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August meet-up

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National Organization for Women
Washtenaw County Chapter
Michigan

ART FAIR BOOTH A HUGE SUCCESS!



Thanks go out to our fabulous volunteers Linda, Jane, Beverly, Amy, Kate, Kathy, Martha, Melissa and Lisa as well as to our entire Board for making our booth at the 2017 Art Fairs the big success that it was! We engaged record numbers of people in signing our postcard initiatives and choosing swag from our huge selection of buttons and bumper stickers. Shifts flew by quickly. Many visitors came looking for us to ask "What do you have for me to sign?" or to say "Thank you for being here!" We appreciate the support from all of them, and from our hard working [Congresswoman Debbie Dingell](#) and [State Representative Yousef Rabhi](#) as well! Thanks to all who helped and all who stopped by! Our coffers and our souls have now been recharged for the coming year!

This month's meet up



When we meet on **Thursday August 10th at Los Amigos Fiesta**, one of our favorite venues, we will be outside on their new patio! They are located at 4855 Washtenaw Avenue. **Social hour will begin at 6PM** during happy hour, since their margaritas are great! Former State Representative Jeff Irwin joins us at 7PM to talk about **the status of legislation to expand Michigan's Elliott Larson Civil Rights Act to include LGBT citizens**. This was the topic of our orange postcard initiative at the art fair, and there will be cards to Governor Snyder for you to sign if you have not already done so. You may also want to talk about **Jeff Irwin's decision to run for State Senator** with him! (Rebekah Warren will be termed out next year.) Come and bring a friend!

Showing Up for Racial Justice

At last month's meet-up special guests Sharman Spieser and Lisa Bashert joined us from **SURJ**. We discussed their mission, values & culture, as well as the provocative article "*White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*" by Peggy McIntosh. These were interesting conversations about the work that white folk need to do in order to better understand the racist environment in which we all exist and from which white folk benefit - at least in the short run. In the long run, however, **Martin Luther King, Jr.** reminds us that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." **SURJ** offers us these 3 additional short articles and a book title for those who want to learn more about

white privilege:

<https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/white-womens-tears-and-the-men-who-love-them-twlm/>

https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/diangelo-white_fragility_and_the_rules_of_engagement.pdf

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/no-i-wont-stop-saying-white-supremacy-20170630>

Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools. Glenn E. Singleton.

Our September 10th program will focus on the
Michigan Women's Justice and Clemency Project

<http://umich.edu/~clemency/>

Ten women survivors of domestic violence have been identified by this project as having had an unfair trial that sentenced them to life in prison for killing their abuser in self defense. **Hundreds of hot pink postcards to Governor Snyder** asking him to pardon these women were signed as one of our Art Fairs initiatives. Attorney Lynne D'Orio will join us that evening to explain the magnitude of the problem and what we can do to help. Stay tuned for details!

Pivotal Books on Injustice and Inequality

What book changed how you saw the world? **Please share a book that helped you to see/understand society -- and possibly your position in it -- differently.** Maybe it was something you read as a child (or to your child), a book you were assigned for a class, or something you found on the shelves of a used bookstore. Any book is welcome and we hope you will take a moment to explain what this book has meant to you. Washtenaw NOW will compile and share the recommendations we receive (check our website this fall for the full list!). Some of the books and members' descriptions will be put on display in the Ypsilanti District Library and **we will choose one title to read and discuss at our November 9, 2017 meetup.**

Here is the link for the form: <https://goo.gl/forms/qpHJM8rR60hT6lXs1>

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