

**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 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**JANUARY 18 MEETING (CH 2 at 7 p.m.)  
UPDATES: DPOC & REDISTRICTING**

*By: Sue Dearing*

At the January 18 meeting Chairwoman of the DPOC Ada Briceño will address the DPOC's plans for the 2022 elections. Executive Director Ajay Mohan will discuss the ramifications of the recent redistricting.

Ada Briceño is serving her second term as Chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Orange County. Under her leadership, O.C. Democrats took the lead as the largest political party in Orange County in 2019. In 2020, OC Democrats flipped 20 local seats from red to blue, flipped 2 state senate seats, and gained a plurality of school board seats in Orange County, showing that Democrats are voters’ clear choice to serve our public schools.

The first immigrant to lead the Democratic Party of Orange County, Briceño immigrated to the United States at the age of six from Nicaragua. After graduating from high school, she began working as a hotel clerk, where she joined her first union and immediately rose through the ranks becoming the first Latina President of Local 681 at the age of 26. Briceño has dedicated her career to uplifting marginalized voices and currently serves as Co-President of UNITE-HERE Local 11 and a Vice President of UNITE-HERE International Union.



Ada Briceño  
Chairwoman  
Democratic Party of  
Orange County



Ajay Mohan  
Executive Director  
Democratic Party of  
Orange County

*Continued on page 2*

## 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!

- Miriam Armstrong
- Don Balsler
- Joyce Bartlomain
- York & Terry Chen
- Larry & Sheri Cohen
- Gil & Leslie El-Sayad
- Judy Fuchs
- Bob Howard
- Steve Munzinger
- Mark & Marsha Richter
- Sheila Rollins
- Bridget Tucker
- Candace Tysdal
- Roberta Welsh

**We now have  
450 members.  
A record  
high for  
the club.**

### Club program on VTV in January:

Professor William Billingsley speaks on

“Race, Religion, and Reaction: The Crises of White Supremacy and the Challenge to American Democracy in the Early 21st Century”.

## 2021 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### DIRECTORS

- President Sue Dearing, Program
- 1st V.P. Rebeca Gilad, Outreach & Fundraising
- 2nd V.P. Nancy Hensel, Special Events
- Secretary Allan Feldman, Central Committee Associate Member
- Treasurer Pat Leftwich, Budget

### AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

- Jonathan Adler, Legislative Action
- Dana Barraclough, Bylaws
- Janice Burstin, Activism
- Debra David, Membership
- Heide Krueger-Gerson, Historian
- Jeanne Lepowsky, Field Organizer
- Maureen Mehler, Nominating
- Jeanette Peck, Campaign
- Mary Ribando, Voter Registration

### SPECIAL DIRECTOR

- Debo Orrill, Publicity, Website & Newsletter

Happy  
New Year's  
Day!

## JANUARY 18 MEETING (CH 2 at 7 p.m.)

*(continued from page 1)*

Chairwoman Briceño was elected to the Democratic National Committee in 2020. In addition to her political and union work, she has led many civil rights, immigrant rights, women's rights, and environmental efforts. Among her many accolades, she has been named one of Orange County's 100 Most Influential by the Orange County Register in 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2014.

As the Executive Director of the DPOC, Ajay Mohan is the contact for political operations, endorsements, candidates and campaigns, and Party affairs including Central Committee meetings. He is responsible for much of the day-to-day political work done by the DPOC and is LWDC's go-to person for information on local candidates and elections. **The program will be available on Village TV Wednesdays in February at 2 p.m.**

## BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER!

For a contribution of \$500 (individual) or \$750 (household), you can become a lifetime member of the Laguna Woods Democratic Club. Your contribution will help to elect Democrats and support local organizations and you'll never have to pay annual dues again!

Donate by credit card via ActBlue here or mail a check to LWDC, P.O. Box 2243, Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243.

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/laguna-woods-democratic-club-1>

## HOLIDAY PARTY LINKS

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8CHVMhHJtiqpcY9f8>

(To download any individual photo (or all of them) click on the 3 dot menu in the upper right corner and select Download.)

Enjoy the photos (above) and/or the video link below about the Club's history produced by Joel Goldstein:

[tinyurl.com/DemHist2021](https://tinyurl.com/DemHist2021)



## 2022 Slate OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- President, Sue Dearing
- 1st V.P. Rebeca Gilad, Outreach & Fundraising
- 2nd V.P. Nancy Hensel, Special Events
- Secretary Allan Feldman, Central Committee  
Associate Member, Program
- Treasurer Pat Leftwich, Budget

### AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

- Legislative Action, Jonathan Adler
- Bylaws, Dana Barraclough
- Activism, Janice Burstin
- Membership, Debra David
- Historian, Heide Krueger-Gerson
- Field Organizer & Campaign, Jeanne Lepowsky
- Nominating, Maureen Mehler
- Voter Registration & Campaign, Mary Ribando
- Publicity, Website & Newsletter, Debo Orrill

Article Below: LWDC member Leonard Kliff recently had this Letter to the Editor printed in the New York Times:

# The New York Times

December 14, 2021

## WHAT KIND OF AMERICA?

### TO THE EDITOR

The most important thing in the next election is not the issues: it's all about the kind of America we want to live in. Do we want to live in an America that condones lying, is comfortable with racists, puts down people who are different, puts people in cages and separates children from their parents?

I am a veteran of World War II, and that is not the kind of America that my generation put their lives on the line to save. The choice is just that simple.

Leonard Kliff  
Laguna Woods, CA

## OUR MEMBERS: MARCIA GOLDSTEIN

By: Rebeca Gilad



**Marcia Goldstein**

**Rebeca:** Marcia, tell us about your life, please.

**Marcia:** My first 10 years were spent in New Jersey. I never felt at home there. I was in love with Roy Rogers and everything western, so when my father was trans-

ferred to New Mexico, my next six years were spent in “paradise” otherwise known as an army base outside of Albuquerque. It was a time of freedom and happiness. This ended when my father was transferred to Indianapolis, where I felt like a complete outsider. I didn’t know why, but now that I understand the concept of “red state,” it is clear. Narrow-mindedness and prejudice were the norm. Even New Mexico was seen as a foreign country. At age 16 I was accepted into Goucher College in Baltimore, a typical eastern private school for women. Once more, I found myself in a different subculture. I transferred to Purdue University to study physics where, you guessed it, again I felt like an outsider, a woman among openly hostile men who did not think that a woman belonged in a physics classroom.

I changed my major to sociology (probably trying to make sense of human society) and went on to graduate school at the University of Kansas. There I discovered the world of liberal arts and enjoyed intense cultural and political coffee-shop discussions with the gang of Jewish New Yorkers that I met there and hung out with, understanding totally their sense of dislocation at finding themselves in Kansas.

I met and married my husband Joel and worked as a

university administrator while he finished his PhD. His first job was at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Our children were born there, and it was a pleasant enough life, except that I seriously felt the lack of sunshine. Our next move was to Maryland, where I worked with a management consulting company, primarily with health and human services programs. That job more than met my need for new experiences, and I worked on everything from diabetes to drug abuse, from conducting research reviews to designing a survey in Ecuador. Eventually I took a more stable job as Deputy Director of Communications for the agency created to manage the Thrift Savings Plan, part of the new federal retirement system. Our publications were printed by the federal prison system, so I had the unique opportunity to visit and see first-hand how prisons function. When I retired at age 59, Joel and I started to spend our summers and winters in Laguna Woods, helping his parents as they aged. Even in our transitory status we became active in many clubs, including both Concerned Citizens and the Democratic Club. In 2010 we moved full time to the Village.

**Rebeca:** I love your personality and humor, Marcia. Please talk about it.

**Marcia:** I guess I am “naturally” funny and learned early on that self-pity is not helpful. I am a happy person, that is my nature, and I don’t worry about what I cannot change. One of the most important life lessons I learned came from an ex-addict counselor whom I met when I was working with a drug treatment program in Harlem: “If you ain’t where you’re at, you’re nowhere.”

### ‘STOP THE HATE’ RALLIES TO RESUME IN 2022!

By: Janice Burstin

Starting on January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Laguna Woods Democratic Club, in solidarity with several other clubs, will resume our monthly meetings on the fourth Friday of the month between 3-4 p.m. on El Toro Road near City Hall and Olive Garden restaurant. Hope you will be able to join us!

## THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

Do you have what it takes to be a leader? Do you want to have an impact on the lives of your peers? Search no more. Our LWDC has something special for you: the new LWDC Mentoring program.

As you may know, to achieve the club's mission it is necessary to complete a vast number of functions which require the leadership of many. These leaders comprise the club's Board of Directors who, in turn, rely on the help of many volunteers. All the following programs are led by an individual: Program development for monthly meetings, Special events, the Get Out the Vote program, the Voter Registration/postcard writing program, the Membership section, the Activism program, the Fundraising section, the Hospitality team, Newsletter, the Care and Share program, and Board nominations.

Each one of these requires a leader who is committed, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Do you have what it takes? Are you willing to become one of our next leaders? Please call us and become part of the team. We will happily show and teach you "the ropes" and welcome you with open arms. Believe me, it is also a lot of fun. So don't wait any longer. Send me an email to [rebecagilad@gmail.com](mailto:rebecagilad@gmail.com) and let me know where you see yourself as a leader within our Club. Can't wait to hear from you. This new year is the perfect time to become a leader.

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## WHAT'S UP WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF O.C.

By: Allan Feldman



The big news at the DPOC is redistricting. Today, we still don't know what our Congressional District, State Senate District or Assembly District will be. With all the hard work we all did to elect Katie Porter, Dave Min and Cottie

Petrie-Norris it would be nice if we stayed in their districts. If not, it will be a new challenge for us and we just might have to help kick some Republicans out of office.

It appears that Laguna Woods has been moved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors from the 5<sup>th</sup> County Supervisor's District to the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, our supervisor will be Katrina Foley, Democrat and former mayor of Costa Mesa. She should be speaking at an LWDC meeting shortly.

Pete Hardin, Democratic candidate for Orange County District Attorney, has been in the news. He appeared at LWDC's October meeting and was interviewed on Village TV. Recently there was a hazing incident involving the Mater Dei High School football team, which resulted in the victim having a traumatic brain injury and a broken jaw. The current District Attorney doesn't feel any laws were broken or any investigation is necessary. Pete Hardin thinks this incident needs to be investigated and the parties responsible held to account. Whose priorities are correct?

Sherine Smith, Democratic candidate for Orange County Bd. of Education (BOE) in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, also appeared at the LWDC meeting in October and on VTV and proved to be prophetic. She talked about the current BOE wasting their time and our money suing the state in their attempt to remove health and safety regulations in district schools. The BOE filed another suit, two days before Thanksgiving, without informing the public.

The new suit is almost identical to the suit the Board filed in August, which the State Supreme Court refused to hear. The new suit was filed in Superior Court. Of course, the BOE claims the suit has nothing to do with public health measures or vaccine mandates, despite the fact that several anti-vaccine organizations joined the suit. The attorney representing the BOE specializes in unsuccessfully suing CA to overturn health and vaccine regulations. Electing Sherine Smith to the BOE will be a good step to changing the BOE's agenda back to advocating for the schools and students in Orange County.

# THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA IN 1963

By: Sue Dearing

I first heard about the Children's Crusade in my Unitarian Universalist Congregation recently when the minister told a story for the youth. Since I hadn't heard of it, I thought maybe others hadn't as well. This shows why we should be teaching ethnic studies and Black history in schools because it is part of every American's history!

The non-violent civil rights movement in Birmingham, Alabama was having trouble recruiting volunteers because it meant being willing to get arrested and possibly losing your job. James Bevel, a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, came up with the idea of recruiting popular students from Black high schools who could influence their classmates to join the movement. Martin Luther King Jr. and other activists were adamantly opposed to having children participate because of the threat from white mobs and police led by "Bull" Connor, the Commissioner of Public Safety in Birmingham, notorious for his racist policies.

On May 2, 1963 more than 1000 students, ranging in age from 7 to 18, showed up to protest and continued to march daily for almost a week in ever greater numbers. The police brought out water hoses, police dogs and ultimately arrested more than 2000 children. The nationwide publicity and the demand from President John F. Kennedy to resolve the situation finally brought white city leaders to call a meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr. An agreement was reached to desegregate lunch counters, businesses and restrooms and improve hiring opportunities for Black people in Birmingham. The Children's Crusade was one of the steps paving the way for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Adapted from "The Children's Crusade: When the Youth of Birmingham Marched for Justice" by Alexis Clark.

## FOLLOWING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

By: Maureen Mehler

### REPORT FROM CONGRESSWOMAN KATIE PORTER:

On Dec 9, 2021, Congresswoman Porter released the following statement regarding her opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022:

"I came to Congress to hold the federal government accountable, including the Department of Defense. The House-passed National Defense Authorization Act did that—in terms of upholding human rights, affirming Congressional oversight of arms exports, reforming our military justice system, protecting taxpayer dollars, and more.

While I'm proud that several of my amendments to the House-passed NDAA cleared the Senate, these common-sense Pentagon transparency measures pale in comparison to the provisions that were dropped, including those that would have ended U.S. support for the war in Yemen, repealed two outdated authorizations for use of military force, and changed how the military justice system prosecutes cases of corruption.

I opposed the 2022 NDAA because I refuse to rubber stamp waste, fraud, and abuse at any level of government. I will continue fighting for accountability at the Pentagon and the robust Congressional oversight of the military that the Constitution requires."



Congresswoman Katie Porter

## POSTCARDS TO VOTERS

By: Mary Ribando

This new year will be bringing very important elections starting with the Primary on June 7th. Our club does an excellent job of reaching out to and keeping Laguna Woods Villagers up to date on elections and the voter turnout is that proof! But, in 2022, we are planning to expand that good work by reaching out to neighboring areas in Laguna Hills. And our first effort is, what else? Postcards!

A team of LWDC members have been meeting monthly since the recall election and put together a terrific message to reach out to Laguna Hills residents. The cards are being professionally printed and will be available for distribution the first week of January.

If you're not already on our postcard distribution and are interested in joining this effort, please email me at [marytribando@aol.com](mailto:marytribando@aol.com). **We've got lots to do in 2022!**

## BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS:

Allan Feldman interviews Annie McCary and Sandra Townes Ward about Kwanzaa and the African American Heritage Club's recent celebration. The program airs Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

## JANUARY 1ST, 1863 —THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

The [Emancipation Proclamation](#) was issued on January 1, 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

Members of Abraham Lincoln's cabinet gathered at the White House on July 22, 1862, to hear the president read his draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. Written by Lincoln alone, without consultation from his cabinet, the proclamation declared that all persons held as slaves in states that were still in rebellion on January 1, 1863, "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free."

Initially, Lincoln was concerned only with preserving the Union, but he had become increasingly sympathetic to the call for abolition as the Civil War progressed. Determined to move forward with his cause, the president met with his cabinet on September 22 to refine his July draft and announce what is now known as the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. In this document, he issued an ultimatum to the seceded states: Return to the Union by New Year's Day or freedom will be extended to all slaves within your borders.

When the secessionist states ignored this warning, Lincoln issued the final proclamation on January 1, 1863.

It is considered one of the most important documents in American history. The Emancipation Proclamation did not immediately end slavery in this country, it took the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution on December 18, 1865. The proclamation applied only to slaves living in those states that had seceded; and did not affect those states still in the Union. The proclamation fundamentally transformed the character of the war and set a national course toward the final abolition of slavery in the United States.



President Abraham Lincoln and  
The Emancipation Proclamation  
Courtesy of Library of Congress  
Ref. Number: LC-USZC4-1526

## TODAY AND ALWAYS

By: Rebeca Gilad

### TODAY:

#### To David Dearing:

Wishing you a fast and easy recuperation.

**From:** The whole LWDC membership.

#### To Jerry Gross:

Wishing you much luck in your upcoming surgery.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

#### To Sue Dearing:

Congratulations on receiving the LWDC Volunteer of the Year Award. No one deserves it more than you, our dear President.

**From:** The 451 (and counting) Club membership

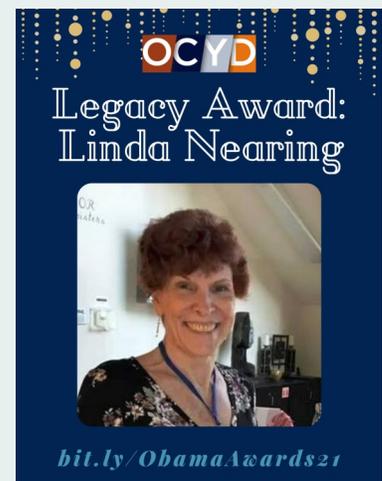


## LINDA NEARING HONORED WITH LEGACY AWARD FROM YOUNG DEMOCRATS

By: Sue Dearing

At their Obama Awards ceremony on December 11 Orange County Young Democrats (OCYD) posthumously honored former club president Linda Nearing with their Legacy Award. Accepting the award in her honor was club director Dana Barraclough. One of the special things about Linda was how she loved seeing young people dedicate time in their very busy lives to Democratic causes.

Under her leadership the club started inviting members of OCYD and College Dems at the University of California Irvine to club events and donating to them for events such as pizza parties and hotel rooms at the CA Democratic Convention.



Jeanie Le (OCYD) and Dana Barraclough (LWDC)

Some of those young leaders are now on the Costa Mesa City Council, working for the CA Democratic Party and elected Democrats, and chairs of other Democratic clubs in Orange County. Jeanie Le is not only the current chair of OCYD but also the Vietnamese Constituency Organizer for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in Orange County.

## SCO FOOD DRIVES AND HOLIDAY DONATIONS

By: Sue Snyder

I am so proud of our friends, neighbors and fellow LWDC members for all the generous donations of food and money given this past year. You have made an incredible difference in the lives of all those needy families who have been affected by unemployment, loss of affordable housing, hunger, and illness.

Since the beginning of 2021, we have generated over 4,500 pounds of food, and \$1,750 cash at our on-site food drives. And I've spoken to several of you who send checks to SCO every month. Also, Cathy Aubert donates between \$200 and \$300 a month by collecting and recycling bottles. Thank you one and all for your service.

At our October meeting you donated another \$586 towards the holiday meals and gifts for these families. One month later, at our November meeting, another \$1023 was collected to help make the upcoming season happy for everyone. This morning, I delivered our last collection of checks and cash to Danny, one of the coordinators at South County Outreach. He was very, very happy to accept our donation. My heart is filled with gratitude for each and every one of you.

My motto: "You want Peace on Earth? Make sure everyone has healthy food to eat."

**Next food drive: January 20-23. Location: Sue and Richard Snyder's home, 907 Ronda Sevilla Unit O. The barrels will be waiting for your generous donations!**

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, is observed on the third Monday of January. It is also known as Martin Luther King's Birthday. It is a federal holiday and a day off and most schools and businesses are closed.

In other states, such as Arizona, it is combined with Civil Rights Day. In Idaho, it is also Human Rights Day. In some states, Robert E Lee's birthday is observed instead. In Wyoming, it is known as Wyoming Equality Day.

Born in 1929, and gaining a doctorate in theology in 1955, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and an important social activist in the American civil rights movement.

His notable and memorable acts include heading the 381-day protest against segregation on public transportation, initiated by Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955. This resulted in the Supreme Court's declaration of such segregation as unconstitutional in November 1956.

In 1957, he founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which fought to gain full rights for African Americans in the United States, through non-violent protest.

In 1963, King and supporters organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom to highlight the daily struggles that African Americans faced. Around 250,000 people participated. The march ended at the Lincoln Memorial, where the crowds gathered to hear King's renowned "I Have a Dream" speech, calling for peace and equality. It contributed to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, outlawing discrimination based on color, religion, sex, or national origin.

For his work, Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and was the youngest person to receive one.



Martin Luther King, Jr.  
March on Washington—1963