquity and medieval times as a day for women to gather together for prayer, community and celebration. In recent years, *Rosh Chodesh* has been reclaimed as a quintessentially female observance. *Rosh Chodesh* celebrations have taken various modes of expression: prayer, study, book discussions, yoga, dance, art and social action.

The Garden State Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism presents this new opportunity: a region-wide Rosh Chodesh Study Group. We will devote the next year to studying together-exploration, discussion, nosh and connection.

Session locations:

Morristown Jewish Center  
177 Speedwell Ave  
Morristown, NJ 07960

Highland Park Conservative Temple-  
Congregation Anshe Emeth  
201 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Congregation Beth Sholom  
354 Maitland Ave  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael  
60 Temple Drive  
Springfield Township, NJ 07081

Pine Brook Jewish Center  
174 Changebridge Road  
Montville, NJ 07045



**Counter Narratives:  
 Women Abandoned**  
*Biblical and Modern Sagas*

Most of the heroes in the Bible are men – biblical portrayals of women are far more ambiguous. While we commend the Matriarchs, Miriam, Deborah, Ruth and Esther, there is a significant number of female characters whose stories are troubling -- and sometimes worse -- horrifying. Some of these women have names and others are only known by their terrifying experiences.

As we commence this year-long Garden State Rosh Chodesh Study Group, exploring Biblical text and modern film selections, we will engage in study, discussion and discovery – reclaiming the experiences of women who are without voice themselves.

Our study of some biblical women’s will include (among others) these themes:

- status of women in ancient Israel – when and how did/could they wield power and when were they powerless?
- What strategies did (or could) women employ to retain their humanity in a patriarchal society and still today?
- What lessons can modern women derive from these stories?

All proceeds to support the Garden State Region Masorti Sister Community Congregation Kehilat Torat Chaim in Herzliya. Currently, they only have four Etz Chaim Chumashim and they would like ten. Maybe with your help, we can do better. Donations accepted. Please send to Carla Vogel, 520 Lotus Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

**Cheshvan: Sarah and Hagar**

The immigrant (Egyptian) slave woman commanded by Sarah to produce a child/heir with her husband, Abraham, is dispatched to the wilderness when she and her son are no longer needed.

**Morristown Jewish Center, Morristown**  
**Tuesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10**

**Kislev: Jephthah’s Daughter**

An innocent young woman is tragically consigned to death because of her father’s impetuous vow, triggered by his ambition and military arrogance.

**Location: HPCT-CAE, Highland Park**  
**Thursday December 1, 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10**

**Adar: Kadosh (film with light dinner)**

*This session will include a light dinner.*  
 In this Israeli film from 1999, the inevitable clash between independence and humanity and arch traditionalism, two sisters become victims of the patriarchal, haredi society.

**Congregation Beth Sholom, Teaneck**  
**Sunday, February 26, 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$15**

**Nisan: The Benjaminite Concubine**

A powerless young outsider becomes the victim of tribal violence, which escalates into even greater horror.

**Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael, Springfield**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10**

**Iyar: Not Without My Daughter (film)**

An American woman married to a Westernized Iranian, returns with him to Iran where he reverts to religious fundamentalism and her life becomes intolerable.

**Pine Brook Jewish Center, Montville**  
**Thursday, April 27, 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10**

To register, check sessions attending and mail with payment made out to “WLCJ-GSR” to  
 Carla Vogel  
 520 Lotus Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
 carla.buchalter@gmail.com or 201-341-3065

Questions? Abby Finkel, Education VP  
 973-287-7047

**Registration:**

Five sessions at five different locations! Attend all sessions or attend one session. Be a part of the discussion! Pre-registration and payment requested.

- Sarah and Hagar..... \$10  
 Morristown Jewish Center; 11/1/2016
- Jephthah’s Daughter..... \$10  
 HPCT-CAE; 12/1/2016
- Kadosh (film with dinner) ..... \$15  
 Congregation Beth Sholom; 2/26/2017
- The Benjaminite Concubine.....\$10  
 Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael; 3/28/2017
- Not Without My Daughter. (film)..\$10  
 Pine Brook Jewish Center; 4/27/2017
- All five programs .....\$50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sisterhood \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_