



**Laguna Woods
Democratic Club**

Post Office Box 2243
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

Village TV is every Wednesday in March from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

MARCH 19 — HELP HOLD THE SENATE!

By: Jonathan Adler

On Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Clubhouse 2 Andrew Lachman will address "Holding the Senate and Democracy! Critical Races and How to Help". Our speaker, Andrew Lachman, is an Los Angeles attorney, elected DNC member, Chair of its Small Business Owners Council, Chair of CDP's Business and Professions Caucus, highly active at all levels of the Democratic Party, politics and campaigns, and in all three branches of government from city to federal levels.

His service to those in the last three decades is too vast to even start to list. He often speaks, publishes, and posts as a keen political analyst, so is ideal to speak to us about future control of the Senate, and how we can most effectively help in closely contested races across the nation.

Democrats control the current Senate, 51-49. But that includes Sens. Joe Manchin (WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (AZ). She went "independent." Manchin won't run again. West Virginia is "dark red." Sinema might not run again. If she does, she has little-to-no chance of re-election. Arizona Democrats will nominate Rep. Ruben Gallego, while GOP hopefuls slug it out. Democrats have a tough task ahead in Nov. 2024 just to hold all their current seats, for a 50-50 tie that V.P. Kamala Harris could break if she and Pres. Biden are re-elected.

The most vulnerable GOP senators running this year are Ted Cruz (TX) and Rick Scott (FL). Both will face strong well-funded Democrats. Unless Cruz and/or Scott loses, Democrats must hold all seats for 50-50+Harris Senate control. The two most vulnerable Democrats are running in states the GOP is otherwise winning easily, Senators Jon Tester (MT) and Sherrod Brown (OH). Other Democratic senators in competitive races are Jacky

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Andrew Lachman

MEETING SPONSORS

By: Kate Van Camp

Our March meeting coffee and snacks are sponsored by Joel and Marcia Goldstein We are currently looking for \$65 sponsors for April and May.

To sponsor a meeting, contact Kate Van Camp at cvc4joy@gmail.com 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 through 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!

- Annet & Peter Bonfanti
- Mark & Ruth Brenner
- Delores Dewey
- Nancy & Eric Kramer
- Thomas Mancuso
- Frank Spector

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



MARCH 19 TALK

(continued from page 1)

Rosen (NV), Bob Casey (PA), and Tammy Baldwin (WI). Sen. Debbie Stabenow (MI) will retire; Democratic senators have a strong well-funded candidate, Rep. Elissa Slotkin, and the Michigan GOP is in total political and financial disarray.

The Tuesday, March 19 meeting is free for members and \$5 for guests. It will include light refreshments and club business. Please bring recyclable cans and bottles for the South County Outreach collection. Please also bring your questions for Q & A time, especially on how we in Orange County can most effectively help the Senate races listed just above.

MARCH HOLIDAYS

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

Ramadan, the holy month of Muslims, begins on March 10. The Persian New Year, Nowruz, occurs on the vernal equinox every year, which this year falls on March 19. Later in the month, on March 25, Hindu people celebrate Holi. The Christian holidays of Good Friday and Easter Sunday are on March 29 and March 31, respectively.

SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE



By: Sue Snyder

Thank you to all the wonderful people in the Village who contributed to our pre-Valentine's Day food drive for South County Outreach. We filled seven barrels with peanut butter and jelly, cereal and dinner and lunch supplies.

Also donated was \$770 in cash and checks for more food for those needy families who are struggling to keep their kids fed. It's a tough time for lots of people right now and you just made things much better. Thank you for your generosity.

Stay tuned for the next food drive.

SAVE THE DATES!

By: Sue Dearing

- 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 elsewhere in this newsletter for details.
- March 5:** Last day to vote at the Laguna Woods City Hall Vote Center or to drop your ballot in the Ballot Drop Box at City Hall. Every vote counts!
- March 19:** Club Meeting: Clubhouse 2 at 7 p.m. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

RALLY—VOTE DEMOCRATIC TO SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY!

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 at Laguna Woods City Hall. For those who want to do this, we will walk there to drop off our ballots! The location of the rally will be on El Toro Road between Laguna Woods City Hall and the Olive Garden Restaurant. We will be there between 3:00-5:00 p.m., so 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 jburstin@comline.com.
Hope to see many of you there!**

HOSPITALITY UPDATE

By: Kate Van Camp

Marcia and Joel Goldstein are sponsoring refreshments at our March meeting. Their dedication is "Working Together to Preserve Democracy." Please contact Kate Van Camp, cvc4joy@gmail.com, to sponsor an upcoming meeting. Kate thanks our dedicated volunteers who set up every meeting: Marquita and Jay Miller, Linda and Paul Brady, Sue and Richard Snyder, Annie Wright, Eva Orozco, and Heide Krueger-Gerson.

Thank you as well to all attendees who clean up!

REPORT — DIANE DIXON'S FENTANYL TOWN HALL

By: Janice Burstin

On Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, Assembly Member Diane Dixon held a Fentanyl Town Hall in Lake Forest which was poorly attended. In fact, there were more speakers, their staff, family and friends than constituents in the audience!

There were opportunities for questioning the speakers after each of their presentations until Young Kim spoke and hurriedly ran up the aisle on the side where I was sitting. I yelled out, "aren't you going to take any questions?" to which she replied that she was rushing off to the next event since this event was only one of the eight events on her schedule. Well, that irritated me. So I yelled out that she mentioned the southern border 10 times (I was keeping score) and yet when the Senate bipartisan bill to help solve the crisis at the southern border was sent over to the House Republicans (of which she is a member), they failed to take up the bill. She replied that it never got out of the Rules Committee to which I replied "When you go back to Congress, you can get it out of the Rules Committee and do something about this crisis instead of just talking about it!"

I accomplished my objective of confronting Young Kim when the opportunity presented itself and felt damn good about it!

BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS: JOAN POWELL IN MARCH

By: Joan Powell

Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior said: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." These words have been the inspirational pathway of Joan Durnell-Powell's life.

Joan is the current President of the Orange County Section National Council of Negro Women and Southern California Regional NCNW Social Action Committee Chair. She was appointed to the National Council of Negro Women Executive Board in December 2022 as a Member At Large.

Joan is also the current 2nd Vice President of the Orange County Chapter of the National Action Network, one of the leading civil rights organizations in the nation. Founded in 1991 by Reverend Al Sharpton, NAN works within the spirit and tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to promote a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one standard of justice, decency and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, criminal record, economic status, gender, gender expression, or sexuality.

In addition, Joan is a charter member and co-founder of The Bridge Listening Task Force, which is comprised of Orange County Black organizational leaders and members of law enforcement from cities such as Santa Ana and Anaheim. The group's mission is to have face to face round table sessions with the community members and officers who want to make lasting change in the community.

Joan Powell's life's journey has been as a social advocate/activist for Black and Brown women, children, and men. Another quote which guides her life is "Get Busy Living."

Joan resides in Laguna Niguel and will be interviewed by Allan Feldman for the Black in Laguna Woods program which will air on Village TV Sundays in March at 3:30 p.m.



COMMENTS ON ROBERT HUR'S REPORT ON BIDEN

By: Nancy Hensel, Editing by Jeanne Lepowsky

On February 8, 2024, Special Counsel Robert Hur released a 388-page report about the classified documents found in President Biden's home office in November 2022. While the Special Counsel determined that President Biden had not committed any crimes, parts of the report denigrated the President. A particular phrase found in the document was President Biden's allegedly "limited or failing memory," a charge that Republicans are using in the campaign to defeat Biden's election to a second term.

Here is Jill Biden's letter to supporters in response to the disparaging remarks about her husband in the Hur report:

Nancy,

I've heard from so many of you asking about the Special Counsel's report last week. Thank you for your love and support.

You probably know the basics: Joe cooperated fully with a Special Counsel's investigation and they found he did nothing wrong -- no criminal charges were warranted.

The reason I'm writing is because of what else was in the report: Inaccurate and personal political attacks about Joe. Rather than just saying the case was closed, as they have for others, the Special Counsel claimed that Joe "couldn't remember the year his son died." Believe me, like anyone who has lost a child, Beau and his death never leave him. I hope you can imagine how it felt to read that attack -- not just as Joe's wife, but as Beau's mother.

I don't know what this Special Counsel was trying to achieve. We should give everyone grace, and I can't imagine someone would try to use our son's death to score political points. If you've experienced a loss like that, you know that you don't measure it in years -- you measure it in grief.

May 30th is a day forever etched on our hearts. It shattered me, it shattered our family. So many of you know that feeling after you lose a loved one, where you feel like you can't get off the floor. What helped me, and what helped Joe, was to find purpose. That's what keeps Joe going, serving you and the country we love.

Joe is 81, that's true, but he's 81 doing more in an hour than most people do in a day. Joe has wisdom, empathy, and vision. He has delivered on so many of his promises as President precisely because he's learned a lot in those 81 years. His age, with his experience and expertise, is an incredible asset and he proves it every day.

Look at all he's accomplished: He brought our country back from COVID. He brought our economy back from the brink. He created 14 million jobs. Gas prices are down. Inflation is down. Energy costs are down. He got bipartisan legislation passed -- even in the midst of this hyper-partisan environment. The media may not give him credit, but I'm thankful you realize all he's done for this country.

Joe is the most resilient person I've ever known. When he gets knocked down, he gets back up and gets back to work. That's what he's doing.

It is just so meaningful to both of us to have you behind us. Your support is what keeps this campaign moving forward.



Continued on page 6

COMMENTS ON ROBERT HUR'S REPORT ON BIDEN

(letter continued)

At some point in our lives, we'll all experience grief or loss. We'll go through challenging moments and twists and turns. But we find joy together, we persevere together, and ultimately, we'll prevail together.

Thank you for being part of our campaign.

Love, Jill

Jill Biden's letter above was personal. Here are some facts about memory taken from the articles at the links below and in the text.

Several [Washington Post journalists](#) conducted research about memory. They all agree that memory is "fallible and malleable." Lawyers, for example, understand the fallibility of memory when they take witness testimony which may be inaccurate. We all sometimes forget names or dates, can't remember a word, open the refrigerator and can't remember what we wanted, or many other ways our memory is not perfect. Earl K. Miller, a neuroscientist at MIT, says we don't notice memory mistakes when we are young. We become concerned when we are older because of our fear of dementia. Miller says, "Memory lapse is normal at every stage of life". As we age, we have more information to store in our brain. According to Miller: "An older brain is a wiser brain. It has experience to draw on".

As we create new memories, we need to prioritize the information we store, sometimes making it more difficult to retrieve older information. An older brain may take longer, however, to retrieve information. Daniel Schacter, a Harvard psychology professor, said it is a good thing we don't remember everything as it makes it more difficult to sort through what is important and what is not. Older brains are often better at making connections or filtering out less important information.

Stress can impact our ability to remember. The day President Biden was interviewed by Hur was October 7, 2023, the day Hamas attacked Israel. The President was engaged in serious conversations with Netanyahu. Biden is also a stutterer and although his stuttering is mostly under control, he undoubtedly needs to think more carefully about the words he chooses to avoid stuttering. Biden is famous for his frequent gaffes, and it isn't a new behavior related to his age.

In addition to their focus on Biden's memory, Republicans also say he is frail and may not live through a second term. Using publicly available information, several doctors [analyzed lifespan and health span projections of Joe Biden and Donald Trump](#). The doctors expect Biden to outlive Trump even though Trump is younger. They said Biden "has an exceptional health profile for a man his age." The doctors said that President Biden has a 95% chance of living through a second term while Donald Trump, though younger, only has a 90% chance of living through a second term.

We had the opportunity to observe President Biden's health and energy when he visited the war zone in Ukraine. The trip was secret, dangerous, and extremely challenging yet we saw our president walk the war-torn streets in Ukraine with President Zelensky. We also saw Biden's ability to think on his feet in the 2023 State of the Union address when his back-and-forth dialogue with Republicans ended with a Republican commitment to support Social Security.

Biden's years of experience in foreign affairs have been invaluable as he strengthened NATO and managed several international crises. President Biden is fully capable of being president for another four years.

Sources: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2024/02/10/memory-lapses-brain-biden-trump/>
https://www.icaa.cc/media/presidential_lifespan_and_healthspan-draft_for_release_1.pdf

VILLAGE TV IN MARCH

By: Sue Dearing

Democratic Club Meeting: Unfortunately, last month's regular meeting was not recorded. Instead we are airing a special program on Village TV Wednesdays in March at 2 p.m.: a Frontline interview of Gabriel Sterling speaking about the 2020 election results in Georgia. Sterling served as Georgia's voting system implementation manager from 2019 to 2020 and is currently the chief operating officer for the GA Secretary of State. He testified before the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol. Even Jonathan Adler said there were things brought out in this interview that he didn't know, so make sure not to miss it!



Gabriel Sterling

Black in Laguna Woods: Watch this fascinating program Sundays in March at 3:30 p.m. Allan Feldman interviews Joan Powell, President of the OC Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. See her biography elsewhere in this newsletter.

WHAT'S UP AT THE DPOC

By: Allan Feldman



At the January Central Committee meeting two more judges for Orange County Superior Court were endorsed, so all three listed on the club's door hanger and Globe ad were endorsed. Ballots were mailed to all California registered voters on February 5th. We have until March 5th to vote. Please vote if you have not done so already. And remember to vote the entire ballot, including for Central Committee members and OC Superior Court judges. If you are not familiar with those candidates, you can see most of them speak at this link from our January meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjzBU8ZksEs&t=4985s>

Recently both federal and state courts have been forcing states, mostly Republican controlled states, to redraw their congressional and state legislature boundaries. The Courts have found that these district lines were not established in accordance with the law. They were drawn with the purpose of giving one political faction an advantage and left many citizens underrepresented.

Republicans control the US House of Representatives by 6 votes. The new district lines give Democrats a great opportunity to take control of the House. One of the most important House elections in the country is the 47th District in Orange County. Katie Porter was the Representative of the 47th but she is running for the US Senate and not for re-election. State Senator Dave Min is the endorsed Democratic candidate. While only a small area of Laguna Woods is located in the 47th District, it is imperative that every voter who does live in the 47th vote and vote for Dave Min. It will be very difficult for Democrats to control the House of Representatives without winning this seat.

MAKE SURE TO VOTE BY MARCH 5!

Donate to the club's Nifty-Sixty Campaign to fund our local candidates:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/niftysixty>

WE GOT OUT THE VOTE!

By Mary Ribando

It was the work of 6 committee members who sorted through 1090 sheets of voter names, made assignments and packaged volunteer folders. It was the work of 10 team leaders who supported groups of volunteers and fielded questions, problems and made reassignments. It was the work of 125 volunteers who delivered door hangers with important candidate and voting information to 7200 households reaching 9686 voters in the Village.

What can I say but send a HUGE thank you to all of you who volunteered and worked to make this a success. Our club is so fortunate to have members who are willing to do the work to help elect Democrats! We really couldn't do this without you.

So, have a happy spring and summer, rest up and, as that old song goes, see you In September!



Ballot Marking February 23
Row 1: Kathy Wolin and Judith Sando
Row 2: Pat Freeman, Mary Ribando and Antonia Carmi



**Jeanne Lepowsky, Supervisor
Katrina Foley and Heide Krueger-
Gerson at the Laguna Woods City
Library February 23**



Some of the Blue Hat Donors who have donated over \$100 to the Nifty Sixty Campaign

Row 1: Richard and Sue Snyder, Sandy Rosencrans, Eva Orozco, Linda Brady, Marquita Miller, Judy Rizzo, Nalini Motwani, Rebeca Gilad, Allan Feldman, Jeanne Lepowsky;

Row 2: Paul Brady, Jay Miller, Mike Holland, Janet Petersen, Nancy Hensel, Kate Van Camp, Joel Goldstein, Pat Leftwich, Valerie Feldman, Marcia Goldstein