

Laguna Woods  
Democratic Club  
Post Office Box 2243  
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243



STAMP  
HERE

**STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.**

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## Newsletter—July 2021

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

### MONTHLY MEETING EXPLORING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AROUND RACISM

By: Debra David

The Club's July program features Dr. Thomas Parham, President of California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). He examines "Exploring our Responsibilities Around Racism: From Passive Observers to Authentic Drum Majors," in an engaging and upbeat way. His talk will highlight the importance of education and suggest ways that we can all work to help dismantle racism.

Dr. Parham is a licensed psychologist with more than 38 years as a scholar and practitioner. He has authored or co-authored six books and more than 45 journal articles in the areas of racial identity development, African American psychology, and multicultural counseling. Prior to joining CSUDH in 2018, he served as Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and an adjunct faculty member at the University of California, Irvine, where he had been since 1985. He is also an active participant in community organizations supporting social advocacy and youth empowerment in both Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

**The program will air on Village TV Wednesdays in July at 2 p.m.**

July's Black in Laguna Woods program focuses on Dr. Parham's presentation on Village TV on Mondays @ 11:00 a.m. Club Secretary Allan Feldman serves as moderator and Dr. Fran Williams, Gloria Williams, and Debra David will discuss their views.



Dr. Thomas Parham  
President  
CA State University  
Dominguez Hills

## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Upcoming Meeting**—Join us on Tuesday, August 17 at 7 p.m. in Clubhouse 2 for LWDC's first in-person meeting since February 2020! A committee is meeting to work out the details. Look for more information in the August newsletter and in your inbox. Looking forward to seeing you!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Michael Bender
- Carl & Diane Bonar
- Susan Conley
- Francine Fish
- Janice Heirshberg
- DeAnn Holle
- Dolores Horgan
- Gwendolyn Plunkett
- Jerry Swift

## 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



**STOP HATE RALLY**

## IS THE BETSY ROSS FLAG RACIST?

For many of us, we remember our elementary school days, and the story of the U.S. flag as one designed by Betsy Ross during the American Revolution namely, the Betsy Ross Flag. It depicted the 13 stars situated in a circle which represented the 13 colonies. Over time, the flag has been updated 27 times, lastly to include Hawaii as the 50th state in August 1959.



For some, the Betsy Ross flag is a reminder of the country's history in a slavery-driven and openly racist country. Now, white supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) are using the Betsy Ross Flag. According to Keegan Hankes, of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). "Historically, these symbols have been used by white supremacists, both to hearken back to a time when black people were enslaved, while also painting themselves as the inheritors of the 'true' American tradition."

In 2019, the Betsy Ross flag was at the center of a controversy after Nike decided to stop the release of a sneaker with the symbol. [The Wall Street Journal](#), was the first to report the story. In 2018, the KKK also passed out mini Betsy Ross Flags in a New York town along with the Confederate Flag, according to [The New York Times](#).

In more recent times, the flag continues to be used as a symbol by white supremacist and nationalist groups. Which is why it is astounding that we can see the flag flying from some households in Laguna Woods Village, having taken down their confederate flags after Joe Biden was elected and put up the Betsy Ross flag instead.

## THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

I am an American citizen by choice. Every 4<sup>th</sup> of July I read the first paragraph of the Constitution of my beloved adopted home:

*“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”*

These beautiful words were signed on September 17, 1787.

Some years later, on July of 1852, Frederick Douglass wrote these words for his famous speech:

“What to the Slave is the Fourth of July”

*“Such is not the state of the case. I say it with a sad sense of the disparity between us. I am not included within the pale of glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought light and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn...”*

Your thoughts: Should we rejoice this 4<sup>th</sup> of July?

## FOLLOWING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

By: Maureen Mehler

### State Assemblywoman: Cottie Petrie-Norris

Our Assemblywoman, Cottie Petrie-Norris, has pushed for legislation to provide tax relief to California businesses and non-profits. This bill - AB 80 - has been signed into law and will ensure that forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans are not taxed and that related business expenses are deductible.

If your small business enrolled in the PPP in 2020 and the loans were forgiven, you may have incurred a tax liability in connection with the wages, rents, and utility expenses that were paid for with those funds. If you have already filed your 2020 tax return, you may want to speak with a tax advisor to receive these benefits. For more information, please visit [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov). Ms. Petrie-Norris' office is always available to answer any questions related to the Grant Relief Program or any other state resource.

On Tuesday, May 25, she partnered with the California Highway Patrol and Criminal Justice Training Center at Golden West College to provide her constituents with the best information to keep them and their families safe in dangerous situations.

With bipartisan support in the Legislature, AB 72 – The 2021 Coastal Adaptation Permitting Act – passed out of the Assembly. The bill, authored by Petrie-Norris, will rationalize the regulatory approval process for critical coastal adaptation projects.

## OUR MEMBERS—RAMESH JOSHI

By: *Rebeca Gilad*

You want to be inspired? Let me tell you about Dr. Ramesh Joshi. Ramesh was born in a small village in India and got involved in politics when he was 12 years old, participating in the “Quit India” movement protesting the British Raj. At that time, very few children went to school and only 15% of the Indian population was literate, but watching trains go by his school, he decided early on to become an engineer.

He studied Civil Engineering in Jodhpur, India, and when finished, he got married and had three children. He was awarded a scholarship to West Germany, but the option was denied because of India’s caste racism. He went back to school and got a Masters in Highway Engineering (in Punjab) and upon completion he was assigned the task to build roads in the desert of Rajasthan bordering Pakistan.

He moved to the USA and obtained a Masters in Soil Engineering as well as a Doctorate in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University. Pursuing research, he accepted a tenured position at Calgary University, where he stayed for the next 37 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus. He published over 250 papers and lectured in many foreign universities.

He founded an NGO “Council of Foreign Trained Immigrant Professionals of Alberta, Canada,” which helped many professionals get jobs. He also was active in civil rights organizations in Calgary.

Ramesh speaks Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Japanese and English. He has set up scholarships both in Calgary and at his Alma Mater in India and has also paid to build two rooms at the girls hostel there.

He moved to Laguna Woods in 2014, where he has been involved in different clubs and activities besides his Unitarian Universalist congregation Tapestry. He is 89 years young.



Ramesh Joshi

### TODAY & ALWAYS

By: *Rebeca Gilad*

Dear Members: Do you want to congratulate someone, send a special message, honor a loved one, and at the same time help your Democratic Club so we can help others? Now you can do it! Please send an email to Rebeca: (rebecagilad@gmail.com) or call: 949-452-0464. Tell me whom you want to honor and what you want to say, and we will publish it! Please submit it before the 15th of the month. Just donate \$10 per line. Send donations to: Laguna Woods Democratic Club P.O. Box 2243 Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243.

#### TODAY:

**To: Dr. Fran Williams:** Congratulations on your upcoming wedding. You will be missed in Laguna Woods Village. From: The LWDC Board of Directors

**To: Mike Gaskins:** Best wishes for a prompt recuperation. From: The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Joyce Aquino:** Sending you our get well wishes. From: The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Rabbi Jill Zimmerman:** Much luck to you and your husband, Ely, in your new life in Northern California. From: The LWDC Board of Directors

**To: Janice Burstin, LWDC Board Member:** Congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the high school graduation of your N.Y. & CA granddaughters! From: The LWDC Board of Directors.

# WILL BRUCE'S BEACH BE RETURNED TO BLACK DESCENDANTS?

By: Gloria Williams

In 1912 Charles and Willa Bruce purchased two parcels of land in Manhattan Beach, California. They built a lodge, cafe, dance hall and dressing tents. This was designed to be the first West Coast resort for Black people, who were prohibited by segregation from using many beaches. The resort became a place where Black people traveled from far and near to enjoy days at the beach. Customers were soon met with harassment by white neighbors and the Ku Klux Klan attempted to burn the lodge down. The end of Bruce family ownership came when the Manhattan Beach City Council used eminent domain to take the land with plans to use it as a park.

No park was built; the unused land was transferred to the State of California in 1948 and transferred to Los Angeles County in 1995. This last transfer listed restrictions prohibiting the sale or any further transfer. Only a new state law can lift these restrictions, according to Janice Hahn, member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Hahn says it is the intention of the county to return the property to descendants of the Bruce family.



State Senator Steven Bradford has introduced legislation, Senate Bill 796, in an attempt to exempt the land from previous restrictions. He is quoted as saying, "After so many years we will right this injustice."

If the law passes, transfer to the Bruce descendants will need to be approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Certain adjacent areas may not be a part of the transfer, since they were not a part of the original land in question. The value of the property has not been assessed. If the land is returned to Bruce descendants, they may be given an option to lease it back for

continued use by the city of Manhattan Beach.

The death of the Bruce family's dream is likely one of many being told as the nation is awakening to the discussions of race and reparations at the local, state and federal levels. As the legal issues are being resolved, acknowledgement and condemnation of acts of prejudice and hate are being made. Hopefully, this can be a foundation upon which a future of respect and inclusion will be built.

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## ACTIVISM REPORT

By: Janice Burstin

I would like to begin with my appreciation for all residents of Laguna Woods Village (LWV) who have participated in our monthly 'STOP THE HATE' rallies! We have been holding them every month since April 2021 to address the unfortunate recent incidents of assaults on far too many people who represent 'minority' populations by others who have terrorized these groups! These rallies actually began in response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25th, 2020. Along with the multitudes participating in marches and rallies, we, the LWDC members took to the streets to show our support for the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. This year with the increased incidence of attacks on the Asian population, our message to all like-minded residents of LWV morphed into an all-inclusive one that all verbal and physical attacks on others will not be tolerated!

Join us for our next 'STOP THE HATE' Rally on Friday, July 30th, 2021 between 4-5p.m. on El Toro Road near the Olive Garden Restaurant and Laguna Woods City Hall. Bring your own signs consistent with the theme of the rally. We will have some signs available to be borrowed! See you there!

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

By: Allan Feldman



A bill prohibiting gun shows taking place on California state property passed the State Senate and is now being considered by the Assembly. The bill was sponsored by Senator Dave Min. If the bill passes the Assembly and is signed by the Governor, California will no longer be a partner in the selling of guns. This is just one of the reasons we support Senator Dave Min.

Good news for Democrats in the New Mexico special election. Democratic State Representative Melanie Stansbury defeated her Republican opponent by 25 percentage points. She received over 60% of the vote. Thanks to the members of LWDC who wrote postcards to New Mexico voters in this election. The open Congressional seat in New Mexico is in a solid Democratic district.

However, in special elections, such as our own upcoming one, it's the turnout that counts. The DPOC is starting to gear up for the Recall election. The Republican candidates are already campaigning. Caitlyn Jenner, one of over 60 candidates who have filed papers to run, was interviewed by Dana Bash on CNN. Jenner couldn't articulate what she saw as California's problems or solutions, although she criticized Governor Newsom for being a "politician" and said "a guy named Lee" taught her all about the CA budget. John Cox and his Dancing Bear, or is it the Dancing Bear and his John Cox, have been all over television with a vague description of California's problems and even vaguer solutions to those problems. Cox is being sued by several companies who worked on the advertisements for his prior campaign in Illinois. It seems he took money which was supposed to pay the technicians and other workers and put it in his own pocket.

Most people can see that this is a Recall without a reason. In an illogical statement, former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, a Republican, stated that since the state's progressive tax laws put California in such good shape to recover after the pandemic, these laws now must be changed.

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## PRESIDENT BIDEN ACKNOWLEDGES OPAL LEE COMMEMORATES JUNETEENTH

On Thursday, President Joe Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday, commemorating June 19, 1865, the end of slavery. On that day, Major General Gordon Granger, having fought for the Union, led a force to Galveston, Texas, to deliver the message that the war was over, the Union had won and now it was time to enforce the end of slavery. U.S. President Abraham Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862.

Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth" was at the signing to participate in the commemoration. Traditionally Juneteenth is commemorated by readings of the Proclamation, community events, food festivals and other activities celebrating African American history and culture.

Many are happy to see Juneteenth formally recognized by the United States government, some worry that history does not address the strife and struggle Black people have endured or the systemic inequities in our country.

*Excerpted/Edited from the Orange County Register—Original Author: Deepa Bharath,*



**President Biden acknowledges Opal Lee.** Commemorates the end of slavery (June 19, 1865) and declares Juneteenth a Federal Holiday.

# PATIO PICNIC WITH OUR POLITICAL STARS!

By: Nancy Hensel

As Laguna Woods activities and clubhouses open up, our Laguna Woods Democratic Club is delighted to announce we will host our first special event, tentatively planned for September 25 at the Clubhouse 2 patio. All club members are invited to attend this annual fall fundraising luncheon and auction. While we will be meeting in-person, this year's luncheon will be a little different from past events. Box lunches, rather than a catered meal, will be served. This is for two reasons. First, we want to exercise extra safety precautions and a box lunch will address some concerns about gathering in-person. And second, Jolanda Day is no longer offering catering. She will prepare three delicious choices for the box lunch.

The theme for the luncheon will be honoring our three elected stars: Congresswoman Katie Porter, California Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, and California State Senator Dave Min. We are proud to have supported their election and appreciate the work they are doing for us. We also want to actively support them and the re-election of Katie Porter and Cottie Petrie-Norris in the 2022 election.

The annual silent auction will also be different this year. We are limiting auction items to gift certificates for restaurants, and special services such as haircuts, manicures, massages as well as sporting events and theater tickets. Since we know that this past year has been difficult for local merchants, please purchase a gift card and donate it to our silent auction. If you know a business that has done well this year, perhaps ask them for a gift certificate instead. Either way please send an email to Rebeca Gilad ([rebecagilad@gmail.com](mailto:rebecagilad@gmail.com)) with your plans. We have a letter which you can give to local businesses which explains everything. We do not want more than one person to ask for a donation from any business, so make sure to let Rebeca know which business you are asking. We need your help to get as many gift cards as possible in order to raise money for the 2022 campaign!

## WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE EVERY ELECTION!

By: Mary Ribando

Did you know that even though she won the 2020 Primary by over 17k votes, Democrat Christy Smith LOST the CA 25th Congressional District seat by only 333 votes!

**"When fewer people vote, every vote carries more weight".**

## SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH - UPDATE

By: Sue & Richard Snyder



The poster features a colorful border of fruits and vegetables. At the top, it says "south county outreach" in a mix of bold and cursive fonts, followed by "FOOD DRIVE" in large green letters. Below that, the dates "THURSDAY, 7/8/21 THRU SUNDAY, 7/11/21" are listed. A section titled "Most Needed Items" lists various food items in three columns. At the bottom, there is a mission statement and contact information for the Food Pantry Team.

**Most Needed Items**

Mac and Cheese	Hearty Progresso Soups	Cooking Oil
Baked Beans	Canned Tomatoes	Corn, Vegetable, Olive
Canned Pasta	all flavors	Mayonnaise
Pasta Sauce	Rice a Roni	Mustard
white/red	Pasta Roni	Ketchup
1-2 lbs Bags of Beans		BBQ Sauce
All kinds		Salsa

**WE ENVISION AN ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY WHERE NO ONE GOES TO BED HUNGRY OR WITHOUT A PLACE TO CALL HOME**

Contact: Food Pantry Team \* [foodteam@sco-oc.org](mailto:foodteam@sco-oc.org)  
7 Whatney, Suite B, Irvine, CA 92618 \* (949) 380-8144 x203  
[www.sco-oc.org](http://www.sco-oc.org) \* TAX ID #33-0330233

Here we go again! Time to help those struggling Orange County families who have been affected by COVID, unemployment, and the high cost of housing in Orange County. Our next Food Drive will be held at 907 Ronda Sevilla Unit O, cul-de-sac 70 (7<sup>th</sup> building on the right). We will be hosting the Food Drive from Thursday July 8 through Sunday July 11. If you don't wish to go shopping, please drop off cash or checks made out to: **South County Outreach.**

### MOST-NEEDED ITEMS:

- Mac/Cheese
- Baked Beans
- Canned Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- 1-2 lb. Beans
- Progresso Soups
- Canned Tomatoes
- Rice-a-Roni
- Pasta-Roni
- Corn Oil
- Vegetable Oil
- Olive Oil
- Mustard
- Ketchup
- BBQ Sauce
- Salsa
- Mayonnaise

Thank you VERY MUCH for your continued support of this important effort. For questions, please phone Sue Snyder at (714) 329-3386.