

Laguna Woods  
Democratic Club  
Post Office Box 2254  
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2254

**STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.**



STAMP  
HERE

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**Newsletter—January 2021**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ORANGE COUNTY HONORS LINDA NEARING**

*It is with a heavy heart that I share that our longtime beloved friend to the Democratic community, Laguna Woods Democratic Club President Linda Nearing, passed away Thursday afternoon. Linda’s work built the foundation for the blue waves that swept Orange County. Her leadership was one of the many reasons that former Democratic Party of Orange County (DPOC) Chair Henry Vandermeir recruited her to serve on the Council of Clubs and help build new clubs across Orange County.*

*DPOC recently awarded Linda our most prestigious honor, the Truman Lifetime Achievement Award. Accepting the award from Henry Vandermeir, Linda said, “Thank you so much to all of you. Love each other, take care of each other.”*

*I’d like to share words from Linda’s dear friend and DPOC Council of Clubs President Sue Dearing:*

*“Democratic Club President Linda Nearing passed away mid-afternoon December 17th. Only minutes later the skies opened with an unexpected downpour and a beautiful rainbow. Linda’s spirit had passed into the cosmos. Diagnosed with the most aggressive form of glioblastoma, Linda chose the End of Life Options Act to guide her return to stardust. A decades-long advocate of Compassion and Choices, the national organization which promotes Death with Dignity laws, Linda also fought for the California initiatives which finally made end of life options possible in 2016 for people with a six-month terminal diagnosis. Linda will be missed not only by the members of the Democratic Club but by all in the Village and County who knew her. She served as club president for ten years and was active in both the county and state Democratic parties during that time. She served as an alternate for the County Central Committee, member of the Executive Board, Chair of the Truman Dinner and delegate to the state convention. Her infectious laugh, open spirit, and brave optimism were with her until the end. In Unity,”*

*Ada, Chair  
Democratic Party of Orange County*



**Linda Nearing, President  
Laguna Woods Democratic Club**

## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

Have you renewed your membership? There is no time like the present!

[Link for Membership](#)

## WELCOME!

### NEW CLUB MEMBERS!

- Michael Berman
- Nancy Brown
- Sheila Diskins
- Eileen Ettinger
- Karen Hawthorne
- Patricia Terry



# 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

(To be appointed by Board)

- Debo Orrill—Publicity, Website & Newsletter

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## ELECTION DATES

### January 3, 2021

**NEW CONGRESS IS SWORN IN** as set by the Constitution.

### January 6, 2021

Joint Session of Congress where they open electoral certificates, consider any objections and resolve them under federal law, and counts electoral votes.

### January 20, 2021

**End of Current Presidential Term** at 12:00 noon as set by the Constitution. At 5:00 p.m., God willing, and the creek don't rise, we will raise a glass in thanks for the end of our nightmare.

\*Information provided by: [www.protecttheresults.com](http://www.protecttheresults.com)

***“Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in this world must first come to pass in the heart of America.”***

- Dwight D. Eisenhower  
January 20, 1953

# JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

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

Our January 2021 meeting brings together an interesting mix of personalities sharing important information and ideas.

Ada Briceño, the Chair of the Democratic Party of Orange County will report on the 2020 General Election results and the ongoing progress that the Democrats have been making to place candidates in local offices across the county.



Ada Briceño, Chair  
Democratic Party of  
Orange County

Ajay Mohan, Political Director of the Democratic Party of Orange County will review the methods and programs that were used in 2020 and the new strategies that are being planned for the upcoming year and beyond.



Ajay Mohan  
Political Director  
Democratic Party of  
Orange County

Shari Horne, Mayor of the City of Laguna Woods will discuss the results of Measure V and the prospect of having a marijuana dispensary in Laguna Woods.



Shari Horne, Mayor  
The City of Laguna Woods

Finally, Congressmember Katie Porter, California Assembly Member Cottie-Petrie Norris along with Dave Min, our new California State Senator would like to share their thanks to all of the Laguna Woods Democrats for getting them elected.

The Democratic Club monthly meeting airs every Wednesday at 2 p.m. on Village TV. All programs can be found on YouTube by searching for Laguna Woods Democratic Club. Thanks for watching!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



**Katie Porter**, Congressmember – 45th District



**Cottie Petrie-Norris**, California Assembly Member – 74th District



**Dave Min**, California State Senator – 37th District

## You Can Help!

By Bethany Gilboard

Orange County Covid-19 hospitalizations have surged to 1,682, with ICU beds at a scant minimum. In the past three weeks we have had anywhere from 2-13 new positive cases in Laguna Woods per day.

In addition to following the restrictions and mandates of the new stay-at-home order, there are other ways of helping slow the transmission of the virus.

If you do not have your groceries delivered or use curbside pick-up, here is a way to reduce the number of people who go outside and help keep the number of new cases down. If you are planning on making a trip to the grocery store, call a friend and ask if there is anything they need. Fewer people going outside during this catastrophic crisis, the better. Many of you have done this and hats off to you.

Reminders never hurt when it is for the health and safety of everyone.



## PRESIDENTIAL OATH OF OFFICE AT INAUGURATION



"I do solemnly swear  
(or affirm) that I will faithfully  
execute the  
**Office of President**  
of the United States,  
and will to the best of my  
ability, preserve, protect and  
defend the Constitution  
of the United States."

### **Q: Will there still be an Inauguration during the pandemic?**

As of now, an  
Inauguration Day event  
with only about  
1,000 people in  
attendance is being set up.

Normally 200,000  
tickets are distributed to  
members of Congress for  
their constituents.

Newsletter Production  
Debo Orrill

## OUR MEMBERS—SPOTLIGHT

by Rebeca Gilad

Dear Friends: Welcome to our new column "Our Members", where each month I will share with you an interview with one of our Club members. As you get to know them, I am sure you will agree with me that we have a human treasure in our Club's midst.

The interview today is with Nancy Hensel, who serves as the Special Events Chair of our Laguna Woods Democratic Club. As of January of 2021 she is also 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Nancy has lived in Laguna Woods since 2016.

**R:** Thank you Nancy for agreeing to do this interview. I would like to know why are you a Democrat?

**N:** I have been a Democratic activist for fifty years. As a doctoral student at the University of Georgia, I first worked registering voters. Then, I organized a multiracial coalition of university employees, labor union members, and community members to elect delegates to the 1972 Democratic Convention. I am happy to report that we successfully carried our district for George McGovern. When I later became a professor at the University of Redlands, a colleague and I opened the Redlands, Mondale/Ferraro campaign office.

**R:** I believe you moved to Washington, D.C. after this, right? What did you do there?

**N:** I moved to Washington, D.C. after 12 years in Maine. In D.C. I worked as Executive Director of an educational association. One of my roles was to advocate for educational spending in Congress and through federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy. Our organization hosted two to three Congressional briefings each year.

**R:** Please talk a little bit about your international work and what you learned from that experience?

**N:** I did volunteer work in many countries around the world through Earth-watch, a program that supports science research. And what I learned was how fortunate we are to have in our country a Democratic government where we are able to choose our leaders. But, the last four years taught me how fragile our democracy is.

**R:** You retired not long ago. What are your plans for the future Nancy?

**N:** I want to devote my energies to strengthening our democracy and understanding our constitutional government. I believe in higher wages, health care for all, racial justice, and addressing environmental issues.

**R:** That is a wonderful and very big agenda. How do you plan to do it?

**N:** I want to become an Assembly District Delegate. I am running to become an "ADEM", as we call it. I believe that in that position I can ensure our Democratic candidates support these issues. So, I would appreciate it if all our Club members would take the time to vote in January and that they vote for me. As our soon-to-be President says, "I will not let you down. That's a promise."

**R:** Thank you very much Nancy. We are very proud of you and wish you good luck.

## PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION BREAKFAST

By Nancy Hensel

We all worked hard to elect Joe Biden as the next President of the United States and on January 20, 2021 we can

celebrate our success. The 2021 inauguration will be quite different from past inaugurations because of the pandemic. The Biden planning committee is encouraging everyone to stay home and watch the inauguration on television.



If you watched the Democratic Convention you know that Democrats gave us an inspiring, creative, and informative convention. The inauguration promises to also be creative and may have a few surprises. On Inauguration Day, the Laguna Woods Democratic Club invites you to attend a virtual celebratory breakfast.

Jolanda Day is preparing a breakfast of either quiche or bagels with lox and cream cheese, and champagne. It can be picked up on January 19th at CH 7 (10-11 a.m.) and will also be delivered to the Towers. See the flyer attached with this newsletter.

Please send your checks directly to Nancy Hensel at 321 Avenida Carmel, Unit D, Laguna Woods, CA 92637 indicating your breakfast choice. It is time to celebrate the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

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## ACTIVISM REPORT

by Janice Burstin

In the beginning of 2020, there was the excited anticipation of the March primary where voters chose their favorite Presidential candidate! Many rallies were held for our own local candidates. Representative Katie Porter, Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris and candidates vying for State Senate, Katrina Foley and Dave Min.

Then right after the primary, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us into a ‘Stay-at-Home’ mode, so all events paused until the horrific murder of George Floyd in May! As we watched the protest rallies throughout the nation, I, along with Vice-Activism Chair Bethany Gilboard, felt the need to summon our members to come out of their homes to stand in solidarity with the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement. We practiced COVID-19 protocols by wearing masks and physically distancing at a minimum of six feet. Monthly BLM rallies were held. As we drew closer to the November election, our focus turned towards our Get-Out-the-Vote efforts such as joining in a countywide ‘Day of Action’ effort on October 10th sponsored by the DPOC!

We are hoping that the New Year will allow us once again to meet for rallies on issues close to our hearts!

## WHAT ARE THE 3 POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT?

The Constitution explicitly assigns the President the power to sign or veto legislation, command the armed forces, ask for the written opinion of their Cabinet, convene or adjourn Congress, grant reprieves and pardons, and receive ambassadors.

## INAUGURATION BREAKFAST

It’s time to celebrate the Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, our 46th President.

Join us for our Pajama Party Celebration on January 20th.

**See attached flyer.**

Contact: Nancy Hensel at 703-964-6993 or email her at:

[hensel.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:hensel.nancy@gmail.com)

## INAUGURATION HISTORY

The word “inauguration” derives from the Latin word inaugurationem – which refers to the ceremonies of the ancient Romans who sought to ascertain if it was the will of the gods (or ‘birds’ in some translations) for a public official to be deemed worthy to assume office.

## BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS

By Allan Feldman

During this past summer the movement for racial, social, and economic justice and equality captured the country's attention. It shared top billing on the news with the pandemic. Everyone watched the demonstrations on television, everyone had an opinion.



Laguna Woods Village was no different. People were talking about what was happening. Members of the Laguna Woods Democratic Club were part of those conversations. Some people suggested a wider audience might be interested, and the idea for “Black in Laguna Woods” was born.

We all know the issues, we all learned the vocabulary and we all heard the arguments. What many people didn't know is how the people most affected by what was happening felt about it.

The idea of the program is a conversation amongst people, our neighbors here in Laguna Woods Village. What do they see, feel and think? What is it like to be “Black in Laguna Woods”? We all have so much in common but our experiences are quite different. You may be surprised when people talk about what it really means to be “Black in Laguna Woods”. It is worth the time it takes to listen to them.

Watch upcoming emails and the Globe for the day and time of broadcast. The first two programs are already on YouTube; just search

## CHANGING THE O.C. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By Jeanne Lepowsky

As you have no doubt heard, O.C. Supervisor Michelle Steel defeated Harley Rouda for U.S. Congress in District 48. This unfortunate district flip brings with it a silver lining that may actually outshine the loss. We now have an opportunity to replace Ms. Steel with a Democrat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors (BoS) in a special election to be held soon after the New Year.

Having a second Democrat on the five-member BoS will bring enormous benefits to all residents of the County, particularly when that Democrat is someone with a strong personality, a history of activism, and lots of experience in local government. That's who we have in Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley, now the endorsed BoS District 2 candidate.

The current BoS does not prioritize our Democratic values in their \$7 million budget. For example, two of our most pressing long-term problems are homelessness and mental illness. Many individuals suffer from mental illness either as a cause or result of their homelessness. The BoS chose to address this problem by increasing funding for the O.C. Sheriff Department. What? Locking people up is not an effective way of treating mental illness! The BoS also allocated funds to convert one of our three jails into a facility exclusively for people with mental illnesses. Meanwhile, the County has \$600 million in federal dollars earmarked for mental health not being spent for its intended purpose. We need a BoS that will address mental illness and homelessness by making proper use of these funds, rather expecting the O.C. Sheriff to deal with the problem.

Everything the BoS does impacts everyone in Orange County. That is why it is so important that all of O.C.'s Democrats help to get Katrina Foley elected. Plus, if we can get a Democrat elected on the BoS, which includes much of U.S. District 48, it gives us a better chance of getting Harley Rouda elected for District 48 in the 2022 election.

Please put some of your time or money into supporting Mayor Foley's election to the BoS. Visit <https://www.katrinafoley.com/> to learn more about our candidate and election. For information on the Get-Out-The-Vote activities contact: Jeanne Lepowsky at (949) 636-9123 or by email at: [leposky@comline.com](mailto:leposky@comline.com).

# O.C. DEMOCRATS LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR CAMPAIGN

By Marcia Goldstein

In late summer, the Orange County Democrats launched a “Voice Your Values” campaign with the goal of having every democratic club in the county commit to writing at least two letters-to-the-editor a month. The letters were not intended to be political plugs for candidates but were to express our democratic values. The Laguna Woods Democratic Club did very well in this regard, easily writing more than two letters a month and having more than two letters a month make it into print!

Marcy Sheinwold had four letters published in the Los Angeles Times. She wrote about the ticking time bomb of children lost to the Los Angeles school system because of remote learning; Trump as a con artist paying no taxes in 10 years from 2000-2017 and last year paying the same amount as a person making \$18,000; as well as Trump’s misogyny.

Barbara Siry’s three letters related to Trump’s disparaging of the war dead; the heroic and dangerous rescue of campers from California wildfires highlighting the need to stay away from wilderness areas during fire season and not endanger those who must rescue us; and the hypocrisy of colleges and universities admitting unqualified white students under the guise of athletics.

Marcia Goldstein had two letters published in the Los Angeles Times. One noted that the Trump presidency had entered the “Stormtrooper phase” as caravans of Trump supporters in Portland confronted people protesting the lack of justice for Black Americans.

The other observed the Supreme Court putting its thumb on religious scales by permitting state funds for religious education.



The Laguna Woods Globe printed two of Marcia’s letters. One decried the theft of Biden-Harris and Dave Min signs in the Village as showing contempt for our constitution. The other one addressed a scam fund-raising phone call to address a non-existent defund-the-police “movement.” Ann Joynt’s letter in the Los Angeles Times related to the vandalizing of a ballot box in Baldwin Park.

You may find that you enjoy expressing your concerns in a letter-to-the-editor. Try it! Even if your letter does not make it into print, at a minimum you feel better just by telling a third party. Also, the Los Angeles Times keeps track of the topics that people write about. A letter to that paper must be in response to a specific article in the paper and 150 words or less.

## BIDEN’S TEAM

- White House Chief of Staff: Ron Klain
- Treasury Secretary: Janet Yellen
- Secretary of Defense: Lloyd Austin
- Secretary of State: Antony Blinken
- Environmental Protection Agency: Michael S. Regan
- Special Presidential Envoy for Climate: John Kerry
- White House Climate Czar: Gina McCarthy
- Secretary of the Interior: Deb Haaland
- Secretary of Homeland Security: Alejandro Mayorkas
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Denis McDonough
- Secretary of Transportation: Pete Buttigieg
- Secretary of Energy: Jennifer Granholm
- U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.: Linda Thomas-Greenfield
- Director of National Intelligence: Avril Haines
- National Security Adviser: Jake Sullivan
- Office of Management & Budget Director: Neera Tanden
- White House Press Secretary: Jennifer Psaki
- Top White House Economic Adviser: Brian Deese
- U.S. Trade Representative: Katherine Tai
- Surgeon General: Vivek Murthy
- Health and Human Services Secretary: Xavier Becerra
- White House Domestic Policy Council Director: Susan Rice
- Secretary of Agriculture: Tom Vilsack
- Housing and Urban Development Secretary: Marcia Fudge
- Centers for Disease Control Director: Rochelle Walensky
- Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response: Jeff Zients
- Chief Medical Adviser on COVID-19: Dr. Anthony Fauci

Source: The New York Magazine, 12/17/2020