



## MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HISTORICAL CENTER & HALL OF FAME

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**What:** "Equal Means Equal" Lecture and Book Signing  
with author Jessica Neuwirth

**When:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6 pm

**Where:** The Forum at the Michigan Library and Historical Center  
702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan

**Cost:** \$25/members, \$40/non-members (includes 1 yr membership), free parking

### ***Equal Means Equal* Lecture and Book Signing on June 10**

Lansing, MI –The Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame (MWHOF) is pleased to host a lecture and book signing by Jessica Neuwirth, author of *Equal Means Equal: Why the Time for an Equal Rights Amendment is Now* (The New Press 2015). This event will take place on Wednesday, June 10 with doors opening for a reception with hors d'oeuvre at 5:15 pm and the lecture at 6:00 pm, followed by a brief question and answer period, in the Forum at the Michigan Library and Historical Center at 702 West Kalamazoo in Lansing, Michigan. Reservations are \$25 for members of the MWHOF and \$40 for non-members (includes a 1-year membership). Reservations can be made online at [www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org](http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org) or by calling 517-484-1880 x203. Any remaining seats will be sold at the door. Parking is free, although attendees may need to take a ticket to enter the visitor parking lot.

As a global leader the United States is poised to be an example for women's rights. And yet the U.S. is one of only a handful of countries in the world that does not have a constitutional provision guaranteeing equal rights for women under the law. After years of campaigning, the Equal Rights Amendment was pronounced dead in 1982 after an onslaught of anti-ERA activism rooted in a fear of women in combat, gay rights and marriage, and women operating outside the domestic sphere. Now, *Equal Means Equal* makes the compelling case that the time for an ERA has come.

Michigan has a special connection to the ERA. The Honorable Martha Griffiths sponsored the ERA in Congress while serving as U.S. Representative for Michigan's 17<sup>th</sup> congressional district. In addition, the Women's Hall of Fame is home to many women that worked diligently on the ERA, including Martha Griffiths, Laura Carter Callow, Elly Peterson, Helen Milliken, Betty Ford, and Mary Aikey, just to name a few.

Jessica Neuwirth, founder of Equality Now, catalogs the myriad ways in which sex discrimination persists in American society—in wages, hiring, pensions, healthcare, politics, the military, and issues of domestic violence. Neuwirth documents the Supreme Court cases and lower court cases of brave women who have legally challenged sex discrimination and have been denied rights that should be fundamental. Though laws like Title IX and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 are meant to protect women, these legislative endeavors do not protect

everyone. They can be rolled back by a simple congressional vote, and they do not provide the firm, lasting protection of a constitutional amendment.

Neuwirth makes the argument that the rise of strong young feminist activists online changed the face of media; they have laid the groundwork for a robust new ERA campaign. *Equal Means Equal* is a stirring call to action to finally amend our Constitution and recognize that all people are created equal in dignity and in rights.

Neuwirth is the founder of the international women’s rights organization Equality Now and the former director of the New York branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Neuwirth was interviewed about her recent publication on The Diane Rehm Show on NPR, the Tavis Smiley show on PBS, and by CNN.

The mission of the Michigan Women's Historical Center is to inspire and engage adults and children by celebrating Michigan women’s history, promoting educational opportunities, and honoring the accomplishments of Michigan women. The Michigan Women’s Historical Center, located at 213 W. Malcolm X Street in downtown Lansing, is home to the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame featuring over 285 honorees past and present, changing history exhibits, and a fair trade gift shop. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m. and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, 2-4 p.m. Closed all major holidays and holiday weekends. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students (6-18) and free for children 5 and under. The Michigan Women’s Historical Center & Hall of Fame is operated by the Michigan Women’s Studies Association, a non-profit 501c3 organization.

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