



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 in March from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

MARCH MEETING

By: Sue Dearing

We're back in person! Join us to meet Katrina Foley, current Orange County Supervisor in District 2. We are fortunate that she will now be running in our District 5! In addition, the agenda will include Dr. Asif Mahmood, candidate for the 40th CD, and Mike Gaskins, El Toro Water District Director up for re-election.

Katrina Foley is a community leader, successful businesswoman, working mom, and attorney who was elected in 2021 as Orange County's newest Supervisor for District 2. Foley became Costa Mesa's first directly elected Mayor in 2018 and served as Mayor from 2016 to 2020. She was on the Costa Mesa City Council for twelve years and previously served four years on the Newport Mesa Unified School District Board of Trustees.

A proud graduate of Head Start and a Pell Grant recipient, Katrina understands what it is like to grow up in a family facing financial challenges. As the daughter and wife of union members, Katrina has always stood with California's workers and working families in their efforts to organize and bargain collectively. Supervisor Foley's accomplishments while in office cover many areas including affordable housing, homelessness, protecting the environment, public safety, infrastructure improvements, supporting public schools and fiscal responsibility. You can read about her accomplishments in those arenas at the link below:

<https://www.katrinafoley.com/accomplishments-1>

Continued on next page



**Supervisor Foley
will be speaking at
7 p.m. sharp.**

She has another engagement after ours and will leave at 7:45 p.m.

Be on time and do not miss this opportunity.

Dr. Mahmood and Mike Gaskins will speak briefly afterwards, followed by club business.

SAVE THE DATE:

**Tuesday, March 15
in Clubhouse 2
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Proof of Vaccination &
Masks Required**

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!

- Sidney Johnson
- Annie McCary
- Diana Pardee
- Alice Shotton

BLACK IN LAGUNA WOODS—MARCH

By: Sue Dearing



Meet Gabriel Dima-Smith, the young activist chair of the new O.C. Black Democrats Club in this half-hour interview hosted by LWDC Secretary Allan Feldman.

Gabriel speaks about his background, how he started the club and what the club hopes to accomplish. Sundays in March at 3:30 p.m. on Village TV.

2022 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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 and Program
- 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 & Campaign
- Maureen Mehler, Nominating
- Debo Orrill, Publicity, Website & Newsletter
- Mary Ribando, Voter Registration and Campaign

MONTHLY MEETING *(continued from page 1)*

Supervisor Foley will be speaking at 7 p.m. sharp.

Dr. Mahmood and Mike Gaskins will speak briefly afterwards, followed by club business.



Dr. Mahmood



Mike Gaskins

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, March 15

in Clubhouse 2

Proof of vaccination and masks required.



HONORING NEAL KELLEY: RETIRING REGISTRAR OF VOTERS: ORANGE COUNTY

By: Jonathan Adler



Neal Kelley, Orange County Registrar of Voters

Democratic Club members honored Neal Kelley at his office on February 15th with a token of the club’s appreciation. Rarely, if ever, do we get a chance to tell outstanding, long-serving, retiring public officials how much we value their service – much less in a private, welcoming conversation, with a token gift of appreciation. That is why I was so gratified to join fellow directors, 2nd Vice President Nancy Hensel and Secretary Allan Feldman, while meeting with the nation’s leading elections official, Neal Kelley, who is retiring on March 10th as Orange County Registrar of Voters (RoV). In this era of widespread dirty-trick voter suppression and election subversion plans, his deserved national reputation for integrity, professionalism and leadership stands out.

After earning his MBA from the University of Southern California, in addition to his private sector entrepreneurship and teaching; Kelley became RoV in 2005. Among his national positions while RoV, he co-founded the Homeland Security Department Election Security Task Force, chaired the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Advisory Board, was on its Voting Systems Standards Board and Technical Guidelines Development Committee, as well as the National Academies of Sciences Future of Voting Committee. His many accolades include “Public Official of the Year” by the National Association of County Recorders, served as its president, and was among the Orange County Register’s “Most Influential” of 2016 and 2019–2021. After his persistence caused Orange County Supervisors to adopt the convenient cost-saving Vote Centers system, he often explained it to the public and groups. Its flexibility – allowing voting at any Vote Center – contrasted sharply with some states’ suppression tactic: voiding entire ballots cast at “wrong precincts.” Neal Kelley also served as trainer for some of my Common Cause sponsored trainings as an Election Protection volunteer.



Left to Right—Jonathan Adler, Neal Kelley, Nancy Hensel and Allan Feldman

In our meeting, we indicated our hope that during his retirement he will continue to maintain a strong voice when it comes to voting rights including vote by mail, which is a core value given our threatened democracy. His reply: “Look for my coming New York Times Opinion Editorial.”

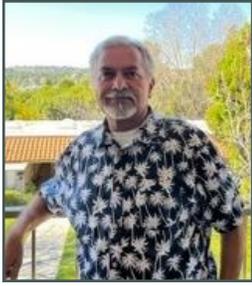


Left—A Pop-Up Voting Center at Laguna Niguel Regional Park 2020 & Ballot Box (below)



OUR MEMBERS: JOE REGO

By: Rebeca Gilad



Joe Rego

Rebeca: Who is Joe Rego?

Joe: Social Justice is my passion: Black lives matter, women's reproductive rights and human rights. Poverty is despicable and must be eradicated. These are my beliefs. This is who I am.

I was born in India, one of nine kids in a very humble family. I

was educated in a Jesuit school and exposed to missionary work as a young student.

As an adventurer of sorts, I joined the merchant marine as an apprentice marine engineer at age 16 and continued in that career for 21 years. I could never have continued my career at sea without the support of my wife Olive and our children. I have travelled the world several times and love the diverse people, cultures, and exotic foods this world has to offer. During that period, I saw poverty and corruption, pomp and pageantry and experienced racism, but never shied away from any of it. The experience I gained taught me to pay closer attention to things I could do to benefit my community.

Rebeca: Give me an example.

Joe: Climate change is real, as is an increase in racial and gender injustice and limitations imposed on the reproductive rights of women. Little things like

following the new Village waste disposal protocol and getting more involved with the Laguna Woods Democratic Club to accomplish its social and political goals are ways I can contribute. Democracy is in darkness and if we are not alert, the lights will go out. I will do anything I can to curtail the darkness.

Rebeca: Tell me about your life after your sea career.

Joe: We immigrated to the United States in 1986. I was fortunate to land a great job as Manager of Engineering with a prominent U.S. ocean container shipping company. As manager, I established a strong policy of equal opportunity for all races. This certainly got me the appreciation of my staff. In retirement, I immersed myself in cooking and vegetable gardening. We moved to Laguna Woods from Benicia, in the Bay Area in late 2018. Deaths in both our families, followed by the pandemic seem to have taken a few years off our lives. When it rains, it pours. Current ailments have disrupted life again and once we get over this and the pandemic hurdle, we intend to travel once again.

Travelling to the United Kingdom, Europe, the Holy Land, and India are all on our bucket list. After that who knows. Life is an adventure. "I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do, any kindness I can show; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." (Etienne de Grellet, Quaker Missionary)

PETITION DRIVE—SCHOOL CHOICE INITIATIVE IS BEING CIRCULATED BY THE REPUBLICAN CLUB

By: Marcia Goldstein



The petition drive to put a school choice initiative on the ballot seems to be cut from the same cloth as the recent gubernatorial recall petition, this time putting politics over the well-being of students in this state. Given that California schools do not rate well nationally, the solution should be to improve them, not to use public funds for charter, private, and religious schools. Taking \$10,000 per student from public school budgets benefits upper-income people, religious institutions, and even investors in these alternative schools. The loss of this money is especially

destructive for schools in low-income communities, which already face hurdles because of family poverty. In these communities, schools are critically important because parents may be working two to three jobs or lack education themselves and are thus not in a position to tutor their own children.

THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

I couldn't wait to have this opportunity to share with you the 2022 LWDC's exciting fundraising plans. I know what you're thinking: why would we be excited about fundraising plans?

Well, just read below and then you will understand:

The Quarter-a-Day Campaign: If you have not done so, you'd better run (no, don't run, just walk) to become a proud member of our LW QUARTERBACK family. The family is growing daily and just by donating twenty-five cents per day (\$7.50 per month, or \$90 per year) you have automatically helped our new candidates get closer to their winning places. Breaking News: one of our quarterback family members has just given us a challenge: For every \$100 dollars we receive per month, she/he will donate \$100 more. Let's not miss this opportunity. Let's score as high as we can! Join online: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lwdc> or send a check to LWDC, P.O. Box 2243, Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243.

Do you have limited IT skills? Your children and friends don't have the time or patience to help you, so you can't use your phone, computer, or television? Stop complaining. Just send me an email and I will make an appointment that will change your life. How? Our Club's IT maven will come to your home. For only a \$25 donation to our club you will get ONE hour of technical assistance to solve your problems (your IT problems, that is).

You are a romantic at heart and you would like to have a way to show your loved one how much you care but flowers are too expensive? Not to worry! Give her, or him, a boxed set of beautiful high quality note cards with photos of our Laguna Woods Village flowers. Five beautiful cards with original photos. A box of 5 cards is yours for a donation of only \$20. Of course, if you are not a romantic and need a reason to give presents, this could be your perfect Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, birthday, and anniversary gift. Off the hook for a whole year for only twenty bucks while, at the same time, helping your favorite club! And that is not all: if you buy five boxes, you get one free!

My friend, didn't I tell you I have exciting news? So many opportunities to make your life better and easier!

TODAY AND ALWAYS

By: Rebeca Gilad

To: Maureen Mehler:

Happy Birthday! May you continue to be beautiful and healthy, and find the best people for our Board.

From: The LWDC Board of Directors.

To: Sandy Rosencrans, Carole Melton, Pat Freeman and Maribel Manzanaras:

Thank you for becoming volunteer stars of the Fundraising and the GOTV Committees.

From: The LWDC Board of Director.

To: Shirley Goodman:

Sending you love and peace.

From: The LWDC Board of Directors.

To: The Donors of the Quarter-a-Day Campaign:

Welcome to the family and many thanks. Together, we can do it better.

From: The LW Fundraising Committee.



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

By: Allan Feldman



At the Central Committee meeting on January 24th, Senator Alex Padilla gave a short talk, kicking off his reelection campaign. Also addressing the Committee was Ron Galperin, one of the candidates for CA Controller.

While they spoke in front of a very friendly audience, they both presented themselves very well. We already know Senator Padilla is a formidable candidate.

The redistricting has been finalized, except that the Board of Education is threatening to sue over the results. Apparently, they don't feel the new map offers the incumbents enough protection. As of now, Laguna Woods Village is in the 5th District. Sherine Smith is the Democratic candidate.

Most of Laguna Woods is in the 40th Congressional District. A small sliver is in the 47th District. Dr. Asif Mahmood is the soon-to-be endorsed Democratic candidate for the 40th District; while Representative Katie Porter is running for reelection in the 47th District.

Laguna Woods is now in the 72nd Assembly District. Judie Mancuso is the soon-to-be endorsed Democratic candidate. Laguna Woods is still in the 5th Supervisors District, where our current 2nd District Supervisor Katrina Foley is running. Supervisor Foley is the scheduled speaker at LWDC's general meeting on March 15th. She will be speaking at 7:00 p.m. before the usual club business.

The Pre-Endorsement meetings were held on the weekend of February 12th—13th and, among many others Judie Mancuso, and Dr. Asif Mahmood received enough votes to be preliminarily endorsed. Their endorsements will be voted on and finalized at the CDP Convention in March. Katrina Foley and Pete Hardin were endorsed earlier this year by the DPOC. There will be other endorsements for local Orange County races at the February Central Committee meeting. Please stay tuned.

Both our new Congressional and Assembly Districts do not appear to be Democrat friendly. Both have a Republican registration advantage. We are going to have a lot of work to do in this election season. We all need to realize the stakes this year could not be higher.

VILLAGE TV IN MARCH

By: Sue Dearing

DEMOCRATIC CLUB: Reverend Ralph Williamson, the pastor of COR-AME Church in Irvine, speaks on "A Time of Transformation of our Culture." Reverend Williamson will speak about disparities between the Black and White communities in areas like health care, education and our legal system. He will also address how we actually transform our society and what we can do to help. Please watch on Wednesdays in March at 2:00 p.m.

Reverend Williamson served as senior pastor of First A.M.E. Church Las Vegas for 16 years before coming to Orange County. While in Las Vegas, Pastor Williamson spearheaded a long line of social justice, criminal justice, racial and economic justice initiatives, through his non-profit organization Faith Organizing Alliance.

During his first year in Orange County Reverend Williamson organized a Unity March and Rally Against Racism and Injustice on June 13, 2020, which brought together 2,000 people from various organizations and communities, including some residents of Laguna Woods.



Reverend Ralph Williamson, Pastor COR-AME Church

FILM REVIEW: THROUGH THE BANKS OF THE RED CEDAR

By: Debra David

The Red Cedar River flows through the middle of Michigan State University (MSU) campus, where filmmaker Maya Washington's father, Gene, was part of a history-making football team that changed the recruitment of Black student-athletes from the South and won national championships in 1965 and 1966.

I arrived at MSU from Los Angeles in 1965 and attended every home game and the Rose Bowl that year. But I was unaware of coach Duffy Daugherty's pioneering recruitment strategy until I heard about it from fellow MSU "Spartan" and LWDC club member, Sandra Fairly, and viewed the film.

Daugherty recruited an integrated team from the start of his career as MSU head coach in the 1950's. In the early 1960's, he began recruiting Black athletes who were excluded from all schools except Historically Black Colleges and Universities in their segregated home states. He recognized an untapped talent pool that gave MSU a competitive edge. By 1964, 10 of the 21 Black team members were Southerners, including Gene Washington.

In the film, Washington notes that he had never flown, stayed in a hotel, or seen a restaurant menu until he came to MSU. He affectionately recalls the camaraderie that developed within the small Black student community. In 1967, a record-setting four Black members from the MSU team, including Washington, were among the eight first-round drafts picked by NFL teams.

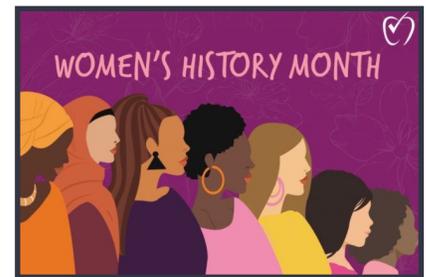
This engaging documentary describes an important turning point in American sports history. It also led me to reflect on my own journey as the first U.S. born and college-educated member of my Hungarian Jewish family. The turbulent civil rights movement of that period inspired me to study and teach sociology of race and ethnicity. The film is available through Amazon Prime on the PBS documentary channel.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is celebrated every year in the month of March. Since 1987 the United States dedicates the month of March to celebrate women's achievements and their contributions to culture, society, and history. Women's History Month celebrates all women, those who came before us and paved the way for the fight for equality, and the American women of today who continue fighting for women's rights. It is during Women's History Month, on March 8, that we also observe International Women's Day.

Women's History Month started as Women's History Week, an event which was organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, and was first observed in 1978.

In 1980 President Jimmy Carter declared the week beginning on March 8 as national Women's History Week. The following year, Congress passed a resolution establishing Women's History Week as an official annual National celebration. Eventually, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to extend the celebrations to the whole month of March, and so, in 1987, the first Women's History Month was celebrated around the United States. The resolution requested the acting President to issue a proclamation designating March as Women's History Month every year. These proclamations highlight the contributions that women have made throughout American history in many different fields.



FOOD DRIVE FOR SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH

By: Sue Snyder



A huge THANK YOU to all of you who have donated food, checks and cash for our bi-monthly South County Outreach Food Drive. In January you did a fabulous job of helping struggling Orange County families who have been affected by COVID, unemployment, and the high cost of housing in Orange County. We filled fourteen huge barrels and collected over \$1,000. Wow!

Because of the “lockdown” we are not (yet) allowed to hold Food Drives at Staters Market. We are looking forward to when that can happen again. Our next Food Drive will be held, once again at 907 Ronda Sevilla, cul de sac 70, (the 7th building on the right).

We will be hosting the Food Drive from Thursday March 17th through Sunday March 20th.

If you do not wish to go shopping, feel free to drop off cash or checks made out to South County Outreach. Thank you very much for your continued support of this important effort. For questions, please phone Sue or Richard Snyder at (714) 329-3386.

SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH'S “MOST-NEEDED” ITEMS:

Mac and cheese, baked beans, canned pasta, pasta sauce, white/red 1–2 pound bags of beans of all kinds, hearty Progresso soups, canned tomatoes, all flavors of Rice-a-Roni and Pasta-Roni, cooking oil (corn, vegetable, and olive), mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, barbecue sauce, and salsa.

NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY—MARCH 3RD

March 3rd is National Anthem Day commemorating the day in 1931, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted as the United States' National Anthem. It is a symbol of American patriotism.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was originally a poem written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 which was titled "The Defence of Fort M'Henry". On March 3rd, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a law making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States. Before 1931, the United States did not have an official National Anthem, but "Hail, Columbia!" and "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" were often sung at official events.



THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL ANTHEM LYRICS

*O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

1814—Francis Scott Key writes a poem that would eventually become the lyrics to our National Anthem.

1889—The Armed Forces acknowledged “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the official tune when raising the Navy flag.

1918—The first sporting event to play the National Anthem takes place at the World Series between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs.

1931—President Herbert Hoover signed into law the Star-Spangled Banner as our National Anthem.