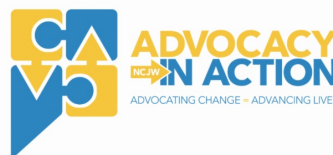




**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

THIS WEEK! June Lunch and Learn - Current Issues in Early Childhood Education with Karen Lucy



Thursday, June 20, 2024
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Karen Lucy

When: Thursday, June 20 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Early childhood education is critical in shaping children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. However, it faces various challenges, including inadequate funding, teacher shortages, and training limitations. These challenges can significantly affect children's overall well-being and future success. Those on the front lines - early childhood teachers and faculty - can make the biggest difference in ensuring access to quality education for all children, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

For our June Lunch and Learn, we are absolutely thrilled to welcome Karen Lucy, Executive Director of Cornerstone Center for Early Learning. Many of you may know Karen from her days at Temple Israel and Shaare Emeth. Karen's 20+ years in education range from classroom educator, center director to executive director. She has mentored children and adults alike throughout the years as a way to support and guide individuals to personal and professional success. As a strong advocate for early childhood education, Karen was a speaker at the 2017 New Zealand World Forum on Early Care and Education. In addition, in February of 2018, Karen travelled throughout Israel observing and learning about the early education methods. Later she developed a one-day professional learning opportunity for educators; *Natural Explorations*. Karen holds a membership with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Karen believes children are the ambassadors of our planet and we can't wait to hear from her!

Please [click here](#) to register for the June Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email Jen

Know Your Missouri Voting Information

Missouri's primary election is coming up on **August 6th*** and will determine which candidates appear on November's general election ballot. No matter what zip code we live in or the color of our skin, our voices are equal at the ballot box, and we could all must make sure our voices are heard!



STEP 1

Voter Registration

NCJWSTL is encouraging all of our members, friends and supporters to confirm their voter registration is up to date.

Voter registration must be completed by: **July 10th** for the **August 6th Primary** and **October 9th** for the **November 5th** General Election.

You do not need a photo ID when registering to vote unless you have never registered to vote before.



Voter Registration Info



STEP 2

Absentee Voting

You can vote absentee by mail or in person. If you vote absentee by mail, your ballot must be notarized and received by the Board of Elections **by the day before the election.** Notaries are available at all STL County Public Libraries and NCJWSTL.

For the August 6th Primary Election

First day to vote absentee - June 25th
Two weeks of no-excuse, in-person absentee voting - July 23rd - Aug 5th
Mail-in Absentee request due to election authority - July 24th

For the November 5th General Election

First day to vote absentee - Sept 24th
Two weeks of no-excuse, in-person absentee voting - Oct 22nd - Nov 4th
Mail-in Absentee request due to election authority - Oct 23rd



Absentee Voting Info

Your Vote is Important

- This information and these voting procedures are recommended by NCJWSTL for our 2024 elections.
- Please keep in mind that these recommendations are based on current state and local information and guidelines that are subject to change according to political policy changes. We will do everything to keep you updated if there are changes.
- If you would like more information, have a question or need an update on current guidelines please contact Jen Bernstein at 314-993-5181 or jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Are you interested in getting involved with NCJWSTL's Get Out the Vote Campaign?
Please contact Andi Schankman at ncjwstlvotes@gmail.com for more information

It is vitally important that you check to make sure your voter registration information is up to date. You can do so by [clicking here](#). For more information about absentee voting, please [click here](#).

*Though we don't have confirmation just yet, the abortion rights amendment will likely appear on the November ballot.

Webinar: Making a Case for DEI as we Confront Antisemitism

When: Monday, June 24 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

As we continue to fight against the latest and dangerous surge of antisemitism, we know many of

our leaders are being met with resistance as we continue to prioritize Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI). We know DEI is continually under attack in our nation, and we also know that attempts to dismantle and distort DEI are a threat to all people, and most immediately to those with marginalized identities, including Jews.

Please join Yolanda Savage-Narva, the Vice President of Racial Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at the URJ and Rabbi Jonah Pesner, the Director of the RAC/Senior Vice President of the URJ, to discuss the importance of DEI initiatives to the Jewish community's own security and those in our community who are most marginalized.

You will leave this discussion with language and concepts that will help your community understand why DEI is critical to upholding Jewish values and why this battle against DEI breeds further racism and antisemitism in our communities.

Please [click here](#) to register for what will be a very informative program.



Urge Congress to Support the Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act



A core part of NCJW's mission is working to build a society where everyone can live free from violence and persecution. With antisemitism and other forms of bias and discrimination at exponential levels, hate-driven violence continues to threaten all of our communities. Yet the [FBI's 2022 Hate Crime Statistics report](#), the **most recent report available**, does not include information from thousands of locations because their law enforcement agencies failed to report hate crime

data to the FBI.

Accurate, consistent reporting allows the government and local nonprofits to know where, when, and how to mobilize community resources to prevent and respond to hate crimes. The [Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act](#) is exactly what our communities need to better understand and address hate crimes. This bill will improve reporting by requiring local governments of cities with populations over 100,000 people to report hate crimes to the FBI every year.

[Click here](#) to tell Congress to pass the Improving Reporting to Prevent Hate Act and protect communities from hate!

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.

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.

Interesting Reading



Two years have passed since Missouri outlawed abortion nearly completely.

How is IVF related to the state's ban on abortion? Let's start with a simple question: When Missouri law proclaims that life begins at conception, does that mean that fertilized eggs are persons? The Alabama Supreme Court said yes, shocking families whose doctors are helping them become pregnant through IVF. Likewise, when the U.S. Supreme Court in the Dobbs case held there is no constitutional protection for reproductive decisions, does that mean that destruction of fertilized eggs could be considered homicide under the laws of these states such as Missouri?

[Click here](#) to read Michael A. Wolff's article from *Missouri Independent*, "Where's the Future of IVF and Abortion Care? In the Hands of Voters."

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!

**Donate to Support NCJWSTL &
Transform Our Community**



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