

# Democratic Club of Claremont

## Helen Myers Awards

Saturday, December 4, 2021  
4:00 o'clock in the afternoon

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89998723617>

**Bridge:** 909 399 9134

THE VOORHIS VOICE

**Progressive Voice of the Pomona Valley**

**December 2021: HOLIDAY SPECIAL EDITION**

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**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS**

Note from the Editor:

*Normally the Voorhis Voice is not published in December. This year there will be a holiday special issue. Because of the pandemic the Executive Board of the DCC has decided that another season of not meeting in person is best. The Zoom*

# Democratic Holiday Party



*program is below, including  
biographical information about Helen  
Myers and the winners of this year's  
awards.*



**ENJOY**

Welcome: Chris Naticchia, DCC President  
DCC Membership appeal: Andy Winnick, DCC VP -

Membership

DCC Political Action Fund appeal: Chris Naticchia

Helen Myers Award: Merrill Ring, DCC VP - Programs

Recipients and Presenters

John Forney, DCC Past President, to recognize Devon Hartman

Mike Boos, DCC Corresponding Secretary, to recognize Carla Johnson

Merrill Ring to recognize Larry Schroeder

Membership and PAC/thermometer: Chris Naticchia

US Congress member Judy Chu - remarks

Senator Anthony Portantino - remarks

Assemblymember Chris Holden - remarks

Mayor Jennifer Stark, City of Claremont - remarks

Andrea Moreno, District Director for Supervisor Hilda Solis - remarks

Mayor Pro Tem Jed Leano - remarks

Membership and PAC/thermometer: Andy Winnick

Closing: Chris Naticchia

**The Democratic Club of Claremont  
Helen Myers Awards**

The Democratic Club of Claremont has named its annual volunteer awards in honor of the late Helen Myers (1914-2005) , a co-founder of the California Democratic Council and of the Voorhis Democratic Club, and a trustee of Scripps College. Helen was a member of the L.A. County Democratic Central Committee when the all-volunteer California Democratic Council was formed. Helen served as its first vice-president representing Southern California along with Alan Cranston (later Senator Cranston) representing Northern California. The organization continues to provide support services to our club and more than 500 other clubs and groups.

Helen was born into a family of social democrats with a strong belief in trade unions. She graduated in 1938, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Chicago. Her early work experiences made her well-grounded in community organizing.

In 1948, Helen joined the Young Democrats in Pasadena and became a member of LACDCC from the 12th Congressional District centered on the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. The 12th District had been Jerry Voorhis' district and was then Richard Nixon's.

In 1952, inspired by the nomination of Adlai Stevenson to the presidency, new and enthusiastic volunteers joined the Democratic Party. Helen started organizing Democratic clubs which became a new power center in intra-party politics in the 1950s.

In 1959, Helen received a political appointment to the Disaster Office in Pasadena and she came under federal civil service laws prohibiting partisan political activity. She resigned her position as vice-chair of the County Committee while remaining active in other ways.

### **Past Winners of the Democratic Club of Claremont Helen Myers Awards**

- 2015 Marilee Scaff, David Levering and Eve Mefferd
- 2016 Mel Boynton, Claudia Strauss, Karen Chapman Lenz and Diana Chao
- 2017 Marguerite Gee Royse, Ellen Taylor and Andy Winnick
- 2018 Sam Pedroza and Sally Seven
- 2019 Gene Boutilier and The American Institute for Progressive Democracy
- 2020 Charlene Martin and Claremont Change (Josue Barnes and Noah Winnick)

## **2021 Helen Myers Awards**

### **Devon Hartman**

Devon Hartman has dedicated most of his life to helping people and communities build from the ground—or grassroots—up. His interest in social activism began in high school during the Vietnam War and led to an awareness of the politics of war, civil rights, and gender inequality.

After more than 40 years as a partner in HartmanBaldwin Design/Build, Hartman retired to devote his efforts to fighting global warming. He focused on educating and engaging the community, retrofitting buildings, and teaching builders and homeowners alike how to reduce energy use. He founded CHERP Inc., the Claremont-based nonprofit in 2015 with the mission to create local jobs, save money for needy residents, and put funds back into the local economies, all while helping to arrest the effects of climate change and environmental injustice.

Hartman has now launched a new project called CHERP Solar Works—the world’s first nonprofit solar panel assembly factory. Based in Pomona, CA, the factory is a prototype facility for a network of nonprofit solar factories to be built in disadvantaged communities across the country.

When in full operation, the factory is expected to create 200 direct and 500 indirect living-wage jobs and provide solar energy free of charge to 6,000 of the lowest-income households in Claremont and Pomona within the first phase of operation, according to Hartman. With much of the manufacturing offshore, “Our goal is to bring back the solar manufacturing industry to the United States, and to deploy it in a nonprofit business model that creates jobs and economic opportunity in disadvantaged communities across the United States,” Hartman said.

In addition, CHERP Solar Works is coordinating with the US Department of Energy to launch a Locally Grown Power micro-factory in every congressional district in the US. The project is called the 435 American Solar Manufacturing Renaissance.

“This will jumpstart the American solar manufacturing sector in a way that creates hyper-local jobs, addresses equity and justice issues, and builds local economies back from the ground up,” Hartman said.

He believes the timing is right for his current endeavor. “We see this project as a shovel-ready stimulus package that has the highest economic expansion multiplier for any program that could be funded to reinvigorate the economy after COVID,” he said.

For his commitment to social activism, economic development and environmental justice, the Democratic Club of Claremont is honored to have Devon Hartman accept the Helen Myers Award.

### **Carla Johnson**

Carla L. Johnson was raised in Claremont in a politically active family. She remembers making signs and marching during anti-Vietnam war demonstrations. Carla attended Sycamore, El Roble, and Claremont High schools. She is a trained Shiatsu massage therapist and brown belt in Aikido, and has never missed an election in her entire adult life. Carla raised four children in Claremont, where she volunteered in her children’s classrooms.

The national political climate propelled her to passionate action in 2016. Initially hosting a sign making party for the Women’s March in 2017, Carla has hosted postcard writing campaigns for the Democratic Party and other progressive groups. She served as Secretary for Indivisible of Claremont/Inland Valley and networked with other activists for her advocacy-via-handwritten postcards. Tony the Democrat, a national figure, has inspired Carla and other volunteers whose impressive output of personally written cards have tipped the scales of justice for many causes, such as the push to recognize the right to vote for former felons in Florida. Thousands of pleas in waterproof ink have flowed from her living room. Simple actions, repeated steadily from the determined hand of activists like Carla are mustering votes for a strengthened democracy.

The Democratic Club of Claremont recognizes Carla’s commitment with its Helen Myers Award.

### **Larry Schroeder**

Dr. Lawrence Schroeder (Larry) is being awarded the Helen Myers award by the Democratic Club of Claremont.

Formerly in banking, Larry began a career in public service in 1980 when then Police Chief Brad Posey of Glendora hired him as Police Records supervisor. Larry states “It was a change for me. I got the feeling I was contributing to the public good, not just helping a company make money”. He was later assigned to the Finance Department by Finance Director Sam Schwetz to be in charge of Information Technology. He later worked his way up to being Finance Director of Glendora, a position he served in for seven years. Larry then spent twelve years as Finance Director of the City of Lakewood.

Larry served on Claremont’s Community Services Commission, and on the Claremont City Council for three terms during which he served as Mayor three times. While on the City Council he served as a Board Member of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, an Alternate Representative to the Metro Gold Line Phase II JPA, a Board Member of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, an Alternate to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and a Board Member of the Claremont Chamber of Commerce.

Larry subscribes to the theory of social responsibility, an ethical theory in which individuals are accountable for fulfilling their civic duty, and the belief that actions of an individual must benefit the whole of society. In this model, there exists a balance between economic growth and the welfare of society. Larry continues his involvement in Claremont by speaking at City Council meetings, posting his views on Face Book, and participating in civic activities.

He believes that defeating Covid involves every eligible person getting vaccinated and observing mask mandates. Larry supports voting rights and a woman’s right to choose. He believes we can strike a balance between supporting local law enforcement and supporting Black Lives Matter. He supports local businesses and encourages everyone to shop local. He is also an advocate for Smoke Free Claremont.

Larry has lived in Claremont for 20 years. He and his wife, Dr. Laurie Schroeder (Laurie) will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary next year in August. They have three adult children, Twilight, Ben, and Gabe. They have seven grandchildren with one on the way.

Larry holds a Doctorate of Public Administration degree from the University of La Verne. He has taught courses in Public Budgeting and Finance at the University of La Verne and Cal Poly Pomona. After retirement, Larry consulted for several cities including the Cities of Pasadena and Placentia.

### JOIN THE DCC OR RENEW

We have no corporate sponsors. Your membership dues pay all the DCC's expenses which include our meeting expenses, P.O. Box, club charter, publicity, political donations, insurance, support for the CHS Young Democrats, and events such as the Claremont's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and Village Venture.

This year, in an effort to become more valued as an endorser of local races we are adding a Political Action Fund (PAF) to our Treasury and encourage your donations to support those worthy candidates.

We have also expanded the options for making payments by adding a QR code link for a PAF donation. (see below)

Folks without smart phones can use our direct link to ActBlue by clicking below and choosing the correct radio button on the next screen:

[Democratic Club of Claremont — Donate via ActBlue](#)

As always, you can fill out the form below and mail with your check to:

**Democratic Club of Claremont, P.O. Box 1201, Claremont, CA 91711**

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**The *Voorhis Voice* is published by the Democratic Club of Claremont, PO Box 1201, Claremont CA 91711. The newsletter's name commemorates the late Jerry Voorhis, a talented and courageous Congress member from Claremont.**

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