



## Greetings!

Purim is here and Passover on the horizon. Two holidays in which we reflect on our deliverance - our deliverance from destruction and our deliverance from slavery. But people around the world are still victims of human trafficking - modern day slavery. Join JCAST Chicago for our upcoming educational informative programs. Details for our upcoming events are listed below.

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## JCAST Chicago Blog

### NCJW Washington Institute 2016 Recap

Earlier this month, 350 NCJW members and supporters from around the country including 9 members of the JCAST Chicago Steering Committee spent an amazing three days in Washington learning, advocating and raising our voices on behalf of others at Washington Institute, NCJW's premier public policy event. Although I have been a member of NCJW for over a decade (and a staff member for nearly as long), this was my first time attending, but it won't be my last.

Washington Institute attendees spend three intensive days learning about important issues from experts, network with life-minded advocates, gain skills to promote change, and speak to decision makers during lobby visits on Capitol Hill. This year, we were trained on four issues including supporting the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (HR 1779/S 262).

[Click here for More:](#)

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## JCAST Chicago Upcoming Events

### South Cook Anti-Trafficking Seder

Wednesday, March 30, 6pm, Temple Anshe Sholom, 20820 S Western Avenue, Olympia Fields

>> National Council of Jewish Women South Cook Section Invites You to an Anti-Trafficking Seder featuring the Freedom Haggadah. Join our seder as we celebrate our Jewish heritage

## Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

### Featured Organization

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (JWF) seeks to expand and improve opportunities and choices in all aspects of Jewish women's and girls' lives through strategic and effective grantmaking. The Foundation empowers Jewish women as leaders, funders, and decision-makers. JWF is an independent project of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

JWF was launched as an independent project of Jewish United Fund in 1997 and have since grown from a small group of visionary women into the largest Jewish women's foundation in the nation. JWF is a leading force committed to a vision of a safe, healthy, and inclusive world for Jewish women and girls.

Since inception, JWF has awarded over \$3.2 million in grants to 144 projects in Chicago, Israel, and all over the world. Including two grants to JCAST Chicago!

JWF operates as a giving circle and serves as an incubator for informed Jewish philanthropists

and our journey from slavery to freedom conducted by Rabbi Paul Caplan and Rabbi Carmit Harari. Help bring the spirit and hope of Passover to the very real and serious human rights issue: human trafficking. Human trafficking is not only a third-world problem. It occurs in neighborhoods all over Chicago, throughout Illinois and the United States. This "modern day slavery" can be sexual or labor driven. Prostitutes and laborers are caught in a web of bondage that targets women, children, the destitute and the lost who seek love and acceptance at the cost of their personal freedom. The Anti Trafficking Seder is free and open to the public. Reservations required. [Click here](#) to RSVP by March 23rd with choice of Chicken or Fish or call 815-806-9248.

### **Mental Health Forum**

Sunday, April 3, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Ida Crown Academy, 8233 Central Park Avenue, Skokie.

>> Join No Shame On U, Metro Chicago Hillel, JVS Chicago, Jewish Child & Family Services, Response, National Council of Jewish Women, and Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking Chicago as JUF's Research Training Internship teen interns discuss their December 2015 report findings on mental health. Teenagers, young adults, parents, educators and the community are all welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Presenters from JUF's RTI interns detail their mental health findings. Metro Chicago Hillel will be on-hand with on-campus resources. Break-out sessions are lead by mental health professionals. Tickets are \$5 in advance, and \$10 at the door. Free for students. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

### **Immigration 301 - Getting Personal: Women Sharing Their Journeys**

Wednesday, April 13, 6:00 pm;

Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton Street, Skokie.

>> Undocumented, Trafficked, Refugee, Dreamer - These labels may define their immigrant status, but what do we know about their lives?

Join us in listening to immigrant women tell us why they chose to come to the U.S. and about their journeys to get here. Learn first-hand the obstacles they faced in the immigration process and their process of assimilation into our society and how policies, programs, agencies and individuals have helped them adapt. Leave knowing what is broken in the immigration system and how to effectively advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. RSVP at [www.ncjwcns.org/immigration](http://www.ncjwcns.org/immigration).

### **MONEY MAKE'M \$MILE**

Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago

Performances are at 10:00 am and the show runs from April 14 - April 30, 2016. NCJW board and JCAST steering committee

and leaders. While embracing a Jewish and gender lens in our grantmaking, JWF Trustees direct funds to individual programs and organizations that promote economic security, legal reform, education, leadership development, and health and well-being for Jewish women and girls. Through this process, our trustees learn how to use philanthropy to effect positive social change.

To learn more visit

[www.juf.org/jwf](http://www.juf.org/jwf).

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### **Steering Committee**

JCAST Chicago is governed by a Steering Committee of dedicated individuals. If you would be interested in serving on the steering committee or one of our Action Teams, email [info@jcastchicago.org](mailto:info@jcastchicago.org).

### **Steering Committee:**

Cathy Carmody, NCJW  
Donna Fishman, NCJW  
Beth Gordon, NCJW, Hakafa  
Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW,  
CEASE Network  
Taal Hasak-Lowy, AJWS  
Sara Kalish, JWF  
Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES  
Carole Levine, NCJW  
Mara Ruff, JUF  
Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF  
Heather Ross, NCJW, Hakafa  
Stacy Saef, NCJW  
Deborah Zions, NCJW,  
SHALVA

Julie Newman, Staff

Melissa Prober, Staff



### **Resources**

members are planning to attend the show on April 14. [If you would like to join us at the production or order tickets for a different date, click here.](#)

MONEY MAKE'M SMILE is the story of Girl and Boy whose lives get caught up in sex trafficking, end tragically but for a mistaken interception by Fate and Destiny. Given another chance, starting from birth, they revisit their former lives, watching themselves with family, friends, new loves and making choices that create their demise. In the end, however, it's not the characters who decide their fate but the audience.

### **Sex Trafficking: It's Happening In Plain Sight**

Thursday, May 12, 7:00 pm

Takiff Center, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe

Join us for a screening of the documentary *In Plain Sight*. Over 80% of sex trafficking victims in our country are American citizens. It's happening in plain sight, and you probably don't even realize it! Following the screening, Caleb Probst, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation(CAASE) will discuss how CAASE is working to combat sex trafficking in the Chicago area and will answer questions. Cost to attend it \$10.

Refreshments will be served. Visit [www.jcastchicago.org](http://www.jcastchicago.org) for registration information as it become available.

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## **JCAST Chicago Updates and Announcements**

### **JCAST Chicago Receives Special Tribute Award**

Earlier this money, NCJW Chicago North Shore Section and JCAST Chicago received a Social Change Tribute Award at NCJW's Washington Institute. Several members of the JCAST Chicago Steering Committee were on hand to receive the award including Steering Committee Co-chairs Donna Fishman and Beth Gordon and Steering Committee member Sara Kalish.



**Tell Senators: Support Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2015**

*Healthcare Workers Guide to ID'ing Trafficking Victims*

- The [Polaris Project](#) has many resources, including the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) hotline and text service.

Handbooks for health care workers

- International Organization for Migration has a free PDF handbook for health care providers called "[Caring for Trafficked Persons.](#)"
- Massachusetts Medical Society also has a [guide](#) on identifying and treating trafficking victims.
- The [Department of Health and Human Services](#) also has reference materials and a toolkit for health care workers.

Other resources

- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center has a [webinar](#) for health workers.
- Heal Trafficking has a compendium of [medical literature](#) and [educational programs](#).

Marketplace's three-part series on human trafficking and health care:

- \* [Health care takes on the fight against trafficking](#)
- \* [This is what happened when a trafficking victim finally got a chance to run](#)
- \* [Identifying trafficking victims is just the start of health care's challenge](#)

*How to Talk to Your Son About*

On January 27, 2015, Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2015 (RHYTPA), S 262. Specifically, the RHYTPA would collect data on victims of human trafficking, add a nondiscrimination clause that brings the Act into accordance with the federal regulations that most runaway and homeless youth programs currently follow, and increase the allowable length of stay for Basic Center Programs from 21 to 30 days to give young people and their families more time to access reunification services when needed. It also includes additional funding to add runaway and homeless youth who have been trafficked to the National Study of the Prevalence Needs and Characteristics of Homeless Youth in America, providing vital information needed to prevent the trafficking of children and provide appropriate services to survivors.

[Click here to send a message to Congress to take Action on the RHYTPA.](#)

### **March 23 is International Agunot Day**

Thousands of Jewish women, all over the world are denied the basic right of divorce by a system of Jewish Law that allows only a husband to sign off on divorce proceedings. These denied women are called agunot, which means "anchored" or "chained." As members of ICAR, NCJW released this reading for use in your communities, sections, and synagogues .

Excerpted prayer for International Agunot Day:

We raise our voices  
In the name of our sisters, the Agunot  
To call for freedom from tyranny  
In the spirit of our tradition's respect for human rights  
We call for action  
In the name of our sisters, the Agunot  
To profess NCJW's tradition of Jewish values  
Through education, advocacy, and the pursuit of equality,  
justice and tikkun olam

"International Agunot Day is observed on the day before the Jewish holiday of Purim on the Fast of Esther, who rescued the entire Jewish community from a death sentence, and yet was herself subject to this denial of legal autonomy. The day contrasts the essential contributions to Jewish life made by Jewish women to their second-class status under marital law."

### **Affinity Community Services Partnering to Start a Drop in Program**

On March 4, St. Martin's Episcopal Church kicked off the Harbor 57 Drop-In Center. Harbor 57 is an LGBTQ affirming space, and is open to youth and young adults ages 13-25 experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Along with our partners, Affinity Community Services, The Chicago Youth

*Rape: A Guide for Dads and Hockey Fans* Caleb Probst, Educator, CAASE, imagines a conversation between a father and son, making the assumption that the son would be an avid hockey fan with Patrick Kane as a favorite players. [Click here](#) for the blog post.

*URI North America (United Religions Initiative)* has some wonderful resources on sex trafficking available. [Click here](#) to visit their website.

*youthSpark* works to end child sex trafficking through prevention, early intervention, and youth-empowered education. youthSpark has produced PSAs with tips on how to talk to youth about trafficking. [Click here](#) to view.

*8 Facts About the U.S. Sex Economy*, a study published by the URBAN Institute discusses the underground economies of sex, drugs, and guns in eight cities: Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, San Diego, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) for the study, and [click here](#) for an article about the study in the Atlantic magazine.

*IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast* to End Human Trafficking Each week, the IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast features a an inspiring speaker who may educate you in your work to end human trafficking around the globe. [Click here](#) for a link to the website.



**Take Action!**

Storage Initiative, The Night Ministry, and Introspect Youth Services, we look forward to providing a safe space and respite for our youth who right now have no stable place to land.

Harbor 57 is open to LGBTQ youth and young adults and is a place to find community, share a meal, and obtain supplies for basic needs. It will take place on the first Friday of the month from 4:30PM-7:30PM at St. Martin's Episcopal Church at 5700 West Midway Park, Chicago, IL. Additional Dates for St. Martin's Harbor 57 are: April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, and August 5th. For more information, visit [www.affinity95.org](http://www.affinity95.org).

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### **Dignity Bag Collection for Chicago Trafficking Victims**

JCAST Chicago continues to collect toiletries and other items to help The Dreamcatcher Foundation during its outreach to youth who are trafficked and prostituted in Chicago. Each month, at least 300 bags are distributed, and they are in need of year-round supplies for street survival bags. We have established the following permanent collection sites so that you may always have the opportunity to help out with any of the following items:

<b>Encore &amp; More</b>	<b>Hadassah Resale</b>	<b>Hadassah Office</b>
1107 Central Ave Wilmette, Illinois M-S: 10am-5pm	405 Lake Cook Rd. Deerfield, Illinois M-F: 10am-5pm Sunday: noon-4pm	60 Revere Drive Suite 800 Northbrook, Illinois M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

### **Street Dignity Bag Packing List:**

These items are needed in small, travel sizes. One of each item will be packed in a gallon ziploc "street survival" bag. These items may be packed in ziploc or other small bag, or donated in bulk.

Toothbrush	Hand Lotion	Gallon Ziploc Bags
Toothpaste	Granola/Power Bar	Tissues
Hand Sanitizer	\$5 McDonald's Gift Cards	

### **Prevention Bag Packing List:**

Please include one of each regular sized product for girls living in at-risk communities. These items may be packed in a tote bag and donated in bulk.

Shampoo	Dove Soap	Lotion/Moisturizer
Liquid Body Soap	Deodorant	Perfumed Body Spray
	Gift or tote bags	

\*Bulk items, hotel toiletries and gift cards to McDonalds (\$5), Target, Dollar Store, CVS or Walgreens (any amount) are always welcome

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### **JCAST Chicago on the Move**

JCAST Chicago has been busy giving presentations across the Chicago Metropolitan area, for Jewish and secular groups.

Please help JCAST secure speaking "gigs" at Jewish organizations. Contact Donna at [info@jcastchicago.org](mailto:info@jcastchicago.org) with names and contacts at synagogues, chavurot, and other

Here are some things you can do today to take action against Sex Trafficking:

\* [Like our Facebook Page](#)

\* [Follow us on Twitter](#)

\* Sign up for Action Alerts [Visit our website](#) to keep up-to-date with the issues most relevant to you. [Sign up](#) for JCAST Chicago, NCJW or Sex Trafficking Action Alerts today!

\* Send a Letter

Send a letter calling on local leaders and law enforcement to enforce laws and end demand. [Visit our website](#) to print out constructions and a sample letter.

\* Hang a Flyer

Victims may visit bus stations, grocery stores, currency exchanges, and gas stations. Hang a poster featuring the hotline for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. and help them escape to safety! [Visit our website](#) for more information and to print flyers.

\* Write a Letter to the Editor Write a letter to the editor when you learn publicly about arrests of perpetrators of sex trafficking. Commending the media, the police departments involved, and local authorities keeps sex trafficking in the news and encourages more enforcement. [Visit our website](#) for a sample letter to the editor.



**Support JCAST Chicago**

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to

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### Sex Trafficking in the News

More and more our news feeds are filled with stories about sex trafficking - some positive and some negative. Here are a few article links that may be of interest.

- [The Supply and Demand of Sex Trafficking](#)
- [Health care takes on the fight against trafficking](#)
- [Every Parent's Nightmare](#)
- [Regarding 'Every Parent's Nightmare'](#)
- [East St. Louis man pleads guilty to child sex trafficking charges](#)
- [Woman pleads guilty in sex trafficking of 17-year-old girl](#)
- [Woman admits role in drug, sex trafficking scheme](#)
- [Backpage's hindrance of sex trafficking investigation brings Senate contempt](#)
- [I-TEAM: Sex Website Facing Scrutiny](#)
- [Is Prostitution Just Another Job?](#)

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
6th Annual Cook County Human  
Trafficking Task Force Conference  
August 4 - 5, 2016  
at  
IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law  
565 West Adams Street  
Chicago, IL 60661



IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law  
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago  
847-853-8889 \* [info@jcastchicago.org](mailto:info@jcastchicago.org) \* [www.jcastchicago.org](http://www.jcastchicago.org)

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