

Denim & Desserts

Thursday, April 20

Boatwerks Restaurant

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DENIM?

*****Trigger Warning: Sexual Violence*****

The symbolism of denim begins in Italy in 1992, when an 18-year-old girl was raped by the 45-year-old driving instructor who was taking her to her very first driving lesson. He took her to an isolated road, pulled her out of the car, removed her jeans, and forcefully raped her.

She reports the rape and the perpetrator is arrested and prosecuted. He is then convicted of rape and sentenced to jail. He appealed the conviction claiming that they had consensual sex. The Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction and the rapist was released. A statement from the Court argued that because the victim was wearing very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was not rape but consensual sex. This became known throughout Italy as the “jeans alibi.”

Enraged by the verdict, the women in the Italian Parliament launched a protest wearing jeans on the steps of the Supreme Court. International media picked up this protest, which inspired the California Senate and Assembly to do the same on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento. Since then, denim has served as a visual protest to dispel the myths of why women and girls are subjected to sexual violence.

About Resilience:

Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence (formerly the Center for Women in Transition) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Ottawa and Allegan counties. Services include emergency safe shelter, long-term supportive housing, rape exams, legal advocacy, therapy for adults and children, support groups, and much more. Each year, Resilience empowers thousands of survivors in our community to regain stability and create a life that is free from violence.

TICKETS FOR DENIM & DESSERTS ON SALE MARCH 1
WWW.RESILIENCEMI.ORG/EVENTS