



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!

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 more information, contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org

Tell President Biden: Over-the-Counter Birth Control Should be Covered by Insurance



NCJW
ACTION
ALERT

Early next year, the United States is finally joining 100+ other countries when Opill - a daily, progestin only, birth control pill - becomes available over-the-counter, no prescription needed! **But over-the-counter access to birth control pills is not a replacement for insurance coverage of contraceptives.**

Insurance coverage for all forms of contraception would reduce unnecessary barriers to

affordable access, especially for young people. Research also shows that both adults and young people would be more likely to use an over-the-counter birth control pill if it was covered by insurance, **resulting in fewer unwanted pregnancies.**

The Biden Administration must issue updated guidance **this year** to ensure Opill is fully covered when it hits the shelves early next year.

Please [click here](#) to urge President Biden and his Administration to require insurance coverage of OTC contraceptives — without a prescription.

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.

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



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 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 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



If you thought the Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* was the end of the Court's war on women, think again. Now gender violence laws are under attack. Case in point: last term's decision in *Counterman v. Colorado* striking down a stalking conviction as unconstitutional. This upcoming term, the Court is poised to deal another blow to domestic violence laws, in a case about guns: *United States v. Rahimi*. The only way to

push back against these Court rulings is for Congress to take the steps necessary to affirm the Equal Rights Amendment.

[Click here](#) to read Victoria F. Nourse's article from *Ms. Magazine*, "The Supreme Court's Blindness to Gender Violence."

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