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Upcoming local, state and national actions

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National Organization for Women
Washtenaw County Chapter
Michigan

CALL TO ACTION!

April "First Friday" Street Theater:

A call for participants!

Washtenaw NOW is calling for volunteers of various ages, sexual preference, gender identity, races, ethnicity and ability to participate in a performance art piece about Street Harassment.

The performance will take place on Friday, April 7th, 6:00 PM, at the Ypsilanti bus station on Pearl Street at North Adams.

This performance is pop-up runway themed. We are looking for people to fill the following roles:

Announcer: Using a script, they will announce each person as they walk down the “runway.”

Walkers: 10-20 people will walk silently down the “runway” dressed in apparel in which they have been harassed. We need ALL kinds of folks. No performance experience necessary.

Creeper: This person will act as a harasser to the walkers as they move down the runway.

Bystanders: 1-2 people who will act out ways to fend off the “Creeper”.

Distributors: 1-2 people will distribute flyers to people watching

the performance, so that they understand the concept. No need to rehearsal for this role, just volunteer now and plan to be at the bus station on April 7th by 5:30 PM!

Assistant Director: 1-2 people to help position the performers.

Attendance at rehearsals optional but encouraged.

Rehearsal Dates: Bona Sera Cafe, 200 West Michigan, Ypsilanti

for Announcer, Walkers, Creeper, Bystanders and interested

others:

Saturday April 1st, 1:00 pm

Wednesday April 5th, 6:00 pm

This is an opportunity to bring awareness of street harassment to our community and to build a local culture that respects and

protects everyone! Please email shannonbasalla@gmail.com with your choice of volunteer role by Sunday, March 26!



SAVE THE DATES:

FRIDAY APRIL 7, ANTI-HARASSMENT ACTION, First Friday in Ypsilanti
 *CHALKING 5pm, AATA Bus Stop, Pearl Street @ North Washington
 *FASHION SHOW 6pm, AATA Bus Stop, Pearl Street @ North Washington

Monday April 10, Kathy Fojtik Stroud will receive the Starkweather Award from the EMU Women and Gender Studies Program . 4-6 PM, 352 Student Center on Oakwood in Ypsilanti. Public welcome. See article below for further details.

THURSDAY APRIL 13, ACTION MEETING, SIDETRACK, 586 East Cross Street, Depot Town, Ypsilanti
 *MAKE SIGNS for upcoming Equal Pay Day protest in Lansing!
 *DISCUSS the article "They pretend to be us while pretending we don't

exist" by author Jenny Zhang https://www.buzzfeed.com/jennybagel/they-pretend-to-be-us-while-pretending-we-dont-exist?utm_term=.qjJWIMnnZQ#.qwlDymGGWw

as part of Action #5 of the "10 Actions in 100 Days"

<https://www.womensmarch.com/reflect-resist/>

TUESDAY APRIL 25, Equal Pay Day Rally in Lansing! Check here for details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michigan-equal-pay-legislative-day-tickets-28367784808>



This year's MICHIGAN NOW ANNUAL CONFERENCE, to be held on Saturday, March 25, 9 AM till 5 PM at the University of Michigan Flint campus, 400 Mill Street, Flint, promises to be exciting! In the morning Heidi Budaj will talk about "The Alt Right and Hate Crimes in Michigan." This will be followed by multiple interesting concurrent workshop offerings. The Keynote speaker, Natasha Thomas-Jackson, will then discuss "How a Creative Intergenerational and Intersectional Feminism will Save Us All!" After lunch there will be additional concurrent workshops, followed by the business meeting and election of officers.

Register for the conference, open to members and non-members alike, here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/together-we-rise-crossing-boundaries-claiming-power-and-leading-change-now-registration-31363564265?aff=es2>

We have created a FB event to help those who are going find

carpools: <https://www.facebook.com/events/300087343742257/>.



The NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE "Forward Feminism " will take place June 30, 2017 – July 2, 2017.

Check it out! <http://now.org/conference/> **We can't wait to see you in Orlando, Florida!**

GOOD NEWS!

Nevada Ratifies Equal Rights Amendment – 36th State

After a hiatus of over 30 years, another state has ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution! Tears of joy were shed when the Nevada Assembly on Monday, March 20, voted 28-14 to ratify the ERA. The measure had already been approved in the Nevada Senate and as soon as the Senate approves on Thursday a minor technical amendment, the ratification becomes final. This makes Nevada the 36th state to ratify; only two more states are needed to reach the required 38. Read more about the three-state ERA strategy [here](#).

2017 Starkweather Award Winner Announced

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Eastern Michigan University is pleased to announce that **Washtenaw NOW member Kathleen Fojtik-Stroud will be the Starkweather Award winner for 2017.**

Kathleen is the founder of Ann Arbor's Safe House. In 1978, at great risk to herself and the providers--she created a network of private homes that provided safe shelter for women and children who were victims of domestic violence. This was at a time when many still believed that violence was a

'family affair' and looked away. In 1992 the current Safe House, a building specifically designed for the purpose, was opened as the first publicly funded domestic violence shelter in the United States. Kathleen also has been active with the National Organization for Women since its founding 50 years ago, serving in various capacities including president of the Ann Arbor chapter and board member of Michigan NOW. As well, she is active in the local chapter of the American Associate of University Women and has served as president. Kathy has been a Washtenaw County Commissioner, a precinct delegate for the Democratic Party, and has generously supported progressive candidates and causes over the years. Kathy is a 1972 graduate of EMU in Occupational Therapy.

Sponsored by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, this award honors a woman from the community who has been outstanding in her advocacy for social justice issues including feminism and demonstrates traits of generosity, selflessness, progressiveness, and risk-taking. The award will be presented at an event on April 10 beginning at 4:00 p.m. in Room 352 of EMU's Student Center. The public is invited. **Please RSVP to jstavro1@emich.edu by Monday March 27th if you wish to attend.**

Take Action: A vote by committee on the nomination of Judge Gorsuch to the Supreme Court will likely take place the week of March 28th, with a full Senate vote sometime in early to mid-April. **[The Nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court: A Threat to Women, Workers and All Those Who Face Discrimination](#)**. Please **[call your senators](#)** as soon as possible. The Capitol switchboard number is **[202-224-3121](tel:202-224-3121)** or go to the **[Senate directory](#)** at, for the office number. Click **[here](#)** for an information brief, and **[here](#)** for a phone script.

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