



Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Post Office Box 2243
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

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

HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 6TH (In Person)

By: Sue Dearing

Under the expert leadership of LWDC Special Events Chair Nancy Hensel, the Special Events committee has been working hard to organize your exciting Holiday Party scheduled for Monday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. in Clubhouse 2.

There will be light refreshments consisting of cheese and crackers, white wine, individual Bundt cakes in two flavors, and chocolates. A special video created by Joel Goldstein will celebrate what America means to our members and honor the club's history from 1968 to the present. There will also be a few door prizes.

As for all our meetings, a mask is required as well as showing proof of vaccination and signing a waiver of liability. The last two only need to be done once.

The deadline for reservations is Nov. 29th or until the limit of 150 is reached. You can pay by ActBlue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lagunawoodsholidayparty2021> or by check using the tear-off on the flyer included with this newsletter. Please contact Nancy with any questions at (703) 964-6993.

We hope you can join us for some end-of-the-year fun! The Holiday Party will take the place of the regular December meeting.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Our Holiday Party	1
Intl Human Rights Day	1
2021 Officers & Directors	2
Village TV Update	2
Welcome New Members	2
National Bill of Rights Day.....	2
2022 LWDC Election Slate	3
Democratic Party of O.C.	3
Our Members—M. Pearlman..	4
OC Board of Education.....	4
The V.P. Corner	5
Critical Race Theory.....	5
Why Does the LWDC?	6
Elected Officials—Dave Min...	6
Kwanzaa	7
8 Powerful Words	7
Nguzo Saba (7 Principles)	8
Voting or Not Voting	8

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is an International United Nations holiday commemorated on December 10.

This day aims at spreading awareness about Human Rights across the world, and encouraging people to stand up and fight for their rights, regardless of where they are from.

It also celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.

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!

- Carole Duncan
- Janet Ehrlich
- Caroline Hinckley
- Ardith Laessig
- John Lafferty
- Pamela McDougal
- Carita Miller
- Sara Romeis
- Ellen Zimet

NATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

Bill of Rights Day is commemorated every year on December 15.

The Bill of Rights consists of the first 10 amendments made to the United States Constitution, and its purpose is to spell out the personal freedoms and rights of the American people. The Bill of Rights was first written on September 25, 1789, and was later ratified on December 15, 1791, which is why Bill of Rights Day is celebrated on this date.

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

VILLAGE TV UPDATE!

The Board was so impressed with the three candidates who attended our November in-person meeting that we decided to invite them to be interviewed by LWDC Secretary Allan Feldman in a program to be recorded for Village TV. Those three candidates are Pete Hardin for OC District Attorney, Joe Kerr for OC Board of Supervisors in District 5, and Sherine Smith for OC Board of Education also in District 5.

If all the districts remain the same after redistricting is completed by the end of December, Laguna Woods residents will be able to vote for all three in the June primary.

The Board of Education will be decided in the primary while the other two races could be decided if one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes. So, you can see how important the June primary is!

The interview will be shown every Wednesday in December at 2 p.m. on Village TV. Tune in to find out more about these highly qualified candidates.

2022 Slate OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

By: Maureen Mehler

- 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

- Legislative Action, 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



Happy New Year!
**Let's toast to
yesterday's
achievements and
tomorrow's bright
future!**

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

By: Allan Feldman



Last month, the DPOC held its Annual Awards Gala, formerly known as The Truman Dinner, and raised over \$300,000.00. Last year the party raised approximately \$147,000.00. That makes this year's event a great success!

The name of the annual dinner is not the only new name on the program. The Club of the Year Award is now known as The Linda Nearing Club of the Year Award. It's good to see our friend and former leader honored in this way, an honor well deserved.

State Senator Dave Min (37th District) has sponsored a bill to ban offshore oil drilling in state-controlled waters. Jane Fonda endorsed the bill at a rally in Huntington Beach that was attended by other prominent activists and politicians.

State Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris (74th AD) sponsored several bills signed by Governor Newsom. One dealt with the state's prison system sharing information with the state's unemployment department. This should help prevent what happened at the beginning of the pandemic, when unemployment benefits were paid to thousands of prisoners and people using prisoner's identities.

The other bill sponsored by Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris deals with guns. Previously, with instances of domestic violence, police would confiscate registered guns from the household. Under Assemblywoman Petrie-Norris' bill police will now also confiscate "ghost guns." Ghost guns are unregulated firearms that anyone including minors and prohibited purchasers can buy and build without a background check. Ghost guns are unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home.

As redistricting is going on, we are currently in flux. It is possible that our Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and Supervisor's Districts could all change. It is also possible that some of them or none of them will change. The proposed new district maps are inconclusive. We will have to wait until December to find out the results of the redistricting. Wherever we end up, our job will remain the same: **Get People to Vote.**

OUR MEMBERS—MARGARET PEARLMAN

By: Allan Feldman



Margaret Pearlman

Margaret Pearlman, a long time, admired and beloved resident of Laguna Woods Village, passed away on November 5th at age 102. Margaret was an artist, a political and social activist, an organizer, and friend to many in the village.

Margaret Pearlman was born in Gary, Indiana on March 8, 1919, to Celia and William Herman, both Russian immigrants. She raised two children in Chicago with her late husband Sol. She was a social worker, a political activist, and an art student. Margaret moved to Leisure World in May 1986 and continued many of the same activities.

She was active in the ceramics studio, Concerned Citizens of Laguna Woods, and the Laguna Woods Democratic Club. She organized “Let There Be Light” to improve the streetlights in the Village. She leaves two siblings, Sophie Feldman and Jack Herman, a daughter Judith Schwab, six grand-children, six great-grandchildren, and many dear friends.

Margaret was an active and a valued participant in the organizations she supported and loved such as

Concerned Citizens and the Democratic Club until the end of her life. She both helped organize and participated in marches and rallies far into her nineties. Age might have softened Margaret’s voice, but it never slowed her mind. At the many meetings she attended Margaret could always be counted on to cut to the significant part and come up with a solution. A quick mind and a tart tongue were hallmarks of Margaret Pearlman. In friendship you always knew where you stood with Margaret. What more can you ask of a friend?

Margaret’s house was an experience. It was filled with her paintings, pottery, and sculptures. There were books written by her late son Dr. Michael Pearlman and her granddaughter Dr. Wendy Pearlman. Her grandson Charlie, a glass blower, also contributed items to the décor.

Margaret left many legacies to her family and friends. She also left a missing piece in the hearts of the many people who knew and loved her. It would take an army to replace Margaret and the things she did and what she meant to so many people. Margaret was a true original. We can bemoan the fact that she can never be replaced, or we can be grateful that we knew her. Let’s be grateful!

A VISIT TO THE OC BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

Our vote is one of many ways to influence our government’s actions. Many of us email, write letters, or call our elected officials. A less commonly used but extremely important way to influence the actions of government is by making public comments.

Several Orange County Democrats attended the county Board of Education’s monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 3. Our objective was to tell the board members that they need to conduct their business in a transparent manner regarding how they will redraw their five electoral districts. There were about a dozen people giving comments on redistricting, all of whom requested more public involvement, including a two-week public comment period. Some had specific concerns about the draft maps. One man offered his assistance in redrawing the maps, as a way of avoiding the possibility of litigation.

While public meetings like the Board of Education meeting I attended might sometimes appear to be a circus, public comments are an extremely valuable tool of democracy. Public comments become a part of the public record. If an agency takes steps that are inappropriate or contrary to the law, our comments can be used as evidence in a lawsuit.

Please consider making public comments on the issues of concern to you. It is a powerful way to communicate with and impact the behavior of our government.



THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

I usually use this space to complain about some issue that has made me mad. Very mad. But this time it is different. It is not about complaints, nor happy times. It is about taking a moment for reflection.

December of two years ago, we were in a celebratory mood because we were getting rid of you-know-who in the Presidency and we were looking forward to welcoming back the sense of “normalcy.” We viewed normalcy from a political lens. But then, COVID happened. What did we learn because of COVID? Are we still learning something?

Do you feel stronger, more resilient? Do you feel tired and more depressed? Are you making plans for 2022, or are you waiting “to see what happens”?

Oh, how I wish we could all sit together and reflect about our lessons learned. Or... is there a chance that we would discover that we worry constantly so much that we did not take the time to learn anything? My hope for this coming year is that we will stay alert and active, while learning, and keeping faith in the fact that working together is the only way to bring peace to our hearts. I wish you and your dear ones a healthy and wonderful New Year as we... you guessed it... go back again to the polls.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY, ETHNIC STUDIES & CRITICAL THINKING

By: Nancy Hensel

Unfortunately, disinformation about Critical Race Theory (CRT) is influencing elections, from school boards to the recent governor's race in Virginia. According to Stephen Sawchuk in his May 18, 2021 article in *Education Week*, "The core idea is that race is a social construct, and that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies." CRT is not taught in public K-12 schools. Elementary and high school students are not taught to hate America. Teachers do not suggest that students should feel guilty for the way Black and Indigenous Americans have been treated in our country.

Young people should, however, learn about our racial history in age-appropriate ways. That is why many states including California are instituting ethnic studies programs. According to Nina Agrawal in her *Los Angeles Times* article of March 18, 2021, California has adopted a "model curriculum to guide how the histories, struggles and contributions of Asian, Black, Latino and Native Americans — and the racism and marginalization they have experienced in the United States — will be taught to millions of students. The new curriculum embraces an approach to ethnic studies that focuses on the four core groups but evolved to accommodate a breadth of experiences, including lessons on the Jewish, Armenian and Sikh communities in the U.S."

California also has general guidelines for how history and social studies should be taught in grades K-12: *"The California History-Social Science Framework places a strong emphasis on democratic values in the relations between citizens and the state. It encourages teachers to help their students practice the skills of engaged citizenship."*

The framework is designed to incorporate new scholarship that is fair, accurate, inclusive, and respectful (See the FAIR Act). Students are encouraged to ask questions, evaluate primary and secondary sources, conduct guided and later independent research, develop arguments, and make presentations. For example, students in an elementary grade read about a person they admire using more than one source,

Continued on page 7

WHY DOES LWDC HAVE STOP HATE RALLIES AND AFRICAN AMERICAN & IMMIGRANTS COMMITTEES?

By: Sue Dearing

At a recent party, a woman told me about a Chinese friend that she walked with often. She said she enjoyed learning about a different culture and that they had become good friends but, of course, not the kind of friends you would spend the holidays with. Why would she have said that? Would you have said anything, or would you have let it go? What would you have said to her?

Later at the same party the same woman said she did not understand why we had Black History Month and not Italian Month for example since she was Italian. Would you have said anything, or would you have let it go? What would you have said to her?

No matter how enlightened we think we are, we all have prejudices and biases, and we must learn to confront them in ourselves and to voice our opposition when others show theirs. We cannot remain silent in the face of hatred, either overt or implicit! That is why we have Stop Hate rallies every month and why we have an African American Committee and now an Immigrants Committee.

The African American committee recorded interviews of Black Village residents to help residents of other backgrounds better understand that Blacks are not treated the same as Whites. Because of the committee's work the Village instituted diversity training for all staff and security personnel. But as long as people are making comments like the above, we must continue to stand up against hate!

Now Rebeca Gilad and Ramesh Joshi have started an Immigrants group which met for the first time to share their experiences, including discrimination of all sorts. The group is just getting started, so they do not know where it will lead. I hope they choose to share their experiences with the rest of us so that we may all learn to live up to the ideal of what a good American is.

FOLLOWING OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

By: Maureen Mehler

Report from CA Senator Dave Min

Authored by Senator Dave Min and co-authored by Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris Senate Bill 374 was signed into law by Governor Newsom. This bill explicitly names and defines reproductive coercion. Senate Bill 374 will facilitate access to justice and will expand crucial protections for survivors of domestic violence.

This year Senator Min successfully steered over \$37 million in direct appropriations for Orange County priorities, a hopeful sign that the 37th Senate District is and will continue to be a priority for future state investments.

Additionally, he was the principal co-author of Senate Bill 87, which added \$2.1 billion to California's Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program. This important relief program allocated over \$60 million to local small businesses in cities throughout our Senate district. More grants are on the way since the legislature doubled the program to \$4 billion. Senator Min is also proud to have supported his Orange County colleagues in the Senate and State Assembly and to help shepherd a quarter billion dollars to other local projects.



CA Senator Dave Min

KWANZAA

By: Sandra Townes Ward and Dottie Hawkins

HISTORY

Maulana Karenga, chair of the African American Studies Department at California State University Long Beach, created Kwanzaa in 1966 during the aftermath of the Watts riots as a specifically African-American holiday.

Karenga said his goal was to "give Blacks an alternative to the existing holiday of Christmas and an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society." For Karenga, a major figure in the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s, the creation of such a holiday also underscored the essential premise that "you must have a cultural revolution before the violent revolution. The cultural revolution gives identity, purpose, and direction."

According to Karenga, the name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase: matunda ya kwanza, meaning "first fruits." First fruits festivals exist in Southern Africa and are celebrated in December/January with the southern solstice. Karenga was partly inspired by an account he read of the Zulu festival Umkhosi Wokweshwama. It was decided to spell the holiday's name with an additional "a" so that it would have a symbolic seven letters.

Although Kwanzaa is primarily an African American holiday, it has also come to be celebrated outside the United States, particularly in Caribbean and other countries where there are large numbers of descendants of Africans. It was conceived as a nonpolitical and nonreligious holiday, and it is not considered to be a substitute for Christmas. In fact, many African Americans who celebrate Kwanzaa do so in addition to observing Christmas. Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.

On December 31, families join in a community feast called the karamu. Some participants wear traditional African clothing during the celebration.

Continued on page 8



CRITICAL RACE THEORY, ETHNIC STUDIES & CRITICAL THINKING *(continued)*

write about the person, and create a poster. Many elementary schools host a poster day and invite parents and grandparents to see the poster, listen to students' presentations, and ask questions of the students. High school students might be encouraged to do independent research about topics they are studying in their history and social studies class.

A goal of this approach to education is to encourage questions and critical thinking. It is important that students learn to think for themselves. More information about California's K-12 public school framework can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/>

NGUZO SABA (THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES)



Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called the seven principles of Kwanzaa, or Nguzo Saba (originally Nguzu Saba – the seven principles of African Heritage). They were developed in 1965, a year before Kwanzaa itself. These seven principles comprise Kawaida, a Swahili word meaning "common."

Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the principles, as follows:

1. **Umoja (Unity):** To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination):** To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.
3. **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility):** To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics):** To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. **Nia (Purpose):** To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. **Kuumba (Creativity):** To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. **Imani (Faith):** To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle. On each day, the family comes together to light one of the candles in the *kinara*, or candleholder, and to discuss the principle for the day.



The Laguna Woods Village African American Heritage Club will celebrate Kwanzaa on Saturday, December 18th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Clubhouse 5.

VOTING OR NOT VOTING HAS CONSEQUENCES

By: Mary Ribando

Did the two recent governor's races make you nervous? Did they discourage you a little to ask why we are doing what we do? Or, hopefully, did they encourage you to keep up the excellent work?

Laguna Woods has had the highest voter turnout in many of our recent elections. All your dedication to stay informed and stand up for right and truth has given us the Newsoms, Porters, Petrie-Norris and Mins who fight for the interests of the people of our state and country. With your vote you have kept our state free from leaders with self-interests who spread misinformation and lies. But the battle across our country has been difficult and worrisome.

Please make a commitment to talk up the importance of voting every election with family and friends, near and far. Talk up the importance of having local and state leadership that will govern for the people and protect our homes, our schools, and our environment. Show everyone how we do it here. We listen, stay engaged and WE VOTE!