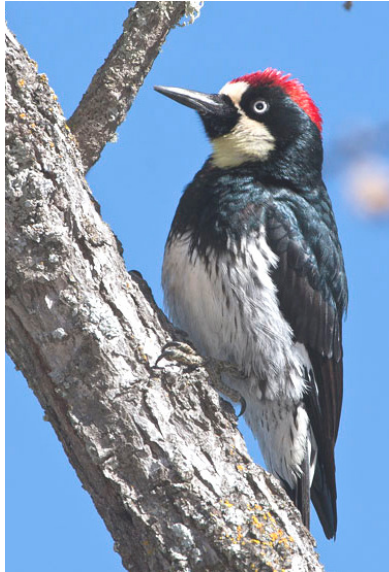




YosemiteDems.net

The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
Oakhurst, CA 93644



THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

October – November 2014

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The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Oakhurst Democratic Club and the Mariposa Democratic Club, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

October 2014

Oct. 4: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Oct 11: Mariposa Club Meeting

November 2014

Nov. 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Nov. 8: Mariposa Club Meeting

CONTACT US

Mariposa Democratic Club
209-742-1010

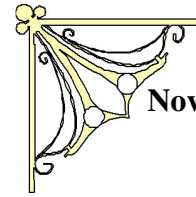
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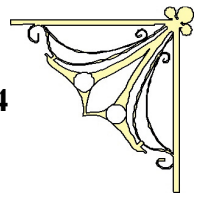
Cover
Acorn Woodpecker
(*Melanerpes formicivorus*)
Marlin Harms

For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web pages at:

YosemiteDems.net or MariposaDemocraticClub.org

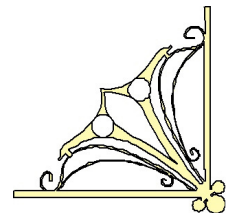
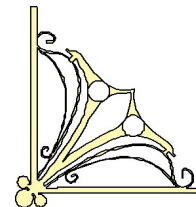


Jery Stewart Lacayo
November 17, 1942 – September 3, 2014



We sadly pay sad tribute to Jery Lacayo who passed away last month in the UCLA medical center with her daughter, Heather, at her side. We have included several remembrances on pages 8 thru 13 from those who knew her well. If you would like to send your own memories of Jery we will include them in upcoming issues, or you can send personal condolences to:

Heather Lacayo-Neace
3188 Trinity Dr.
Ventura, CA, 93003



A Legendary Legacy

By Peter Cavanaugh

“He is the babe at every baptism—the bride at every wedding—the corpse at every funeral.”

So exclaimed Alice Roosevelt in a loving, light-hearted salute to the awesome physical presence of her father, Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States. And then we have his fifth-cousin, Franklin, our 32nd President, married to “Teddy’s” niece, Eleanor—a Roosevelt both by marriage and birth.

Indeed, our club continues well-deserved homage to this awesome former First Lady with our annual “Eleanor Roosevelt Community Service Awards” and I can’t help but think of Uncle Teddy each morning as I walk up 425A—recognized as the original stagecoach trail to Yosemite, upon which the President must have traveled with John Muir on his journey to Glacier Point.

Watching Ken Burns’ superb new film series on “The Roosevelts” from PBS convincingly brought to mind the unmatched contributions of this one family to our collective progress through the 20th Century, leaving Kennedys, Bushes and even Clintons quite behind.

“The Square Deal.” “The New Deal.” Labor legislation promising fair hours, wages and working conditions. The Pure Food & Drug Act. The Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote. The Conservation Corps. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Security and Exchange Commission. The Agricultural Adjustment Act. The Tennessee Valley Authority. Social Security—and much else—ever onward.

I remember growing up fascinated by American History because our story is such an amazing evolution in the phenomenon of man.

A Legendary Legacy (continued)

An indivisible nation— “E Pluribus Unum” — “One out of many.”
We are utterly unique.

I’ve written that our national “Pledge” has often been more a prayer than a promise and nothing herein should be construed as excusing undeniable early expansionist horrors committed in our name and the unintended consequences of lofty ambitions gone astray, but our most fundamental political game plan remains war-won, time-tested and rock solid.

In addition to marking the halfway point to Saint Patrick, September 17th was also “Constitution Day”, commemorating the 1787 ratification of our supreme law of the land. We shouldn’t allow Tea Party neighbors to rewrite history and claim exclusive proprietary rights to the document, particularly since most haven’t actually read it—and those who have seem primarily attracted to a highly suspect interpretation of the Second Amendment.

Former Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, appointed in 1975 by Republican President Gerald Ford, says that claims of Constitutionally protected individual gun rights are intellectually absurd.

Having served a full 35 years on the Court until his retirement in 2010, Stevens insists that the Second Amendment had traditionally been understood for almost 200 years to limit arms to military activities until the National Rifle Association initiated what became a major assault on the Amendment from 1791.

Even Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the Court from 1969 to 1986, a true conservative appointed by Richard Nixon, unequivocally stated on “The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour” in 1991—referencing NRA propaganda—that the Second Amendment:

A Legendary Legacy (continued)

“has been subject to one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word “fraud,” on the American public that I have ever seen in my lifetime!”

Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor wouldn't idly sit by.

Nor should we.

Let us be led by their strength, perseverance and legendary legacy.

There's so much left to do.



Congressional District 4 Candidate Art Moore
Speaking to the Oakhurst Democratic Club on Sep. 6th

Mariposa Democratic Club Focuses on Elections

By Anne Brock

At the Oct 11 meeting of the Mariposa Democratic Club, we will be hosting local candidates for school board and for the hospital district. Each candidate will get 10 minutes to say why they are running and why we should vote for them.

The elections are coming up in early November, so this is a good forum to come to before filling out your ballot.

There are two hospital board seats open and five candidates running. Remember – you can vote for 2 of the five on your ballot. This isn't a district race where you just vote for one; rather, you vote for enough to fill all the empty seats. The candidates are: Anthony Roberts, Candy O'Donel Browne (incumbent), Jane MacLean, Linda Pribyl, and Jeff Gilger.

The school district election is for District Three; candidates are Judy Eppler and Michelle Earling.

The meeting is Saturday, Oct 11, at Miner's Roadhouse; meeting starts at 9:45, come around 9 for breakfast and mingling. As there may be a large audience for this, please give yourself some extra time.



NOTE

The Mariposa Democratic Club will NOT be having its December potluck; therefore elections for 2015 officers will be held at our November meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen: We've lost a giant

By Les Marsden

It's unimaginable that any other person so greatly influenced the course of organized local Democratic institutions in these mountains as Jery Stewart Lacayo. And that statement barely scratches the surface.

Jery was a blueblood by birth: Democratic blue. Her grandfather was the legendary Wyndham Mortimer—the leftist fireplug of the nascent United Auto Workers, which formed in May, 1935. In the following year, Wyndham Mortimer organized (at the threat to his life) the employees of the GM Fisher Body Plant and when management refused to talk, Mortimer spearheaded the historic 1936-7 Flint (MI) Sit-Down Strike. That people-powered activism led to the first UAW-GM contract, which he negotiated. Jery's parents were also activist union organizers and into this family Jery was born on November 17, 1942 in Cleveland, OH.

When she was two months old, the family moved to Los Angeles where, as she told me: some of her earliest memories were of dancing to the music of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and The Weavers—not via recordings, but when they visited as old family friends. She heard the tales of that 1936-7 Flint Strike first-hand from the participants—and those early years and lineage committed her life to activism. As a young adult, she proudly worked for the UAW as a member of OPEIU Local #30—and her political activism was later to include jobbing on the campaigns of Maxine Waters, Yvonne Braithwaite Burke and many other Democrats.

Her family bought vacation property off Tip-Top Road in Mariposa in 1951; Jery moved here permanently in 1972. Her mother Irma Stewart served as Chair of the Mariposa County Democratic Central Committee beginning in 1973—and Jery formed Mariposa's Wyndham Mortimer Democratic Club that same year. In 1976 Jery became the first woman to run for

Ladies and Gentlemen: We've lost a giant (continued)

Mariposa County Supervisor, losing by only 148 votes (three years later Gert Taber became Mariposa County's first female Supervisor in its then 125-year history.) Jery took guff from no one but that was to be her undoing: she was viciously verbally attacked and physically threatened. She told me of the dangers of being an outspoken Democrat during the 1970's and 80's in our mountain region—threats which ultimately were too much for the mother of two young daughters and (as she told me,) “I learned the good guys don't always win.” She became “so sick and angry of the corruption in this county” that she moved to Santa Rosa in 1981.

She returned to Mariposa in 1992 – but it wasn't until later that decade that she once again became a more visible local Democratic activist. In 1999 Betty Wright began to organize a brand-new Mariposa Democratic Club; Jery came on board almost from the start and was encouraged to take the reins as the club later grew. Jery was to lead not only the club but the Central Committee as her mother before had done. Jery was a hard worker within the California Democratic Party and California Democratic Council; she knew everyone and was highly respected in all quarters. I first met her in 2001 shortly after we moved to the county; I remember well my first Mariposa club meeting in the home of Betty and Howard Wright—a potluck (as they all were in those days) with about ten other local Democrats. I was immediately pressed to join both club and Central Committee; the club was to eventually boast a membership of more than 200 within a very few years and I was proud to be its president during that time, always seeking the counsel of Jery and those who had come before. Jery was also instrumental in helping to birth the Oakhurst Democratic Club in 2002—and to build it to the great success it enjoys today.

In 2004, dire tragedy struck: Jery's vibrant, fearless younger daughter Laurelyn Elisa Lacayo lost a two-year-long battle with cancer, succumbing at the age of 31 on May 18th of that year. Jery

Ladies and Gentlemen: We've lost a giant (continued)

and her elder daughter Heather (who, like grandmother Irma, was to ultimately serve the California Democratic Council as Secretary) were left to carry on. Jery bore the loss of Laurelyn as stoically as possible under the circumstances—but she herself years earlier had already been physically devastated by breast cancer. As Jery told me, her bout with cancer may have caused her financial ruin, but at least she beat it. She wasn't quite so lucky when the diabetes she also suffered from began to demolish her kidneys: she was eventually to become dependent upon dialysis—and when that disease slowly weakened this courageous, strong woman over the years, she decided to pack up her little dog Sugar and move to Ventura, where she could live under the watchful eye and with the help of Heather. Jery occasionally returned to Mariposa for quick visits, but her body was giving out and she was forced to devote less and less time to activism in order to focus on mere existence. The end came on September 3rd after more than a month in intensive care at UCLA Medical Center.

Jery often introduced me as “the man who made it safe to be a Democrat in Mariposa” but she was wrong. All I did was to build upon the work of those who came before, and most of all; upon the courage and activism of Jery Stewart Lacayo. If anyone had the will, the strength and determination to keep going at all costs, it was Jery. Despite the fact she was—well, a few years older than me: I just KNEW she'd outlive us all.

I've never been so disappointed to be so wrong.

Rest well, Jery. You've earned it.

Remembrances of Jery Lacayo

From Shirley Schmelzer

Jery faced years of very poor health with unusual courage. She took involvement in politics very seriously, and worked creatively for years to found, and make the Mariposa Democratic Club and the Democratic Central Committee, strong.

From Jim Archer

I knew Jery as a tireless worker for children and school projects, and as a dedicated parent and community member.

From Kathy Lander

Jery, our Mariposa Democrat Club founder - what a woman!

Some years ago she managed to get funding for a slate mailer for our County, one of her long-standing goals. Now we needed the money for the postage. We were running out of time when word came through that one of the organizations she had contacted in Sacramento would put up the money. Teams of us gathered on her patio and put stamps on those mailers for hours and got them out in time. Jery was as happy as most women would be with a diamond bracelet; she had wanted to do this for so long.

Jery met her sorrows and health problems the same way—never gave up. I admired her so much and marveled at her strength. We will all miss her but have our memories forever.

With love and great respect.

Remembrances of Jery Lacayo

From Sally Punte

Jery Lacayo came into my life when she called me on the phone and said she was bringing together folks of like political interest for the purpose of forming a solid Democratic group in Mariposa County. I was interested and had been loosely involved previously, but not much seemed to happen. Needless to say, Jery made it happen!

At the Jefferson Dinner fundraiser the first couple of years, we hauled our best dishes, silver, and anything else we had that could spruce up a table. Ah, yes, linen. LOTS of linen, enough to put together 12 tables, and they looked good. Just a few of us (we were only a few) sold tickets, planned menus, cooked food, arranged flower centerpieces, and we served the meal! Jerry Fisher donated space for the event.

It was amazing when I think back just how much we did and in not that much time. We were told that we undersold our event. It really did look good! After the first year, we had speakers from State Democratic groups, and Union groups bought tables, which helped our ticket sales.

We resurrected our Central Committee, BUT Jery was the center of everything. It happened because Jery planned and worked, and executed the plan.

Our Fair Booth was next. Jery ordered sale items for the booth. In a town that supported the opposition, we were a presence. We may have been in the back of the building, but our space was interesting and folks came and bought our promotional merchandise. It was always Jery whose car was packed with excess inventory to be returned.

Remembrances of Jery Lacayo

From Sally Punte (continued)

Next, we were attending District meetings and some of their fundraisers (all because Jery did the planning and organized us), and off we went. Then we decided to have breakfast meetings because we wanted to interest more folks. We knew they were out there. But Jery brought all the dishes, and took home all the dirty dishes, then washed and packed them away so they would be ready for the next occasion.

Jery was our pied piper and cheerleader; she simply was the heart of the Mariposa County Democratic Club. She started it, she drummed up support, and if we missed some meetings, she was on the phone, securing (in the nicest way possible) our commitment to attend the next meeting.



Jery Lacayo at the Mariposa Democratic Club
“2007 Cajun Feast & Costume Ball”

Mariposa Club Labor Day Celebrations and Events

By Steve Smallcombe

One highpoint of the Mariposa Democratic Club's yearly activities happens on Labor Day weekend when we have a float in the Labor Day Parade and a booth at the Mariposa County Fair. In past years our float was based on an older very heavy 32 x 12 foot trailer that required considerable effort by many members to expand from its road-legal configuration to its parade configuration and then back again after the parade. Accordingly, many club members were in favor of abandoning the parade this year rather than risk any more fingers installing floor boards. The Club Presidents decided to modify a 16x8 foot trailer they own for parade use and as a result we had not only a float trailer that was easier to haul, it was parade ready when it arrived in town and was much faster and easier to decorate. Plus the new trailer was much more appropriately sized for the number of riders we have come to expect for this event. While 16 people is a good turnout, they looked pretty scarce on the larger trailer. I think everyone involved appreciated the new float trailer and we will no doubt use it in future years. A video of the entire Labor Day Parade provided by the Sierra Sun Times is available at <http://tinyurl.com/k35x4vr>. Note that the Democratic Club Float appears at approximately 15:57 and the Republican Central Committee Float is at approximately 17:20.

Our fair booth was in its customary location and we had recent data on the economy and jobs, government spending, the national deficit and the Affordable Care Act. It seemed that some had trouble believing that the national deficit actually has been going down under President Obama. Sometimes facts are hard to deal with if they challenge your source of news and the only reply is simply "Lies". We also had fun allowing members to submit their favorite political cartoons which we posted on our Voter Registration wall.

Mariposa Club Labor Day Celebrations and Events

By Steve Smallcombe



Fortunately the Obamas Came to Help Decorate the Booth



The New Streamlined Mariposa Club Float

Mariposa County Democratic Central Committee Update

By Anne Brock

I am THRILLED to announce that it looks like we are done with our bylaws revisions! We have one more read-through to do to make sure all the changes make sense, but we are happy with the changes. I know this sounds like a boring task, but it's so important to have bylaws that work for today's organization. We will be posting them on our site when they are final.

MCDCC also endorsed Yes on Prop 48, the referendum on Indian Gaming. The wording on this referendum is a bit confusing (at least to me) – but a Yes vote is the way to vote. The state California Democratic Party (CDP), Gov. Brown, and many Democratic Clubs and Central Committees are supporting the Yes on Prop 48 campaign.

The Central Committee will be starting a Facebook campaign publicizing the CDP's endorsements for the November election. The endorsements are also on our webpage. We want to remind everyone that it is SO important to vote the whole ballot; the down-ticket candidates such as Controller, Board of Equalization, etc. are very important; if we don't keep those offices in Democratic hands, Gov Brown will find it much harder to get things done in the state.

As a reminder, we have openings on the Central Committee! Along with regular members, we also have alternate members, so even if your district is full, you can still join us and work on promoting Democratic candidates and issues in Mariposa County! Contact us at mcdemcc@gmail.com or call 209-742-1010. Our website is:

<http://www.mariposademocraticclub.org/CentralCommittee.html>

November 2014 General Election Voting Guide

(A gleaning from the grassroots)

Offices

Congressional District #4 Art Moore*

*There is no Democrat on the ballot for this race, and Art Moore is the more moderate of the two non-Democratic candidates.

Governor	Jerry Brown
Lt. Governor	Gavin Newsom
Attorney General	Kamala Harris
Controller	Betty Yee
Treasurer	John Chiang
Secretary of State	Alex Padilla
Insurance Commissioner	David Jones
Superintendent of Instruction	Tom Torlakson
Board of Equalization	Chris Parker
State Center College Trustee	Isabel Barreras

Propositions

Prop 1	Water Quality	YES
Prop 2	State Budget	YES
Prop 45	Justify Rates	YES
Prop 46	Medical Negligence	NO
Prop 47	Criminal Sentences	YES
Prop 48	Indian Gaming	YES

Mortimer Mouse Sez...

**Be sure to
BECOME A FAN
Of our Facebook Pages**

(click the little "Like" button)



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

___ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person
(Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) \$15.00 family
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

___ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Jul. 1 - Jun. 30)

___ New Member or ___ Renewal:

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	-or-	Oakhurst Democratic Club
PO Box 5008-268		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 742-1010		(559) 658-2342

