



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**
NCJW
ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

Did you know? The 2025 Missouri legislative session begins on Wednesday. At NCJWSTL, we are dedicated to tracking these legislative developments closely, focusing on bills that align with our mission of improving the lives of women, children and families.

Please [click here](#) to view the bills NCJWSTL is following and whether we are in support or in opposition. The list will be continuously updated throughout session.

Sex Trafficking Awareness Event



When: Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 PM

Where: Jewish Community Center | 2 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis, 63146

[RSVP Here](#)

Join us for a crucial and eye-opening event with Brian Joseph, author of Vegas Concierge, as he sheds light on the dark realities of sex trafficking within the vibrant city of Las Vegas. The evening will feature a poignant discussion on how sex trafficking operates, the challenges faced by survivors, and what individuals and

communities can do to support anti-trafficking efforts. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a meaningful Q&A session, gaining insights into the severity of the issue and how we can all contribute to the fight against it.

In partnership with The St. Louis Jewish Community Center.

This event is FREE to NCJW members and anyone who has a Jewish Book Festival pass. If you are not a NCJWSTL member or do not have a Jewish Book Festival Pass, the cost is \$25. Please RSVP to Heather Silverman, hsilverman@ncjwstl.org.

Save the Date: Jewish Community Advocacy Day in Jeff City

When: Wednesday, January 22

Where: Missouri State Capitol

[Register Here](#)

Join us in Jefferson City for an inspiring and impactful Jewish Advocacy Day! This is a unique opportunity to engage directly with our legislators on critical issues that

affect the Jewish community in Missouri. Your voice matters, and by participating, you can help shape policies that reflect our values and priorities. **Our focus for this day will be on legislation for Non-Profit Security Grants.**

Whether you're an experienced advocate or new to the legislative process, you'll be equipped with everything you need. Together, let's make our collective voice heard. We can't wait to see you there and work together towards a brighter 2025.

For more information or to register, please [click here](#).



AJC St. Louis

ADL HEARTLAND

JCRC

Jewish Federation of St. Louis

NCJWSTL National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

ST LOUIS KAPLAN FELDMAN HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Save the Date: Repro Shabbat 2025



Reproductive freedom is a Jewish value, and we're going to celebrate it!

NCJWSTL is excited to once again partner with local synagogues for our annual Shabbat celebration that honors the Jewish value of reproductive freedom. It takes place annually on *Parshat Mishpatim*, the reading of which contains the verses commonly referenced as the foundation of Judaism's approach to reproductive health, rights and justice.

Please [click here](#) for more information. If you would like your congregation to participate, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org and she will be happy to reach out to them.

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

Protect Missouri's Libraries! Join the Right to Read Coalition by [clicking here](#).

For those who have already joined, thank you! Check our member list to see who supports us...and if you've already joined by [clicking here](#).

Right to Read is a statewide coalition of 1,000 individuals and nearly 100 organizations. The coalition opposes legislative, state policy or other efforts to restrict access to materials at public and school libraries.



Censorship denies our First Amendment rights to access books that reflect our diverse community:

- Missouri ranked third nationally in 2023 for the number of books banned at school libraries.
- 60% of banned books in the U.S. include characters of color and discussed issues of race and racism or presented LGBTQ+ characters or themes.

Laws and policies enacted recently have led to book bans and harmful regulations on our libraries. **We expect more censorship efforts in Missouri in 2025.**

Add your voice to thousands of Missourians to fight censorship and book bans!

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 ensure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2024! 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 2024.

- **\$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



Attorney General Andrew Bailey has completely flip flopped on his interpretation of Amendment 3 — the ballot initiative that Missouri voters just approved to make legal abortion available in this state.

The Amendment 3 campaign had to sue the state twice over inflammatory ballot language that claimed it would mean


abortion would be completely unregulated in Missouri.

[Click here](#) to read Bridgette Dunlap's article from Missouri Independent, "Missouri Anti-Abortion Officials Lied to Multiple Courts (and voters) About Amendment 3."

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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