

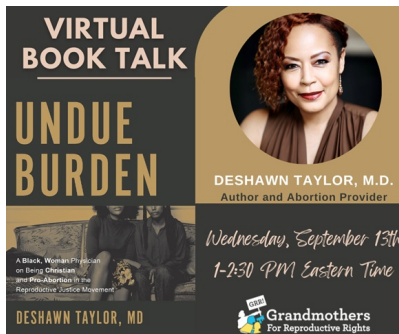


**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Not yet a member of NCJWSTL? [Click here](#) to become part of a growing network of courageous and compassionate individuals who improve the lives of women, children, and families every day. You don't have to be a woman or Jewish to join!

Undue Burden: A Black Woman Physician on Being Christian and Pro-Abortion in the Reproductive Justice Movement



When: Wednesday, September 13 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

[Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights \(GRR\)](#) is excited to welcome Dr. DeShawn Taylor for a reading & discussion of her book, *Undue Burden: A Black Woman Physician on Being Christian and Pro-Abortion in the Reproductive Justice Movement*.

Undue Burden argues for abortion as a moral good using the framework of Reproductive Justice. It lays out why it's no longer enough for us to say we're pro-choice, but instead we must proudly proclaim to be pro-abortion. Dr. Taylor will tell stories of her life, medical training and practice to center the everyday situations of everyday people struggling with forces outside their control like unaffordable childcare, lack of access to health care, insufficient paid time off and unsafe communities. She argues that only when we reframe abortion as a social justice issue can we take back the moral high ground from the extremist Christians and "family values" politicians who have controlled the conversation for far too long.

The event is free of charge, but registration is required by clicking [here](#). You can also purchase Dr. Taylor's book [here](#) or at any local bookstore.

Court Watch Project Training - Help Survivors of Domestic Violence

When: Friday, September 15 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

Where: Cardinal Rigali Center | 20 Archbishop May Drive, St. Louis, 63119

[RSVP Here](#)

The Court Watch Project is currently recruiting volunteer monitors to observe order of protection hearings to enhance the response to domestic violence cases. **This**

is a great opportunity for students, victim advocates and community members who care about this issue.

The mission of the Court Watch Project is to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of domestic violence perpetrated against women and children and to create a more informed and involved public.



The [Court Watch Project](#) is supported by Saint Martha's and the members agencies of the [St. Louis Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence Network](#) (of which NCJWSTL is a member).

Courtroom monitors are needed for St. Louis City courthouse on Thursday mornings from 10:00 AM to approximately 12:30 PM.

Space is limited! Please email Carla Maley at carlam@saintmarthas.org to register.

Tell Cigna Chairman and CEO, David Cordani to Pay for Mark Hall's Medicine



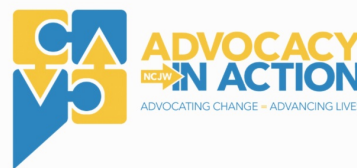
Springfield, MO resident Mark Hall is suffering from incredible pain because Cigna refused to pay for the medicine he needed. Mark has ulcerative colitis, a condition that causes internal bleeding, inflammation of the intestines, a feeling of constant pain and degradation of the tissue in his mouth.

For a decade, the medicine Remicade kept his symptoms under control. But last year, Cigna refused to continue covering it and forced him onto a different medication, even after he's paid his premiums for years. Cigna refused to do their job and cover the one treatment that kept Mark well. Instead, Cigna forced Mark to either pay \$10,000 every two months for the care that works – or move to a cheaper drug that Mark's doctors advised against.

Cigna prioritized their profits over the care Mark and patients like him need. That's wrong. Cigna can and must pay for medications prescribed by a medical professional. It's their job. **Cigna took in \$5.4 billion in profit in 2021, so they can clearly afford this.**

Please [click here](#) to take action on behalf of Mark Hall and demand that Cigna prioritize patients over profits.

September Lunch & Learn: Gun Violence and Suicide Prevention



Thursday, September 21, 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Pat Harkins

When: Thursday, September 21 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom
[RSVP Here](#)

Suicide by guns claims the lives of nearly 25,000 people in America every year. We must address this public health crisis to reduce gun violence in this country. Though gun violence conversations tend to focus on homicides, **nearly six out of every 10 gun deaths in the U.S. are suicides.**

For September's Lunch and Learn, which coincides with Suicide Prevention Month, NCJWSTL is fortunate to welcome Pat Harkins. In 2009, she lost her 21 year old son to suicide. She became involved with a support group and after a few years was facilitating that group. She joined the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and served as the board's recording secretary for 12 years. She now serves on several committees and is the Healing Conversations Coordinator for the state of Missouri.

We know that this is a difficult topic, but we hope you will join us to learn from Pat how we can do our part in helping to stop this horrific epidemic.

Please [click here](#) to register for the September Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call 314.993.5181

Partner Abortion Clinic Needs Donations

For the past year, NCJWSTL has partnered with local abortion clinics across the river in Illinois to provide direct support services to patients.

One of our partner clinics is in need of a few specific items:

- Gas cards
- Snack bags (pretzels, cookies, granola bars, etc.)
- Diapers (sizes 1-5)
- Travel shampoo
- Baby formula



This is an opportunity to make a "hands-on" difference in someone's life. Please drop off or mail any donations to the NCJWSTL office at 295 N. Lindbergh, St. Louis, MO, 63141. For more information, please contact Renee Sigel-Hearst at rsigel-hearst@ncjwstl.org.

Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!

NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with the [Missouri Family Health Council](#) (MFHC) to distribute **FREE emergency contraception kits!** This effort is vitally important in the wake of last year's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade, especially in states like Missouri where abortion is illegal. Everyone should have the right to determine when and if they wish to start a family, and emergency contraception is vital in preventing unwanted pregnancies.



Also known as the morning-after pill, or by the brand name Plan B, the emergency contraception pill is an over-the-counter form of birth control that can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex to avoid pregnancy. The goal of this effort is to reduce geographic and financial barriers Missourians face in accessing emergency contraception pills.

While supplies last, MFHC, NCJWSTL and other partner organizations are offering free EC kits to anyone of any age. **Feel free to stop by the NCJWSTL office to pick up your**

kit - for you or a loved one.

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org. You can also order an emergence contraception kit by mail by [clicking here](#).

Take Action & Join the A-List



Now more than ever you will want to make sure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2023! Join us as we stand together and speak out about the issues that matter most.

Together we can make a difference!

A-List sponsorship ads sustain our collaborative efforts to educate the community and elected officials about issues integral to our mission, such as birth control access and voting rights. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2023.

- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color

[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

[Click here](#) to see the latest A-List Ad.

Join the A-list [here](#).

Interesting Reading



As some states wrap up this year's summer food aid program, Missouri is still distributing last year's benefits. Officials say they must complete dispersal by the end of this year. Administrative issues have beset the program for at least the last year, officials have said: The delayed benefits even contributed to Missouri's decision last month not to participate in this year's version of the program. The state declined **tens of millions** in federal aid in part because officials lacked confidence they could disperse

those benefits by the September 30th deadline.

[Click here](#) to read Carla Bates' article from the Missouri Independent, "More Than 170,000 Missouri Kids Waiting for Last Summer's Food Aid."

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NCJWSTL | 125

CREATING CHANGE AND IMPACTING LIVES SINCE 1895



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