

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



STAMP  
HERE

**STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.**

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

### Newsletter—March 2021

## MONTHLY MEETING

### WE GOT PROBLEMS...AN UNPOPULAR BUT NECESSARY CONVERSATION

The club's March meeting features Reverend Dr. Charles Dorsey, who was recommended by LWDC member Dr. Fran Williams. He has a doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University and is an accomplished author, vocalist, and speaker.

Orange County's Human Relations Commission and 100 Black Men recognized him as an outstanding community leader. Reverend Dr. Dorsey has over 15 years of service at COR AME Church in Irvine, where his work involving civic engagement, educational advocacy, and youth outreach continues to thrive. Reverend Dr. Dorsey spoke on "We Got Problems... An Unpopular but Necessary Conversation" about racism, reparations and Jim Crow laws.

The program airs every Wednesday in March at 2 p.m. on Village TV. We know you will find his insights on white fragility, the judicial system, the “fatigue of trying to explain the injustices” and the idea of “competing for suffering” fascinating and enlightening! The program is also available on YouTube. Link: \_\_\_\_\_



**Rev. Dr. Charles Dorsey**  
COR AME Church, Irvine

The Black in Laguna Woods program this month is a discussion of Rev. Dr. Dorsey’s talk and features Sandra Fairly, Dr. Fran Williams and Gloria Williams. Moderated by LWDC Secretary Allan Feldman, it airs Thursdays in March at 5:30 p.m.

## 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 to Membership](#)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Beverly Clark
- Victor Cuda
- Sheila Refoy
- Mary Ruiz
- Diana Schellenberg



## 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

*"The mind  
is like a  
parachute.  
It doesn't  
work if  
it's not open."*

Frank Zappa

## FROM MY KITCHEN TO YOUR DOOR

By Rebeca Gilad

The results are in: The Fundraiser was a success! Many thanks go to the buyers of the homemade food. We hope you enjoyed it very much.

Our special thanks to the participating chefs: Sue, Marilyn, Nancy, Mary, Sarita and Rebeca. Your delicious cooking is deeply appreciated by our food buyers and by Katrina Foley who was the recipient of this limited-time fundraising effort. We helped Katrina in her run to become a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, while we had fun cooking, delivering and eating. Using these proceeds the club donated \$500 to the Democratic Party of Orange County to be used to send out a mailer for Katrina. Cheers!

We received a few requests to repeat this "From my Kitchen to your Door" idea. So please stay tuned. We are working on a plan to celebrate "Cinco de Mayo" while this time helping Katie Porter and Cottie Petrie-Norris. Can you believe it is already time for our two good friends to start their campaigns again? I guess time flies when you are having fun!

## THE V.P. CORNER

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By Rebeca Gilad

Someone asked me if I feel embarrassed when asking for donations for our fundraisers. Embarrassed? I feel honored! You see, every so often there is a storm, either literally or figuratively speaking. I see myself as a bridge architect. When a storm hits we need bridges to cross the dangerous waters.

In our case, bridges to democracy. What I do is only to provide a connection to the people who through their donations help elect our representatives, who in turn ensure we have a democracy. Other times, the storm is a natural disaster and YOU, our donors, become the support that helps carry the affected to make it to the other side. And the best part of all is that we do it together, like a choir creating the most beautiful music. So whichever way you look at it, being a fundraiser is truly an honor. Especially when you are surrounded by friends who are always ready to give, no matter how much or how little they have themselves. Yes, it is definitely an honor.

## TODAY AND ALWAYS

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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 or more per line.

Send donations to: Laguna Woods Democratic Club P.O. Box 2254, Laguna Hills, Ca. 92654-2254

### TODAY:

- **To: Jonathan Adler**—Many congratulations on being re-elected to a third 2-year term as a member of the DPOC's Executive Committee. From: The Laguna Woods Democratic Club.
- **To: Margaret Houffelaar**—Good-bye and good luck in your new home. You have been a staunch Democrat and supporter of the club and we will miss you. From: The Laguna Woods Democratic Club.
- **To: Pat Leftwich**—A million thanks for being the best ZOOM Chief Engineer. From: The Board of Directors of the Laguna Woods Democratic Club.
- **To: All the Laguna Woods Vaccination Organizers, Staff and Volunteers**—Many thanks! From: The Laguna Woods Democratic Club.

### ALWAYS:

- **To: Ronnie Sellards**—Our heartfelt condolences for the loss of your husband Bob, who passed away recently. May of us knew Bob for his amazing work with the PC Club. From: The Laguna Woods Democratic Club.
- **To: Burt Baum**—Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your beloved wife Fran, a long time member of the Club. From: The Laguna Woods Democratic Club.
- **To: Joyce Moser**—With deep sympathy for the loss of your dear husband, Henry, a member of the Club for many years. From: the Laguna Woods Democratic Club
- **To: Bertie & Armando Guizado**—With deep sorrow for the loss of your son Nando. May he rest in peace. From: Your dance sisters.

## ADEM Election Results

By Nancy Hensel

Thank you to all Democratic Club members who voted for me in the recent ADEM Election. As the only candidate from Laguna Woods in this election, I am very grateful for your support. Unfortunately, I did not win the election. Laguna Woods, however, is represented. Jonathan Adler serves as a district delegate and ably represents our interests. Adler also serves on the DPOC Central Committee. Sue Dearing serves as an alternate on the Central Committee.

This year's ADEM election was the largest election ever with 169,743 CA Democrats registering to vote for assembly delegates. The election was a vote-by-mail only election. A high number of ballots were requested just before the deadline and additional ballots needed to be printed. The CA Democratic Party scrambled to get all of the requested ballots mailed to voters. This is why some of you received your ballots quite late. Their work is appreciated.

We should be very proud that so many Democrats voted in this election and are active participants in the democratic process.

### Your New Delegates Are:

- Lauren Johnson-Norris
- Bethany Webb
- Mari Fujii
- Theresa Sorey
- Lynne Riddle
- Michele Bell and
- Hanieh Jodat

## OUR MEMBERS—FRIEDA GORELICK

By Rebeca Gilad

**R:** Frieda, a synonym of “volunteerism”, should be the name Frieda. Please share your life story with us.

**F:** Professionally, I started as a Head Start teacher, then Kindergarten teacher and coordinator for a family day care agency. Afterwards, I became a nurse—the only nurse in two different Districts (7 schools) in the High Desert. I volunteered also teaching Disaster Preparedness and Parents as Teachers (PAT) courses.

**R:** When did you move to Laguna Woods Village?

**F:** In 2009. At that time, I joined AmeriCorps for one year. Then, at Veterans First, I did office work, then prepared meals, distributed food, made home visits and fundraising.

**R:** Tell us about your work in Laguna Woods and your work with detainees.

**F:** In 2012, I became a full time Laguna Woods volunteer. I am President of the Tuesday International Folk Dancing Club. Dancing keeps me alive. I am also President of the Nutrition Club. I feel passionately about sharing a holistic view of the relationship between what we eat and our health. Our speakers are physicians, nutritionists, counselors, researchers, chiropractors, etc. I also invite non-professionals who have a story to tell regarding the impact of a diet on their health.

**R:** And your work with detainees, what does it entail?

**F:** Through the “Friends of Orange County Detainees ” program, I was assigned undocumented detainees. I visited them at one of two detention centers. I went to court meetings, met their families if they had one here, did advocacy, and gave my financial support. Two of my assigned detainees got asylum. Another one was sent back to El Salvador where I believe he was murdered. One was sent back to Zambia where he was born, even though he lived there for only his first year of life, and one was deported to Nigeria where he is living in hiding. Their stories are very sad. Due to COVID the program is now limited.

**R:** Frieda, it is a true honor to have you as a friend. We need more Friedas in this world.



Frieda Gorelick

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY—MARCH 16TH

National Freedom of Information Day is held on March 16 and celebrates the birthday of President James Madison. It was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, giving the public the right to access records from any federal agency. Madison is known as the “Father of the Constitution” and as the foremost advocate for openness in government. He is also hailed as the key champion and author of the United States Bill of Rights. Individual rights and freedom of information were of high importance to Madison. Since 1967, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has provided the public the right to request access to records from any federal agency. [More Information.](#)

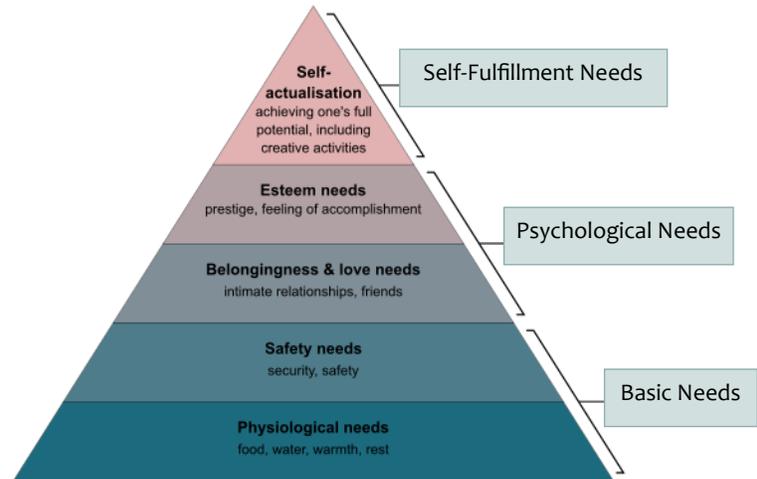
# AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By Jeanne Lepowsky

Shouldn't housing be a human right? Access to housing contributes to fulfilling basic physiological and safety needs of human beings (see [Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](#)). As people of compassion and ethics, we understand that every person must have access to safe shelter. Yet people who work in Orange County often cannot afford to live here, because of the high cost of housing. This problem also has ramifications for the county's economy. The Orange County Business Council's [2020 Workforce Indicators Report](#) states that "additional support should be provided to extremely low and low-income groups throughout the county to ensure they can afford to live here."

As a rule, a household can afford to pay 30% of their income towards housing costs. The [average rental in Orange County](#) as of May, 2019 is \$2,004 monthly, so a household must earn \$6,680/month or just over \$80,000 annually. But consider the table below, [showing California Income Categories for Orange County](#) as of April, 2020. Even a one-person household with a moderate income will pay more than 30% of their income for housing. Nearly 40% of Orange County households [earned a Moderate Income or lower during 2017](#), before the wave of unemployment brought on by the pandemic.

We have an opportunity to help correct the problem. The former Laguna Hills Mall is being developed into **The Village at Laguna Hills**, where developers plan to build 1,500 new housing units. Some number of these units should be designated as being for affordable housing. The decision regarding the number of moderate and low income units is up to the Laguna Hills City Council. That decision will be made very soon. Laguna Woods Democratic Club members and



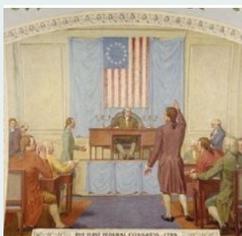
[Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](#)

friends will be collaborating with Canyon Democrats to urge the Laguna Hills City Council to take advantage of the opportunity to provide a significant number of new affordable housing units, by writing letters or emails to the Laguna Hills City Council prior to the meeting during which the decision will be made. The meeting date has not yet been determined. Look for an email from the Laguna Woods Democratic Club or from Jeanne Lepowsky with the timeline and talking points to include in the correspondence. Please plan on participating if you are able!

**California Income Categories for Orange County**

Number of Persons in Household:		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Orange County Area Median Income: \$103,000	Extremely Low	26950	30800	34650	38450	41550	44650	47700	50800
	Very Low Income	44850	51250	57650	64050	69200	74300	79450	84550
	Low Income	71750	82000	92250	102450	110650	118850	127050	135250
	<b>Median Income</b>	72100	82400	92700	<b>103000</b>	111250	119500	127700	135950
	Moderate Income	86500	98900	111250	123600	133500	143400	153250	163150

## REMEMBER MARCH 4TH— WHEN THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BEGAN

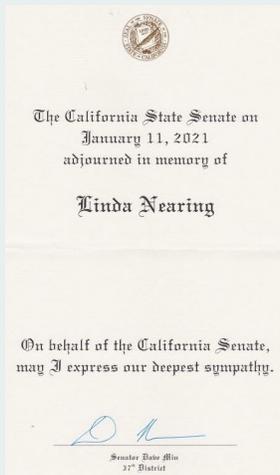


**March 4, 1789** - The U. S. Federal Government started to operate under the terms of the U.S. Constitution, as the Confederation Congress ceded power. March 4th was the Constitution's first official day in business.

The first modern Congress convened in New York City at Federal Hall. It was approximately one month before George Washington was elected as the first President under the new U.S. Constitution.

# CA SENATE AND ASSEMBLY ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF LINDA NEARING

By Susan Dearing



The close ties between the Democratic Club and our CA Senator Dave Min and Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris were evident this past month. In January, both legislators adjourned their respective chambers in Sacramento in memory of former club President Linda Nearing.



At Linda's memorial, Assemblywoman Norris told of giving her first political speech at the club's holiday party. Senator Min shared that Laguna Woods was the first Democratic club to encourage him to run for office. Both legislators recounted their warm personal feelings for Linda and how grateful they were for all the club had done to help them get elected.

A video of Linda's zoom Celebration of Life, which was attended by over eighty people is available for Linda's many friends who were unable to attend: [tinyurl.com/LWcelebrate](https://tinyurl.com/LWcelebrate)

## WHO IS "KIZZY"?

By Gloria Jordan Williams



Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett

During a forum hosted by the National Urban League in December 2020, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious disease expert in America, was asked about the input of African American scientists in the vaccine process. Without hesitation Dr. Fauci replied that the vaccine for COVID-19 was developed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by a team of scientists led by Dr. Barney Graham and his colleague, Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett. Dr. Fauci told his audience that Dr. "Kizzy" Corbett is an African American scientist who is at the forefront of the development of the vaccine.

Dr. Corbett is one of the leading scientists at NIH and part of the team that worked with Moderna, the pharmaceutical company that developed one of two vaccines said to be more than 90% effective against COVID-19. As a

student, Dr. Corbett was recognized very early for her abilities and potential. She was chosen for several summer laboratory internships including at NIH, where she would one day play a key role in the fight against a pandemic. She participated in a program for gifted minority students in which she was able to study chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she ultimately earned a PhD in microbiology and immunology.

We know Dr. Corbett will not be a "hidden figure". She has stated that she wants to be recognized so that young scientists and people of color will know that she stands by the work that she has done for so long. Dr. Fauci sees her involvement as a sign of hope that Black Americans who are hesitant to be vaccinated will have a more positive attitude toward the vaccine knowing that the renowned Kizzy was instrumental in its development.