



# MWPC

## Mendocino Women's Political Coalition March 2024 Number 2

**March Is Women's History Month**

**In Mendocino County**

February 26 - Fort Bragg City Council at Town Hall 6 PM

February 27 - Board of Supervisor's Chambers on Low Gap Rd. 8:45AM Photo Op

February 28 - Willits City Council at Town Hall at 6 PM.

I believe it's going to be on our Feb. 28 agenda (a slightly revised version). If so, it would be great if there were a rep to receive the proclamation; otherwise I'll send it on to you. Madge Strong



The Banner will fly over State St. In Ukiah for the first week in March.

### **CITY OF UKIAH PROCLAMATION**

On the evening of February 21, the Ukiah City Council presented MWPC and AAUW with a proclamation recognizing March 2024 as Women's History Month and the 40th annual Women's History Gala on March 3. The proclamation was read by Councilmember Susan Sher, and was received by Ky Mayers, Treasurer for both AAUW and MWPC and member of the Gala Committee.

Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa in 1978 when the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women celebrated "Women's History Week." They March 8 to celebrate as International Women's Day. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential

Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. In March of 1983, Mendocino had its first Women's History Gala at Anderson Valley High School and has held a celebration in Ukiah every year since (with the exception of 2021 due to the Pandemic).

This year's 40th annual Women's History Gala promises to be another wonderful event and will center around the 2024 theme Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Council member Susan Sher will MC this celebration featuring Betty Yee as the keynote speaker and honoring local women who embody this theme.

There will be a silent auction, poetry readings, music, a dance performance and, of course, a delightful selection of nibbles ...which hopefully many of you will help provide! Join us for all the fun at the SPACE Theater in Ukiah on March 3, 2024. Doors open at noon, and the program will begin at 1:00 – tickets are only \$10 again this year!

Pictured at the 2/21/24 City Council meeting Gala honoree Xochilt Martinez, MWPC Sage Circle member Jackie Orozco, AAUW President, Sulin Bell, AAUW Council member Susan Sher and AAUW Treasurer Ky Mayers



### **Goodies for the Women's History Gala**

Hi All, I hope you are warm and dry and staying relaxed and comfortable as possible during this recent spell of unexpected weather conditions.

The time has come around for the annual Women's Gala Event on Sunday March 3rd and it is looking like yet another wonderful program! We have a new venue at the SPACE Theater, 508 West Perkins in Ukiah. This year our MWPC will be providing the sweet refreshments. We need to know from you which of the following you are willing to provide or if you want to offer something different.

Please send an email back to me with what you intend to bring. If you are not attending we would still appreciate your donation – which you could mail to MWPC, PO Box 1140, Ukiah, CA 95482 or use paypal on our website <https://mendocinowomen.org> or we can make arrangements to either pick up or have you drop off your dish. Thanks for your help with this inspiring event

Jackie Orozco [jackiego@live.com](mailto:jackiego@live.com)  
Cathy Monroe [cathymonroe@gmail.com](mailto:cathymonroe@gmail.com)

## Honorees

It's time to acknowledge and honor women in our county through the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition/AAUW Ukiah Annual Women's History Gala. This year's theme is Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Troyle Tognoli for her work with Black Lives Matters Ukiah, as well as Mendocino Environmental Center and as former president of the Mendocino County Workers Union.



Xochilt Morales de Martinez for her work on Ukiah's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, as a California State Prison Native American Spiritual Advisor, as board member of Nuestra Casa and for serving our community as well as persons incarcerated in Vacaville as a therapist.

Loreto Rojas and Diana Coryat as co-hosts of KZYX's MenodLatino and podcast Hacindo Historia (Making History) making visible the voices, histories, cultures and perspectives of the Latinx community, and their work during the pandemic on the County's DEI Task Force and its subset COVID Response Equity Workgroup.



## Betty Yee

Betty Yee will be the guest speaker at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's History Gala on March 3, 2024 at the SPACE Theater, 508 W. Perkins St. Ukiah. The doors will open at noon and the program will begin at 1 pm.

Betty Yee served as California State Controller from 2015 to 2023 following 2 terms in the California Board of Equalization. She won her 2018 re-election to Controller with more votes than any candidate nationwide that year.

Betty was the 10 women elected to statewide office in California's history. As Controller she managed an \$800 billion portfolio. She holds a Bachelors degree in Sociology and a Masters in Public Administration. She serves on Boards of Directors for Golden Gate University, the College Futures Foundation, and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.



## Ariel Kelley

Our campaign is headed into the primary with a ton of momentum! This Saturday, we were joined by Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL) statewide Director Shannon Hovis and family medicine practitioner Dr. Anita Vasudevan for a press conference to discuss what is at stake for reproductive freedom and access to reproductive care in Assembly District 2. As the only candidate endorsed by Reproductive Freedom for All in this race, one of my priorities has been spotlighting the need for increased access to health care and protection of medical practitioners since Roe was overturned.



We've had our wonderful volunteers making phone calls, sending texts, and knocking on doors all across the district to help get the word out about the primary election and make sure folks are turning in their ballots, especially given the historic low turnout so far. We've been hosting 'coffee with the candidate' meetings throughout the district in addition to a lot of park meetups for parents to take some time to learn about our campaign.

Me and my team are still working tirelessly to make sure that no matter where you live in the district, you are able to get in touch with our campaign. Over the next week, we are going to be sending out emails, knocking on doors, making calls, and sending mail to make sure that voters have all the information they need to vote.

We are still looking for folks to help us get out the vote in the coming week! Please email [team@arielkelley.com](mailto:team@arielkelley.com) if you would like to join us.

## Maureen Mulheren

In my first three years as Supervisor we've transitioned the County in many areas including adding more housing by of all types (subsidized and market rate), creating an internal economic development position to focus on our economic development goals, and made sure that PG&E Settlement funds and ARPA dollars went back to the community and our hard working County employees and reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness on our streets.



The County has not been without decades of challenges but I'm proud of the work we've accomplished in the last three years and

can't wait to continue to work hard to serve the community I was born and raised in. I plan to continue to keep the County budget on track by making tough choices, supporting our environmental goals as a community and as an agency and adding more housing. If you'd like to know more about the work that I'm doing or want to hear more about the committees I serve on please visit my website at [MaureenMulheren.Com](http://MaureenMulheren.Com) or follow me on social media @ Mo4Mendo

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### **MWPC/AAUW Candidate Forum**

As voters in Mendocino County receive their second round of ballots, Second Assembly District candidates are sprinting to the March 5 deadline to make it into the runoff. At last night's candidate forum in the Ukiah city council chambers, organized by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition, would-be assembly members joked and jabbed at each other.



Even Rusty Hicks, who mostly received stony stares from his colleagues on the dais, got a laugh line when he picked up on calls to get out the vote. "For voters that are not Republican, outside of district two, here in Mendocino County, I want to make sure you vote on the right ballot," he said, and the room erupted into mirth.



Supervisor Ted Williams never missed an opportunity to attack Hicks, even invoking the oath of public office to defend against all enemies to label Hicks, with his vast trove of money from outside the district, as a domestic enemy. In his now-routine pummeling of the Democratic party chair, he laid the recent PG&E rate hikes at the feet of the highest ranking incumbent.

"How did this sail through?" he asked. "Nobody thought this is unjust? We actually have the chair of Democratic party here. If we do rebuttals, maybe he can answer. But it worries me when I see \$750,000 contributed from separate energy (companies) to the California Democratic Party. And then we see that utility tax shows up. Nobody wants to take credit for the language.



Michael Greer, the only Republican in the race, walked in wearing a hat decorated with 49ers buttons and got the most mileage out of the anti-incumbent sentiment. “And I think one of the reasons I’m involved in these forums is so I can get everybody’s heart to beat a little bit faster,” he said to an audience ready for a laugh. Time and again, he made the point that Democratic leadership was in place as kids struggle to read, homelessness abounds, and wildfires sparked by PG&E’s unregulated infrastructure raged through towns like his former home of Paradise. “The biggest problem we’ve had is that we have not had the oversight,” he said. “The government did not do their job.”

Frankie Myers, Vice Chair of the Yurok tribe, attempted to ride the anti-incumbent wave by asking Hicks and Santa Rosa City Council member Chris Rogers why they had not done more to rein in PG&E. Rogers engaged, saying, “I just want to make sure I understand the question. Sir, are you asking why, as a city council member who has led efforts to defeat PG&E-sponsored legislation, I haven’t done more, while rebuilding my community that was burnt down by PG&E?”



“Absolutely,” Myers replied, confirming that Rogers was at one time the senior field representative for Mike McGuire’s office. When it came to the difficulties of insuring homes due to fire risk, Myers traced it back to the repression of indigenous land management strategies, which include controlled fire. “We fought to ensure \$20 million gets on the ground to bring fire back to our landscape,” he said. “Well, we need more. And we need better representation.”

Coyote Valley Tribal Chair Michael Hunter came to the front of the chamber to get a close look at the candidates as they all agreed to protect Jackson Demonstration State Forest and restore it to indigenous land management.

Candidates also pledged their commitment to funding schools, as they answered a question submitted by the Northern California Youth Policy Coalition about ensuring education for rural students. Healdsburg City Council member

Ariel Kelley agreed that attendance and truancy are huge issues, and that families need more support in getting kids to class.

And, with removal of the Potter Valley dams expected to begin this decade, candidates hit water policy as well. Myers highlighted his history as lead negotiator for Yurok tribal water rights, while Kelley noted recycled water projects in Ukiah and the likelihood that higher water prices will drive conservation.

Greer complained about state-funded water projects for the more populous south, and said he thought the north should get some state money for water projects,

too. Williams and Rogers also both called for more state funding for infrastructure projects.

Rogers highlighted his commitment to insurance reform.  
The deadline to cast ballots for the primary election is March 5.

*Sarah Reith*

You will notice that Ariel Kelley is almost missing from this newscast. When I brought this to Sarah Reith's attention, she said she had recorded her live on the news. This is why we do campaign training. Women are ignored. We try to bring women's campaigns to the public attention. We try to bring women to the table where decisions are made affecting our lives and our children and grandchildren.

### **Ariel Kelley**

Hi Val,

Thanks so much for bringing this to my attention. I had no awareness or knowledge of the negative ads until they hit my mailbox. Because it is a completely independent campaign, I have no control or coordination with their efforts. And it's illegal for me to contact them. Even though my sister has given them funding, she has no coordination or knowledge of their campaign efforts.

I never support negative campaigning and think it hurts the Democratic process. I have personally apologized to Rusty Hicks even though I have no control over the message coming out of the independent campaign.

*ariel@arielkelley.com*

### **Negative Campaigning**

Lynda and I teach Political Campaigning. One of lesson is about negative campaigning. Here is some thoughts from Lynda on the negative campaigning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District.

### **Lynda's thoughts**

When I've been around my women's groups (MWPC & Grannies) lately there has been discussion about Ariel's negative campaigning and how it's losing her support.

I called Ariel today to give her that feedback. She said she is as upset as we are and that it's not her campaign putting those mailers out. She said if she knew who to call to ask to stop she would, but doesn't know who is doing it. It's an independent PAC and she isn't familiar with it.

She said her campaign philosophy is to promote the good work she has done, not to put down other candidates.

I was happy to hear she and her campaign wasn't responsible for the negative mailers, but if some of us couldn't tell it wasn't her it might as well be her, for the impact

it's having on her campaign. .If you could pass the word it would be good. She invited anyone to call her at 707 385-1282. She answered right away when I called and was available to talk.

*Cheers all  
Lynda McClure*

You know about the state Dems leadership opposing Rusty Hicks for several reasons. He is head of the state Democratic party but not tending to his duties because he's running for office. Fundraising for which he is responsible is way short.

There are many seats throughout the state that need support to hold on to the Congress. A few of those seats are shaky. But the most serious grievance they have against him is accusations he is moving money from the state party to his campaign without authorization. I doubt they will take action before the election but they may bring charges after the election.

And there is the issue of his moving from So. Cal to the district recently to run for office.

I'm opposed to negative campaigning because it leads to cynicism in general about politics. But sometimes there are things we need to know about a candidate; negative information that needs to be made public. It's a tricky dance.

*Lynda McClure*

### **Robin Sunbeam**

I am a single issue champion. I have worked to get universal, single-payer healthcare in California since I first heard of it in 1992. We are closer than ever to accomplishing it today. Have you noticed that single-payer healthcare is being talked about by all the Assembly candidates? And all the Democratic candidates are more or less in favor of it. And it is on the CADem Platform? We have made great strides.



Assemblymember Ash Kalra recently introduced the new CalCare Bill, AB 2200. CalCare previously passed the Assembly Health Committee but was withdrawn during the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This new, improved version has accounted for all the objections heard last time around. We are so close to achieving this decades old struggle for healthcare justice!!!

Now we have two months to convince our Assembly members to vote in favor of



CalCare. I am the District Organizer under the California Nurses Association in this area.

Although our Assembly member Jim Wood voted in favor on CalCare last time around, we need to reconfirm his commitment and listen to any hesitations or objections. We have a Zoom Legislative meeting scheduled on March 20, and a Zoom planning meeting on March 3. If you want to join our legislative appointment with Asm. Wood on March 20, please contact me <bodhirobin@pacific.net>.

And when will the MWPC endorse CalCare? Will the Sage Circle take up a resolution to endorse the bill? Why should a women's political organization support healthcare justice? Because half of the recipients of universal healthcare will be women. And because taking the profit motive out of healthcare will benefit families and children, provide more money for patient care, change the system focus from treating disease to preventing it. It saves money to prevent disease. It will also re-open unprofitable rural clinics and provide professional staff and more specialists for rural areas. Worried about closing the Coast Clinic? CalCare is the answer. Worried that Adventist Health no longer accepts Blue Cross or Blue Shield? CalCare is the solution.

It is political because it is up to politicians to enact this as a law. And it is up to active constituents to encourage our elected representatives to vote for what we want by April of this year.

Thank you,  
*Robin Sunbeam, RN, MSN, PHN*  
*CA Dist 02 District Organizer*

AB 2200 CA Guaranteed Health Care for All Act | Official Website - Assemblymember  
Ash Kalra Representing the 25th California Assembly District

Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) & American Association of University Women - Ukiah

**40th Annual - 2024 WOMEN'S HISTORY**



# GALA CELEBRATION

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Doors open at noon;  
Program begins at 1 pm

**SPACE THEATER**  
508 W. Perkins, Ukiah

## HONOREES



TROYLE TOGNOLI



LORETO ROJAS  
DIANA CORYAT



XOCHILT MARTINEZ

**POETRY** with **BLAKE MOORE**, Poet Laureate of Point Arena and **SIDNEY MICHELE REGELBRUGGE**, outgoing Youth Poet Laureate

**MUSIC** with Ukiah High School's **VOCAL EMSEMBLE**

**DANCE** with **HIGHER GROUND HIP HOP TROUPE**, from S.P.A.C.E.



Featuring **Betty T. Yee**  
CA State Controller (2015-2023)