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September 2025 Newsletter

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## September social: A walk in the park

Come join fellow NCJW of KC members and friends at **4 p.m. on Saturday, September 13**, for a stroll at Shawnee Mission Park on a 1.8 mile paved trail. Meet in the parking lot by Shelter 8 and wear comfortable footwear.

After dinner, we'll catch an optional dinner at Barley's Kitchen & Tap (16649 Midland Dr., Shawnee, KS). Please [sign up here](#) so we know to expect you and please bring period products for this month's collection.

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## Help assemble produce bags for Rosh Hashanah

Join us on Friday, **September 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon** in the lobby of the JCC (5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS). Volunteers will rotate around a table filling bags with produce. Expect to be on your feet for the duration. Please [sign up](#) by September 12.

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## Back to School Store thank you!

Over nine days and 16 shifts, more than 60 amazing volunteers poured their time and energy into making the Back to School Store 2025 a success. You transported boxes to and from storage, unpacked and organized clothing and school supplies, fulfilled agency orders, loaded backpacks into vehicles, and completed post-event inventory and packaging and transportation of extra items.

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improving the lives of women, children, and families—shone through every step of this project. To each of you who answered the call: you are valued beyond measure. This project simply wouldn't be possible without you.

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## Stacey's Closet enters fifth year serving local students

Stacey's Closet is beginning its fifth year providing school children in the KC metro area with essential clothing. Last year, we partnered with 15 schools and helped 240 children with school clothing, undergarments, coats, tennis shoes, and backpacks.

Our goal is simple but powerful: that every child has clothing that fits and makes them feel confident walking into school each day. We also hope that by meeting these needs, we can ease some of the burden and stress on families.

### A story from the schools

Rachel Pollack, social worker at Grant Elementary, shared this example:

*"Many times, Stacey's Closet has come through for our students quickly and efficiently. A parent contacted me because her child needed new shoes after their apartment flooded with backed-up sewage—everything was ruined. This family was already facing tremendous challenges, including the recent deportation of the father, which created uncertainty and fear. Without hesitation, Stacey's Closet delivered the much-needed shoes in less than 48 hours. Mom was so thankful and relieved during such a stressful time."*

Our closet is now fully stocked with new clothing, and our dedicated volunteers are ready to fill orders for the new school year. This year, we are expanding to serve students working with JVS youth center, as well as four additional elementary schools.

The need continues to grow, and we are deeply grateful for the

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becoming a Stacey's Closet volunteer, please contact Kelly Somberg at [kellysomberg@gmail.com](mailto:kellysomberg@gmail.com).

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## Next JULIES meet-up

The next gathering of the NCJW-KC JULIES Group (Jewish Union of 'retired' Ladies, Intelligent, Energetic, and Sexy!) will take place on **September 19 from 11:00 a.m. to noon** at the Leawood Pioneer Branch Library small conference room. Bring your own food and drink, and be prepared for some lively conversation.

Any retired NCJW-KC Section current or potential member is welcome to join us. To let us know that you are coming or for more information, please contact Barbie Rogoff at [bjrogoff@gmail.com](mailto:bjrogoff@gmail.com) / 816-506-6430 or Nancy Kalikow Maxwell at [nancykalikowmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:nancykalikowmaxwell@gmail.com) / 954-260-7696).

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## Grandparents for Gun Safety Annual Community Forum

NCJW is proud to sponsor the Grandparents for Gun Safety (GGS) Annual Community Forum on Monday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. at Rockhurst University's Arrupe Auditorium (5351 Forest Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110).

This year's theme is "Turning Faith into Action," featuring John Pavlovitz—former youth pastor and author—who will join local leaders for a powerful conversation about gun safety. The event will also include a local faith leaders panel, moderated by Rev. Kelly Isola (Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council) with:

- Dr. Amy Harris Hartsfield – Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church
- Rev. Jenny Wells – Central Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Dr. Chris Wilson – St. Andrew Christian Church
- Bryon K. Williams – Lead Organizer, Wyandotte County Churches United for Justice

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like to attend, please contact the NCJW office at [ncjwofkc@gmail.com](mailto:ncjwofkc@gmail.com).

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### Welcome to our new members!

Sheri Bell

Karen Gerson

Melanie Glassman

Rachel Krantz

Beth Liss

Gerri Ruben

Lisa Schifman

Dana Schwartz

Sophie Shafter

Marcy Simon

Mindi Squire

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## Bookmark the events calendar

Just a reminder that the NCJW Greater Kansas City Section [website](#) is updated regularly. New programs are being added often. Please visit the website and go to [the events page](#) so you can plan ahead of time and mark your calendars. There are so many wonderful programs to enjoy!

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## Don't forget to update your info

Did you move? Change your phone number? Get a new email address? Remember to update our office with your new information by using [this form](#).

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