



# Valley View

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## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Of course, the two main things on my mind of late are the Women's History Gala and our part to provide savory refreshments for that event, and AAUW Ukiah Scholarship Fundraising along with the Scholarship Dessert Event.

By now you have all received the letter asking for donations toward the three scholarships for women returning to Mendocino College (our budget is short \$1,500 for that) and enclosed was an invitation to a fundraising event on Sunday, March 17 – Dessert Buffet, between 1:00 – 3:00 at the Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse, to further support that fund as well as our need to raise money for the operations of our local chapter.

For the Dessert Buffet we are asking you to provide the sweets and the sweetness! I know it is “double duty” to ask for two refreshment donations only two weeks apart, but I think we are able to rise to the occasion. For those who would rather give money than make something I will be happy to shop and provide a dish on your behalf - for either event or both.

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Following the Women's Gala Event on March 3, we will send an announcement to you via e-mail about the exciting opportunity you will have to bid on a three-night stay at a beautiful Oceanfront home, with a hot tub, located at Irish Beach in Mendocino County.

This wonderful and generous donation by one of our members will be featured at the Dessert Buffet. The house has two bedrooms and sleeps six and the bid will support the scholarship fund. The link to see photos of the house and its amenities in advance will be sent to you at the time of the announcement.

If you haven't contacted me with information about a savory dish or money for the Gala, please do so ASAP. With regard to a sweet you will bring to the Buffet, please let me know before March 13. If, instead you are offering money to cover the cost of a dish I will provide, let me know that as well as soon as possible – whether you plan to attend or not. [sulinbell@gmail.com](mailto:sulinbell@gmail.com) or 707-462-5747.

One more important note about the Dessert Buffet, we will be honoring Mary Ann Villock and Katie Gibbs for their longstanding leadership as Co-Chairs of the Scholarship Committee. They retired from that job this year and fortunately Michelle Hutchins stepped up to fill that position with assistance from Board members AND Carole Loudd..

Please invite guests to enjoy this fun, delicious, important yearly fundraiser. It would be helpful to know if you plan to attend or not.

Cheers,  
Sulin

## 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 yours truly, Ky Mayers



## MARCH 12 IS EQUAL PAY DAY 2024

Each year, this symbolic day is used to raise awareness around and combat the impact of pay inequities. Equal Pay Day 2024 is on March 12 and marks the current state of the gender pay gap for women: 84% for full-time, year-round workers and 78% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal). Overall, women working full time in the U.S. make 84% of what men do. And collectively, working women lose out on more than \$500 billion a year.

The gender pay gap exists for every age group and widens over a woman's lifetime. It increases over the course of a woman's work life and is widest for women ages 45 – 64. The pay gap tends to be larger for women of color and in some cases the gap appears to be widening. Compared to white, non-Hispanic men: Latinas make 57 cents on the dollar. Native women make 59 cents on the dollar. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) women make 65 cents on the dollar.\* Black women make 69 cents on the dollar. Asian women make 99 cents on the dollar.

For women working full-time, year-round. Data from 2022 Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement and 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), released September 2023:

The pay gap exists in nearly every profession. Fields with the smallest pay gaps are food workers, writers, counselors, pharmacists and social workers, where women earn within 97–99% of what their male colleagues do. The largest gaps occur among financial services sales agents, financial managers and financial advisers. In those fields, the pay ratio between women and men is between 61–66%.

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Mothers face an even wider pay gap than women without kids. Moms working full-time, year-round earn only 74 cents for every dollar paid to fathers, which translates to a loss of [\$] annually.

Women with bachelor's degrees working full time are paid 26% less than their male counterparts.

Though women in the U.S. now earn more college and postgraduate degrees than men, they also hold nearly two-thirds of the nation's outstanding student debt — \$929 billion.

Women face an income gap in retirement.

Because they have earned less and therefore paid less in the Social Security system, they receive less in Social Security benefits. They also lag behind men in pension benefits, as well as retirement savings.

A huge win for closing the gender and racial pay gaps was announced this week: the White House is banning the use of current or past pay when determining the salaries of new federal employees. This means:

The country's largest employer will halt a practice known to foster discriminatory pay and allow it to follow an individual throughout their career.

Federal contractors may soon follow a similar rule in the future and may be required to post salary ranges in job listings, as proposed by the White House. Women's paychecks, and the respect for our value in the workplace, should be positively impacted. It was fitting that these announcements came on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Lilly has been tenacious in her advocacy for the fight to reduce pay inequity. Her journey inspires our continued advocacy with the White House, Congress, and around the country to advance policies that address gender and racial inequity.

**Val Muchowski**  
**Public Policy Chair**

### AAUW BOOKMARKERS

The book for March is *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder, nonfiction about Dr. Jim O'Connell's urgent mission to bring healing to homeless people. The meeting will be Tuesday, March 19, at 2:00 p.m. in Katie Gibbs' home--4561 Eastside Calpella Road, Ukiah, for directions call: 707 228-6143

And on the evening of April 9, our meeting will be a public program at the Mendocino Bookstore. The book we have chosen discusses the future of journalism and the interaction with social media: *How to Stand Up To a Dictator* by Maria Ressa, Nobel peace prize winner. For those who plan to join us at the Bookstore, we highly recommend you read the book. More details on the program next month.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on Monday March 4 beginning at 1:00 p.m.in Sulin's home.

### MASCOT



Meet Allie Bay—AAUW People's Choice Mascot 2023-2024