



Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Post Office Box 2243
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STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

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

MAY MEETING — PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCATES SPEAK OUT

By: Sue Dearing

The club's May 21st meeting in CH 2 at 7:00 p.m. features Teri Sorey and Billie Joe Wright, two public education advocates. They will focus on issues such as charter schools, the O.C. Board of Education, the Orange County Department of Education, recent controversies in Orange County and upcoming school district races. They will also address why it is so important that we pay attention to the issues and races related to education and support Democratic candidates in those races.

Teri Sorey is a retired high school English teacher and former president of Irvine Teachers Association. She is currently the Founding Chair of Supporters of Public Education-Orange County. SOPE-OC is a DPOC chartered club which focuses on electing and supporting qualified sane school board members. The club also monitors and weighs in on pending legislation that could affect public school students and teachers as well as monitoring local school boards who might be considering policies which are not in the best interests of students or teachers.

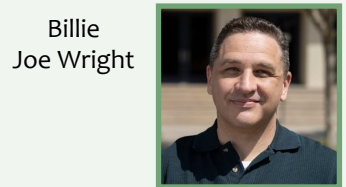
Teri also is an elected delegate to the California Democratic Party, Vice Chair of Irvine Democratic Club, and an Executive Board member of Democratic Orange County PAC, a federal PAC that raises money for Democratic candidates throughout the nation for Congress and the White House. She also supervises student teachers for University of California, Irvine.

Billie Joe Wright is a high school social studies teacher and president of the Hacienda La Puente Teachers Association.

Continued on page 4



Teri Sorey



Billie
Joe Wright

HOSPITALITY

By: Kate Van Camp

Our May meeting is being sponsored by Diane Bauman.

We now have sponsors through 2024.

Thank you for your generosity!

Contact Kate Van Camp at cvc4joy@gmail.com or (773) 841-0287 if you have any questions.

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***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!

- Crosby Allison
(Apologies, April correction)
- Rosemarie DiLorenzo
- Heidi George
- Shawn McCall
- Carole Purcell
- Cheryl Willeford
- Rosie Yurman

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



NEIGHBORHOOD PARTIES MEET THE CANDIDATES

MAY 17, 2024

YOU ARE INVITED TO
A NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY TO

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Dom Jones, *Candidate for Assembly District 72*
Josh Newman, *California State Senate District 37*

10:00 a.m. at 321 Avenida Carmel, D
11:15 a.m. at 907 Ronda Sevilla, O
1:00 p.m. at 668 Via Mendoza, Q
2:15 p.m. at 4010 Calle Sonora Oeste, 3B
3:30 p.m. at 5419 Calle Carmenita

Please **RSVP** to **Nancy Hensel** for the
Meet & Greet you want to attend:

Hensel.nancy@gmail.com

Text or call (703) 964-6993 by May 13, 2024

Space is limited!

THE WAR IN UKRAINE & U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

By: Ted Birkedal

Today, Ukraine stands alone as “Horatius at the Bridge”^{*} single-handedly fending off the prime enemy of the West, an aggressive fascist Russia with inflated imperial ambitions. In a 2014 unprovoked attack, Russia gobbled up Ukraine’s eastern provinces. Then in February 2022 the Russian Federation launched an unannounced “lightning war” or “Blitzkrieg” against the very heart of Ukraine. Though Russia was initially successful in its surprise attack, democratic Ukraine has held its own on the battlefield.

Ukrainian military forces were eventually able by late 2022 to recapture the vast majority of the Ukrainian lands lost to Russia. By the end of 2023, however, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has settled into a World War I-style stalemate where both sides began to slug it out from stationary defensive trench lines. This stalemate is still in place.

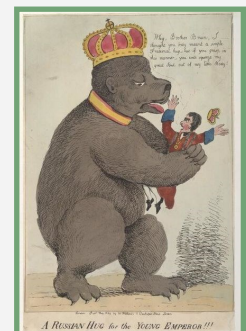
Both the United States and the nations of NATO support Ukraine in its brave fight with the notorious “Eastern Colossus.” The United States views Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine as a direct threat to its security and the integrity of the current world order. Almost all of the member states of the European Union have even greater security concerns than the United States about the immediate menace posed by a Russia with overblown imperial aims. In order to thwart Russia’s success in 2022 and 2023, the United States has thus far provided roughly 75 billion in military, financial, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. In turn, the nations of the European Union have contributed slightly over 96 billion in assistance to Ukraine for the same period. They propose to come up with approximately an additional 50 billion in 2024.

The United States’ contribution to Ukraine over the past two years may seem a lot, but it is important to realize that the total amount spent to date represents less than 2 percent of the yearly U.S. budget. A good part of that sum has gone into the American armaments industry and ultimately into the pockets of American workers. Russia, on the other hand, is committed to spending up to 25 percent of its annual budget on the war. Its allies China, Iran, and North Korea are supplying it with vast amounts of arms and ammunition.

Ukraine’s success thus far can be attributed to substantial military and financial assistance from the United States and NATO. But it is important to keep in mind that no amount of assistance can be put to effective use by a nation with a weak government and an inept military. Ukraine, has demonstrated it possesses both a vibrant emerging democratic government and a dynamic military along with a highly dedicated, freedom-loving, patriotic population.

To win against the “Russian Bear” Ukraine needs the combined material help of both the United States and Europe. On April 20, after much in-fighting among Republicans, the House finally passed a bill providing **\$60 billion in additional military, financial, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine** in 2024, bringing the U.S. contribution in line with that of the European nations.

Russia has no more right to claim Ukraine as its own than England has to reclaim the United States. In fact, Russia’s control of Ukraine only came as a war prize in the eighteenth century. Russia lost Ukraine after World War I, and then once again in 1991 when the old Soviet Union broke up for good. Ukraine no more belongs to Russia than Hungary belongs to Austria or Norway to Denmark or Sweden. Nineteenth century geopolitics and “spheres of influence” have no more place in the twenty-first century than do gas lights and horse-drawn buggies.



Bodleian Libraries:
A Russian Hug for the
Young Emperor

^{*} *Horatius Cocles, a legendary Roman hero, is famous for defending a narrow bridge over the Tiber River as a solitary soldier and saving Rome from its enemies.*

SEND YOUR BALLOT EARLY IN NOVEMBER!

By: Sue Dearing

At least 104 ballots for the March primary in SoCal were postmarked on time, but arrived after the 7-day deadline. Please mail your ballot before election day to ensure that it arrives on time. Better yet drop it in a Ballot Drop Box or at a Vote Center. We know it's only May, but we want to make sure your vote counts!

SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH—FOOD DRIVE

Sue and Richard Snyder have organized a food drive for South County Outreach at Stater Bros. on Monday, May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer for a shift from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., please contact Sue Snyder: suesnydero625@gmail.com. Thanks!

(Right) Sue, Nalini & Flora—2023 Food Drive



UPCOMING EVENTS

By: Kate Van Camp

Mark your calendar for our exciting June 22 Saturday Brunch with Toni Atkins, President Pro Tem Emeritus of the California Senate and candidate for Governor in 2026.

Toni is a fantastic speaker that you will not want to miss! You might recall we held major special events in early fall. This election year, September will be devoted to candidate forums moving our mid-year social and fundraiser to June 22nd.

Besides socializing and enjoying the delicious meal and Toni Atkins, the event will include an opportunity drawing. Last year's drawing was a huge success. Tables clapped and cheered for the winners, especially celebrating lucky table mates, when the winners were called. Those who purchase a string of tickets deposit their "autographed" ticket in the prize bags they hope to win. You do not have to be the highest bidder! Anyone with a ticket can win anything! This is a major fundraiser along with our Nifty Sixty campaign. Hopefully, you can support the club by donating items and buying tickets.

We are now collecting donated prizes. We would like gift cards to area restaurants and businesses as in the past. To spice things up, we are adding recent political books in excellent condition as prizes. The books must relate to government, politics, or candidates and be no older than 2019. (Other nonfiction topics are not accepted.) If you want to donate a gift card in the \$20.00 to \$50.00 range or a political book in excellent condition, please call, text, or email Kate Van Camp at (773) 841-0287 or cvc4joy@gmail.com. She will make sure that we do not get too many similar items. **Thank You!**

PUBLIC SCHOOL ADVOCATES *(continued from page 1)*

The Tuesday, May 21 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. The guest fee is \$5.00.

HELEN DICKENS--BLACK DOCTOR & CRUSADER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

(Article suggested and forwarded by Dottie Hawkins)



Dr. Helen Dickens

In 1926, 17-year-old Helen Dickens would sit in the front row of her pre-med courses at Crane Junior College in Chicago. Dickens was a dedicated student, but her seating choice in a majority-white academic environment was strategic. *“If other students wanted a good seat they had to sit beside me,”* she recalled in an interview years later. *“This way I didn’t have to look at them or the gestures made that were directed against me.”* Dickens went on to become the one Black woman in her graduating class at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, where she met further bigotry with quiet determination. *“Her frame of mind was, ‘I’ll work through it,’”* her daughter Jayne Henderson Brown, also a doctor, told American Experience*. *“Which she did. It did not stop her.”*

As Dr. Dickens was wrapping up her two-year obstetrics residency, she encountered the next hurdle to her childhood dream of practicing medicine: As a Black woman, white hospitals that employed female doctors did not want her, and hospitals serving the Black community hired only men. She was unsure where to go next until, one day, she read a notice on a bulletin board that changed the course of her professional life. It was a letter from Dr. Virginia Alexander, another young Black female doctor, looking for women to join her practice. Alexander ran the Aspiranto Health Home as an alternative birthing center out of her three-story row house in Philadelphia, using her living room as the waiting room and her dining room for treatment. Expectant mothers—some of whom were Black and impoverished, and without other access to care—came to Alexander’s home and received unusually long postpartum care and access to birth control.

Aspiranto was *“community service in private practice,”* Alexander wrote to Dickens, a *“socialized practice of medicine.”* Dickens went to Philly, and one year after her arrival took over the home altogether at age 27. The principles behind Aspiranto would guide the way she practiced medicine for the rest of her career. *“Alexander helped Dickens to formulate a consciousness around how healthcare could be used as a site of activism,”* said Dr. Ameenah Shakir, who wrote her dissertation about Dickens.

In many ways, Dickens’s background had already primed her to be community-conscious. Her father, Charles, had been born into slavery before escaping and teaching himself to read; he passed when Helen was only eight. *“I know when he died,”* Dickens later told an interviewer, *“he had mortgaged our house to help build a Black meeting hall.”* Her father’s death resulted from an infection after a tooth extraction—antibiotics didn’t yet exist—and yet when Dickens was 12, she talked to the family dentist about the possibility of going into medicine. Her father had wanted her to be a nurse, *“[b]ut somewhere along the way,”* she said, *“I decided that if I was going to be a nurse, I might as well become a doctor.”*

Over the next seven years of her directorship of Aspiranto, she got the community interaction that she had always wanted. *“It was very exciting,”* Dickens remembered of her time leading the birthing center. *“You were going into the homes. You were seeing all these people. You were taking responsibility for care of people.”* And as one of the first Black female doctors in the city, Dickens saw first-hand the inequity of the healthcare system and the extent to which medicine often marginalized Black women. She dedicated the rest of her life to bringing the best and newest models of care to her own community.

That dedication, during the next chapter of her career, involved getting as many Black women as possible to take a brand-new medical test: the pap smear. The test’s namesake was Dr. George Papanicolaou, a Greek immigrant physician who, with his wife and lab technician Mary, worked for decades to document its efficacy in detecting cervical cancer, then the highest-killing cancer of women. Before the pap smear, cervical cancer was detected by biopsy, which often meant it was too late to treat the disease.

Continued on page 6

HELEN DICKENS *(Continued from page 5)*

“By the time you have symptoms, there's already a mass,” Dr. Henderson Brown explains. “It's already metastasized—liver, lung—and it kills. So the earlier it is detected, the easier it is to prevent the spread.” Dickens, who by the early 1950s had become the first African American board-certified OB/GYN in Philadelphia, proselytized the pap smear's potential to save her patients' lives.

First, though, she had to get beyond their historically well-earned distrust of gynecological treatment. The legacy of experimentation and forced sterilization of Black women made them wary of receiving care. “A lot of women are reluctant to get medical checkups that include pelvic exams,” she told the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin—which meant Dickens had to bring the test to them. She did so through clinics and workshops at Black churches; in later years, Dickens even provided free pap tests out of a mobile unit, parking an American Cancer Society van in church parking lots. Dickens also got the National Institutes of Health to fund a program to train other doctors to perform pap tests. “But she doesn't just stop there,” Shakir adds. “She also uses her work to provide statistics on Black women patients for the first time... She's really a forerunner. We take this for granted today because of the ways in which we use patient data.”

Dickens continued her crusade of improving Black women's medical access in a variety of ways. After joining the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine in 1965, she pioneered a program for pregnant teens. And as the university's dean for minority affairs, Dickens recruited other potential doctors from underserved communities, as she herself had once been.

All of this work she did matter-of-factly. It was, says Dr. Shakir, “her unrelenting way of making sure that the dignity and humanity of Black women was respected.” Or as her daughter notes, “I meet people all the time who say, “your mother delivered me' or, ‘we really loved your mother.” So I think her legacy is the gift she gave of healthcare to every woman who came within 10 feet of her.”

*Source: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/cancer-detectives-helen-dickens/>

FRESH IDEAS INITIATIVE

By: *Kate Van Camp*

Fresh Ideas burst forth for two hours at the Fresh Ideas Initiative meeting on April 18th. Suggestions focused on added actions for the 2024 election. Ideas included the following: add daytime meetings, some with a speaker; expand outreach to No Party Preference voters; stress single issues with a powerful punch like the devastating impact of a Republican win on Social Security & Medicare, or the existential threat to democracy; improve content with more unique signs and buttons; blast a consistent clear message like “Support Teachers” at rallies; produce election buttons with slogans through our volunteer button-maker; daytime roundtables on key controversies like the “cease-fire vs. vote Biden” protests; send more postcards that members can write from home; add unique rallies, weekly, with signs like the “Burma Shave” progressive advertising of old (which would work along Moulton); develop street theater vignettes; move rallies to the Moulton & Ridge Route Starbucks; outreach in Laguna Hills; support Young Democrats; explore Social Media for Gen Z votes; help vulnerable California incumbents flip to blue.

Now prompt follow-up is required to “put the pedal to the metal” in time for Election Day! The group is looking for a 3-story building resident for meeting space. Fortunately, four board members were in attendance to help guide progress.

The next brainstorming discussion for the Fresh Ideas Initiative will be on Tuesday, June 4th, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Grevillea Room (next to the office) at Clubhouse 2. Decaffeinated coffee will be provided; bring your own everything else. This is a chance to hear about ideas from our first meeting, then brainstorm other ideas for the future, and discuss the hot topics of the day. Come ready with your thoughts, or just show up to enjoy company with your like-minded friends. Watch your inbox for further information.

VILLAGE TV IN MAY

By: Sue Dearing

CLUB MEETING:

Fullerton College Political Science professor and on-the-record analyst for newspaper and radio media outlets Jodi Balma discusses the results of the 2024 March primary in our districts and in the O.C. Board of Education races, as well as the implications those results have for the November election. Watch this program Wednesdays in May at 2:00 p.m. on Village TV.



(Left) Ray Dapp Honors Jodi Balma with a chef's Blue Hat!



(Right) Willie Phillips of the African American Heritage Club

BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS:

African American Heritage Club (AAHC) President and City Councilmember Annie McCary and AAHC Vice President Willie Phillips were interviewed recently by club secretary Allan Feldman for Black in Laguna Woods, which airs Sundays in May at 3:30 p.m. They discussed the club's plans for its fourth annual Juneteenth Celebration Saturday, June 15th in Clubhouse 5.



Annie McCary



Opal Lee

This **Celebration of Women Who Changed History** will be dedicated to Opal Lee, the 97-year-old retired teacher and counselor, who was an activist in the movement to make Juneteenth a federally-recognized holiday. Lee is often described as the "grandmother of Juneteenth."

The club's first Opal Lee Award will be presented in her honor. Annie and Willie also discuss the history and purpose of AAHC.

WHAT'S UP AT THE DPOC

By: Allan Feldman



At the DPOC Central Committee meeting on March 3, candidates for Huntington Beach City Council and the candidate for Garden Grove mayor were endorsed by the DPOC.

Another attempt was made to pass a resolution concerning the Israeli/Hamas war. Once again, no resolution could be agreed upon and the matter was sent back to the Resolutions Committee. I believe this was the final attempt to craft a resolution.

The turnout for the March 5th Primary Election in Orange County was approximately 37%. The turnout in Laguna Woods was approximately 65%. Once again, Laguna Woods had the highest turnout in Orange County. The turnout, however, in Laguna Woods was a disappointment. Laguna Woods usually has an 80-90% voter turnout and that is what is necessary in the general election.

More Republicans than Democrats voted in Orange County in the primary. That is why the Republicans won the O.C. Board of Education races and one O.C. Board of Supervisors race. There will be a runoff in the other Board of Supervisors District in November, and we have to support the candidate, Frances Marquez. Low Democratic turnout is one of the reasons why Steve Garvey finished first in the U.S. Senate race in Orange County.

For us to have success in the general election every registered Democrat needs to vote. This upcoming election will be decided by voter turnout. We know what the stakes are, locally and nationally. We are the last line of defense. No one is standing behind us.

BIDEN ECONOMICS

By: Nancy Hensel

“U. S. Growth Surges” was the headline in the New York Times Business section on February 2, 2024. The United States has shown a remarkable economic recovery from the COVID pandemic. Economic forecasters such as the Federal Reserve and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are surprised at the strength of the U. S. economy. The IMF has revised its prediction of economic growth from 1.5 percent to 2.1 percent. According to the most recent jobs report, employers added 353,000 jobs in January. Wages are also growing. Consumer confidence in the economy is improving as inflation decreases and employment remains high according to Dana Peterson, Chief Economist at The Conference Board. It may be that Americans are beginning to understand the goals of Biden’s economic strategies.

Biden has articulated a long view for economic prosperity. We have heard him talk many times about how the economy needs to grow from the bottom up and the middle out. Since the Reagan administration, the prevailing economic view has been that the availability of investment capital has been the major contributor to prosperity. These trickle-down policies led to a reduction in regulation of businesses and financial institutions, and less government investment in the economy. A major cause of the 2009 Great Recession was inadequate regulation of the financial industry. Along with many economists, President Biden believes that government investment is critical to a strong and prosperous economy. He believes that expanding the government’s role in the economy is critical in order to benefit all people.

David Leonhardt, New York Times reporter, said on February 2, 2021 that, “A president has only limited control over the economy. And yet there has been a stark pattern in the United States for nearly a century. The economy has grown significantly faster under Democratic presidents than Republican ones. It’s true about almost any major indicator: gross domestic product, employment, incomes, productivity, even stock prices.” He further states that since 1933: “the economy grew significantly more under Democrats than Republicans: 4.33% average for Democrats and 2.54% for Republicans.” Leonhardt’s reporting leads to a startling conclusion – if Democrats had been in control from 1933 to the present, Americans’ incomes would be more than double what they are currently.

Alan S. Blinder and Mark W. Watson, Princeton economic professors, said in an article in the 2016 American Economic Review, “The superiority of economic performance under Democrats rather than Republicans is nearly ubiquitous; it holds almost regardless of how you define success.” Blinder and Watson further suggest that Bidenomics, a quite different economic approach from Reaganomics, is the cause of our current economic growth. One of the main reasons for the success of the Biden economic strategy is that it includes everyone and intentionally considers the needs of people before money. Bidenomics has shown that targeted public investment can stimulate private investment. An example is the CHIPS Act, that has attracted \$231 billion in private investment.

Another indicator of the impact of public investment is the lowering of costs for insulin. In January 2023 the cost of insulin for senior citizens on Medicare was reduced to \$35 per month. In January 2024 several pharmaceutical companies followed suit and reduced their insulin costs for all Americans to \$35 per month.

A recent Time Magazine article stated that the Biden economic revolution is real and is likely to significantly change our way of thinking about how to manage and build our economy for several generations. We will all benefit when the Biden economic strategies become the standard.