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Welcome; Unhappy Hour Recap; A Call for Help! and More

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National Organization for Women Washtenaw County Chapter Michigan

A warm WELCOME to all of you who have recently joined our mailing list! We hope to see you at a Feminist Happy Hour (the next one is on December 8; see details below) or an event soon!

Many of us have been deeply troubled by the election results and by the less-than-inclusive tone that has been set. Let's dry our tears and renew our commitment to inclusion and justice for all. We have some activities to promote these values in the planning stages, but if your organization has an event related to justice or equality, please contact us about co-promoting that event. You can email us or find us on Facebook. The links are at the bottom of this newsletter.

November Feminist (Un) Happy Hour Recap

Our November Feminist Happy Hour was not very happy, since our long hoped for "first woman President" did not materialize. Scheduled just two days after the Presidential election, this event was well attended by sad, angry and frustrated Clinton supporters. We discussed what Hillary did wrong and right, issues with the voting process itself, and NOW's role in fighting the hate unleashed by the Trump victory.

Information about long lines, voters who thought they had registered on campus but found they were not registered, and other election-day glitches were gathered for later reporting to Larry Kestenbaum, our County Clerk.

We discussed the safety pin initiative and decided that to us wearing a safety pin would

mean that 1) we are willing to stand up for those among us who no longer feel safe, and 2) we want to hold our diverse nation together.

The group also considered the difficult challenge of remaining civil over the Thanksgiving holiday with relatives who voted for Trump!



Please join us for the next Feminist Happy Hour on Thursday, December 8th, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Los Amigos Fiesta, 4855 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI. There is so much to discuss! Should we limit our actions on street harassment to that, or broaden our efforts to address public harassment in general? What actions can we take to further equity and justice in the new political reality? Would you be interested in making signs in January for the marches in Washington, DC, and Lansing? Are you interested in becoming more involved? Come and share your ideas! Or just sit back, enjoy the conversation, and have a drink or dinner.

Hope to see you there!

Your Washtenaw NOW Team

Looking ahead to January....

Ypsi March for Love, Resilience and Action: Join Ypsilanti as we grieve, resist, create, and celebrate our communities' diverse strengths in the wake of the election.

We are a group of citizens planning a March in Ypsilanti on Inauguration Day as we grieve, resist, create, & celebrate our ability to flourish, using skills we have learned standing on the shoulders of diverse ancestors. We'll march to mobilize, to prepare creatively for what's to come, to give people a wholesome alternative on that day, to focus on local issues and build local resilience, to further alliances and express support across our isolated silos in Ypsi, and as an option for people who can't or don't want to travel to

Marches planned in Washington DC. In the face of the coming administration, we plan to begin as we mean to go on.

Monday, January 15, Marchers will gather to support Ypsi Ypsilanti Community Schools teens in their plan for a Martin Luther King Jr Day silent procession and art show commemorating Frederick Douglass, who spoke in Ypsilanti on January 16, 1867 at Hewitt Hall. Our group will stand in support and witness the teens' expression of grief.

Friday, January 20, everyone is invited to meet to prepare for the March. It will be time to share music, make banners and signs, and express our response to the election. With food and song, we'll join together in an accessible space so that people with age or mobility challenges who may be unable to March can share their experiences/wisdom and be heard by all.

Saturday, January 21, our March route will pass by Ypsilanti locales that honor abolitionists, women of color, and others from targeted diverse? oppressed? silenced? isolated? communities who have lived and thrived with bravery and creativity. A theatrical performance will celebrate our people power as WE inaugurate OUR vision for an interconnected future. Initial plans include booths & spaces for community and social service resources, a cozy space for breast-feeding, non-violent security team, women-only (trans-inclusive) space, voter education/registration, and more.

Planning is currently underway through a steering committee that meets every Sunday at 1:30pm and working groups on various smaller pieces of the event. Contact Desirae or Mariah at loversilienceaction.ypsi@gmail.com or call Mariah at (609) 651-2490 to volunteer to help in planning/organizing.



We could really use your help! We are looking for someone to help maintain our Wordpress website. It would take one to three hours a month. If you have these skills and are willing to help, please contact Cheryl Farmer by email (mayorsis@provide.net) or phone (734-481-1804). Thanks so much for considering helping out!



No Rest for the Weary

This election cycle, feminists in the Rochester N.Y. area began heading to Mount Hope Cemetery to tag the headstone of Susan B. Anthony with their “I voted” stickers. This was both a sign of gratitude for her work on behalf of the right of women to vote, and a sign of optimism that we were about to elect our first woman President.

Inspired by this example, local feminist Amanda Allen recently organized “No rest for the weary” to honor Ypsilanti's Suffragist leader Dr. Helen McAndrew. Such leaders in the Suffrage movement as Susan B. Anthony, Frances Willard, Mary Livermore and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were visitors at the McAndrew home.

This is how Washtenaw NOW member Kathy Fojtik Stroud responded to the recent pilgrimage:

Please take a drive, walk or jog through Highland Cemetery, 924 N. River St in Ypsilanti Michigan. You won't be disappointed if you like beautiful hills and gorgeous trees overlooking a sleepy hamlet. About 25 of us visited the grave site of Ms, Mrs., Dr. Mc Andrews, circa 1835-1906, a Feminist, Suffragist and Underground Railroad Activist. She is buried high on a hill. Her tombstone is now covered with flowers and "I voted" stickers. Please take the time to visit her, either on the Internet or at her grave. You won't

be sorry.

For more information about this pioneering feminist, follow these links: <http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org/Images/McAndrew.%20Helen%20Walker.pdf>
<http://ypsigleanings.aadl.org/ypsigleanings/13059>

Thanks for all you do! Our voices and our actions matter. What do you have to offer?

Your Washtenaw Now Team



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