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## Walk in her shoes, Women's Convention highlights and next steps!

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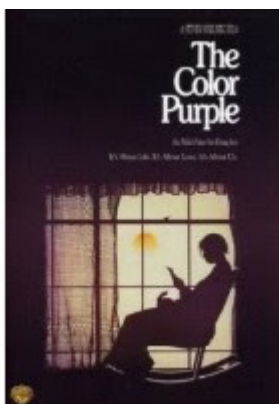
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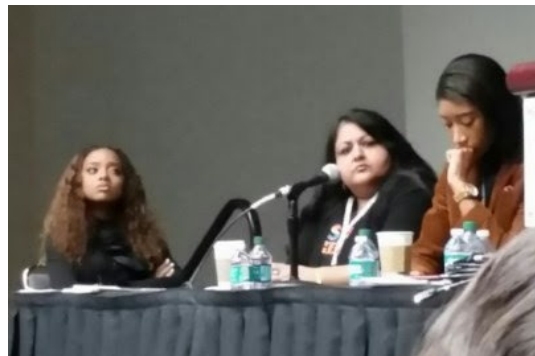
National Organization for Women  
Washtenaw County Chapter  
Michigan



### Walk in her shoes

Recently we asked readers to tell us about a book that had a big impact on the way in which they saw their world. Many great titles were suggested! The popular choice was *The Color Purple*. We invite everyone to read this book and join us in the discussion on Thursday November 9th, 7PM, at the Whittaker Branch of the Ypsilanti District Library, [5577 Whittaker Road](#). If you have never been to this library, you are in for an architectural treat! We will meet in the Community Room. If you read this book when it came out several decades ago, you may wish to re-read it through the prism of our current political context! There will be snacks, along with a reading list of all of the great, life-changing book titles that were suggested. Bring a friend!





## Highlights of the Women's Convention!

Last weekend in Detroit a sold-out crowd of 4200 women and allies met at Cobo Hall for three action packed days of inspirational plenaries and break-out sessions designed to help us in **Reclaiming Our Time!** Women are still discouraged from entering many professions. We are still under-represented in boardrooms across the nation and in the State Houses and the Halls of Congress. But we can change this! And if we do, it will also shift the stalled conversations we have been having for 50 years around equal pay, reproductive rights and many other compelling topics.

The Convention was convened by the organizers of the Women's March on Washington: Tomika Mallory, Carmen Perez, Linda Sarsour and Bob Bland. Women from Maryland to Alaska came to participate in over 100 panels including coalition building, entrepreneurship, running for public office, immigration, dismantling oppression through intersectionality, women in film, being an effective ally, our ancestors' sacred organizing principles for transformational change, and speechwriting the resistance. There were special events for youth including public speaking, sign making and an ice cream social.

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell gave a rousing speech about injustice and the need for more women in the halls of power. She then introduced Congresswoman Maxine Waters who detailed the threats to our country due to the shocking dysfunction of our current President and led a passionate chant to "impeach 45." We sang, laughed and cried our way through the weekend. Then in the closing minutes we promised to ourselves and to our "accountability partners" that we would choose an action based on what we had learned over the weekend and GET STARTED!

Heard at the Women's Convention:  
"Vote like your lives depend on it because they do!"



Our **Michigan NOW President Nina Muckenthaler** spoke at the National March for Peace and Justice in Ann Arbor last month.

Also heard at the Women's Convention:  
"If they don't respect you, make them respect your money!"

### **Annual elections will be held in January!**

If you are interested running for a Board position in our Washtenaw NOW Chapter, please contact your Chapter Recorder Cheryl Farmer at [734-481-1804](tel:734-481-1804). The nominating Committee will be putting together a slate of candidates this month to be presented to the membership next month. Under our by-laws, this year's Vice President becomes President in 2018. The positions that will be filled through the upcoming election are Vice President, Recorder, Treasurer, Webmaster, and two At-Large officers. Only members who are current with their dues may nominate, vote or run for office.

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### **Save the dates, details to follow!**

**December 14, 2017** We will be joining **Moms Demand Action** as they mark the **5th Anniversary** of the Ann Arbor Chapter. Together we will bring an end to this epidemic of gun violence in our country.

**January 11, 2018** we will celebrate our **Third Annual Meeting and Anniversary** as Washtenaw NOW with an election, cake, and with sign and button making for ...

**January 21, 2018** The **Women's March Part II**. There will be no march on Washington DC next year, but many states have already begun organizing sister marches to re-energize the resistance. A march is being organized in Lansing, and there is talk of sister marches in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

**January 22, 2018** We will be marching in **support of Roe v Wade** by picketing an area "crisis pregnancy center" (ie anti-abortion counseling operation)

**February 8, 2018** **Moms Demand Action** will be our guests, leading the discussion on initiatives to reduce gun violence.

**March 8, 2018** We will celebrate **Women's History Month** with a retrospective on **"Five Decades of Feminism in Washtenaw County."** The new NOW Chapter at Skyline High School will be our special guests for this!

**April 12, 2018** We will mark **Anti-Street Harassment Week** with chalking and a pop-up runway featuring women wearing clothes in which they have been harassed. Pray to the sun god for good weather on this date!

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