

Laguna Woods
Democratic Club
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STAMP
HERE

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

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

Newsletter—August 2021

CONGRESSMAN MIKE LEVIN—MEETING

By: Allan Feldman

Congressman Mike Levin is LWDC’s speaker for August. Congressman Levin’s district (CD 49) includes much of south Orange County and a portion of San Diego County.

After graduating from Stanford University and Duke University Law School, Congressman Levin went into private practice, specializing in environmental, climate and energy issues. He was also on the Boards of Directors of several organizations dedicated to environmental issues and has supported moving the country to sustainable energy sources.

Congressman Levin speaks about what he calls “followership”. If the United States took the lead, made a commitment to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, reduced the country’s carbon footprint, and cleaned up the environment, he believes other countries would follow.

Congressman Levin has sponsored bills in Congress on monitoring, clean-up and safety issues at the decommissioned nuclear power plant at San Onofre. His greatest concern is that our federal laws do not allow nuclear waste to be removed from its original site until the federal government decides on a permanent location. That is nowhere on the horizon. It looks like the danger of nuclear waste being in canisters no thicker than a dime and the possibility of rising ocean levels will be factors at San Onofre for some time.

Congressman Levin gives a straightforward update on environmental and other issues. He gives us the facts, with no false optimism or unnecessary pessimism. You will want to hear what he has to say.

Congressman Levin’s talk will be on VTV every Wednesday @2:00 p.m.



Mike Levin
CA Congressman
Congressional District 49

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!

- Stuart Dash

DID YOU KNOW?

August 26 is WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY!

Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution on August 26, 1920, which granted women the right to vote.

In 1971, at the urging of U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), Congress designated August 26th each year as "**Women's Equality Day.**"

2021 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS

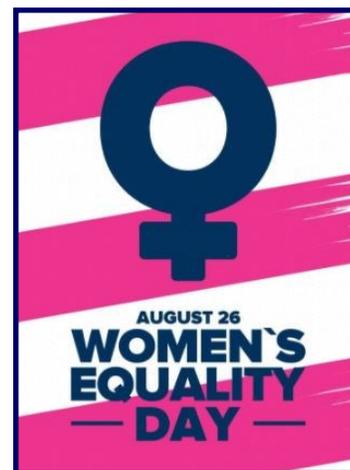
- President Sue Dearing, Program
- 1st V.P. Rebeca Gilad, Outreach & Fundraising
- 2nd V.P. Nancy Hensel, Special Events
- Secretary Allan Feldman, Central Committee Associate Member
- Treasurer Pat Leftwich, Budget

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



OPEN HOUSE. YOU'D BETTER GET READY

By: Rebeca Gilad

It's time to stop wearing the same shirt every day. It's time to get a haircut and shave. Resuscitate the lipstick. Give your slippers a rest. Turn off Netflix, TV, and Zoom. Stop your long walks to and from the refrigerator and pantry. Why? You guessed it! We are going back to meeting face-to-face. Well, covered face to covered face, that is!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

WHEN: August 17th **WHERE:** Clubhouse 2 **TIME:** 7:00 pm

WHAT: A fantastic "Coming Back Together" celebration of the Laguna Woods Democratic Club Members.

WHY: To celebrate friends who have been active Club members over the past ten years. Lets come together to:

- Celebrate new friends and members who became part of our Democratic family in the last year.
- Reconnect with friends whom we have not seen in a long time.

This is a great opportunity to meet the representatives of each of LWDC's committees and learn how YOU can get integrally involved in the Club's activities and be a part of these vibrant groups. We can't wait to see you. Come celebrate life with us! Please, remember to wear a face mask! Individually wrapped refreshments will be served.

THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

I recently had an unforgettable experience when I went canvassing in a large, quiet neighborhood composed of 95% immigrants and U.S. born minorities. I don't know about you, but for me, when a neighborhood has a mixed population, it feels more real, more complete, more cosmopolitan, more... you get my point.

The purpose of this canvassing was to invite the residents to a free-of-charge gathering where they could talk to service (non-governmental) organizations, get vaccinated, and have their kids participate in games and fun. I was incredibly happy to get involved. We walked through many streets and knocked on many doors.

As we turned the corner to the house of the homeowners associations president, we encountered the unexpected: hanging outside of his door, a gigantic past-President of the USA flag, and at the door, a bully (the representative of this community) getting closer to us by the second and screaming: "Get out of my neighborhood or I'll call the police." What would you do in such a case? I thought "don't get too close because he is not wearing a mask and he is much bigger than I am, so he can hit harder."

I just calmly told him: "Sir, go ahead, call the police," turned around and continued delivering the flyers to two Latino women that were close by, shaking their heads in disbelief. I didn't realize that I was frightened until a few minutes later. Indeed, this was an unforgettable experience.

WHY SHOULD I VOTE? DOES MY VOTE REALLY COUNT?

By: Mary Ribando



When you do not vote, you vote by default - for the 'other guy.'

The winner of the election will represent you anyway, so you might as well CHOOSE who you want by voting! Elected officials make decisions that affect YOUR daily life. Your choice is important! Please make sure to vote

NO on the Republican Recall scheduled for September 14th.

We have the power to stop it **IF WE ALL VOTE!**

Remember: "Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it!" - Susan B Anthony

FOLLOWING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

By: Maureen Mehler

Dave Min Reports:

A popular gun show that has been held at the O.C. Fair & Event Center since 1996 might have to find a new venue if a bill from CA Sen. Dave Min, D-Irvine, becomes law.

Min's bill, which passed in the Senate June 1 and awaits consideration in the Assembly, would ban gun shows on state property, including state-owned fairgrounds. That would put an end to the O.C. Fairgrounds' hosting of the *Crossroads of the West Gun Show*, a Utah-based business that typically has several shows per year in Orange County.

In addition, Min held a COVID-19 remembrance ceremony in partnership with the United Nurses Associations of California and the Union of Health Care Professionals (UNAC/UHCP) on Saturday, July 10 at 7:00 PM.



OUR MEMBERS—DEBRA DAVID

By: Rebeca Gilad

R: Who is Debra David beyond being our Club's Director of Membership?

D: My career and my life go together. Both are guided by the Jewish concept called "Tikkun Olam", which means to repair or fix the world. And for me, that translates into living and working for social justice. As an academic gerontologist, I had a deep belief in "service learning". My students had to do community service to connect what was taught in class with real life needs of senior populations in their communities.

They tutored older immigrants in English and citizenship preparation. Some students resisted this requirement. But in a short time, as they got to know the seniors they visited in Senior Centers, they would find value in their work. Some even changed their career plans because of this experience.

In 1999 the California State Legislature allocated funds to establish an office to promote service learning at every California State University campus. I became the founding director of the office at San José State, working in partnership with community organizations, faculty, and students.

In 2006, with funding from the Ford Foundation, I established a program to teach first year students how to participate in dialogues about difficult ethical and political issues.

In 2020, I returned to San José to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Center for Community Learning and Leadership, which I helped to create and lead. It is estimated that in those twenty years, eighty thousand students contributed 1,400,000 hours of service to their communities. Now, every college at the university has service learning.

Currently, as a resident of Laguna Woods Village, I look forward to helping create opportunities for people to talk civilly to each other about controversial ethical/political issues. In other words, to help create a safe space for civil dialogue across diverse views.



Debra David

ANNUAL LUNCHEON- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

By: Sue Dearing

LWDC is planning a box lunch fundraiser for Saturday, September 25. **Speakers will include Senator Dave Min and Assemblymember Cottie Petrie Norris** (both in person) **and Congresswoman Katie Porter** (by video). Katie Porter will be in D.C. that weekend, but will continue the great work she does for us; we are fortunate indeed!

We chose box lunches, which will be provided by Jolanda, as there will be less "contact" that way and Jolanda is no longer doing catering. For the Silent Auction, this year we are trying something a little different. The



pandemic has been very hard on area restaurants and businesses (such as hair & nail salons, dry cleaners, pet stores, bookstores, etc.). **Therefore, we are asking that you buy a gift card from your favorite restaurant and/or business and donate it to the Club's Silent Auction.** If you feel comfortable doing so, you can also ask for a donation of a gift card from the same restaurant and/or business, while you are purchasing one. Those gift cards will be auctioned off in the Silent Auction on September 25th, and will go to support LWDC's efforts to raise money for our candidates in 2022.

To avoid having multiple people requesting donations from the same restaurants and/or businesses, we ask you to contact LWDC VP Rebeca Gilad and let her know the names of the places you are buying and/or requesting gift cards from: rebecagilad@gmail.com or (714) 833-4888. **Thank you!**

THOUGHTS ON "MEXICO IN HIS HEAD: SLAVERY AND THE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER, 1810-1860"

By: Sean Kelley/Kathleen Fairbanks Rubin

I am intrigued by this article. It discusses enslaved Texans who sought self-emancipation by escaping to what became Mexico during a series of border boundary changes beginning in 1810. This history is important. And it is relevant now.

On July 1, 2021, the Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, cancelled an event for a book that examines racial history: *Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth* by Bryan Burrough, Chris Tomlinson, and Jason Stanford. The book challenges myths surrounding the Battle for the Alamo, historical tenets surrounding Texas' independence from Mexico, as well as the state's origins related to preserving slavery. [[Texas Tribune](#)]

For context, Haiti rebelled against France, ending slavery in 1804. In 1829, the second President of Mexico, [Vicente Guerrero](#), an African-Mexican, declared slavery illegal in Mexico. This amorphous and frequently ambiguous border changed six times between 1819 and 1845, creating possibilities for escape to freedom that were much closer than traditional northern routes. Kelley suggests the role of:

"interpretive communities" as crucial to crossing the border into Mexico for self-emancipation: [Enslaved Texans] "did not simply react to the various re-drawings of the border; in the crucible of their own interpretive communities, they invested the border with liberationist significance, setting off a chain of events that resulted in Texas independence and the establishment of a slaveholding republic. Ironically though, the drawing of a clear border between slavery and non-slavery only inspired more flight toward the Rio Grande". [Kelley, 709]

In an 1835 letter between enslavers B. J. White and Stephen F. Austin, White wrote:

"The negroes ... alluded to had devided [sic] all the cotton farms and [sic] ... intended to ship the cotton to New Orleans and make the white men serve them in turn [sic]...the incident again shows the potential power of the slaves' vision of Mexico." [Kelley, 717]

[Hammack](#) estimates at least 5,000 to 10,000 slaves escaped from bondage into Mexico before 1860. [[History.com](#) 01/29/21]. Enslaved Texans actively defined the border, made meaning out of the changes taking place in Mexico, and planned their self-emancipation.

- [Kathleen Fairbanks Rubin](#), LWDC-AA Discussion Group, bilingual, author, translator, Third Culture Kid and border researcher enjoys crossing international borders and boundaries between religions, races, and ethnicities.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

By: Maureen Mehler

This term is being thrown around and it is important to understand what it means. Below is a definition from the American Bar Association. In the future we will delve into how it does and does not affect CA schools.

"Critical Race Theory, CRT, is not a diversity and inclusion training, but a practice of interrogating [sic-questioning] the role of race and racism in society that emerged in the legal academy and spread to other fields of scholarship.

Legal Scholar, Kimberle Crenshaw, who coined the term "CRT" notes that CRT is not a noun, but a verb. It cannot be confined to a static and narrow definition but is an evolving and malleable practice. It critiques how the social construction of race and institutionalized racism perpetuate a racial caste system that relegates people of color to the bottom tiers. CRT also recognizes that race intersects with other identities, including sexuality, gender identity, and others. CRT recognizes that racism is not a bygone relic of the past. Instead, it acknowledges that the legacy of slavery, segregation, and the imposition of second-class citizenship on Black Americans and other people of color continue to permeate the social fabric of this nation."

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

By: Allan Feldman



The big news at DPOC, and everywhere else in California for Democrats, is the Recall election scheduled for September 14th. The DPOC and LWDC have been organizing for some time around this election and now it is time to put the plans into action. For those who wish to participate there will be many opportunities. There will be an in-person volunteer meeting at CH5 Main Lounge from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. August 13th. Keep watching your emails for information from both DPOC and LWDC as to how you can help defeat the Republican Recall. Don't be fooled, we will need every vote to defeat the Recall.

At the central committee meeting this month people reported on the nationwide Freedom Riders action taken by Democrats around the country. Buses from Orange County and all over the country drove through the South and converged on Washington, DC to rally and lobby government officials and members of Congress on issues such as voting rights and statehood for DC. By all accounts it was a success. Another step in showing Democrats' strength and commitment. Another step on the long trail.

Also at the central committee meeting, Lara Horgan, Southern Vice Chair, mentioned the LWDC Anti-Hate rally. She specifically described our outreach to and the participation of members of the local Republican Club. Thanks to all who participated and helped organize this rally, especially LWDC Activism Chair Janice Burstin.

Don't forget and don't be fooled by what you read and hear about the Recall. Republicans are motivated and will come out to vote. Democrats need to do the same. We need everyone's vote and everyone's help!

Regardless of the reasoning behind this Recall, it will be voter turnout that will decide this election. Polling indicates that the Recall does not have support, but polls also show only 36% of Democratic voters have any interest in the Recall. This disinterest is what Republicans are anticipating.

It is going to be up to us to make certain that: **DEMOCRATIC VOTERS VOTE.**

WE DON'T NEED A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

Republicans can no longer win elections on their merits, so they are resorting to other methods to gain and retain power. All over the country Republican-controlled states are working to limit access to voting, and worse yet, taking power away from Secretaries of State and empowering state-level representatives to appoint electors, regardless of the people's votes. Republicans hope to do the same in California. The first step toward this objective is the attempt to recall Governor Gavin Newsom.

California's experience with Republican Governors has not been good:

- Arnold Schwarzenegger (2003-2011) and his carbon-spewing fleet of [HumVeets](#).
- Pete Wilson (1991-1999) not only brought us the [3 strikes law](#) which gave birth to the prison industrial complex, but also the inhumane [Prop. 187](#) which resulted in a period of racist attacks against Latino and Asian school children.
- Ronald Reagan (1967-1975), in both the state and the nation, implemented "[supply-side economics](#)," a philosophy of making rich folks richer through tax breaks and decreasing government regulations. Reagan invoked this philosophy by disingenuously asserting that "the government is the problem."

(Continued on next page)

WE DON'T NEED A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR (Continued)

The Recall is about two visions of California: the progressive agenda that Governor Newsom continues to fight for, and the Republican agenda, which would undo progress in areas such as the environment, education and helping middle class and working-class families.

THE DANGER TO CALIFORNIA IS REAL.

Historically, turnout for special elections such as this one is low. Republicans are highly motivated to vote for the recall. As Democrats, we must ensure that more than 50% of the votes cast are **NO on Recall** votes. We cannot afford to be complacent. A high turnout of progressive and Democratic voters is critical if we are to defeat this Republican power-grab.

It is up to us as individuals to share this message in every way we can.

SAY NO TO THE REPUBLICAN RECALL.



Governor Gavin Newsom

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE!

By: Rebeca Gilad

Mark your calendars, dear friends. You are cordially invited to our 2021 Club fundraiser IN PERSON! The theme of this year's event is "LWDC among the Stars." And if you are asking: what stars? The answer is: Dave, Katie and Cottie. You know who I mean. Yes. They will be with us. But this year we are also pledging to help the local merchants who suffered great economic losses due to COVID.

So, I am asking you (begging you?) to help your Laguna Woods Democratic Club help these merchants. How? By buying a gift card from your favorite merchants and donating your gift card to our Silent Auction.

Your gift will help in two ways:

- LWDC will donate the proceeds to the three stars' political campaigns.
- Merchants who have had a rough Covid year, will benefit.

I trust you will help us; you always do, and we are so thankful for that. I cannot wait to hear from you, my sincere thanks. Please send me an e-mail if you want to know which gift cards we have already received, or if I can come to pick up the gift card at your place (rebecagilad@gmail.com). A million thanks.

For further details, please see the article on the **September 25th Luncheon** on page 4, of this newsletter.

SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH - UPDATE

By: Sue & Richard Snyder

Our latest food drive netted twelve overflowing barrels of food plus \$805 in cash and checks. THANK YOU!

Backpack Drive: You can find information on the backpacks and supplies needed at the following link:

<http://www.sco-oc.org/backpack-event/supply-drive/>

Please deliver them to Sue and Richard Snyder at 907 Ronda Sevilla Unit O from July 29 through August 1.

Contribute a Virtual Backpack: To make your donation, please go to <http://www.sco-oc.org/> and click on the "Donate Today" tab at the top of the page. Please make sure you fill in the name of your organization (Laguna Woods Democratic Club) in the allotted space and also add "2021 Backpack Drive" in the "message" slot just before you press the submit button so your donations can be properly tracked. A donation receipt will be sent to the name and address listed on the form. A sturdy backpack and supplies costs approximately \$40-\$50, but any donation will help!