



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!

Raise Your #VoicesForHostages with NCJW

Women, children and families held hostage by terror group Hamas need urgent, critical care NOW.

Hundreds of kidnapped civilians are being held hostage by Hamas in unfathomable circumstances. Global women leaders, including Helen Mirren, Gal Gadot, Brandi Carlile, and NCJW's Sheila Katz are raising their voices urging humanitarian aid and the safe and swift return of all hostages to their loved ones.

We call for international pressure for:

- The immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas.
- Humanitarian aid and medical care to be provided until the hostages are released.
- The enforcement of international humanitarian law.

Please [click here](#) to sign the letter to add your name on the Global Women Leaders' Letter condemning Hamas's brutal attack, demanding all hostages receive the humanitarian aid that International Law requires, and imploring the release of all hostages.



Urge Congress to Support Israel



The surprise attack on Israel is unprecedented and the magnitude is like nothing we have ever seen during Israel's history. Hamas deliberately planned this brutality for a day of major religious significance for Jews, and its shockwaves are felt in Jewish communities around the globe.

As we learn of more than 1,200 Israelis killed, more than 2,300 wounded, and more than 150 taken hostage in the attack on Israel by Hamas, Israel needs unequivocal support from the United States. Members of Congress have

the opportunity to make a difference with a new pro-Israel resolution circulated by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Ranking Member Greg Meeks (D-NY) that:

- Condemns Hamas' brutal war on Israel.
- Stands with Israel and reaffirms Israel's right to self-defense.
- Reaffirms the United States' commitment to Israel's security and stands ready to assist Israel with emergency resupply and other security, diplomatic, and intelligence support.
- Urges full enforcement of US sanctions against Iran to prevent Iran's funding of terrorist groups including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The resolution is expected to be introduced immediately. It is important our lawmakers are on record supporting Israel, committed to putting the full weight of the United States behind Israel's right to defend itself.

Please [click here](#) to urge your Representative to vote yes when the bill comes to the floor.

THIS WEEK! October Lunch & Learn: Climate Change and its Impact on Underserved Communities



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 & 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 or call 314.993.5181

THIS WEEK! Missouri Voter Protection Coalition and

Open Primaries Webinar

When: Thursday, October 19 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

During 2023, members of over 10 southern and mid-western state legislatures considered or attempted to close their primaries. Had they been successful, 25,000,000 unaffiliated and independent voters would have been completely disenfranchised from voting and tens of millions more party voters would have been denied any meaningful choices at the ballot box. Anticipating that efforts to close the primary in 2024 will intensify, The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC) and Open Primaries (OP) are partnering to build awareness about this **attack on democracy** and what we can do to oppose it.



The event's speakers are voting rights experts Denise Liberman and Jeremy Gruber. During the webinar, they will explore how the closed primary efforts are an emerging form of voter suppression against communities of color, how this fight is shaping up in several states (including MO) and what we can do to oppose legislative strategies aiming to close primaries.

Please [click here](#) to register for this important webinar.

NCJWSTL Trip to the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City



When: Thursday, November 16 | 8:45 AM – 5:30 PM

Where: Meet at the NCJWSTL Office

[RSVP Here](#)

If you've ever wanted to visit the Missouri's State Capitol when the politicians aren't there, this is your chance! Experience the magnificent beauty of the building itself, the public art displayed within and a faithful reflection of the themes, events and people of Missouri. Time permitting, we'll step into the primary

courtroom of the Missouri Supreme Court. And to cap off the day, we will enjoy a sweet treat at Central Dairy.

And did you know that there is an active synagogue in Jefferson City? We'll also be visiting nearby Temple Beth El, the oldest synagogue west of the Mississippi in continuous use and learning a bit about its 150-year history.

We will travel together by bus and lunch/snacks will be provided. Friends are welcome to join. SPACE IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE REGISTER ASAP.

Please [click here](#) to register for what will be an amazing day. For more information, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

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.

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 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



The United Auto Workers (UAW) union isn't backing down as it bargains for more compensation and better benefits in its new contracts with General Motors, Ford and Stellantis. Under the deft leadership of its president, Shawn Fain, and other officials elected in March 2023, the union has thrown the three companies off balance with a strike that began on Sept. 15 – the minute its prior contracts expired. But is their strategy working? Should we expect a resolution soon?

[Click here](#) to read Marick Masters' article from the Missouri Independent, "Why the UAW Union's Tough Bargaining Strategy is Working."

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*Celebrating Exceptional
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BBB Serving Eastern & Southwest Missouri &
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