



Group photo of attendees: Nancy Waidtlow, Patience Milrod, Carole Goldsmith, Cristina Gutierrez, Yesdasi Córdoba, Rachel Carpenter, Gerry Bill, Richard D. Iyall, Margie Delgado, Dee Barnes, Simone Cranston-Rhodes, Pam Whalen, Belinda Guerrero, Janice Walters, Lynn Jacobsson, Loretta Kensinger, Joan Poss, Mike Rhodes, Heather Evans, Jeni Kren, David L Rowell, James Mendez, Paul Pierce, Ron Martin, Eduardo Stanley, Cecilia Castro, Matthew Gillian, Bryce Herrera, Maura Córdoba Castellón, Karen Gillian, Marcella Graves, Kevin Walters and Mattie Thomas.

## Central Valley Progressive PAC Fundraiser a Success

BY MIKE RHODES

The Nov. 5 general election is hurtling toward us. Fresno progressives gathered two days after President Joe Biden's disastrous debate performance, which was the topic of several conversations. The Central Valley Progressive PAC (CVPPAC) held a wine-and-cheese fundraiser, giving attendees an opportunity to socialize, listen to some great music and hear the following:

- Carole Goldsmith, chancellor of the State Center Community College District, gave the featured presentation about her work to increase access to higher education for working-class students.

- Cristina Gutierrez, with Californians for Pesticide Reform, shared the critical lobbying being done to create a buffer zone for pesticides near schools and communities close to Valley farmland.
- Yesdasi Córdoba, an organizer for the United Farm Workers, reported on her participation in organizing a union victory in a sweet potato operation in the Merced area.

Music by Steve Ono wafted through the air as attendees shared thoughts about the upcoming election, caught up with old friends and enjoyed a glass of wine.

The CVPPAC focuses on local elections and sometimes statewide races/propositions. Its endorsement meeting will be held on Sept. 14, and all members are encouraged to attend. Become a member or learn more at [cvppac.org](http://cvppac.org).

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*Mike Rhodes is a writer for the Community Alliance newspaper and author of the book Dispatches from the War Zone, about homelessness in Fresno. Contact him at [mikerhodes@comcast.net](mailto:mikerhodes@comcast.net).*

*Photos by Howard K. Watkins*



Howard K. Watkins, Patience Milrod and Paul Pierce.



Event hosts Heather and Art Evans.



CVPPAC Past President Pam Whalen spoke at the event.



Simone Cranston-Rhodes, president of the CVPPAC.