



**ADVOCACY  
IN ACTION**  
NCJW  
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!**

## Kaffe with Kalela: What's Next for Israel's Pro-Democracy Protest Movement?

**When:** Tuesday, September 27 | 11:00 AM CT

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

As Israel's Supreme Court justices consider annulling the first overhaul law passed by the Knesset, Professor Shikma Bressler will offer her analysis and projections regarding a possible constitutional crisis and share how the protest movement will respond to various scenarios, as well as sharing her vision for Israel's future.



NCJW is proud to host Professor Bressler, the Israeli protest leader described in a New York Times feature as "the symbol of the protest movement". Professor Bressler is an Israeli physicist at the Weizman Institute of Science. Having co-founded the "Black Flags" protest movement in 2020, Professor Bressler has emerged as one of the key leaders of the current protest movement for Israeli democracy.

Kaffe with Kalela is NCJW's virtual meet-up series, in which Israeli feminist leaders, activists, and analysts join Kalela Lancaster, NCJW's representative in Israel, to unpack critical issues facing Israel as they unfold.

Please [click here](#) to register. This event will be recorded, and the video will be shared with everyone who registers.

## Evaluating Gender Bias to Achieve Equity for our Daughters



**When:** Thursday, October 5 | 6:00 - 7:30 PM CT

**Where:** Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center | 2711 Locust Street, St. Louis, 63103

[RSVP Here](#)

Gender expectations begin early in life, with girls taught to embody domesticity and boys encouraged to pursue science and conquest. These stereotypes

follow children into adulthood, impacting relationships and work.

Many women now work outside of the home as many hours as their male counterparts do. But these women are still responsible for the food shopping, the cooking, the cleaning, the laundry, and other chores when they come home to their male spouse. And if these working women are also mothers, they are often the primary caretakers of the children – homework, doctors, PTA meetings. Do you know why? Because that's how they were raised!

Join Professor of Law at Washington University School in St. Louis School of Law and YWCA Academy of Leaders member Kim Norwood for this discussion on how societal expectations shape gender roles and the impact it has on women's lives.

*The event is free of charge, but registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register.*

## ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

For those who have already joined, thank you!

**To protect libraries throughout Missouri, including those at public schools, NCJWSTL has helped convene a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations called Right to Read.** The coalition will oppose any legislative, state policy or other effort to restrict access to materials at public libraries; the coalition has the utmost confidence in trained, experienced librarians and educators to evaluate and select materials in the libraries' collection.



Did you know?

- As a result of a Missouri law enacted in August 2022 restricting some types of materials in public schools, **librarians fearful of criminal prosecution have removed nearly 300 titles** from school library shelves.
- Under an administrative rule imposed by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, all public libraries must have submitted by July 31 how they will comply with the vaguely written rule. **Failure to comply could result in loss of state funding**, which comprises a significant portion of small libraries' budgets.
- Missouri is among the nation's top book banning states, **especially regarding restricting access to books about gender, sexuality and race in public schools.**

More attempts will likely be made in the 2024 Missouri legislative session to suppress First Amendment rights. Free and open access to materials at our public libraries is an essential aspect of our democracy.

Please [click here](#) to add your name as an individual member of the coalition. For more information, please e-mail the coalition at [righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com).

## October Lunch & Learn: Gun Violence and Suicide Prevention



Thursday, October 19, 2023  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Diane Bleyer

**When:** Thursday, October 19 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Climate change is affecting all of us. But, like many other challenges in society, it's hurting communities of color the most. Communities of color and the underserved often face disproportionate health risks linked to cumulative exposures to environmental hazards (e.g., air pollution, traffic, contaminated water) and may be more vulnerable to the health effects associated with climate-related impacts due to health and socioeconomic disparities.

For October's Lunch and Learn, we are pleased to welcome Diane Bleyer, an active community leader and volunteer. She is the founder and organizer of a climate change special interest group at United Hebrew Congregation.

Diane is passionately concerned about climate change. This critical topic is addressed in her novel, *[The Second Chance](#)*, casting a light on the reality that the decisions we make on this issue, both individually and as a community, will affect our children's and grandchildren's futures as well as those who come after. *The Second Chance* is ideal to get readers talking about climate change and thinking about their own role in dealing with the issue. Diane was honored to participate in the 2022 Missouri's Own Program in the St. Louis Jewish Book Festival.

**Please [click here](#) to register for the October Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org). You can also order an emergency 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



Criminal justice advocates in Illinois are celebrating a major victory this week. On Monday, Illinois became the first state to fully abolish the cash bail system, meaning defendants will no longer be held in jail because they can't pay.

The provision of the SAFE-T Act abolishing cash bail went into effect on Monday, revolutionizing the bail process state-wide. But what exactly does it mean to abolish cash bail?

[Click here](#) to read Jessica Washington's article from *The Root*, "Illinois Became The First State To Fully Abolish Cash Bail, Here's What That Means."

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