

## Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Post Office Box 2243 Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

Village TV is every Wednesday in February from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

#### FEB. 20—DEMOCRATIC NAT'L COMMITTEE

By: Sue Dearing

What is the Democratic National Committee (DNC)? How does it work? Why is it important? These questions and more will be answered by two members of the DNC from Southern California: DPOC Chair Ada Briceño and activist Susie Shannon at our **Tuesday**, **February 20 meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Clubhouse 2\*.** 

Under **Ada Briceño's** leadership as Chair of the Democratic Party of Orange County, Democrats took the lead as the largest political party in Orange County, flipped 20 local seats, 2 state senate seats and elected the first Democrat to the O.C. Board of Supervisors' 2nd District seat in 127 years.

The first immigrant to lead the DPOC, Ada immigrated to the United States when her family fled a brutal civil war in Nicaragua. After working as a hotel clerk, she rose through the ranks of her union, becoming the first Latina President of Local 681 at the age of twenty-six.

Ada currently serves as a member of the Democratic National Committee, Co-President of UNITE-HERE Local, and Vice President of UNITE-HERE International Union. She serves on the O.C. Human Relations Commission, the Southern California Air Quality District Environmental Justice Committee and the Board of Planned Parenthood of San Bernardino and Orange Counties.

**Susie Shannon** is not only a DNC member, but also on the California Democratic Party Executive Board, a City of Los Angeles health commissioner and Policy Director of Housing is a Human Right.

Susie has worked with unhoused and low-income communities since 2005. Having previously been unhoused herself, she advocates for

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Ada Briceño

Susie Shannon



## MEETING SPONSORS

By: Kate Van Camp

Our February meeting coffee and snacks are sponsored by Cheryl Fennick

We are currently looking for \$65 sponsors for March and April.

To sponsor a meeting, contact Kate Van Camp at <a href="mailto:cvc4joy@gmail.com">cvc4joy@gmail.com</a> or (773) 841-0287.

\*Clubhouse 2 is located at: 24112 Moulton Pkwy. Laguna Woods, CA 92637

## LAGUNA WOODS Democratic Club

Welcome to the Laguna Woods Democratic Club. We promote Democratic values though education and activism.

The Democratic Club serves as the meeting and gathering place for registered Democrats and friends of the Democratic Party in Laguna Woods.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Carole Adams
- Patsy Copeland
- Gina Hall
- Sozeen Mondlin
- Lori Morse
- Lonnie Painter
- Sharon Roszia
- Marilyn Yurk

## **CONTACT YOUR Representatives**



#### **Click this Link**



#### **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

#### **OFFICERS:**

- President Sue Dearing, African American Committee
- 1st V.P. Nancy Hensel, Special Events
- 2nd V.P. Mary Ribando, GOTV & Voter Registration
- Secretary Allan Feldman, Central Committee Associate Member
- Treasurer Pat Leftwich, Budget

#### AT-LARGE DIRECTORS:

- Jonathan Adler Legislative Action
- Janice Burstin Activism
- Ray Dapp Fundraising
- Debra David Membership
- Pat Freeman Nominating & Club Elections
- Jeanne Lepowsky Field Organizing and Voter Education
- Carol Melton Website
- Debo Orrill Publicity and Newsletter
- Kate Van Camp Hospitality and Facebook

#### **NON-DIRECTOR CHAIRS:**

- Joel Goldstein Program
- Sue & Richard Snyder SCO Food Drives

#### **FEBRUARY 20 MEETING: THE DNC**

(Susie Shannon—continued from page 1) unhoused and low-income communities through rent control policy, preserving public housing, fighting for new housing, and promoting adaptive reuse of existing housing.

After she was elected to the DNC, she immediately began working to create a Poverty Council. After many setbacks, Susie finally succeeding in getting her resolution passed and a DNC Poverty Council was created.

Susie shepherded a homeless-housing bill all the way through the California State Legislature to the governor's desk and didn't relent until she had Jerry Brown's signature. In 2016 she was a Bernie Sanders delegate; and the following year she became the only elected Bernie delegate from California to become a member of the DNC.

The February 20 meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in Clubhouse 2 and includes club business.

Come early at 6:30 p.m. to socialize. Bring recyclable bottles and cans for Cathy Aubert to redeem and donate the proceeds to South County Outreach. Guest fee \$3.00.

#### SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE

Suggested by: Sue Snyder



Since February is Girl Scout cookie month, there will not be a food drive for the South County Outreach food pantry at Stater Bros. Instead Sue and Richard Snyder will once again be hosting a food drive at their home at 907 Ronda Sevilla Unit O from February 8 through February 11.

Drop off non-perishable food items in the big barrels near their door and cash and checks made out to SCO in the envelope on their door. Sue's message:

"Thank you for all you do to make the world better. You are VERY MUCH appreciated."

#### HOW SOCIALISM IS ALREADY IN YOUR LIFE!

By: Janice Burstin

There have been many people in the GOP who have tried to frighten Americans with the dreaded word 'SOCIALISM' and accuse the Democratic Party of steering our way of life towards this system. However, there are many examples of socialist programs already in our lives.

Ever wonder what to say to people who are afraid of socialism? Think about some of these examples:

#### ADVICE TO THOSE WHO FEAR SOCIALISM:

If you voted Republican because you fear socialism, then live your truth.

- Do not accept Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid. Avoid public beaches, local, state and national parks and libraries.
- Do not allow your children to attend tax-supported schools or to take advantage of food programs. Drive only on toll roads and don't take a subway or bus for your transportation needs.
- Do not call 911 unless you intend to pay for services rendered which includes police, fire and ambulance in your time of need.

This is a partial listing of the myriad ways that socialism is already working in our lives. If neighbors or family members start speaking negatively about socialism, consider mentioning some of them.

### **HAVE YOU PAID 2024 DUES YET?**

By: Debra David, LWDC Membership Chair

If you are among the 300+ people who paid dues for 2023, but have not yet renewed for 2024, we hope that you will do so now! Your dues help to support local Democratic candidates in this important election year. Dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for households.



You can pay online at <a href="https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lwdcmembership2024">https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lwdcmembership2024</a>, by check with the attached form, or by check or cash at our February 20 meeting. If you're not sure if your dues are up-to-date, contact me at <a href="mailto:debdavid48@gmail.com">debdavid48@gmail.com</a>.

We really appreciate your continued support!

## GLADYS WEST, PIONEER IN GLOBAL POSITION SYSTEM

Suggested by Dottie Hawkins



Gladys Mae Brown was born in rural Virginia, where her parents owned a small farm in an area populated mostly by sharecroppers. Growing up, when not in school, Gladys spent much of her time helping to harvest crops on the family farm, an occupation she knew many of her peers would continue into adulthood. In her community, the only clear options for a young Black girl's future were continuing to farm or working at a tobacco-processing plant.

But at school her talent for learning offered another path. As valedictorian of her high-school graduating class, Gladys received a full scholarship to Virginia State College (now Virginia State University), the historically Black college where she earned a degree in mathematics in 1952. After spending time teaching math in racially segregated Virginia schools and frustrated with being denied a series of jobs in Virginia's segregated state government that were instead awarded to white men, Gladys returned to VSC for a master's degree, graduating in 1955.

In 1956 Gladys was hired as a mathematician by the U.S. Naval Proving Ground, a weapons laboratory in Dahlgren, Virginia. She was only their fourth Black employee. There she met Ira V. West, another Black mathematician on the base; the couple married in 1957 and had three children. At Dahlgren, Gladys West was admired for her ability to solve complex mathematical equations by hand. She eventually transitioned from solving those equations herself to programming computers to do it for her. One of her first major projects was work on the Naval Ordinance Research Calculator (NORC), an award-winning program designed to determine the movements of Pluto in relation to Neptune This took 100 hours of computer calculations, often double-checked by hand for errors.

In 1978 West was named project manager of Seasat, an experimental U.S. ocean surveillance satellite designed to provide data on a wide array of oceanographic conditions and features, including wave height, water temperature, currents, winds, icebergs, and coastal characteristics. It was the first project to demonstrate that satellites could be used to observe useful oceanographic data.

Out of West's work on Seasat came GEOSAT, a satellite programmed to create computer models of Earth's surface. By teaching a computer to account for gravity, tides, and other forces that act on Earth's surface, West and her team created a program that could precisely calculate the orbits of satellites. These calculations made it possible to determine a model for the exact shape of Earth, called a geoid. It is this model, and updates, that allows the GPS system to make calculations of any place on Earth.

During her career on the naval base, West earned another master's degree in 1973, this time in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. Though she retired from the base in 1998 at age 68, she continued her education and received a Ph.D. in public administration and policy affairs from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 2000 at age 70.

Like NASA mathematicians Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, West is often called one of history's "hidden figures;" individuals, often Black women, whose insightful contributions to science went unrecognized in their time because of their race or gender. In 2018 West was formally recognized for her contribution to the development of GPS by the Virginia General Assembly. That year she was also inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame and named one of the British Broadcasting Corporation's 100 Women of 2018, designed to honor inspiring women worldwide. — Source: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gladys-West

## TREASURER'S REPORT – 2023 SUMMARY

By: Pat Leftwich

The LWDC continued to make meaningful donations and contributions to numerous candidates and community causes. Following is a summary of 2023:

#### **CANDIDATES/PACS:**

- Dave Min/U.S. Congress \$500
- Allyson Damikolas/U.S. Congress \$500
- Dom Jones/CA Assembly \$500
- Josh Newman/CA Senate \$500
- Richard Zimmer/O.C. Judge \$250
- Dan Jacobson/O.C. Judge \$250
- Daniel Kern/O.C. Superior Court Judge \$250
- Beatriz Mendoza/OC Board of Education -\$250
- Nancy Watkins/OC Board of Education \$250
- David Johnson/OC Board of Education \$250
- Frances Marquez/OC Supervisor \$250
- DPOC \$1,575
- UC Riverside Dems \$150
- CA Young Dems \$700
- OC Young Dems \$500

#### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:**

- Planned Parenthood \$300
- Doctors Without Borders \$250
- Emily's Entourage \$500
- LW Community Bridge Builders \$500
- Marabou CCE \$100
- NAACP OC \$75
- NWPC-National Women's Political Caucus \$200
- OC Justice Fund \$200
- Project Huntington Beach \$300
- South County Outreach \$150
- Touch of Love Works \$300
- United Brady \$200

During 2024 the LWDC will continue to target national, state and local candidates and ballot measures as we approach the March 5<sup>th</sup> California Primary and the November 5<sup>th</sup> General Election. With your continued support of the LWDC through your membership dues <a href="https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lwdcmembership2024">https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lwdcmembership2024</a> and the Nifty Sixty Campaign <a href="https://secure.actblue.com/donate/niftysixty">https://secure.actblue.com/donate/niftysixty</a> we can continue our objectives to elect our candidates and win on the ballot measures we support.

Thank you for your continued support of the LWDC.

#### HOSPITALITY UPDATE

By: Kate Van Camp

Thank you to Cheryl Fennick for sponsoring the February club meeting refreshments. Cheryl's dedication is "to honor the dedicated, compassionate, creative, tireless, and knowledgeable volunteers of the Laguna Woods Democratic Club. Thank you for your many hours of hard work. I've been told we are the most effective chapter in Orange County."

We do not yet have sponsors for the March and April meetings. Please email Kate Van Camp at <a href="mailto:cvc4joy@gmail.com">cvc4joy@gmail.com</a> if you would like to sponsor the refreshments.

Thank you, audience, for your proficiency in cleaning up promptly. It is so nice for the hospitality committee to be home by 9:00 p.m. **One Caution**: Even though we now use compostable cups, please note that these cups cannot yet be handled by the CR&R compost protocol nor by recycling machinery. Until the mechanics of trash disposal is improved to differentiate cup types, it is important that all of our cups go in the normal landfill trash. Do **NOT** put cups in the BLUE recycle trash cans. They can hurt machinery. We'll let attendees know when this changes. Meanwhile our cups will dissolve in the landfill.

# SPOTLIGHT ON RETIRED LWDC DIRECTOR: MAUREEN MEHLER

By: Betsy Martin

Adapted from an article written by Betsy Martin for the Concerned Citizens newsletter.

"I was afraid to go to the 1963 March on Washington, even though I was living in Washington, D.C., so I made sure that I went to the march in Santa Ana in January 2017," explained Maureen Mehler, when interviewed by Betsy Martin for the Concerned Citizens newsletter. On January 21, 2017 Maureen boarded one of the several chartered buses organized by the Democratic Club and Concerned Citizens, and traveled to downtown Santa Ana for the Women's March protesting the new Trump administration's regressive agenda.

Maureen knew about discrimination first hand. When she was 9 years old and living in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, she brought a new classmate home from school to play. She had been taught that all people were the same. Her new friend was Black (although the term used at the time was "colored"). When she left, her mother told her she could play with her at school, but it



Maureen Mehler

wasn't necessary to bring her home. She had a fit, screaming at her mother. "I can't say I became an advocate for anything at the age of 9, I just knew instinctively that certain things were not right," Maureen said. She was also painfully aware that Jews were not allowed to buy in a nearby housing tract.

At 19 Maureen moved to Washington, D.C., married and had two children. The family moved to South Pasadena in 1965 and had twins in 1967. "Yeah, that was four kids in four years...brilliant" she laments. Maureen divorced six years later and started working at a travel agency. Then in 1982 she and a partner opened their own agency.

Maureen was so disgusted with the election of G.W. Bush in 2004 that she quit her travel agency business of 23 years and joined the Peace Corps. From 2005 to 2007 Maureen worked in Antigua in the Eastern Caribbean with local residents, redesigning their historical museum displays as well as editing the museum's quarterly newsletter and a book written by a local resident who died before it could be published.

Maureen moved from Antigua to Laguna Woods in 2007 and immediately joined both Concerned Citizens and the Democratic Club. She served as LWDC Recording Secretary from 2009-2012 and as Chair of the Nominating and Club Election Committee from 2013 to 2023. Maureen also served on several committees such as special events and could always be counted on to help at every meeting.

Her dry wit will be missed on the board, but we know she will continue to volunteer and be very active in the club.

We are very grateful for Maureen's fifteen years of service!

### FIGHT THE PROPAGANDA

Thoughts from Jim Quigley, edited with links added by Jeanne Lepowsky.

The extremism of the MAGA crowd has no analog among Democrats. It's not even close. Beware of the MAGA crowd's constant false equivalencies. Extremists have not taken over the Democratic Party which still cherishes our democracy. But extremists have definitely taken over the Republican Party.

If someone praises today's right-wing extremist Republican Party, ask these questions:

- Who shows up at political demonstrations brandishing assault rifles and side-arms? (New York Times, November 26, 2022)
- Who campaigns to ban books they dislike?
   (The Guardian, Nov. 21, 2023)
- Who thinks it's ok to force a pregnant woman to bear the child of her rapist? (Kaiser Family Foundation, May 18, 2023)
- Who acts as apologist for Putin's genocidal war on Ukraine and is comfortable with other foreign despots and dictators?
   (The Atlantic, Dec. 18, 2023)
- Who leaves threatening messages and sends hate-filled mail to government employees, and stalks and threatens their political opponents? (CNN.com, Dec. 7, 2023)
- Who is OK with a political party who placed supporters of insurrection and totalitarianism in positions of power in the House of Representatives? (PBS.org, Dec. 25, 2021)
- Who is OK with a candidate who, as President, used the office to enrich himself? (Forbes, July 19, 2021)
- Who is OK with a candidate who, as President, solicited political assistance from foreign governments and encouraged them to influence or interfere with our elections?
   (Mother Jones, Dec. 6, 2019)
- Who is OK with a candidate who, as President, ignored voluminous peer-reviewed reports by scientists about the existential threat of global climate destabilization?
   (The Atlantic, December 4, 2023)

- Who is OK with a candidate who, as President, ignored the warnings of the Centers for Disease Control about the importance of masking and social distances while more than a million Americans died? (CBSNews.com, Nov 20, 2023) ... and didn't want Covid-19 deaths to be counted because it would make him look bad? (VOAnews.com, June 15, 2020)
- Who is OK with a candidate who, as President, instigated a violent attempt to overthrow the United States government when other methods of thwarting the will of our citizens as expressed in our votes failed, and then watched events unfold on TV in The White House doing nothing while the mob terrorized lawmakers, assaulted Capitol Police and vandalized a national landmark? (Wikipedia, accessed 1/20/2024)
- Who is OK with a candidate who promises, if elected, to round up millions of people he claims to be illegal and lock them in concentration camps? (CNNPolitics, Nov. 11, 2023)
- Who is OK with a candidate who promises, if elected, to use the Department of Justice to exact retribution against his perceived enemies? (The Hill, Nov 16, 2023)
- Who is OK with a candidate who calls his political opponents "vermin" (npr.org, Nov 17, 2023) and says that immigrants are "poisoning the lifeblood of our country"? (Washington Post, Dec. 18, 2023)
- Who is OK with a candidate who makes it clear that he will be a dictator?
   (Washington Post, Dec. 6, 2023)

The answer to every one of these questions is: the Republican Party and its supporters.

Republicans will whine and moan about being victimized when in fact most of them have never had it so good. They will try to convince you that "things are really bad" when in fact our economy is much improved under the Biden Administration.

Republicans are fed lies and they repeat them with depressing consistency. Don't buy into their defeatism. The rest of us are on the move and we won't let the MAGA crowd bully their way back into national leadership. **RESIST!** 

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

By: Sue Dearing

**FEBRUARY 5:** Ballots start being mailed by the Registrar of Voters for the March 5 primary

FEBRUARY 8-11: Food Drive at the Snyders. See article on page 3 in this newsletter.

FEBRUARY 14: Ballot Marking in the Grevillea Room of Clubhouse 2 at 1:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23: Ballot Marking in the Grevillea Room of Clubhouse 2 at 10:30 a.m.

MARCH 1: Get Out the Democratic Vote Rally between 3:00-5:00 p.m. on El Toro between Olive

Garden and City Hall. See the article on page 10 in this newsletter for details.

#### IT'S PRIMARY TIME AND LWDC HAS YOU COVERED!

By: Sue Dearing

By now you should have received your Primary Election information from the state of California. Soon you will receive your sample ballot from Orange County. Ballots will start being mailed February 5.

The Get Out The Vote committee, under the excellent leadership of Chair Mary Ribando, has been hard at work getting everything ready for you for this election. Janice Burstin, Allan Feldman, Kate Van Camp and Sayre Weaver comprise the committee. Over 100



enthusiastic volunteers are delivering 10,000 door hanger voter guides to all Democrats and NPPs in the Village, so look for yours and make sure to keep it handy. You can also find the club's half-page voter guide in four issues of the Globe starting February 8.

Volunteers under the leadership of Jeanne Lepowsky sent voter guides in the mail to the 200 Democrats and NPPs living in Laguna Woods outside the Village.

Thank you for being members of LWDC and for voting!

# NIFTY SIXTY FUNDRAISER & BLUE HAT PHOTO DAY

By: Ray Dapp

**HAPPY 2024!** — Perhaps the most important year in our country's history.

I want to thank you for your generosity in support of our Nifty Sixty Fundraiser in 2023. To date we have raised close to \$11,000 — a little over half of our \$20,000 goal. As a reminder, all donations go to support Democratic candidates in the 2024 election.

You all know the importance of this election, so please continue to donate according to your ability.



Finally, at the February 20th meeting we would like to take a group photo of all our Blue Hat Bakers of Democracy recipients. Please bring your Blue Hat to the meeting.

Again, thank you for your generosity and commitment to preserving our democracy!

## VILLAGE TV IN FEBRUARY

By: Sue Dearing

CLUB MEETING: If you weren't there in person, be sure to watch the January Candidate Forum candidates for DPOC Central Committee, O.C. Superior Court Judge, CA Assembly, CA Senate, and Congress before you vote. Legislative Action Chair Jonathan Adler explains the one ballot measure. Program airs Wednesdays in February at 2 p.m. Tell your neighbors!

**BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS:** Village resident Willie Sargent talks about his experience being born in the North and moving to the South during Jim Crow, where he participated in many civil rights era events. Allan Feldman moderates.

Watch this fascinating program Sundays in February at 3:30 p.m.



**January Candidate Forum** 



Willie Sargent

#### WHAT'S UP AT THE DPOC

By: Allan Feldman



The January meeting of the DPOC will take place after the deadline for this newsletter. The DPOC is now running at full speed as the primary election is about to occur. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters at the begin-

ning of February. People can vote up until March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure to check your mail for the primary ballot.

The LWDC had its final preprimary candidates forum on January 16<sup>th</sup>. By the time this newsletter is published, many people may have already voted. If you haven't voted, you can view the candidates forum on Village TV every Wednesday at 3:00PM.

While the March 5<sup>th</sup> election is the primary for the presidential, congressional and many other offices, it is NOT A PRIMARY for some Orange County offices; instead it is the general election for offices such as the Board of Education, OC Superior Court Judges and Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Orange County candidates.

Whoever gets the most votes in the March 5<sup>th</sup> election in the Board of Education, OC Superior Court Judge and Central Committee races will be elected. That's why it's important to vote in the primary.

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CLUB & BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Suggested by: Annie McCary



The African American Heritage Club has several events planned for Black History Month. They will be participating in the **February 3**<sup>rd</sup> Orange County Black History Parade and Unity Festival in Anaheim.

On **February 10**<sup>th</sup> they are holding a fundraiser featuring The Delfonics Review at the Performing Arts Center at 7:00 p.m. Purchase tickets at the box office and online: https://tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com/

On **February 17<sup>th</sup>** they will hold their monthly meeting to celebrate Black History Month from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in <u>Clubhouse 5\*</u> Meeting Room 1.

\* 24262 Punta Alta, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

#### **GET OUT THE VOTE RALLY!**

By: Janice Burstin

Save the date of Friday, March 1st, 2024 for our second rally to encourage last-minute voters to get their ballots in the drop box located on El Toro Road between City Hall and the Olive Garden Restaurant.

We will meet between 3:00-5:00 p.m. Stay for the whole time or whatever amount of time you want! Please bring appropriate signs since only a few will be available! Any questions or concerns, please contact Janice Burstin at (949)636-0501 or <a href="mailto:iburstin@comline.com">iburstin@comline.com</a>.

Hope to see many of you there!

#### **GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!**

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

The Year of the Dragon begins on February 10, 2024

Did you know that as of 2023, the Lunar New Year is a state holiday in California? **Learn more.** 





#### Candidate Forum: (L to R)

- Dan Kern—OC Judge
- Nancy Hensel—LWDC
- Allyson Damikolas—40th CD
- Richard Zimmer—OC Judge
- Bethany Webb—Central Cmte.
- Faye Hezar—Central Cmte.
- Barbara Schulman—SVUSD Trustee
- Ted Perle—Central Cmte.
- Dom Jones—72nd Assembly
- Jonathan Adler—Central Cmte.
- Dan Jacobson—OC Judge
- Mani Kang—Guest



Voter Registration at the Towers:

Mary Ribando, Marion Levine, John Pointer, Kathy Rubin and Muriel Brandess



**Postcard Writing:** 

Dana Barraclough, Georgeanna Stark & Jeanne Lepowsky