



Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Post Office Box 2243
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

November 16 Meeting CH 2 at 7:00 p.m.

By: Allan Feldman

According to the federal government, right wing extremists currently pose the greatest threat of terrorism in the United States. We remember the “good people” who demonstrated in Charlottesville VA., carrying torches, chanting racist and anti-Semitic slogans. We remember the attempt to violently overthrow our government on January 6th of this year. We see these things and similar events playing out in real time. Understanding who the people involved are, what these actions represent and how our country got into this situation is more of a problem.

Dr. William Billingsley, the speaker at our November meeting, hopes to shed some light on this subject for us. Dr. Billingsley has been studying these types of extremist movements and the people who make up these movements his entire career.

Dr. Billingsley’s talk is entitled “Race, Religion, and Reaction: The Crises of White Supremacy and the Challenge to American Democracy in the Early 21st Century”. That’s a long title but the problem itself is just as large. With our former President giving support to white nationalists and white supremacists, we can no longer look away. We can no longer chuckle dismissively at the rantings of The John Birch Society as we did years ago. We can no longer ignore the antics of “patriots” like Cliven and Ammon Bundy, who had a shootout with federal agents over payment of grazing fees. Ammon Bundy is now a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Idaho. This needs to be taken seriously.

Dr. William Billingsley is a World History Instructor at Saddleback College. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington and his Masters and PhD from UC Irvine.

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Dr. William Billingsley
World History Instructor
Saddleback College

Please Note:

**Proof of vaccination
will be required for this
meeting and future
meetings.**

HOLIDAY PARTY

**Monday
Dec. 6th
6:30 p.m.**



In Clubhouse 2

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.

November 11, 2021

FOR YOU,
*and all who gave
so many yesterdays*
FOR OUR TODAY--
A heartfelt
THANK-YOU
on
VETERANS
DAY

VETERANS DAY HISTORY

Link: <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>

Veterans Day is held in
honor of all military
veterans, including both
the fallen and the living,
who have served in the
United States Armed
Forces, during wartime or
peacetime.

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



November 25th, 2021

NOVEMBER MEETING – CH2

Continued from page 1

In addition to many articles, Dr. Billingsley has written the book titled “Communists on Campus: Race, Politics and the Public University in Sixties North Carolina”. He was the inaugural recipient of the Numan P. Bartley Award from the Southern Historical Society. The research grant he received with that award is currently being turned into a book, “Civil Rights and White Supremacy: Currents of Resistance to School Desegregation...”.

His current research topics include the impact of Cold War policies and politics on California education and the history of the John Birch Society.

The issues of white supremacy, white nationalism and its religious supporters will be with us for a long time to come. Even when former President Trump fades into the infamy of history, others will certainly come and pick up the torch. Learning about these movements and its adherents is one of the first steps we need to take to combat it.

Proof of vaccination and masks required.

WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE & DEVELOPMENT–NOV 10TH

This day is celebrated as World Science Day for Peace and Development to encourage scientific developments for peace and growth and to engage the wider public for scientific contribution.



Link: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-science-day>

2022 Slate OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

By: Maureen Mehler

This slate will be announced at the November 6 and December 6 club meetings. Nominations will be taken from the floor at both meetings. The club election vote will take place at the January 18, 2022, meeting.

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

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

- Legislation, Jonathan Adler
- Bylaws, Dana Barraclough
- Activism, Janice Burstin

- Membership, Debra David
- Historian, Heide Krueger-Gerson
- Field Organizer & Campaign, Jeanne Lepowsky
- Nominating, Maureen Mehler
- Voter Registration & Campaign, Mary Ribando
- Publicity, Website & Newsletter, Debo Orrill

A SPECIAL THANKS

To **Katie, Cottie and Dave** for their Live Auction Donations and to **Sue & Richard Snyder, Nancy Hensel, Ramesh Joshi and Mark Skurnik** for their generosity in purchasing them. We received \$1205 for the LWDC.

LAGUNA WOODS Democratic Club

NEW Members!

- Sharon & Morton Beck
- Shelley Buckingham
- Cheryl Fennick
- Rick & Raleigh Gerber
- Ann Hoffelder
- Katherine Holland
- Mark Hochberg
- Gay Maroney
- JoAnn Novack
- Crista Simpson
- Mindy Stein
- Bob White

*October Newsletter Spelling Correction:

- Margo Kuzee

TODAY AND ALWAYS

By: Rebeca Gilad

TODAY:

To: Laurel,

—**Congratulations for completing the Boston Marathon. Go girl!**

From: Your mom, Maureen Mehler, The Laguna Woods Democratic Club Board of Directors.

To: Jo Panitch, Kate Van Camp, Selma Bukstein, Marilyn and Jerry Gross, Marcia and Joel Goldstein, Sue Snyder, Dana Barraclough, Peggy Smith, Maureen Mehler, Pat Leftwich, Valerie and Allan Feldman, Debra David, Karen Hawthorne, Ora Wolf, Heide Krueger-Gerson, Frank Mulvaney, Sue and David Dearing, Linda Mendelsohn, Barbara Siry, Eva Lydick, Susan Adleman, Bethany Gilboard and Rebeca Gilad.

—**Many thanks for your great volunteer skills at our Club's Luncheon/Auction.**

We could not have done it without you!

From: Nancy Hensel, The Laguna Woods Democratic Club Board of Directors.

ALWAYS:

To: Lee and the Goldstein Family,

—**We are deeply sorry for the passing of your beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Marcia Marie Goldstein. May the memories you created with her stay with you forever.**

From: The Laguna Woods Democratic Club Board of Directors.

To: Sandy Rosencrans,

—**We are so sorry for your loss. This is a loss for everyone in the Club as well. May your beloved husband Marty's spirit continue to live among all of us.**

From: The Laguna Woods Democratic Club Board of Directors.

OUR MEMBERS—JOEL GOLDSTEIN

By: Rebeca Gilad



Joel Goldstein

I bet there are not too many Laguna Woods residents who don't know or have never heard about Joel Goldstein. Personally, I think he represents the best of the best in our midst. Why? Please read below.

J: I was born in Chicago, Ill., son of liberal parents who from early on taught me about injustice, prejudice, and poverty. Their

words are still with me to this day. Also, education was very important to them. I was the first in my family to go to college.

R: Please tell us a bit about your education and your professional career.

J: At first, I was going to pursue a career in chemistry, but once I was in college, I explored many different fields and got especially interested in understanding why people do what they do. Answering this basic question took me to completing Masters and PhD degrees in Social Psychology. I became a psychology professor at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh.

R: You were teaching and doing research at the time of the Vietnam War, civil rights, and spreading drug use. In some universities, student protests resulted in deaths and school closings. What a difficult time. Please share your experiences.

J: One of the students killed at Kent State University was from Pittsburgh. The students at Carnegie Mellon revolted and a few burned down the campus ROTC

building. The next morning, I was asked to moderate a crowd of three thousand students, as I had experience in conflict resolution and human relations and was known as a group leader among staff and students. The police and the press gathered on campus. I took the microphone, asked the students to come forward to speak, and by the end of the gathering, we had agreed to take a vote from students, faculty, and staff as to what the school should do next. Ninety percent of students voted, and the school was closed for three days to have "teach-ins." There were several main issues discussed including the war, the civil rights movement, and the drug movement. I taught there for eight years.

Subsequently, my wife Marcia and I moved to Maryland, where I first worked at the National Institute of Mental Health, and then at several U.S. Public Health Service agencies. I served under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. It was interesting to observe from close-up their different styles of governing and attitudes regarding social research.

R: Joel, I see your name in many Laguna Woods publications, videos, photos, newspapers, and on Village TV. How do you do it?

J: Family is very important. We have 2 children and 4 grandkids. That comes first. I get involved with groups that tackle issues that interest me, like the environment, conservation, climate, politics, photography, videography, the arts (theater, literature, music), and of course, science.

Once I get involved, I try to give it all I can.

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE?

By: Mary Ribando

We here in California are fortunate to have an excellent system of voting, which includes extended days to vote by mail, at a drop box or anywhere in person. Easy peasy! Currently, without federal enforcement, too many states are making it harder for people to vote. Can this happen here? Well, it can if our state and local elected officials are against voter protections.

Voting is the ability to have a voice in choosing elected officials whose decisions impact our lives, families and communities. People who care **must** focus on state and local elections, not just in California, but in every state. Talk it up with friends and family near and around the country that **voting every election** ensures the candidates to best represent us at state, local and federal levels.

Your voice matters – your vote matters!

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

By: Allan Feldman



As you might imagine, one of the biggest subjects at the last Central Committee meeting was the defeat of the Republican recall election. When he ran for office, Governor Newsom carried Orange County by less than 1 percentage point. The recall was defeated in Orange County by four percentage points. Once again, Laguna Woods led the way with the highest voter turnout.

The DPOC Annual Awards Gala, formerly known as The Truman Dinner, is scheduled to take place on October 23rd, after you receive this newsletter but before this was written. The featured speakers are scheduled to be Senator Alex Padilla, Congressman Adam Schiff and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. As a well-deserved honor, the “Club of the Year Award” will now be named the “Linda Nearing Club of the Year Award”. A fitting way to honor our past president, Linda Nearing.

Governor Newsom signed SB264, a law that would end gun shows at the Orange County fairgrounds. The bill was sponsored by State Senator Dave Min. Since this will mean a loss of revenue at the fairgrounds, the O.C. Fair Board had several proposals. Before the bill was signed, the first proposal was to send a letter to the Governor asking him to veto the bill. The second idea was to rush “pre-approval” of a contract for a 2022 gun show at the fairgrounds before the January 1st effective date of the new law. In a meeting of the O.C. Fair Board Senator Min stated “... there is no reason the state has to be an accessory to or profit from the sale of guns...”. Sen. Min was persuasive enough that both measures were defeated. Orange County Democrat, DNC member and longtime friend of LWDC Melahat Rafiei, newly appointed to the Board, voted against both proposals.

While the recall election is over, the next election, the primary, will be in June. LWDC and DPOC are starting to get ready to keep Orange County heading in the correct direction.

WORKING THE VOTE CENTER

By: Jeanne Lepowsky



Working at an Orange County Vote Center offers an opportunity to be directly involved in the election process. You might want to consider becoming a Customer Service Representative (CSR) for the O.C. Registrar of Voters (ROV) during 2022. Working as a CSR requires training. In 2021 we completed two days of online training, plus another day of in-person training. The training covers equipment set-up, procedures for processing voters, how the security of the election process is maintained, and the importance of providing excellent service to every voter.

Each Vote Center has a team and team leader. The team sets up the Vote Center’s furniture, equipment and signage before voting begins, and repacks the equipment to be returned to the ROV facility afterwards. While the Vote Center is open for voting, CSRs work with voters, providing them with ballots and answering their questions. The vast majority of voters are quite appreciative.

During the 2021 California gubernatorial recall election, many voters were concerned about election security. CSRs educated these worried voters about how Orange County handles election security and showed them how to follow the progress of their individual ballot as it moves through the system. Many voters were relieved to understand how the election system works. This is the most satisfying part of the job. Another source of pleasure is meeting other patriotic people for whom the democratic process is of highest importance to our country.

If you think you might enjoy working at a Vote Center, contact the O.C. Registrar at their website at www.ocvote.com/about.

RALLY TO PROTECT WOMEN’S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

By: Janice Burstin

On October 2nd, prior to SCOTUS beginning its fall term on October 4th, approximately 80 attendees participated in an LWDC- sponsored rally with the theme of Protecting Women’s Reproductive Rights. This was our way to join with well over 600 National Marches and Rallies to send a loud and clear message to the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court: Roe v. Wade, which has been in effect since 1973, should not be weakened any more than it already has been. The case from Mississippi, which will be heard on December 1st, and a possible review of the Texas law denying women abortions after 6-week of pregnancy with absolutely no exceptions are major concerns.



L.W. DEMOCRATIC CLUB STARTS IMMIGRANTS SUBGROUP

By: Ramesh Joshi & Rebeca Gilad

According to the Webster’s Dictionary an immigrant is:

- “1. A person who leaves one country to settle permanently in another” or
- “2. An organism that appears where it was previously unknown”.

One definition pertains to human beings, the other one to “organisms”. However, they both speak to the truth of an immigrant’s experience. The real experience when moving out from the known to the unknown.

For many it turns out to be a good experience, a good choice: new opportunities, new friends, new dreams. For others it is a lonely road, an unexpected disappointment, where you are accepted in your adopted land, but only as a life-long visitor.

If you are an immigrant in our beautiful country, and you have a story to tell or want to meet others who want to share their stories with you, please come and be part of this group. We will meet once per month, in Rebeca’s home. If you are interested in being part of such a group, if you are interested in creative ideas working with new immigrants, please call one of the two co-chairs: **Rebeca Gilad (949) 452-0464** or **Ramesh Joshi (949) 280-6159**.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN—Nov. 25th

The United Nations celebrates November 25th globally to raise awareness about how women are subjected to different kinds of violence and to prevent such unfortunate events. Link: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day>

It also serves as a kick-off for the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) which is an annual international campaign that runs from November 25th and until December 10th, Human Rights Day. The campaign was started by activists at the inaugural Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.



THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

The following story made my blood boil. I am sure you are aware of the ongoing debate: “It is my choice, my freedom, and therefore, I will NOT get vaccinated”. History tells us that this is not new.

In 1777 smallpox was such a big problem that George Washington ordered immunizations of all the troops who had not been infected by the virus yet. He saw this as a military measure. Years later, a pastor in Cambridge, Mass. who was against the smallpox vaccine, took his fight all the way to the Supreme Court where it was defeated (1905).

In 1955, four thousand parents refused to let their children be vaccinated against polio in Montgomery County, Md. And now, as we finish 2021, COVID has killed close to 750,000 people in the United States alone. We must deal with “anti-vaxxers”? Really? But that is not all. Oh no! If due to a chronic pulmonary disease you or someone you know has been patiently (and desperately) waiting for years on the very long list for a lung transplant, please move aside my friend because the limited number of healthy lungs that are donated are going to.... you got it...people who got Covid because they CHOSE to forgo the vaccine [JAMA, 2021;326 (1)]. Did this make your blood boil too?

FOLLOWING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

By: Maureen Mehler

Report from Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris:

On July 29th, she honored our district's non-profit of the year and five non-profits of distinction. This year's non-profit of the year was [The Pacific Marine Mammal Center](#) in Laguna Beach. The five non-profits of distinction were: Power of One Foundation (Costa Mesa), Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center (Huntington Beach), Miracles for Kids (Irvine), Age Well (Laguna Woods) and Project Self Sufficiency (Newport Beach).

Last year, she partnered with Assembly member Mark Stone and NextGen America to establish the California Student Borrower Bill of Rights. AB 376 is now officially in effect.

This bill will provide strong protections for student loan borrowers and hold loan servicers more accountable.

With the oil spill in Huntington Beach, Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris said, “We saw our worst fears come to life with the catastrophic oil spill off our coastline. I am personally devastated by this news. And as your representative, I'm working to ensure that all of our resources are being used to fight this.” Safeguarding our coastline has always been one of her primary concerns.



CARE & SHARE— A RIDE, OR YOUR TIME?

By: Mary Ribando & Rebeca Gilad

Do you need a ride to a Democratic Club event? Are you feeling alone and need to talk? Our Laguna Woods Democratic Club has set up an email account for members to reach out! To make this work, we are looking for volunteers. Here are the ways you can help:

1. If you can provide a ride for a fellow club member, please send us your name, telephone number and the gate nearest to where you live.
2. If you are willing to share your time with someone who feels alone, please send us your name and telephone number. One phone call every two weeks is all we are asking for.
3. If you are requesting a ride or a phone call, please include your phone number, address, cul-de-sac and nearby gate.

All volunteer information and requests for a ride or a call should be sent to LWDC.SHARE@gmail.com. We have board members reviewing this account to answer your email and will put volunteers in touch with those requesting a ride or a call.

A SUCCESSFUL LUNCHEON & AUCTION—September 25, 2021

By: Nancy Hensel

On September 25th Laguna Woods Democratic Club members gathered to celebrate our legislative representatives: Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, State Senator Dave Min, and United States Representative Katie Porter. After a delicious box lunch catered by Jolanda Day, we heard about the legislative accomplishments of our “Three Stars”. Cottie Petrie Norris talked briefly about the successful NO vote on the recall and Biden’s Build Back Better program. She said that addressing homelessness is one of her highest priorities as is support for small businesses. She is chair of the Accountability and Administrative Review Committee and she said that she sees accountability as broader than how our dollars are spent. It also includes the success of funded programs and their impact on the community. She is working with Katie Porter on these issues and commented that Katie has “Oversight” as her personalized California license plate. She introduced AB 1158 to require minimum insurance coverage for substance abuse treatment and recovery residences. Governor Newsom signed the bill on October 1.

Dave Min said the Laguna Woods Democratic Club is a “bright blue beacon” in Orange County and the Republicans are scared of LWDC. Min serves on the Transportation, Energy, Banking, and Business and Professions Committees. He is also concerned about bringing more funds back to Orange County. He recently presented a \$15 million check to the **ALERTWildfire** program, a consortium of the University of San Diego, the University of Oregon and the University of Nevada, Reno. He worked closely with the Orange County Fire Authority and Southern California Edison on the bill.

The current program has 700 remote cameras to provide early detection of wildfires. The new bill creates an infrared map of fuel concentrations in fire-prone access areas in the state. It is expected that Min’s bill will provide better information for fuel reduction efforts and help to deploy first responders more effectively during wildfires. As a former law professor at UCI, Min said education is very important to him and he is working to give more access and create more innovation for California’s research universities, state universities, and community colleges. The audience responded very positively to Min’s announcement that his bill to end gun shows at the Orange County Fairgrounds passed out of the California Legislature on September 3rd. Governor Newsom signed the bill on October 8. Senator Min said he hoped other state fairgrounds would also end gun shows.

Congresswoman Porter provided a video for her remarks since she needed to stay in Washington to continue her work on the two Build Back Better bills being negotiated by House and Senate Democrats. Providing affordable childcare for working parents is Porter’s top priority. She said that childcare is necessary if the United States is to have a globally competitive workforce and a stable economy. Language in support of childcare is included in the Build Back Better proposed legislation. You can view the remarks of our Three Stars on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxBSCz5VjZw>.

The event also included a silent and live auction and raised almost \$9000 to support our Democratic candidates.

WHERE TO GET YOUR CA DIGITAL PROOF OF VACCINATION

By: Deborah Orrill

If you have lost your white CDC card or merely want digital proof to carry on your smart phone, you can contact the State of California.

Request a Digital Proof of Vaccination:

- Go to <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>
- Enter your name, and your date of birth. Then include a cell phone number/email.
- Finally, create a 4-digit PIN
- Verify your identity by checking the box and click the "submit" button.
- You will then get a text or email with a link to your vaccine record. (It takes a few minutes.)
- Click on the link and enter the PIN you just created.
- This will give you your vaccine record with a QR code, and details below.
- You can then take a screenshot and keep it on your phone for future use in your pictures file.