



Greetings!

At JCAST Chicago, we want to make sure you are aware of all of our upcoming events and current information.

In particular, we want to make sure you put **November 15** on your calendar. NCJW is offering a private docent-led tour of the Illinois Holocaust Museum Exhibit *Women Hold Up Half the Sky*.

Women Hold Up Half the Sky identifies one of the central moral challenges of the 21st century - full equality for the world's women. It is inspired by the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, by Pulitzer-prize winning authors, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Like the bestselling book, the exhibition features ordinary women who have accomplished extraordinary things. It challenges visitors to open their eyes, minds, hearts, and most of all, to take action to improve women and girls' lives locally and worldwide. NCJW Chicago North Shore and JCAST Chicago are community partners of the exhibit. Please see below for more information on the tour.

JCAST Chicago Blog

Actions, Words and Gender Equality in the New Year

In recent weeks, we've been confronted with shocking, insulting and derogatory footage and language against women (by a presidential candidate!), and we've seen an outpouring of responses every which way we turn.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that these events unfolded during the Jewish High Holy Days. And this year, at my synagogue, Congregation Hakafa, something unexpected took place. Actions transcended beyond the words on the pages in response to the unsettling misogyny unfolding in the media. On the eve of Kol Nidre, Rabbi Bruce Elder decided to place this holy service under the leadership of women, and asked Rabbi Ali Abrams to lead the service and give a personal reflection in his place, The honor of holding the torahs was given to all past female presidents of the congregation. And at the end of the service was another act of solidarity by members of the congregation, who generously responded to the collection of tzedakah donations for the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation. On this eve of Kol Nidre, acts of intention against misogyny and in support of gender equality spoke louder than the words on our pages.

[Click here](#) for the full blog post:



Support JCAST Chicago

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to help subsidize the cost of Dignity Bags or our other projects. Thank you for your support.

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.

Steering Committee:

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

- Melissa Prober, Staff
- Jacqueline Doolittle, Staff

Upcoming Events

Docent led Tour of Women Hold Up Half the Sky

November 15; 10:30 am (arrive no later than 10:15)
Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie
>> Join NCJW at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center (IHMEC) for a private docent-led tour of the special exhibit Women Hold Up Half the Sky running through January 22. Women Hold Up Half the Sky identifies one of the central moral challenges of the 21st century - full equality for the world's women. The exhibition features ordinary women who have accomplished extraordinary things. NCJW Chicago North Shore and JCAST Chicago are community partners of the exhibit. Following our tour, we will head to the Bagel Restaurant for lunch and socializing. [Click here to register](#) - advance registration is required.

Women Hold Up Half the Sky Special Programs

Women Hold Up Half the Sky identifies one of the central moral challenges of the 21st century - full equality for the world's women. It is inspired by the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, by Pulitzer-prize winning authors, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Like the bestselling book, the exhibition features ordinary women who have accomplished extraordinary things. It challenges visitors to open their eyes, minds, hearts, and most of all, to take action to improve women and girls' lives locally and worldwide.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

The Illinois Holocaust Museum is offering a wide variety of programs, films, and panel discussions in conjunction with the Women Hold Up Half the Sky Exhibit. All programs, films, and panel discussions are free to the public. Museum exhibitions and Gallery Talks require Museum admission. [Click here](#) for information and see highlights below. Listed programs are at the Holocaust Museum unless otherwise noted.

Pfeffer Family Forum: Women in the Holocaust

November 2, 2016, 6:30 pm

Performance: Women of "Louder than a bomb"

November 3, 2016, 7:00 pm

Film Screening: No Mas Bebés

November 6, 2016, 2:00 pm

Maternal Health: Supporting Healthy Women

November 17, 2016, 6:30 pm

Rotary International, Evanston

Gallery Talk: Maternal health issues

November 19, 2016, 11 am and 1 pm

Film Screening: A Walk to Beautiful

December 1, 2016, 6:30 pm

Gallery Talk: Local women and sexual violence

December 10, 2016, 11 am and 1 pm

Sexual Violence: Stories of Survival and Hope

December 11, 2016, 2:00 pm

Other events of interest

JCAST Sponsoring Room at Selah House

As mentioned in last month's enews, [Selah Freedom](#) is opening a home in the Chicagoland Area for Trafficking Survivors and JCAST Chicago is sponsoring one of the rooms. We are sponsoring the Selah Room which will be a place of reflection and peacefulness for the girls who live there. There are many opportunities to volunteer with Selah in the Chicagoland area.

Volunteer training sessions are listed below:

Training: Volunteer Connect Meetings are coming soon. This



Heartland Alliance Featured Organization

Heartland Alliance, one of the world's leading anti-poverty organizations, works in communities in the U.S. and abroad to serve those who are homeless, living in poverty, or seeking safety. It provides a comprehensive array of services in the areas of health, housing, jobs and justice - and leads state and national policy efforts, which target lasting change for individuals and society.

Heartland Alliance advances the human rights and responds to the human needs of endangered populations-particularly the poor, the isolated, and the displaced-through the provision of comprehensive and respectful services and the promotion of permanent solutions leading to a more just global society.

Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) is dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

NIJC provides direct legal services to and advocates for these populations through policy reform, impact litigation, and public education. Since its founding three decades ago, NIJC has been unique in blending individual client advocacy with broad-based systemic change.

The Counter-Trafficking Project provides comprehensive legal services and case management for children and adult survivors of human trafficking. The program has helped more than 130 survivors of trafficking become self-sufficient and move closer to fully integrating into our society. Law enforcement and social service agencies identify NIJC as the key collaborator in providing critical protection to human trafficking survivors. International and national organizations and NGOs have invited NIJC staff to conduct trainings on human trafficking and

meeting gives you an opportunity to meet our team and learn more about the areas you can volunteer in. We are in great need of volunteers to lead groups such as NA and AA. Please let us know if you have experience in these areas.

Chicago Location: Saturday, October 29th from 9:30 - 10:30 AM at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street (at Michigan Avenue), Chicago

Northwest Suburban Location: Saturday, October 29th from 3:00 - 4:00 PM at Durty Nellie's Smith Street Station (Smith Street Station is written above the door to use for the entrance), 180 N. Smith Street, Palatine, IL 60067. This location is right next to the Metra station and there is ample free parking in their parking garage.

Contact info@selahfreedom.com to RSVP.

Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium 2016

Detroit- Area

Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 1:00 pm

West Bloomfield High School, 4925 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield

The Symposium will: Define Human Trafficking; Provide accurate information from experts about trafficking in our area; Discuss the internet and social media's role in trafficking; Explain current laws regarding trafficking and what is still needed; Describe how victims of trafficking can become survivors; Explore what YOU can do to recognize and combat Human Trafficking. To register, visit www.ncjwgs.org.

Film Screening: The True Cost

November 14, 2016; 7:00 p.m.

Landmark Century Cinema, 2828 N. Clark Street Chicago
Join AJWS and NCJW for a film screening and conversation: THE TRUE COST: The human and environmental implications of the fast fashion industry. The price of clothing has fallen for decades, while the human and environmental costs have grown dramatically. The True Cost is a groundbreaking documentary film that pulls back the curtain on the fashion industry and asks us to consider: who really pays the price for our clothing? Screening followed by a brief presentation and Q&A about AJWS's work to empower Cambodian garment workers to unionize for better treatment and fair wages. To Register, [click here](#).

Anti- Trafficking Training Program For Community Service Professionals

Please join the National Council of Jewish Women South Cook Section and the Salvation Army STOP-IT team for a training program designed to inform and instruct professionals during their initial encounter with trafficking victims. Human trafficking is a global issue that has permeated all levels of society. It exists in our local communities as well as internationally. The best way to eradicate human trafficking is to give those who will have immediate, initial contact with victims the tools to provide all services available and the knowledge of how to contact and implement those services.

Tuesday Nov. 15, 2016, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Irwin Community Center, 18120 S. Highland Ave., Homewood.
RSVP to ellenkaplan@sbcglobal.net by Tuesday, November 8th. Please include your name, position, and the organization you represent.

COURT SIDE

Monday, November 21, 2016

Chicago Cultural Center 10 E. Washington Chicago
The Honorable Federal Judge Virginia Kendall and Her Story Theater have created a unique evening specially designed for Chicago Area Judges and Litigators involved with cases on sex trafficking and those interested in learning more on the issue. Her

to help them replicate NIJC's program model.

For more information visit www.heartlandalliance.org.



Take Action!

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.



Resources

Books:

Story Theater will present COURT SIDE, a reading of pieces from the highly acclaimed plays written by Mary Bonnett from her Chicago Sex Trafficking Cycle: Shadow Town, The Johns, Money Make'M Smile and Mongers. The performance brings to life the world of the sex trafficked victim; the workshop brings in-depth knowledge plus discussion, together they allow the audience a far greater understanding into its complexity and impact on the victim. The performance begins at 6:30 pm and is followed at 7:30 pm by a workshop. A pre-performance reception for legal professionals only is at 5:30. There is no charge to attend but please register at CourtSide.brownpapertickets.com.

Updates and Information

Update on the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014

President Obama signed the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act into law on Sept. 29, 2014. The act provides various changes to existing law regarding child welfare, including some required state action in areas of foster parenting, adoption incentive payments, and others. In addition, the bill requires certain data collection and reporting by states regarding sex trafficking, including the identification of children who may be at high-risk of becoming sex trafficking victims, particularly current and former foster children. [Click here](#) for more information and updates.

World Without Exploitation

"Every day in America tens of thousands of people are trafficked and sexually exploited. Millions more are bought, sold, and exploited worldwide. During a period in which we've made extraordinary political, economic, and social progress, why are so many people still being purchased like products?"

World Without Exploitation was created to confront that question. Our movement was born of a series of conversations among exploitation and trafficking survivors, human rights and gender justice advocates, artists, activists, and direct service providers. We're united in the belief that we won't end exploitation until we confront its root causes. We know that an injustice that goes unseen is an injustice that goes unchallenged. And challenging a world in which human beings are being trafficked and exploited is what World Without Exploitation is all about." [Click here](#) for information.

Obama signs law guaranteeing survivors of sexual assault basic federal rights

"With a stroke of his pen on Friday, President Obama signed a historic bill into law that will for the first time guarantee federal rights to those who have suffered sexual assaults. The Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act, also known as the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016, was introduced in February by U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire. Shaheen had assistance drafting the original language for the bill from Amanda Nguyen, a rape survivor who took her fight to prevent Massachusetts from destroying her rape kit to the upper reaches of U.S. government. The state will dispose of untested rape kits after six months unless the survivors file for an extension, a particularly onerous responsibility to place upon victim of a crime while police search for a culprit. Some minor changes were made to the bill as it won approval in the House and Senate and made its way to the president's desk. White House aide Valerie Jarrett posted on Twitter to announce the momentous occasion and to congratulate Rise, the advocacy organization run by Nguyen, for its work in bringing the bill to fruition." [Click here](#) for the full article.

Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery by Siddharth Kara

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World where Girls are not for Sale by Rachel Lloyd

The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy it by Victor Malarek

The Natashas: Inside the Global Sex Trade by Victor Malarek

Women Hold up Half the Sky: Turing Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Sheryl Wudunn and Nicholas Kristof

Podcasts:

IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast to End Human Trafficking Each week, the IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast features 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.

Websites:

[Polaris Project](#)
[National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)
[URI North America](#)
[Heartland Alliance](#)
[STOP-IT Initiative Against Human Trafficking](#)
[American Jewish World Service](#)
[Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation](#)
[Selah Freedom](#)
[National Domestic Workers Alliance](#)

New Illinois Laws Protect Domestic Workers

Labor trafficking, like sex trafficking, involves fraud, force and coercion. It is defined as the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, or receiving persons by means of threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power, for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or slave-like practices.

Also like sex trafficking, labor trafficking occurs in every country and just about every community! Immigrants and those in poverty are at highest risk for being exploited by traffickers. HB1288, the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, was signed this summer and takes effect on January 1st, 2017 and will ensure that all domestic workers in Illinois receive the state minimum wage, are protected against sexual harassment, and receive a mandated day off for workers employed by one employer for at least 20 hours a week. [Click here](#) for the full story from Traffick Free.

Post-Conviction Relief to Victims of Trafficking

Last month, U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rob Portman (R-OH) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and U.S. Representatives Ann Wagner (R-MO), Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), and David Jolly (R-FL) introduced bipartisan legislation, which would clear criminal records of victims of human trafficking. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2016 would apply to non-violent crimes committed by individuals as a direct result of human trafficking. [Click here](#) for more information.

TAKE ACTION

Toiletry and Gift Card Donations Needed Year-round!

Donation Drop off locations:

Encore & More: 1107 Central Ave, Wilmette
Hadassah Thrift Shop, 405 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield
Hadassah Office, 60 Revere Dr #800, Northbrook
Temple Shalom, 3480 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago

If you or your organization would consider organizing a collection drive or a packing program, please contact Beth Gordon bbgordon1@gmail.com or Donna Fishman at donna@jcastchicago.org.

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 tote bag, or donated in bulk. (You might even Ask your local businesses if they have items to donate and share this list.)

toothbrush and toothpaste (* ask your dentist!)

hand sanitizer

hand lotion

granola or power bar

pack of tissues

Gallon Ziploc Bags

\$5 McDonald's Gift Cards

Prevention Bag Packing List:

The Dreamcatcher Foundation regularly visits girls living in at-risk communities, including teen-aged single mothers. These items may be packed in a tote bag and donated in bulk.

shampoo
liquid body soap
dove soap
deodorant
lotion or moisturizer
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*

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 with names and contacts at synagogues, chavurot, and other Jewish organizations.

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.

- [Working together to shut down illicit massage businesses](#)
- [FBI sting shows child sex trafficking still thriving in United States](#)
- [Ashton Kutcher: My Organization Found 6,000 Trafficking Victims This Year \(VIDEO\)](#)
- [South Suburban Man Charged with Transporting a Minor from Illinois to Wisconsin to Engage in Prostitution](#)
- [Oswego Man Convicted of Paying for Sex with Teen](#)
- [CEO of alleged sex trafficking site arrested in Texas](#)
- [Missouri man sentenced to life in prison in Illinois court for sex trafficking of a minor](#)
- [Many men talk like Donald Trump in private. And only other men can stop them.](#)
- [Daughters for Sale: How Young American Girls Are Being Sold Online](#)
- [BackPage.com CEO Carl Ferrer Arrested In Houston on Sex-Trafficking Charges Including Pimping a Child](#)
- [17 arrested in sex trafficking ring targeting Thai women](#)
- [Mount Prospect woman charged in national sex-trafficking case](#)
- [Illinois Gets First Child Porn-Sniffing Dog](#)
- [U.S. Supreme Court won't step into Illinois fight over Backpage sex ads](#)
- [Prosecutors want crackdown on websites selling illegal sex](#)
- [Why Do We Lock Up Survivors of Sex Trafficking?](#)
- [Demand in the news](#)

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago
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