



## Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Post Office Box 2243  
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

**STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.**

Village TV is every Wednesday in September from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Black in Laguna Woods every Tuesday in September from 2:00-3:00

### September 2021 Programs

By: Sue Dearing

Our August meeting was an in-person get together for members, new and old. Over 100 people attended. The outdoor patio of CH 2 was a perfect venue in the era of COVID. The agenda included honoring 10-year members who received a lovely pen. For those 10-year members who weren't able to attend, you can pick up your pen at the September 25 luncheon. Since we didn't record the meeting, the program committee decided to replay some favorite programs from this year in September, according to the following schedule:

**September 1 and 8:** Rev. Dr. Charles Dorsey's "We Got Problems... An Unpopular but Necessary Conversation" about racism, reparations and Jim Crow laws.

**September 15:** Congressman Mike Levin's "Washington Update on the Environment"

**September 22 and 29:** Dr. Thomas Parham's "Exploring our Responsibilities Around Racism: From Passive Observers to Authentic Drum Majors."

If you missed these fascinating programs, this is a great opportunity to catch them. If you already saw them, they are worth watching a second time.

**Tune in Wednesdays at 2 p.m. on TV 6.**

The September program of *Black in Laguna Woods* will be the documentary *Black in Mayberry*, an intimate conversation with Black residents, professionals, students and visitors to El Segundo, CA. *Black in Mayberry* was born from the protests held in El Segundo by El Segundo for Black Lives (ESBL) following the murder of George Floyd. This 13-part short film series is an unfiltered opportunity to learn more about what it is to be Black in El Segundo and in America in 2020.

Thanks to the filmmakers Tanya Taylor and Mark Knight for permission to share this movie. *Black in Mayberry* will air Tuesdays in September at 2:00 p.m. starting September 7th.

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**CLUB PROGRAMS ON  
VILLAGE TV  
IN SEPTEMBER !**

### SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS



Rev. Dr. Charles Dorsey



Mike Levin



Dr. Thomas Parham

### FILMMAKERS



Mark Knight



Tanya Taylor

## 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!

- Linda Gibboney
- Tracey James
- Gail Lewis
- Nathaniel Lewis
- William Shane
- Margo Zuzee

### LAGUNA WOODS DEMOCRATIC CLUB



AUGUST MEETING

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Sept. 10:

No on the Recall Rally!  
Between 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on El Toro.

#### Sept. 14:

Recall Election!  
It's the last day to vote!

#### Sept. 17:

Last Day to sign up for the Sept 25th Luncheon.

#### Sept. 21:

Int'l Peace Day Celebration at CH 5 at 11:30 a.m.

#### Sept. 22:

Stop Hate Rally!  
Between 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on El Toro.

## 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



## SEPTEMBER 25TH LUNCHEON

By: Nancy Hensel

On September 25<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our three elected stars – Katie Porter, Dave Min, and Cottie Petrie-Norris at our annual luncheon in Clubhouse 1. Dave Min and Cottie Petrie-Norris will speak in person and Katie Porter, who will be in Washington working for us, is preparing a video especially for the club. We are proud to have supported the elections of all three 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 luncheon is a fundraiser for their upcoming campaigns.

A silent auction will be part of the luncheon. Auction items include 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, many club members have purchased the gift certificates rather than asking businesses for support. The auction will not only support our candidates but also our local businesses who have had a challenging year because of Covid-19.

Covid safety precautions will be in place. Jolanda Day is providing three choices for a box lunch, wine will be available in individual bottles, tables will be spaced, and guests need to wear masks when not eating. Reservations are required and all guests will be asked to sign a waiver of liability.

Please see the luncheon flyer included with this newsletter for more details regarding cost, meal choices, and reservations. Information and sign up are also at this link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2021lagunawoods>

## THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

I had just finished interviewing Steve (See “Our Members”), got home and reflected upon our conversation. Not once did he mention the fact that he is one of our club’s star donors. For some years now, he has been steadily (monthly) supporting our candidates and our club’s work. From the interview, you can tell why he donates his money to us and to other various causes: since early on, he has worked in professions that help people that are in emergency situations. But here, I’m referring to how and why he does it. He is a man who doesn’t need public recognition for what he does. He doesn’t need to be thanked, because giving makes HIM happy. I then thought that I wish there were many more people like Steve. Then, I happily realized that many of us in the club share with Steve at least one important trait: we fully BELIEVE in what the club stands for and we also understand that by each one of us volunteering, or donating, or learning or teaching, we make a difference. A big one!

## NO ON THE RECALL—COMMITTEE’S WORK CONTINUES

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

On August 16, as ballots began to arrive in mail boxes, over 150 volunteers were reaching out to nearly 7,000 likely pro-Newsom voters, all residents of the City of Laguna Woods. Some had written post cards. Others left door hangers at Village homes. Still others made phone calls to voters.



The nine-member **No on Recall Committee** began meeting in mid-June to make all of this happen. They strategized. They wrote, revised and rewrote text. They had flyers, signs and door hangers printed, and put together the weekly Globe ads. Most importantly, they organized volunteers and team leaders to disseminate that all-important message to voters: “Make sure to vote “No” on Question 1’.

California is a leader in setting national public opinion. The outcome of this election will change the national momentum on voter suppression, on whether working people are treated with dignity, and the response or lack of response to global warming.

Stopping this Republican Recall in California is crucial. Every vote is needed to protect against the encroachment of authoritarianism.

**The election closes on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The final push to protect our state government begins within the next few days. We need your help to make phone calls to those who have not yet voted. Contact Jeanette Peck at (760) 213-0956 or Sue Dearing at (949) 463-4419 for more information.**

## DEMOCRATIC CLUB UPDATE:

Democratic Clubs in Orange County have a vote in the party's endorsement process. According to the Democratic Party of Orange County (DPOC) bylaws, clubs must vote to instruct their Associate Members how to vote on Central Committee endorsements. At the August board meeting, club directors voted to endorse Pete Hardin for Orange County District Attorney and Joe Kerr for Orange County Supervisor. That vote was ratified by the Members in Good Standing (MIGS) at the August club meeting. LWDC's Associate Member Allan Feldman will vote in accordance with the club's vote at the August Central Committee meeting.

## OUR MEMBERS—STEVE STANFILL

By: Rebeca Gilad

**R:** Steve, thanks for meeting with me, please tell me about your life.

**S:** I was born in a small cotton mill town in West Tennessee. My stepdad was in the Navy, so we moved occasionally. But our moves were limited to small-town life experiences among people very similar to me. When I turned twenty, I agreed to help a friend move to San Diego, CA, and that's when my whole life changed. I moved too. This move brought me new experiences, diverse friendships, different viewpoints, even new food. My world opened up and I realized how much I had been missing.



Steve Stanfill

If I hadn't moved to California, I would never have had the chance to know how much I was missing in life and would never have met my life-long partner/husband, Larry.

I could not afford to continue with my college education, and moved from San Diego to Los Angeles. I started a career that lasted 30 years. My first position was as a drafting clerk. After a few years, I became a manager supporting 911 and Emergency Services covering 80% of California and parts of Nevada. My job entailed being a systems manager, software configuration manager, and computer/quality control operations group manager.

In 2013 Larry and I moved to Laguna Woods, where I have been very involved with or supported different clubs, such as the Rainbow Club, the Democratic Club, and numerous groups and organizations and candidates running for office. I also attend many different HOA board/committee meetings because it is important to stay informed about the different actions affecting our community. I am a Good Neighbor Building Captain. I believe wholeheartedly that if we promote the causes and the people who can impact our lives, we CAN make a difference. I have seen it here and throughout Orange County. And if we can do it here, we can do it in other places too. That's what a good life is all about. Believe in what you do and get involved. So, to borrow from Nike: "Just Do It!"

## WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION?

By: Mary Ribando

"Because the rest of us are depending on you."

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men." - **Lyndon Johnson**

## CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

September 17th is designated as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. Learn more about the U.S. Constitution by going to:

<https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/constitution-day>



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

By: Allan Feldman



At the Central Committee meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>, resolutions authorizing the DPOC to proceed with an early endorsement in 3 elections were approved. The Committee authorized a vote to decide whether or not to endorse a candidate for Orange County District Attorney, Orange County Supervisor for the 5<sup>th</sup> District (Laguna Woods) and Orange County Supervisor for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. A vote on whether to endorse specific candidates for these offices should take place at the August Central Committee meeting.

An early endorsement will help Democratic candidates get help in the form of money and volunteers from local Democratic Clubs. It will also help with their name recognition in the area. **See Club Update on page 3.**

Democratic Anaheim City Councilor Jordan Brandman resigned his office on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Brandman had sent misogynistic texts in February 2020 about a former Anaheim City Councilor. Seems the pressure for him to resign got stronger and stronger until his position became untenable. We hate to lose any elected Democrat, but he had to go.

Remember Tito Ortiz, the Trump supporting, anti vaxxer, Covid-denying former MMA fighter elected as a City Councilor in Huntington Beach? After a couple of months, he realized the job was real work and resigned. To replace him, the Council elected Rhonda Bolton to take his seat. She is the first Black woman to sit on the Huntington Beach City Council. With her election there is now a 4-3 majority of Democrats on that body. Needless to say, this is a first.

As it has been for a while, the Republican Recall is still the driving force at the DPOC. Look at the polling data. Among Democratic registered voters, the No vote, the vote for retaining Governor Newsom, has a 15% advantage. Among people who are likely to vote, the margin is reduced to 3%. This election will be determined by who votes.

**Make sure to vote NO on Question 1 and Do Not Vote for Anyone in Question 2.**

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## CRITICAL RACE THEORY

By: Nancy Hensel

After the killing of George Floyd, communities across the country began looking for ways to address racism in our criminal justice system. This effort created a backlash against teaching about racism in schools and universities by including critical race theory (CRT) in the curriculum (even though it is primarily taught only at the graduate school level). CRT is a framework to examine how our laws and policies result in inequality among races, whether intentional or not. Developed in the 70's by prominent legal scholars, CRT focuses on outcomes, regardless of whether an individual or an organization makes a conscious choice to discriminate. In *Education Week*, Stephen Sawchuck said CRT posits that racism is part of everyday life and while most people don't intend to be racists the choices they make may fuel racism.

Housing is a significant way for American families to build wealth; however, systemic discrimination in housing has hindered wealth development for people of color. Discrimination in housing can be either intentional or unintentional. In the 1930's the Federal Home Owners Loan Corporation created maps to identify areas that were considered unsafe for home loans. They outlined these areas with red ink; most areas were predominately Black, immigrant or Jewish communities. This was known as redlining, which was outlawed in 1977 by the Community Reinvestment Act which requires the Federal Reserve and banking regulators to encourage banks to make loans in the communities where they do business. Despite the Community Reinvestment Act, redlining continues.

*Continued on page 7*

## BIDDY MASON: AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE

**Slave, midwife, nurse, entrepreneur, property owner and real estate investor, philanthropist, childcare and orphanage founder, founder of first Black church in Los Angeles.**

By: Sandra M Fairly

Biddy (Bridget) Mason was born into slavery in 1818 in Hancock County, Mississippi or Hancock County, Georgia and removed from her biological parents at a very young age. By the time she was 18 she is reported to have been owned by 4 different slave masters. During her early years she was trained in domestic and agricultural skills, as well as in midwifery, herbal medicine, and healing arts passed on from Africa via American and Caribbean enslaved people and Native Americans.

A natural student and quick learner, she became noted as a midwife, childcare provider, and nurse.

Somewhere between the ages of 18 and 22, Biddy was given or sold to Robert and Rebecca Smith and moved to their plantation in Mississippi. There she gave birth to three of her own children. (At least one was rumored to be the child of Robert Smith.) She was a natural leader for the domestic slaves and helped with management of the household chores and operations.

When the Smith family abandoned their failing plantation to join the Mormon Church's migration west to



Biddy (Bridget) Mason

*Continued on page 8*

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## TODAY AND 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: Bob Bainbridge**—Many thanks for driving twice to the DPOC to pick up postcards and lawn signs for our club. What a fabulous volunteer!

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Jeanette Peck**—Sending our best wishes to you and your son-in-law, Carlos.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Frieda Gorelick**—Wishing you a speedy recovery and looking forward to having you back at our meetings and dancing.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Marty Rosencrans**—Sending you our warm wishes for a prompt recovery.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Wendy Levin**—Wishing you a speedy return to “regular” life.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Janice Burstin**—So happy you are back home. Stay healthy!

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Janice Heirshberg**—Hope you are feeling better.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: All Our Club Members**—Who have kindly donated gift cards for our upcoming fundraiser. Many thanks, you are THE BEST!

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Lisa Bender**—Enjoy your new home. We are happy you are not leaving the Village.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

**To: Betsy Martin**—A million thanks for your very generous donation which helped us get our voices printed in the ads in the Globe.

**From:** The LWDC Board of Directors.

## **CRITICAL RACE THEORY** *(Continued from page 5)*

The Center for Investigative Reporting found that Black applicants were denied loans at significantly higher rates than whites and other groups. The Reinvestment Act lacks rigorous enforcement; during the Obama administration, financial institutions were sued only nine times by the Justice Department. The homeownership gap between whites and Blacks is now wider than it was during the height of the Jim Crow era.

Another housing policy was an example of intentional discrimination. After World War II, the GI bill was designed to aid veterans to buy homes. While the bill was written to be race neutral, southern members of Congress insisted that states, rather than the federal government, administer the program. Southern Democrats were fearful that public sympathy for veterans might be used to advocate against existing Jim Crow laws and found ways to deny GI benefits to Black veterans. Black veterans faced other issues in accessing GI housing benefits. For example, they needed to prove they were honorably discharged, and many more Black soldiers were dishonorably discharged than white soldiers. They also faced intimidation and violence if they moved into some housing developments. It wasn't until 1968 that the Fair Housing Act was passed to prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or family status. Despite the law, housing discrimination still exists. The Fair Housing Act addressed intentional discrimination; however, unintentional discrimination remains in housing.

A recent Washington Post article described how people in majority Black communities were unable to access FEMA benefits after a hurricane or tornado. Why? Because approximately one-third of Black-owned land in the South changes hands informally within families without recording a deed, making them ineligible for FEMA benefits. Was this intentional discrimination? Probably not, but it systematically denies some of our citizens benefits easily accessed by other citizens. In writing this story, the Post reviewed more than 9.5 million FEMA applications to determine rejection rates based on land title issues. FEMA found that applicants for disaster aid in majority Black counties were twice as likely to be rejected because they lacked proof of home ownership.

Redlining and the GI bill implementation are examples of intentional discrimination while FEMA loan access is an example of unintentional discrimination. We should be making every effort possible to ensure fairness in our local, state, and federal policies and be willing to examine the intended and unintended consequences of such policies. In future newsletters, we will look at systemic racism in criminal justice, education, and other areas.

## **WORLD DEMOCRACY DAY—15 SEPTEMBER**

On September 15, International Day of Democracy will be observed around the world to promote and uphold democratic principles, including respect for human rights, inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency.

### **HISTORY & BACKGROUND OF INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY DAY**

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution on November 8, 2007, that September 15 of each year would be observed as the International Day of Democracy. Their goal for this day is to promote government's role in maintaining open democracy among all member nations of the United Nations Charter and to celebrate the system of values democracy promotes, giving citizens the power to make decisions regarding all aspects of their lives.

## **BIDDY MASON** *(Continued from page 6)*

Utah and California, they took Bidy and their other slaves with them. Bidy helped to organize the travelers, herded cattle, cooked, provided nursing and

**“The open hand is blessed, for it gives in abundance, even as it receives.” - Bidy Mason**

healing support, and delivered babies for people throughout the wagon train journey. John Smith did not tell his slaves that they were legally free by their entry into California, a “Free State”. However, Bidy learned of this through friendships with free Black residents in the state. When John Smith tried to relocate his slaves to Texas in 1856, Bidy sued for the freedom of the slaves in a Los Angeles District Court and won freedom for all the Smith slaves.

Thus, at the age of 37 Bidy began her life as a freed woman. She worked for a local physician in the Los Angeles area and quickly became noted for her skills. Bidy helped in the delivery of over 300 babies. She cared for small-pox patients during an epidemic, treated sick and injured prisoners in the jails, and poor people throughout the fledgling city. Bidy saved much of her earnings and soon was able to purchase small parcels of land, which would later become part the first financial district of Los Angeles. She eventually amassed a fortune worth over \$300,000 (valued at about \$ 7-9 million today). Bidy established schools and childcare for the families of Blacks and other needy people, and opened grocery accounts with local merchants for the poor. She was affectionately referred to as “Grandma Bidy” and “Aunt Bidy.” She built or purchased affordable housing to rent to the needy regardless of race. Ultimately, along with the husband of one of her daughters, Bidy founded the First African American Episcopal Methodist Church of Los Angeles, which is today recognized as one of the largest and most revered African American churches in the nation. Bidy Mason died in 1891 at the age of 72, leaving much of her property and money to her family.

There is a memorial wall dedicated to Bidy Mason in the Broadway Spring Center in Downtown Los Angeles near the site where her home and property existed. Bidy is an honoree in the California Social Work Hall of Distinction.

Selected References:

- U.S. National Park Service
- The ACLU of Northern California ([www.aclunc.org](http://www.aclunc.org)) Gold Chains; Hidden History of Slavery in California
- Forbes Magazine: “Need Inspiration? This former Slave Became A Real Estate Mogul And Left The World A Better Place.” John Greathouse June 5, 2019
- Wagner, Tricia Martineau: *African American Women of the Old West*, “The Open Hand Bidy Mason;”

## **SO DISCOURAGED: A LETTER TO MY IMAGINARY FRIEND**

*By: Rebeca Gilad*

My Dear Friend: I know you know I am an optimistic soul, always expecting the best. However, I was invited to a dinner with friends I like very much here in our Village. I was looking forward to it. I checked with the organizer and he assured me there would be tables outdoors. I assumed everyone would wear masks when not eating and sitting would be with some distance between us. I arrived and much to my surprise, the rented room was small; there were no outdoor tables; people were sitting close to each other, and I was the only one wearing a mask. I thought I was having a bad dream. I sat next to a retired nurse and asked her what was going on: “We all should be aware that even vaccinated people are getting sick with COVID (or Delta?).” She responded: “We all want to feel FREE!!!” My response was: “Oh my God!!! You want to feel free? Free of what???” There were two other retired nurses. Maskless.

Waiters were also maskless. Needless to say, I didn’t have a single bite. I was too afraid to take off my mask. Yes, I wanted to take it off and breathe easier. Yes, I wanted them to be able to see my smile under my face cover. I wanted to have hugs and kisses. But we are not there yet. Did I have fun? I loved seeing them again. But, I was not having fun because I was scared and angry. Was it worth it? I will let you know in two weeks.