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September 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming JULIES meeting

The JULIES (Jewish Union of "Retired" Ladies, Intelligent, Energetic, and Sexy) will be meeting for convivial conversation on **Friday, September 22 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Johnson County Library Leawood Pioneer Branch (4700 Town Center Dr., Leawood, KS 66211). Any retired NCJW-KC Section current or potential member is welcome to join us. For more information, contact Barbie Rogoff (bjrogoff@gmail.com, 816-506-6430) or Nancy Kalikow Maxwell (nancykalikowmaxwell@gmail.com, 954-260-7696).

Mitzvah Garden KC volunteer opportunity

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity to do with your family, this is the one to attend! Come out to the Mitzvah Garden (located at 12320 Nall Avenue, Overland Park, KS—Congregation B'nai Jehudah) on **Sunday, October 8 between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** Bring water and a pair of garden gloves if you have them, and you and your family will be put to work.

The Mitzvah Garden KC is a volunteer-supported, nonprofit garden. What makes it special is that 100% of the harvest goes to local food pantries to provide for those in need. Any questions, please email ncjwofkc@gmail.com. See you there!

Lilith magazine discussion group

potential member is welcome to join us to discuss two articles from the latest issue of this "independent, Jewish, and frankly feminist" magazine. To receive the article titles and Zoom link, contact Nancy Kalikow Maxwell (nancykalikowmaxwell@gmail.com, 954-260-7696).

Encourage friends and family to vote

NCJW of KC is excited to use Voter to Voter to encourage our membership (as well as family and friends) to vote. You might be surprised to learn that talking to your friends and family about voting is the best way to make a big impact on an election. While the election on **November 7** is at the local level and might feel inconsequential, local elections have the largest impact on your day-to-day life. Local government plays a role in our health, water, public education, and much more.

Voter to Voter launched in 2018 with the belief that democracy works better when we ALL participate. Rooted in the power of relationships, Voter to Voter asks volunteers to talk to their people about voting—then gives them the tools and resources to do so effectively! That’s right, no postcards or calls to strangers. Just conversations with your friends...and it’s working! We’re talking to more than 30,000 voters statewide, and better yet, the voters we connect with turn out at a rate 25% higher than the statewide average.

When you become a Voter to Voter ambassador, you will enter as many friends and family as you’d like. Voter to Voter and NCJW of KC **will NOT** reach out to them. This is strictly for your information and follow up.

Once you enter a friend or family member, you can see a score (1-5) indicating if they vote regularly (the Voter to Voter website is tied to the Secretary of State’s office, and while you can’t see whom someone voted for, you can see if they voted based on public records). You can then focus on those that are 1-3 (one being the lowest, which means they don’t vote very often) to encourage them to register to vote and to cast a vote. Sometimes all it takes to get someone to the polls is a nudge.

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invited to be a part of it (Voter to Voter is a Kansas-only organization). Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate a similar program in Missouri. We do, however, encourage our Missouri members to reach out to friends and family to make sure they are registered and cast a vote.

If you would like to join the NCJW of KC team, [click here](#). Once you are on the page, click on "login or register to join this team." From there, you can register and set up your own page. (Also see information on your local elections [here](#).)

2 free tickets: First come, first served

Grandparents for Gun Safety has announced its 10th anniversary Community Forum, "Gun Safety: Generations Standing Together," which will take place **Monday, October 9 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Plaza Library Auditorium (4801 Main, Kansas City, Missouri 64112).

People of all ages have the right to feel safe from gun violence. Now the generation that grew up with mass shootings is adding its adult voices where decisions are made saying, "enough is enough!" Our keynote speaker is Brandon Wolf, a survivor of the 2016 mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub, who will share how multiple generations can combine efforts to achieve safety from gun violence. As a sponsor, we have two tickets to the event. If you would like to attend, please contact NCJW at ncjwofkc@gmail.com.

Program: Guns & domestic violence—a lethal connection

If today is a typical day, domestic violence hotlines nationwide will answer more than 20,000 desperate phone calls asking for help. That harrowing statistic comes from the National Coalition Against Gun Violence and its research into the role firearms play in intimate partner incidents. Studies show the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide by 500%.

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local experts involved in helping victims of domestic abuse. Join us on **September 18 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** in the lower-level social hall at Colonial Church in Prairie Village (7039 Mission Road).

You'll hear from Jane Brown, retired Clay County judge; Annie Struby, executive director of Rose Brooks Center and a member of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; and Ellen Greenberg-Jacobs, domestic violence prosecutor, City of Independence, MO. Our speakers have previously collaborated on domestic violence cases and will share insights from their complementary perspectives.

Currently, Missouri and Kansas legislators have taken distinctly different stances on firearms and domestic violence. Kansas prohibits possession of firearms by persons convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence within the preceding five years. Missouri allows similarly convicted persons to buy or possess firearms or ammunition, including even persons subject to domestic violence orders of protection. Join us to better understand the complex interaction of firearms in domestic violence and area efforts to mitigate its life-altering effects.

A Lotta Stuff update

Our NCJW member, Lori Siegel, is closing her thrift shop, A Lotta Stuff. Lori is currently unavailable for picking up donations but plans to start again in April, working out of her home. If you are able, please save your items until spring.

Welcome to our new members!

- **Susan Abelson**
- **Christa Balanoff**
- **Jan Barash**
- **Amy Barash**
- **Carrie Barton**
- **Kate Bender**
- **Aimee Bernstein**

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- **Stephanie Douglas-Furman**
 - **Michelle Fincher**
 - **Deb Finkelstein**
 - **Robyn Freiden**
 - **Sarah Galler**
 - **Elena Heisler**
 - **Julie Hochler**
 - **Amanda Levin**
 - **Liz Levy**
 - **Jennifer Liebenthal**
 - **Terri Miro**
 - **Erin Nathan**
 - **Lara Pabst**
 - **Mindy Parmet**
 - **Sandra Rosenblatt**
 - **Sunni Rosenbloom**
 - **Anne Scharf**
 - **Rachel Warner**
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