

## Calendar

**Aug. 7 -9**  
**NWPC Convention**  
**Election of Officers**  
**National Board**  
**Meeting**  
**Newport Beach**  
[nwpc.org](http://nwpc.org)

**August 8**  
**Candidate Filing**  
**Closes**

**August 22**  
**Candidate Training**  
**Clearlake Com. Hall**  
**9689 Soda Bay Rd.**  
**Kelseyville**  
**9:30 - 4 pm**  
**Call Val at 895-3543**  
[valmuchowski@yahoo.com](mailto:valmuchowski@yahoo.com)

**October 4**  
**Gathering**  
**Patricia Darland**  
**Mendocino**  
**1 - 4 pm**  
**937-1798**

**October 16-18**  
**NWPC State Board**  
**Oakland**  
**TBA**

**November 3**  
**Election**  
**VOTE!**

## Here and There

These past few months have been very busy. The political season is beginning to heat up. The Measure A folks have been busy and opposition has sprung up. We will include a few articles about the situation.... One of our long time members Susan Jordan was killed in an airplane crash. Her strong presence and passion for social justice will be missed.... Irma Turner was blessed with three grandbabies in one month. Her daughter and our member Kristen Turner had twin boys - Zachary & Jacob. Kristen will be back teaching at Mendocino College this fall.... Sally Biggin, one of our long distance members from Humboldt dropped us a note. She is a trustee of College of the Redwoods and is looking for a good woman to run for the Mendocino trustee seat. Luckily we found one for her - our new member - Barbara Rice.... We met Barbara Rice and Sue Cameron at our Planning Retreat at Patricia Darland's house in Mendocino. Set on 5 acres, her beautiful house provided a wonderful setting for relaxing and planning. We had such a great time that we invite ourselves back on October 4th. Come and meet our coast members and our officers on that date.... Congratulations to Susanne La Faver for being elected the new NWPC-CA National Representative at the NWPC-CA Board meeting this past weekend! Susanne is again a member of the Mendocino Caucus. She will give us reports on what is happening in the National NWPC.

## Training of Trainers

Have you been a trainer? Want to take your skills to the next level?

We are offering a series of trainings on Friday, August 7, from 2 to 5 pm at the Radisson Resort Hotel, 4545 MacArthur Blvd., Newport Beach, CA. for a low cost of \$40 for members. The sessions include:

- Getting to 50 Plus 1: A Campaign Training (9 am -12 pm)
- Afternoon session on fundraising (1:30 pm -3 pm)
- Afternoon Session on online presentation (3:30 pm - 5 pm)
- Train the trainer (2 pm - 5 pm)\*

\*I'm pleased to announce that National Trainer Cathy Allen has agreed to conduct the Train the Trainer session from 2 pm to 5 pm to certify trainers for NWPC's Convention.

This session will focus on how to present the NWPC materials, the logistics of creating a great training experience (including use of PowerPoint and other audio visual tools), and personal composure and style that creates winning trainings.

Each person who completes this pro-

gram will receive a certificate of completion and we will put together from this training a resource guide so that local caucuses and other non-profits will know who our certified trainers are.

Participants are expected to have training experience and/or conducted campaign trainings in the past. Each participant will also be responsible for their own transportation and lodging to this training.

If you or someone you know wants to participate in this exciting opportunity, please email me their name and contact information by August 1, 2009, so we can move forward in finalizing this great event which will allow us to expand and grow our training statewide. You can also register at [nwpc.org](http://nwpc.org),

*Val Muchowski,*  
[valmuchowski@yahoo.com](mailto:valmuchowski@yahoo.com)

## NWPC Convention

Wow! Have we got a Convention for you. Set in beautiful Newport Beach on August 7 - 9th, we have a gathering of distinguished women discussing the pressing topics of the day. Starting with a campaign training that will help you as a candidate or campaign consultant to a polishing of skills in a Train the Trainer for folks ready to take their show on the road. Lunch with that feisty feminist Gloria Allred. Friday night a special reception honoring California's Heroes. Saturday is the business part with afternoon stressing those issues we care about —Healthcare Reform, Paycheck Equity, Filling the Pipeline, Reproductive Health and Money Management with knowledgeable women in small group conversations. Elections of National Officers - a chance to see our top talent. A Gala Dinner will follow. The Sunday Breakfast will provide an opportunity to network with statewide leaders. Check out the low registration price. Register at [nwpc.org](http://nwpc.org)

## Save these dates:

August 7 - Trainings at Newport Beach. Register at [nwpc.org](http://nwpc.org)  
August 7 -9 - National NWPC Convention at Newport Beach. Register at [nwpc.org](http://nwpc.org)  
August 22 - Candidate Training for Lake & Mendocino County NWPC at Clearlake Riviera Community Hall, 9689 Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville, CA 95451 from 9:30 to 4 pm. Contact Val at (707) 895-3543 or [valmuchowski@yahoo.com](mailto:valmuchowski@yahoo.com)  
October 4 - NWPC Gathering at Patricia Darland's house in Mendocino. 1 - 4 pm  
March 7 - Women's History Event in Ukiah - Writing Women Back into History  
August 26 - 80th Anniversary of Women Getting the Vote

## Membership

A publication of the National Women's Political Caucus of Mendocino County, PO Box 1440, Ukiah, CA 95482-1140. Published 6 times a year. Editor - Val Muchowski

Do you have an item to include in the next newsletter?

Call Val Muchowski (895-3543), or e-mail it to [valmuchowski@yahoo.com](mailto:valmuchowski@yahoo.com)

**New members:** Sue Cameron, Barbara Rice and Ruth Valenzuela  
**Membership due in August:** Carre Brown, Dr. Grace Liu, Elaine Norinsky, Marcia Pratt, Arleen Shippey, Lillian Vogel  
**Membership due in September:** Jessica Thompson

**New Members  
 Sue Cameron**

Hi, I'm Sue Cameron, and am currently the Executive Director of the Mendocino Coast Hospital Foundation. I moved to Fort Bragg in September 2008 for this position. Prior to that, I was a 50+ year resident of Tillamook, Oregon, a town of about 4,000 people on the Coast of Oregon. During that time, I was an Elected County Commissioner (County Supervisor) and the former founding president of the Tillamook County Womens' Political Caucus. My career has been in the Health Care field, functioning as the Public Health Director of the Tillamook County Health Department, and then the Executive Director of the Rinehart Clinic, a rural health clinic. I have 2 grown children and came here with my partner, Bill Rodriguez. I really like living here and am anxious to get involved in Caucus events again!

**Barbara Rice**

Barbara Rice retired last year after 30 years in education as a school psychologist and college administrator. She was the Mendocino Coast Campus Vice President of College of the Redwoods from 1997 to 2003 and Regional Liaison for the University of California, San Francisco from 2004 to 2008. She currently has a private practice as a mediator and is running for the Board of Governors of College of the Redwoods Area 8 in the November 2009 election.

**Ruth Valenzuela**

Ruth Valenzuela was born and raised in the Chicago area, the youngest of 6 children in a very politically active family. For most of her childhood her mother was a locally elected official and the topic of conversation around the family dinner table was commonly politics. She moved to Mendocino County in 1994 where she was a small business owner until 2004. At that time she returned to school, attending Mendocino College as a Political Science major. In 2005, at the encouragement of her Political Science Instructor she took an intern position with Assemblywoman Patty Berg and was hired full time 3 months later. In 2009, when Assemblyman Chesbro was elected to the office, she was chosen to stay on as his Field Representative for Mendocino and Lake Counties. She has worked on many community projects which included her membership in the Willits Skate Park and the Lightning Jam Volunteer Firefighter Fundraiser Steering Committees. She is a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for Mendocino and Lake Counties as well as a graduate of the Leadership Mendocino program, a member of the Mendocino County Democratic Central Committee and the National Women's Political Caucus of Mendocino County. She and her husband, 5 dogs and 3 cats live happily in the redwoods out toward Comptche.

**A note from Sally Biggin**

College of the Redwoods is really exciting. We have been growing at all of our campus. Currently there are 4 seats up for election, including the seat serving Mendocino and Fort Bragg High Schools. We could sure use some more women on our 9 member board. We have our September Board meeting in Fort Bragg September 13 & 14. It would be good to see you then.

My other board activity includes serving as 2nd Vice President for Girl Scouts of Northern California (GSNorCal). In October of 2007 we merged five councils into a "mega" one. It has been

NWPC	Mendocino County	Executive Board
Chair	Val Muchowski	895-3543
Vice Chair - Inland	Mary Ann Villwock	462-3059
Vice Chair - Coast	Patricia Darland	937-1798
Treasurer	Estelle Clifton	462-6620
Secretary	Arleen Shippey	462-7173
State Board of Directors	Katarzyna Rolzinski	468-9003
PAC Treasurer	Ginger Pohlson	459-5438
Membership	Ginger Pohlson	459-5438

a very rewarding experience to serve on this board bringing the voice of our rural communities to the table. We could sure use another board member from Mendocino and/or Lake County. Know of any possible candidates?

I'm off to Chicago next week for the Ninety-Nines, Inc. Annual Conference (Women Pilots). I serve as the Bylaw/Standing Rules Chair so I'll have a small part to play at the Business Meeting on Friday.

*Take Care, Sally Biggin*

**Measure A - Another Corporate Grab of Mendocino County**

When Diversified Developers Reality (DDR) representatives found themselves bumping into obstacles to their development plans for the Masonite site, they decided to circumvent our local planning and zoning process and environmental review by putting it on the November ballot. Measure A, if passed, will re-zone the site from industrial to mixed use with the intention of big box retail development.

DDR presented an extensive plan for the project, however included in that written document is a total disclaimer stating the plan is conceptual and actual development could be completely different, and therefore the end result of Measure A is a complete unknown.

One of the most egregious elements of Measure A is that an initiative caused rezoning is exempt from CEQA environmental review and resulting mitigation of the effects of the project. Issues of water and sewage capacity, traffic and other pollution would be left unaddressed. The County studied and reported that CEQA review is critical for development at this site because of questionable water availability, expanding North State Street to six lanes, putting five more traffic lights on North State Street in the half mile from Ford Road at Raley's to Orr Springs Road, and lengthening the 101 overpass at North State Street to the tune of \$15 to \$20 million.

While DDR presents a picture of hundreds of new jobs and increased tax revenue for our hungry county, the fact is most retail sale jobs are part time and low paid, and most of the profits leave the county and go to corporate headquarters. In addition, most of the big box store sales and resulting tax will be drawn from our local small businesses and will not reflect a significant increase in revenue.

The current industrial zoning has in the past and can in the future provide well-paid jobs with benefits, and be part of smart growth economic planning. There are many proposed alternatives to big retail development for the Masonite site. To lose this prime industrial zoned site to additional and unneeded retail space will have a tremendous impact on the economic future of the Ukiah valley and the entire county.

And how about that argument that it's better to shop in





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Ukiah than travel to Santa Rosa for Costco and other chain stores? First, retail space currently exists at the airport area center in Ukiah to house Costco and similar stores if they make the business decision to locate here. And second, do we really want to pattern our county's development after Sonoma County?

A final point is the issue of big corporations using this initiative process to impose their agenda on us. If DDR is successful it will embolden other corporations to bypass local control. That could mean off-shore oil exploration and other development the people here have rejected repeatedly. In addition, DDR has a history of selling property after the lucrative rezone process. We really don't know who or what we will end up with if Measure A wins.

Please contact the SOLE office in Ukiah at 462-1900 for more information or to help defeat DDR's corporate grab of Mendocino County.

Lynda McClure

#### FIRST 5 Mendocino Launches Free Book Program

For children, there's nothing better than receiving a packaged addressed personally to them in the mail. Well now Mendocino County children can receive a book once a month, especially sent to them.

*"As an increasing number of families struggle to provide for their children during this recession, books might not fit into their budgets,"* said Anne Molgaard, executive director of FIRST 5 Mendocino. *"The Imagination Library program ensures children will enjoy reading lots of colorful books in their homes before they enter kindergarten."*

Created by country music legend Dolly Parton's Dollywood Foundation, the Imagination Library program offers all children up to age 5 in Mendocino County a free hardcover book in the mail every month. Each of the age appropri-



ate books in the program is selected for the learning benefits it brings and for the fun. Themes of inspiration and imagination in the books include love of reading and learning and regard for diversity of people, their roles, culture and environment.

Nearly a quarter of Californians function at the lowest literacy level—they do *"not have adequate reading skills for daily life."* California is also ranked near the bottom of the country in the percentage of homes with more than 25 books. FIRST 5 Mendocino proposes an option to address our reading proficiency problems for young children without access to books.

*"This is a fantastic opportunity for every child in our county,"* said Diane Pauli, FIRST 5 Mendocino Commissioner. *"By encouraging young children to pick up a book, we are helping them get ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond."*

Families sign up for the Imagination Library by visiting [www.mendochildren.org](http://www.mendochildren.org) and clicking on What's New, or visiting their Mendocino County Library branch.

#### Susan B. Jordan

Susan B. Jordan, nationally acclaimed attorney and advocate for women, and Mendocino County resident and local NWPC member, met an untimely death in a private plane crash on Friday, May 29, 2009.

Susan was an avid pilot who flew her own plane around the country for pleasure and for court appearances in her wide ranging private law practice. At the time of her death, Susan was a passenger in the small two-seat plane piloted by her long-time friend and veteran pilot, John Austin. The plane hit power lines and crashed near his Boulder Creek Canyon Ranch in Utah where Susan and her husband Ronnie Wong were visiting Austin and his wife Jacqui Smalley. She would have turned 68 years old on June 21.

Susan set out to change the world and she did. Not long out of law school, she literally changed the legal landscape for women by successfully introducing the Battered



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Women's Syndrome into the law as an affirmative defense in her successful representation of Inez Garcia who shot to death her sexual aggressor.

Susan was nationally recognized as a skillful and aggressive litigator, representing high profile clients such as SLA defendants Bill and Emily Harris; Sara Jane Olsen; members of the Black Panther party; and Judi Bari. She also represented victims of sexual harassment and sex discrimination in civil cases and continued throughout her career to champion the rights of women in the United States and around the world. She actively mentored women attorneys and was a pioneer and leader of women litigators, particularly in the male-dominated field of criminal defense.

She also handled many local cases of note, including her representation of Fourth District Supervisor Liz Henry who won re-election by one vote in a challenged contest in 1992. In 2004, Susan defended the local ballot initiative Measure H against attack by corporate agribusiness.

Susan relished her national reputation, high powered lifestyle, and world travel. But her home and her heart were here in Mendocino County where she lived with her husband Ronnie and daughter Jennifer Jordan Wong. Many here knew her as a devoted practitioner and teacher of yoga; bicyclist; and environmentalist. She participated regularly in activities at the Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery in Redwood Valley. She also annually entered her chutney in the Mendocino County Fair in Boonville and laughed and solved local and world problems with local women lawyers.

She will be missed by the world and by her friends and family here. Many of us who knew her believe that she will be holding us accountable for the foreseeable future.

Please leave your thoughts on Susan's website, [www.susanbjordan.com](http://www.susanbjordan.com). Donations may be sent to Save Our Local Economy (SOLE) P.O. Box 1530, Ukiah; the Saughapapa Foundation, 16201 Tomki Road, Redwood Valley, CA; or the Everyday Zen Foundation, 421 Belvedere Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.

Mary Ann Villwock

**Here is why I oppose Measure A:**

This insidious initiative, funded by Ohio-based Developers Diversified Realty (DDR), is an end-run around the standard land use planning process that every individual and business without the deep pockets of DDR must follow. If their initiative passes, development at that site will unfold without any public or environmental review. That means that impacts on traffic, water, public services, aesthetics, etc., will not be identified (as they would if the standard planning process were followed), nor will they be mitigated.

So, for example, if it turns out that build-out of the project requires another fire station and three new firefighters at the north end of town, local government will not be able to

extract funds for these impacts from the developer. Guess who will pay? Taxpayers. The costs to mitigate environmental impacts, such as my hypothetical firehouse example, will far exceed any sales tax benefits the project is purported to provide. Because of the lack of environmental review, when DDR's proposed 100' freeway sign goes up, you will not be able to do anything about it. (100', by the way, is about twice the height of the Fjords sign and is currently not allowed anywhere in Mendocino County.)

Besides the fact that deciding about a land use project of this magnitude and complexity—the details of which are buried in a 310-page document—through the initiative process is not fair play, the project is antithetical to the vision for the Ukiah Valley developed through a comprehensive community process. The Ukiah Valley Area Plan vision speaks to "... a sound, stable, community-based economy," "... development that complements rather than compromises the natural beauty of this valley," "... freedom from unnecessary traffic and noise," "... maintaining the integrity of the valley's rural landscape," and "... businesses that respect the carrying capacity of our valley." DDR's sprawl project undermines the long-term vision for our valley.

According to campaign filings, DDR has already spent \$183,000 to pass their initiative! And they will spend hundreds of thousands more to convince voters that a megamall is in our best interest. In fact, DDR began this campaign almost a year ago by sending attractive mailers about the mall on recycled paper, appealing to Mendocino County residents' "green" values. More recently, DDR has conducted telephone surveys around the county, gauging our values so they can spin their message in a way that they believe will win their cause. This is fundamentally an issue of local control and self-determination.

DDR has deep pockets and sophisticated consultants. But what they don't have are community connections or friends and neighbors who trust them. Please learn all you can about this ballot measure. I am sure that the more you know, the more incensed you will be and the more you will agree that we must defeat this initiative.

Thanks in advance for your support,

Mari Rodin

**Ukiah's First Gay Pride Parade**

Today, personal freedom took a big hit in California. In a 6-to-1 decision, the California Supreme Court ruled against us in our case to overturn Proposition 8.

Marriages of same-sex couples will continue to be banned in California.

This is deeply disappointing, especially in light of the recent Iowa Supreme Court ruling saying that it is unconstitutional to keep gay couples from marrying — and the passage of laws opening marriage to everyone by the Ver-



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mont and Maine legislatures. Public support for marriage for same-sex couples is gaining ground, but California is being left behind.

This decision legitimizes discrimination and allows the government to intrude on our most intimate commitments. You can be sure the NWPC will continue to work for fairness for gay couples and families.

But this case goes beyond the LGBT community. It is also about the government imposing one group's idea of morality on everyone else. And when that happens, you can be sure the NWPC will be there.

Those opposed to same-sex marriage are on the wrong end of history. And, with your help, we will wage and win this battle for equality no matter how long it takes.

NWPC/Mendocino was very evident in Ukiah where we had a street rally and marched to the Courthouse and back to Alex Thomas Plaza.

It was wonderful. There were dozens of people, and the response from the traffic was 95% positive. We rallied at

the plaza for a while, and then marched two blocks to the courthouse. We were there with our signs for a while, then marched back to Alex Thomas. Someone said, "Hey, Ukiah has just had its first Gay Pride March!"

**"I Am Your Neighbor"**

It as an amazing and wonderful thing to experience Tuesday, November 4th, when as a nation we leapt a barrier long intact and elected Barack Obama to lead our country as president. Yet, even in the midst of the celebration, my heart was heavy as in my state, California, a slight majority of people voted that a large minority group was not entitled to the privilege of marrying the person they love and with whom they have chosen to travel through life. I have lived in this state for decades. My services to my community are welcomed and sought after. My taxes are dutifully paid. I seek, as so many do, to create a stable and loving home for my children, who attend the local schools, and play on the local sports teams. I am married, and experience all of the ups and downs, victories and defeats, joys and griefs of any other who has taken that step of commitment. - *I am your neighbor.*

My life partner and I raise children, support their teams financially and emotionally, have pets, go to work each day striving to do the best that we can in our respective careers as journalist and doctor. We care for our home, try to keep our lawns mowed, and like so many others in our community forget to tune the snow blower until after the first major snowfall hits our area. - *I am your neighbor.*

We spend time each day in prayerful meditation. We enrolled our kids in a Catholic school primarily for the foundation of religion, the teaching about God, and to reinforce the concept of right an wrong. We say grace before each meal we take together. - *I am your neighbor.*

Jesus, when asked what the most important commandments were, answered that there were two to love God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and all your body. And the second? To love your neighbor as yourself. He said, that if you do this, you will have fulfilled all of the commandments. - *I am your neighbor.*

In this time when so many marriages end in divorce, we should not denigrate the love of two people who have chosen to make the commitment of life-long partnership. Love, no matter whose, should be celebrated and supported. Love, whether between a man and a woman, or two adults of the same gender is no threat



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to the sanctity of marriage. In fact, quite the opposite. And all should be treated with respect and kindness - *Because we are quite simply, your neighbors.*

*Dr. Maria Pielael*

**Letter from Alice Walker**

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

From Alice Walker  
Temple Jook House  
Mendocino, CA.  
June 27, 2009

Dear President Obama,

If word reached me that you were being tortured, I would instantly feel tortured myself, because I would be. Torture is something an entire society feels, whether we are within earshot of the screaming or not. People don't like to believe this, but there is no way human beings can remain unaffected by what is done to other human beings, or even to animals who are not human. If I heard this about you, I would do everything in my power to come to your aid, not simply because I know you to be rare and necessary to our planetary survival, but because you are simply a person, with feelings, aspirations, sorrows and dreams. And you have children. If I were a child and knew my parent was being tortured, day after day, what would I myself become?

It has already been recognized that "confessions" obtained by torture are useless. It is easy to see why. If someone is water boarding you and you think you will never see your little ones again, you would say anything. So would I. It is only in movies, I think, where the "hero" tells the torturer nothing as various body parts are cut, burned, frozen, electro-shocked or pulled out.

If one keeps company with cruel people, one loses, bit by bit, one's own compassion. This is one of the reasons living in Washington, in the White House, as leader of the United States, is so treacherous. And why I said to you when we met briefly prior to my introducing you to my community in San Francisco, that failure to win the presidency had not insignificant value: you could have a fine life living as a writer, doing and saying what you want, and traveling the world incognito and free. Leadership has its down side, and one of them is who one has to associate with in order to "get things done." When we look at the destruction, around the globe, caused by prior leaders of our country, and the terrible choices of how to behave, and we look at the White House today and see some of those folks still coming and going; what can I say? It gives us pause.

Ringin' in my ears is something I thought I heard you say: America does not torture. And if this is true, now, under your watch, this letter is unnecessary. I also thought I heard you say Indefinite Detention Without Charge was gone with the wind of George Bush's administration. Was I wrong? Writers, and especially poets, don't always keep their ears to the political ground,

and so we are likely to miss the daily dramas that keep others informed. I hope you are holding steady on these points, because if you are, you are right. The cruelty and injustice of holding anyone indefinitely without charge will not lead to carefree days and guilt-free nights for you or for any citizen of the U.S., and we want those days and nights in order to convince the youth of the world that there are basic human laws protecting their right to grow up without fear of endless detention.

I think about people in prison, being tortured, being bombed, being frightened and starved and humiliated, every single day. Voting for you was one way I felt I could reach out to them, fiction and poetry writing, even protests and arrests, having their limitations. You are the world's hope for a better, a fairer, day. You have what few leaders of this country ever had: genuine affection and love from the people who elected you. We are good people, too, for the most part. And even if we weren't, we can be improved by a leadership of compassion, a leadership whose basic human instincts of fairness and decency we can trust to look at the whole story, the entire state of affairs, and not close off any portion of it. A leadership unafraid to hold accountable those responsible for torture and abuse. This is our only hope, actually, to begin to soothe a little of the sorrow in the world. It isn't a desire for vengeance, because we know vengeance, a karma, is created by Itself; it is instead a need to make right, to make whole again, by demonstrating to an injured and insulted world that we, as Americans, care about the harm other Americans, in our name, have done. We must show above all that we wish to understand our own madness in order not to continue growing and exporting it.

We know your plate is full. And I am always happy to hear of you and Michelle going off somewhere out of town for dinner. (No pun!) Any complaint about the cost is ridiculous: what your time away from your desk does for the world is priceless. You are a Leo/Ox and only someone with your combination of strengths could handle the presidency, which you do with grace. (What can I say? I love astrology!) Even so, it's too much for one person, or two; I myself favor a council for leading the country, but that is far in the future. Maybe not too far! So, delegate. We need the world to know we don't accept the behavior as usual of American presidents and others who do horrible things to people, and then retire, wealthy, into memoir writing and golf; as if the disasters inflicted on a vulnerable world never happened. I applaud and deeply appreciate all the good work you are, in fact, doing. It is huge. And beautiful, which I personally resonate with in world leadership. It has a beat. It has a heart.

*Alice Walker*

<http://www.alicewalkersblog.com>

Alice Walker with the late and great Marley Mu



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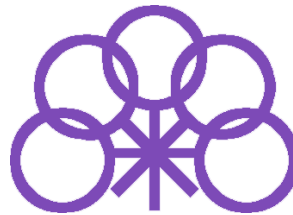
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