

# Women's Studies at FSU E-Newsletter

May 2019

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## 1. DECLARE YOUR MINOR

The minor in Women's Studies is only 18 credits and allows students with a passion for feminist issues to explore herstories, intersectionality, Black feminist thought, Latina feminism(s), as well as women and art, music, philosophy, politics, health, and more.

To declare your minor, simply email Dr. Earles at [jearles@frostburg.edu](mailto:jearles@frostburg.edu) and include your student number so that you can be officially registered.

You can also visit Dr. Earles in 7 American, Room 302 (next to the Veterans Center). Once you have officially declared a Women's Studies minor, it will appear on your official records and in PAWS, which will assist both you and your major advisor in planning your coursework.

**Feminism is about connecting the personal with the political and is open to ALL genders!**

**BTW... Follow us on Twitter [@fsuwmst](https://twitter.com/fsuwmst) and Facebook [/WMSTFrostburg](https://www.facebook.com/WMSTFrostburg)**

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## **2. WMST Spring Graduates**

With seven Women's Studies graduates this semester, we certainly have cause to celebrate. Please join me in congratulating the following students who are sure to continue their commitment to feminist scholarship and activism in their future endeavors.

- **Bethany Beeghly**
- **Tessa Brewer**
- **TaLaytha Carter**
- **Kylie Dehaven**
- **Kiana McKay**
- **Candace Scott**
- **Kimberly Scott**

## **3. WMST Summer and Fall Classes**

### **Summer 2019** –

Introduction to Women's Studies: WMST 201  
 Psychology of Women: PSYC 220  
 The Slave Narrative: WMST 490  
 Global Perspectives in Women's Health: NURS 412  
 Collective Behavior & Social Movements: SOCI 332  
 Gender & Social Life: SOCI 334

### **Fall 2019** –

Introduction to Women's Studies: WMST 201 (online and in-person)  
 Marriage & Families: SOCI 364 (in-person)  
 Gender & Social Life: SOCI 334 (hybrid class)  
 Social Inequality: SOCI 366 (hybrid class)  
 Global Perspectives in Women's Health: NURS 412 (online)

#### 4. DID YOU KNOW?

### May is Jewish American Heritage Month!

In 2006, President George W. Bush officially established May as **Jewish American Heritage Month** (JAHM) after a campaign led by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz and with the co-sponsorship of the late Senator Arlen Specter.



How will you celebrate? Here are some ideas...

#### 1. Do an oral history interview

In the spring of 2010, when ESL teacher Deborah Ross attended the first ever White House reception for Jewish American Heritage Month, she found herself in the company of many Jewish Americans, all of whom were invited to attend because of their contributions to American life. She wondered how they would answer the questions: “How has being Jewish affected your life and career? Is that why you are here?”

She explored these questions in a series of hour-long interviews with Jewish women living in the Washington, D.C. area. Each of them had been an active member of the community — a physician in a neighborhood clinic, a pioneer broadcaster, a food writer, a woman’s rights lawyer, a filmmaker, a rabbi, an artist, an advocate for women’s health.

The Jewish Women’s Archive even lists Deborah’s [20 Questions to Ask the Important Women in Your Life](#) to get you started.

## 2. Host a screening of *Making Trouble*

JWA's entertaining documentary, *Making Trouble*, introduces six amazing comedians from the last century — Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner, and Wendy Wasserstein — all Jewish women. Hosted by four of today's leading comics — Judy Gold, Jackie Hoffman, Cory Kahaney, and Jessica Kirson — it's a saga of what it means to be Jewish, female, and funny. Click [here](#) for more information.

## 3. Sing a New Song: Jews, Music, and the Civil Rights Movement

Jewish women and men made up a large percentage of those white Americans who participated actively in rallies, sit-ins, marches, voter registration drives, and Freedom Rides during the Civil Rights Movement. As they stood shoulder to shoulder with African Americans, they were strengthened by the same freedom songs.

[Here](#) is a great resource to explore how activist music, based in the African American church, helped bridge racial and religious boundaries and build a sense of community.

## 4. Celebrate Jewish Life through Art

During graduate school, I had the great honor of meeting Holocaust survivor and Jewish activist, Jerry Rawicki. Jerry was born in Poland in 1927 and lived with his family in Płock until 1941. In 1942 he and his elder sister fled to the Warsaw Ghetto to join their father.

There, Jerry joined various work groups to get in and out of the ghetto, smuggling and running errands, while his sister left the ghetto and posed as a gentile until the war ended. Jerry escaped when the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began in April 1943, and spent several weeks hiding in various parts of the city.

Jerry introduced me to the amazing power of art as it intersects with activism. Artist Nava Lundy is just one of the talented artists doing the work of preserving survivors' portraits through art. Check out her work [here](#).

## June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month!

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Pride Month (**LGBTQ+ Pride Month**) is celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City, which were led by trans women of color like Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Miss Major Griffin-Gracy.

Check out this [video](#) for a quick lesson on LGBTQ+ terminology.



How will you celebrate? Here are some ideas...

### 1. Support local LGBTQ+ safe havens

LGBTQ spaces are vital places for queer people of all ages to connect and find acceptance. But these safe havens are often underfunded and struggle to stay afloat. That's where you can come in to make a difference. Consider supporting your local LGBTQ+ positive and inclusive spaces with a donation, or by volunteering your time and skills to the center.

### 2. Take time to support homeless LGBTQ+ youth

It's estimated that [40 percent](#) of homeless youth are LGBTQ, often disowned from their families for their sexuality or gender identity. Dedicating time to vulnerable queer youth during Pride Month — and beyond — is vital to ensuring the next generation of LGBTQ people have the support they need to thrive.

### 3. Connect with LGBTQ+ elders

We often don't hear enough from the older members of the LGBTQ community — and that needs to change. This Pride Month, make an impact on the life of a community elder by giving them the space to be heard. Ask what they want out of the current movement, and what they want [younger generations](#) to know.

Hearing the stories and perspectives of those who came before us is essential to knowing where we've been, and illuminates where we need to go. Plus, connecting with elders helps curb the [loneliness and isolation](#) aging members of the community often experience.

#### 4. Mentor an LGBTQ coworker or child

Mentoring and uplifting marginalized groups is vital for their success — and the queer community is no exception. LGBTQ+ people often have trouble envisioning themselves in a stable, successful future, given the rampant discrimination and bias they're up against. Having supportive mentors, then, is essential to help brilliant LGBTQ+ people rise to their potential.

Take time to connect with an out coworker in a junior position, and talk to them about their goals and obstacles. Give them tactics toward success, connections for growth, and become a professional ally. Or connect with an LGBTQ child who could use a queer mentor to help them see a successful, happy future for themselves.

Make mentorship a priority in June — but keep up those connections long after Pride Month has ended.

#### 5. Practice trans inclusivity

When you become an ally of transgender and gender-nonconforming people, your actions will help change the culture, making society a better, safer place for transgender people - and for all people (trans or not) who do not conform to conventional gender expectations.

***Remember, you can't tell if someone is trans just by looking.*** Transgender people don't look any certain way or come from any one background. Gender identity is also different than sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is about who we're attracted to. Gender identity is about our own personal sense of being a man or a woman, or outside that gender binary. Transgender people can be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or straight.

***If you don't know what pronouns to use, listen first.*** If you're unsure which pronoun a person uses, listen first to the pronoun other people use when referring to them. Someone who knows the person well will probably use the correct pronoun. If you must ask which pronoun the person uses, start with your own. For example, "Hi, I'm Alex and I use the pronouns he and him. What about you?" This is also a great practice in the classroom. If you accidentally use the wrong pronoun, apologize quickly and sincerely, then move on.

***Don't ask a transgender person what their "real name" is.*** For some transgender people, being associated with their birth name is a tremendous source of anxiety, or it is simply a part of their life they wish to leave behind. Respect the name a transgender person is currently using. Similarly, don't share photos of someone from before their transition, unless you have their permission.

***Be careful about confidentiality, disclosure, and "outing."*** Some transgender people feel comfortable disclosing their gender history, and some do not. A transgender person's gender history is personal information and it is up to them to share it with others. Not only is this an invasion of privacy, it also can have negative consequences in a world that is very intolerant of gender diversity. Transgender people can lose jobs, housing, friends, or even their lives when other people find out about their gender history.

***Don't ask about a transgender person's genitals, surgical status, or sex life.*** It would be inappropriate to ask a non-transgender, or cisgender, person about the appearance or status of their genitals. It is equally inappropriate to ask a transgender person those questions.

***Listen to transgender people and know your own limits as an ally.*** The best way to be an ally is to listen with an open mind to transgender people speaking for themselves. Talk to transgender people in your community. Don't be afraid to admit when you don't know something. Check out books, films, YouTube channels, and trans blogs to find out more about transgender people and the issues people within the community face.

## **6. Share your story**

During Pride Month, it's essential for LGBTQ+ people to share their stories. Whether it's telling your coming out story on social media, telling friends what your identity means to you, or getting candid in a blog post about a harrowing experience with discrimination, sharing your story is crucial.

Not only is it cathartic to speak about your experiences as an LGBTQ+ person, but it can have an impact on queer people who are struggling to know they're not alone. And sharing your story is also the first step to changing the hearts and minds of those not yet on board with LGBTQ+ acceptance.

Speak up, loudly and unapologetically. You deserve to be heard.

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## **5. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

### **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

The Women's Studies program is actively organizing a student chapter of the national organization, AAUW. While student organizations take AAUW's mission to the next level by [raising funds for their organization](#) and planning feminist campus events, they also gain valuable experience and see direct results on their campuses! AAUW student organization members can:

- [Boost their résumés](#) with critical leadership experience
- Gain networking opportunities through [AAUW's leadership programs](#)
- Get [AAUW swag](#) to recruit other student members
- Receive resources and staff support to [create campus programming](#)
- Join a global network of more than 170,000 members and supporters

The best part? Your involvement with AAUW doesn't stop after you graduate! AAUW helps women [continue their education](#) and [prepares them for the workforce](#). The global support network you build with your AAUW student organization lasts a lifetime.

**Those interested students should contact Bethany at [babeeghly0@frostburg.edu](mailto:babeeghly0@frostburg.edu)!**

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### ***SPECTRUM***

Connect with FSU's LGBTQ student organization on Twitter [@spectrumfsu](#). The Club strives to provide a safe space for everyone on campus, to promote equality for everyone, and to make a positive impact on our community for LGBTQ students, faculty, and youths. For more information, contact Vex at [sdwilson01@frostburg.edu](mailto:sdwilson01@frostburg.edu)

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### ***SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL***

Come share your stories and experiences, take action, raise awareness, and make a difference! The organization focuses on LGBTQ, racial rights/liberation like Black Lives Matter, women's empowerment, and so much more! Connect with them on Twitter [@FrostburgSJ4A](#). For more information, contact Tessa at [tkbrewer0@frostburg.edu](mailto:tkbrewer0@frostburg.edu)

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### **NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)**

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. For more information on the FSU student chapter, contact Candace at [crscott0@frostburg.edu](mailto:crscott0@frostburg.edu)



## **6. THE TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST**

### **Take Action to Support the 2019 Maryland Patient's Bill of Rights**

Last year's [front page story](#) in the *Washington Post* documented the cruel and callous treatment of a Baltimore hospital patient who was discharged into a cold night wearing only a hospital gown and socks. This horrific incident reflects a systemic problem with Maryland hospitals. Why is Maryland, rich in resources compared with many states, ranked so poorly in hospital patient [satisfaction](#) and [safety](#)? One factor is the weakness of Maryland's outdated law to protect patients' rights.

AAUW-MD believes that everyone is entitled to high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care. That's why we're urging you to contact your state legislators to urge them to cosponsor and actively support the Maryland Patient's Bill of Rights (SB301/HB145). This important legislation would require all hospitals throughout the state to communicate patient rights to all hospital patients in a language and manner they understand, and provide training for all medical personnel in patient rights to raise awareness and make those rights a part of the hospital culture.

While all Americans benefit from transparency and consistent patient rights, the issue has particular resonance for women, who make approximately [80 percent](#) of all family health care decisions and are the largest group of hospital patients and primary caregivers. Moreover, women over 55 are the most rapidly increasing demographic of hospital patients.

Click [here](#) to take action.

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\*\*\*\*If you would prefer not to receive these periodic updates and announcements please email Dr. Earles at [jlearles@frostburg.edu](mailto:jlearles@frostburg.edu) to be removed from the list\*\*\*\*