



**Laguna Woods
Democratic Club**

Post Office Box 2243
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

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

— APRIL 16 MEETING —

**The 2024 Primary and
What It Means for the November Election**

By: Sue Dearing

Professor Jodi Balma started her career as a professor of political science at Fullerton College in 2000. She has served as the faculty coordinator of the Honors Program since 2012. She was chosen as Fullerton College Teacher of the Year in 2014 and 2021. She was named 2022 Orange County Community College Teacher of the Year.

Professor Balma specializes in American politics and California state and local government. Her goal is to help students learn how to think about politics and community problems with an emphasis on critical thinking and analysis, regardless of political party or ideology. She helps students understand how they can become involved in working with community leaders to find solutions.

Balma is a regular on-the-record analyst for newspaper and radio media outlets such as the Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, KNX 1070, KPCC, and NPR. California Senator Josh Newman named her as the 2021 Woman of the Year for Senate District 29. She served as the President of the Honors Transfer Council of California from 2013-2017 and remains active in the organization.

She is actively involved in the League of Women Voters and frequently hosts local candidate forums throughout North Orange County each election cycle. Professor Balma launched a North Orange County focused podcast titled “A Slice of Orange: North Orange County Politics” to help her students and the community learn more about local government.

Continued on page 2



Jodi Balma

HOSPITALITY

By: Kate Van Camp

Our April meeting is sponsored by Marilyn Freeman & Bill Walsh.

We now have sponsors through October. Thanks for your generosity!

Contact Kate Van Camp at cvc4joy@gmail.com or 773-841-0287 to volunteer for the hospitality committee.

***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!

- Allison Crosby
- Annette and Steve Katz
- Linda Lawson
- Marcus Miller
- Anish Mohindru
- Ellen Schwartz
- Jordan Weltman
- Tracy Westen
- Paul Woodward

APRIL HOLIDAYS

By: *Jeanne Lepowsky*

Starting on April 9 or 10, the Muslim community celebrates [Eid al-Fitr](#), a three day celebration which marks the end of the month of Ramadan. It is one of the most important celebrations in the Muslim tradition.

The 8-day Jewish celebration of [Passover](#), with its ceremony of the Seder feast and the reading of the Haggadah, runs from April 22 through April 30.

Images on right —

By Steve Evans - originally posted to Flickr as Celebrating Eid in Tajikistan, CC BY 2.0, [Link](#).

By Mikael Häggström - Own work, CC0, [Link](#).

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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



The 2024 Primary & What It Means for the November Election (continued from page 2)

Professor Balma will discuss the results of the 2024 March primary in our districts and in the OC Board of Education races and the implications those results have for the November election.

The April 16 meeting starts at 7 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 \$5.



March 19th Meeting:

Kate Van Camp honored Maureen Mehler for her 15 years of service to LWDC.

IMPROVED EFFECTIVENESS OF PHONE CALLS TO VOTERS

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

John F. Kennedy said **“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.” ***

As mobile phones became ubiquitous, the telephone numbers received from the Registrar of Voters for our phone-calling campaigns were often out of date, and the experience of making phone calls to voters changed. It became a frustrating task. As a result, phone calls became a less significant component of our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) program.

A group of Laguna Woods Village volunteers refused to look at the past, instead choosing to act in the present so as to achieve a better future. They found that the phone-calling experience has changed again, this time for the better! Phone callers either spoke to or left messages for over 60% of the Laguna Woods Democrats they called, and the number of bad phone numbers decreased dramatically. So phone callers, get ready! We will again be making phone calls to voters ahead of the 2024 General Election in November. If you would like to be included, please email me at lepowsky@comline.com

Many thanks to those volunteers who made phone calls for the 2024 primary election.

**Address in the Assembly Hall at the Paulskirche in Frankfurt (266)," June 25, 1963, Public Papers of the Presidents: John F. Kennedy, 1963.*



John F. Kennedy

UNBORN

Submitted by Kathleen Rubin



Pastor Dave Barnhart

"The 'unborn' are a convenient group of people to advocate for. They never make demands of you; they are morally uncomplicated, unlike the incarcerated, addicted or the chronically poor; they don't resent your condescension or complain that you are not politically correct; unlike widows, they don't ask you to question patriarchy; unlike orphans, they don't need money, education or childcare; unlike (...) [immigrants] they don't bring all that racial, cultural and religious baggage that you dislike; they allow you to feel good about yourself without any work at creating or maintaining relationships; and when they are born, you can forget about them, because they cease to be unborn. It's almost as if, by being born, they have died to you. You can love the unborn and advocate for them

without substantially challenging your own wealth, power, or privilege, without reimagining social structures, apologizing, or making reparations to anyone. They are, in short, the perfect people to love if you want to claim you love Jesus but actually dislike people who breathe.

Prisoners? Immigrants? The sick? The poor? Widows? Orphans? All the groups that are specifically mentioned in the Bible? They all get thrown under the bus for the unborn."

—Posted in 2018 to Facebook by Pastor Dave Barnhart, MDiv, PhD, Saint Junia United Methodist minister in Birmingham, Alabama.

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN

By: Pat Leftwich

From the World Central Kitchen Website:

“In 2010, Chef José Andrés, ready to use his culinary knowledge and talent to help, headed to Haiti following a devastating earthquake. Cooking alongside displaced families in a camp, he was guided on the proper way to cook black beans the way Haitians like to eat them: mashed and sieved into a creamy sauce. It wasn’t just about feeding people in need—it was about listening, learning, and cooking side by side with the people impacted by the crisis. This is the real meaning of comfort food, and it’s the core value that José, along with his wife Patricia, used at the center of founding World Central Kitchen.”

For several years, Chef José provided programs in the Caribbean and Central American to support communities in clean cooking options. In 2017 Chef José returned to providing meals for hurricane impacted areas such as Houston and Puerto Rico. World Central Kitchen has continued its mission by providing meals to Ukraine, refugees arriving at the U.S. border, and recently in Gaza and Israel.

The LWDC supports the mission of the World Central Kitchen and recently made a donation to assist in this worthy cause. To make a donation to the World Central Kitchen, go to <https://wck.org/>.

DAYTIME BRAINSTORMING SOCIALS

By: Kate Van Camp

Have you wanted to gather with club members in the daytime? Do you have ideas that would improve our club and its activities?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

We will have a good time brainstorming and socializing on April 18, 2024, 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. at Clubhouse 2, in the Grevillea Room. *Morning snacks to share are welcome, but not required.*

NEXT DATE:

June 4, 2024, 12:00 noon — 1:30 p.m. at Clubhouse 2, in the Los Olivos Room. *Bring your own lunch.*

During our 60th year we are searching for brilliant fresh ideas so that our club remains vital and relevant. We will have a good time talking regardless of our ability to be brilliant. Email: Kate at cvc4joy@gmail.com for a reminder or questions.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR — NY TIMES ON MARCH 19, 2024

By: Jim Quigley

Had President Biden told the world that we should expect a “blood bath” if he loses the election, as Donald Trump did in Dayton, Ohio, on Saturday, there would have been clamoring of outrage and denunciation by his Republican opponents. Where is the outrage about Mr. Trump’s use of such language? Where are the voices of reason and restraint?

No Republican dares to criticize their fearless leader. Their profiles in cowardice are an appalling sight for all the civilized world to see.

When will our populace come to their senses? Conscientious, civilized people everywhere must reject this irresponsible bombast.

Mr. Trump is recklessly endangering every man, woman and child in our nation. He has gone too far and must be stopped.

RE-ELECTING PRESIDENT BIDEN

By: Sue Dearing



Thank you to everyone who worked so hard for the primary election. The results will not be certified until April 12, but mostly decided. As of March 22, there were no ballots left to process.

Please pat yourselves on the back for the 69% turnout in Laguna Woods, which was way above the 37.7% average for the County. But if we are going to win in November and keep President

Biden in office, we have to do better, not just in Laguna Woods, but in the county, the state and the nation! And not just a little better, but a lot better! We need all registered Democrats to vote, and we need to convince NPPs that re-electing President Biden will save our democracy!

I realize I am preaching to the choir, but this needs to be said nonetheless, because there are members of our own party who are disaffected with President Biden. The Democratic Party welcomes dissent, which is what makes us great! But now is the time to come together. We know that there is concern about Biden's age, but we know the experience that age brings and what is age in comparison to the criminal activities of Trump? We know that we are all concerned about Israel and Gaza, but what would happen if Trump were elected? He was the one who moved the American embassy to Jerusalem to deliberately provoke the Palestinians and he thinks the solution is to destroy everyone who lives in Gaza. We know we are all concerned about Ukraine, but what would happen if Trump were elected? He would destroy NATO and let Putin march into whatever country he wanted. We know the prices in the grocery store are affecting everyone, but thanks to President Biden inflation here is lower than in most other countries and Trump would only institute tariffs that would further drive up the prices of consumer goods. We know everyone is concerned about the Southern border, but the solution proposed by the Republicans themselves was rejected by them on Trump's command, so that he could run on that issue.

President Biden has the interests of every American at heart and Trump has only his own interests in whatever organ it is that is supposed to be his heart. Whatever concerns you might have about any of the above, there is no choice. Not voting for President Biden is a vote for Trump. If all the good Democrats, who didn't like Hilary Clinton or wanted to send her a message in 2016 had voted for her, Donald Trump never would have been elected.

We must ensure that doesn't happen again! From now until November we all need to do whatever we can to make sure President Biden is re-elected: write postcards from home like member David Gaon; make phone calls from home like member Elyssa Kaplan Senter, donate to the U.S. Senate candidates that Andrew Lachman recommended at our March 19 club meeting. Sign up with GOTV Chair Mary Ribando to be a volunteer here in the Village.

And here is a really simple, but great idea: Club member Selma Bukstein created index cards which she hands out to neighbors, family and friends, if they have doubts about voting for President Biden. One side of the card is The Democratic Party Supports the Common Good and the other side is Why I Support Joe Biden. We will have them available at every club meeting or contact me to pick some up at my house. Thank you, Selma!

We MUST re-elect President Biden!

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

The winners were a foregone conclusion – or perhaps that is what voters throughout California thought. Yes, **Trump won the Republican Presidential Primary** and **Biden won the Democratic Presidential Primary**. But as so often happens in a primary election, other opportunities were lost, due to the assumption that the only race that matters is the Presidential Primary race. Statewide turnout was 34%. Orange County did a bit better at 37%. Laguna Woods, to our credit, had 69% voter participation. It would be great if other communities in Orange County and in the state as a whole would take their citizenship as seriously as we do in our city.

A piece of good news for Orange County is the [successful recall](#) of two ultra-conservative members of **Orange Unified School District’s school board**. The results of the races for **Orange County Judge of the Superior Court**, on the other hand, were disappointing. Of the three excellent candidates endorsed by the Democratic Party of Orange County, only Richard Zimmer has been elected to become judge. The other two Democrats, Daniel Kern whose experience is in family law, and Professor Dan Jacobson, who has been characterized as a [“defender of the voiceless.”](#) were passed over in favor of two former Deputy District Attorneys. Now, there is nothing wrong with being experienced in criminal law. But contrary to what you might see on television, judges preside over many other types of cases, involving juvenile law, family law, probate, and simple and complex civil cases. Take a look at the [assignments of current Orange County judges](#) to get an idea of the types of assignments a judge might be given. **Let your friends and family know.**

Here are the candidates who will advance to the general election from early October through November 5:



U.S. Senate*
Adam Schiff (Dem)
Steve Garvey (Rep)

**Katie Porter won over Adam Schiff in Orange County*



U.S. House – CD 40
Joe Kerr (Dem)**
Young Kim (Rep)

U.S. House – CD 47
Dave Min (Dem)
Scott Baugh (Rep)



***Allyson Damikolas won over Joe Kerr in Laguna Woods*



State Senate Dist. 37
Josh Newman (Dem)
Steve Choi (Rep)

State Assembly Dist 72
Dom Jones (Dem)
Diane Dixon (Rep)



VILLAGE TV IN APRIL

By: Sue Dearing

CLUB MEETING: DNC member Andrew Lachman addressed “Holding the Senate and Democracy: Critical Races and How to Help” on March 19. In addition to the Senate races in the West, Lachman discussed the important Western and CA House races Democrats need to win, especially local ones like Dave Min for CD 40 and Joe Kerr for CD 47. The March primary recall of two very conservative Orange Unified School District board members is a reason for hope for those wins. One reason for hope for national wins is that the Democratic National Committee has raised three times more money than the Republican National Committee. Watch this program Wednesdays in April at 2 p.m. on Village TV.



Andrew Lachman

BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS: Another chance to watch this fascinating program Sundays in March at 3:30 p.m. if you didn't catch it in 2021. Dr. Fran Williams (former Village resident), Gloria Williams (deceased Village resident) and Sandi Fairly (current Village resident) discuss reparations of the soul, white fragility and the LWDC March 2021 program with Rev. Dr. Dorsey of the AME Church. You can see the program with Dr. Dorsey at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZO4pUP9o9E&t=348s>



Dr. Fran Williams



Gloria Williams



Sandi Fairly

WHAT'S UP AT THE DPOC

By: Allan Feldman

At last month's Central Committee meeting, the DPOC announced a change in its endorsement policy. There will now be early endorsements for some elections. The DPOC endorses countywide and city races, such as Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, city councils, school boards and water districts. The CA Democratic Party endorses in all statewide and national races, such as CA Senate and Assembly and U.S. Senate and House.



The early endorsement process will take place between March 1st and June 24th. Incumbents, previously endorsed candidates and races where there is only one Democrat running will be eligible for early endorsements. It will take a two-thirds vote to secure the early endorsement. As before, the regular endorsement process will begin in July and August and the threshold will be 60% for endorsement.



Jonathan Adler

Congratulations to long time LWDC member Jonathan Adler on his re-election to the DPOC Central Committee. This is Jonathan's fourth consecutive term on the Central Committee. Jonathan finished 2nd in the election (6 members per Assembly District were elected), with an extremely impressive vote total of 18,067 votes. **Congratulations, Jonathan!**