

THE VOORHIS VOICE

Progressive Voice of the Pomona Valley

October 2021

[www.claremontdems.org](http://www.claremontdems.org)



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**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS**

**Friday Issues Discussion 11:30 - 1 Fridays, at Village Grille.** If you are fully vaccinated you are welcome to attend the luncheon discussion group. Restaurants still have public health rules they must meet so be prepared that not everything is back to normal.

**October 8 (Friday)** Luncheon 12 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81881409396>

Speaker: **Tina Wu Fredricks**, Pasadena Unified School District Board, "Next Generation Challenges for Public Education"

**October 15 (Saturday):** Executive Board Meeting, 9 – 10:30:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88566006192>

**October 28 (Monday):** Members' Meeting, 7 – 9 pm

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

Speaker: **Karen May**, Field Director of the San Bernardino County Democratic Headquarters, "Speaking Softly While Carrying Big Sticks"

## CALENDAR

**October 2 (Saturday) The Women's March Los Angeles** – starts 10am in Pershing Square and concludes with a rally in front of City Hall. Website: <https://www.mobilize.us/womensmarch/event/411768/>

**October 3 (Sunday) Claremont Rally and March for Reproductive Rights**  
1-3pm. See program details below

**October 23 (Saturday) Village Venture** (see details below)

**December 4 Annual DCC Holiday Party: Save the Date**

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## DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT NEWS

From the Editor:

While there is good news and bad for the Democrats (good being beating the recall decisively and a whole slew of important new legislation in the state passed and signed into law – bad the continuing battle in Washington over voting rights and the Biden Build Back Better agenda), we Democrats in Claremont keep sailing along.

There is a major march and rally on this coming Sunday of which the club is one of the sponsors; Village Venture is coming again this year later in the month and that will be a chance to show the public what we have been up to and to recruit new members; the club has finished its re-doing of the by-laws bringing them up to date; we have been responding to the county party in

developing a grievance procedure; we were quite active in the GOTV vote for Newsom.

And this new issue of the Voorhis Voice is out on time.

### **October 3: Rally and March for Reproductive Rights**

With the Supreme Court reconvening on October 4, supporters of abortion justice are planning rallies and marches throughout the United States just prior to that date. A large march in Los Angeles is planned for Saturday, October 2nd, while a local march and rally will be here in Claremont on Sunday, October 3rd. These events reflect the concerns women have about the Supreme Court's recent rejection of an emergency request to block Texas's abortion ban.

Locally, participants will gather at the intersection of Indian Hill and Foothill boulevards at 1:00 PM on Sunday, October 3rd. After a march to Memorial Park, the rally will begin with musical entertainment. Among the invited speakers are women knowledgeable of the subject and several of our elected officials, including Congresswoman Judy Chu. Our Democratic Club is a co-sponsor of the event, along with Claremont/Inland Valley Move Forward. Organizers include club members Mike Boos, Claudia Strauss, Susan Castagnetto and Carolee Monroe.

The intent of the rally is to motivate all of us, not just the participants, as it draws attention to ongoing social, racial and gender inequalities. The outcome, hopefully, will lead to actions promoting justice and empowerment.

Jack and Carolee Monroe are hosting sign making parties at their home on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday prior to the events of Saturday and Sunday. Contact Carolee at (909) 626 8122 or [jackncarolee@verizon.net](mailto:jackncarolee@verizon.net) for information.

*Here is the program*

This is our local response to the national assault on women's reproductive rights and to show our support broadly for women's rights, social justice, and empowerment. We will gather with signs at the intersection of Foothill and

Indian Hill Boulevards and then march to Memorial Park for a rally with exciting speakers. The City of Claremont is on board and Claremont PD will provide a visible presence for safety and traffic control. The march is co-sponsored by Move Forward Claremont Inland Valley and the Democratic Club of Claremont, and is registered on the Women's March site. Register [HERE](#).

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

1:00 pm: begin with demonstration at the intersection of Indian Hill Blvd and Foothill Blvd

1:35 pm: march four blocks south to Memorial Park

1:50 pm: begin rally at the band shell with music and speakers

Confirmed Musicians:

**Ellen Harper and friends**, proprietor at The Folk Music Center, Composer, Author, Recording Artist

**Jen Rosen and friends**, musician, artist, author, and healer.

List of confirmed speakers, order TBD:

**Jennifer Stark**, Mayor of Claremont

**Rachel Forrester**, President League of Women Voters Mt. Baldy Area

**Rose Ash**, Lifelong Civil Rights Activist, Former President Pomona Valley Chapter of ACLU of Southern California, Former Member Claremont Committee on Human Relations

**Beverly Speak**, Girl Scout Leader and Program Volunteer

**Rev. Dr. Jen Strickland**, Pastor at Claremont United Church of Christ

**Kristi Lopez**, District Representative for Senator Anthony Portantino

**Amanda Hollis-Brusky**, Award-winning Author, Supreme Court Expert, Chair of Politics Dept. at Pomona College

**Sol Guerra**, Deputy Director for Congresswoman Norma Torres

**Rev. Jessie Smith**, Rector at Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church and President of Claremont Interfaith Council

**Atalie**, Planned Parenthood Patient Speaker

**Dionne Benson Smith**, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor, CMC, co-founder, Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice

**Judy Chu**, U.S. Congresswoman, CA-27

**Village Venture: Those Who Are Vaccinated: Needed!**

Proceeding cautiously, we Claremont Dems will again be part of this year's Village Venture. As our club represents the Democratic Party in this area, we have maintained our presence at the annual event (probably since its inception?).

The event, on **Saturday, October 23**, is returning to the Village after being paused by COVID last year. With its being resumed, we Claremont Dems have chosen to participate with caution. Volunteers are needed, but just a few! No more than two volunteers will staff the booth at any time. Hopefully, no one will be in the booth for more than one hour. Masks will be required and distancing observed. With all these caveats, you are needed!

This year, after the success of preventing the recall of Governor Newsom, the focus is on our club: maintaining and enlarging our membership and raising money for the 2022 campaigns, candidates and elections.

With our newly approved By-laws, new members who join after the 15th of October will receive a 14 month membership. So, we will advocate for such by displaying the actions of the club. Also part of our booth will be a fundraising effort - more to come on that later....

Please seriously consider giving an hour of your time on Saturday, October 23 (the event runs from 9 to 5). Contact Carolee Monroe: 909 626 8122 or [jackncarolee@verizon.net](mailto:jackncarolee@verizon.net).

### **Call for Redistricting Comments**

Well, Claremont Democrats, if you are asking, "Has it been that long?", the answer is "Yes!" It is a decade since political lines were drawn and we became constituents of Democratic-leaning districts. We were rid of David Dreier! We became constituents of Judy Chu. What other way would that have happened? Now it is time to redraw the lines and your comments are desired.

Earlier this year, our March luncheon speaker was Sara Sadhwani, a faculty member at Pomona College and a member of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, who described the process. Since then, our club has twice received messages from Kimberly Briggs, Southern California Field Team

Lead for Los Angeles and Orange counties, reminding us to participate. The number of respondents, as of August 31 and if accurately recorded, is dismal!

While the process is more than half-way completed, public input is still being sought as Californians are being encouraged to share their description of their community and draw it on a map. The commission will soon begin drafting maps, so the sooner the better. Three methods of responding are available, including on the website, by e-mail and by mail.

In an email, Ms. Briggs offers:

1. encourage people to tell their Claremont community stories on [DrawMyCACommunity.org](http://DrawMyCACommunity.org)
2. encourage people to sign up here for the latest updates: [https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/sign\\_up](https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/sign_up)
3. encourage people to catch up on redistricting basics by checking out [our toolkit](#).
4. Encourage people to share posts from our [social media toolkit](#)

We want to avoid another David Dreier or Tim Donnelly!

### **FDR/Eleanor Roosevelt Awards**

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) annually recognizes two Democrats from each of the 24 Assembly Districts within the county. These grassroots activists are honored as Democrats of the Year at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt / Eleanor Roosevelt (FDR/ER) Awards event. This event helps support LACDP programs including voter registration, neighborhood organizing, community outreach, candidate training, and policy advocacy for over 3 million registered Democratic voters in our communities within the county.

This year's event on Saturday, **November 6**, will begin at 6 PM with an in-person VIP Reception at the Hyatt Regency LAX, to be followed by a virtual program at 7:30 PM. General Admission tickets are \$35 each and our club usually purchases a table of 10. Please offset the total by making a contribution of any amount at the Club's website, [claremontdems.org](http://claremontdems.org). Then, under "Get Involved", click on "Donate to the Club" where you can donate any amount.

Previous Claremont Dems honored at this annual event include Merrill Ring, Jed Leano, Carol Whitson, Joe Lyons, Sandy Hester and Ivan Light. We honor our own! Your contribution is appreciated!

## **Reports on September Speakers**

By Carolee Monroe

*Both of the September programs can be seen on the YouTube Democratic Club of Claremont channel.*

The evolution of technology has enabled a surge in surveillance according to **Mohammad Tajsar**, with equipment both more efficient and less costly.

During his talk, “The New Surveillance,” at the September Gar Byrum luncheon, Tajsar, ACLU Senior Staff Attorney, presented updates and comparisons of different types of monitoring devices available to local police departments. The cost and power of computer assisted devices have inversely evolved during the past forty years, with the power increasing and the price decreasing. This has enabled police departments to purchase and use them. Problems exist, Tajsar asserted. An example he gave was of the Los Angeles County Regional Identification System (LACRIS), a data base of eight billion mug shots. The system is biased against Black and Brown men and women and youth: it is not representative of a sample of the United States as the poor and minorities are over-represented in it. Also, no consent has been given for the photos. Furthermore, he continued, if the system were perfectly accurate, it still is dangerous to society as there are no limits to its use. Tajsar also stressed that LACRIS and Automobile License Plate Reader (ALPR) equipment are about power and money: they enable those in power to maintain the status quo while the data collected can be marketed. In conclusion, he advocated for local groups to form and work towards an end to the use of facial recognition equipment.

**Laura Wolfer**, from the COOK Alliance and **Roya Bagheri**, Policy Director of Foodnome, informed us that the California HomeMade Food Act, AB 626, is the state’s attempt to bring sales of food prepared in-home out from under the table and above board. MicroEnterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO), a program produced by AB 626, fosters “inclusion, incubation and innovation” of what is an informal food economy. Statistics show that participants are generally from underrepresented groups in the US economy. With costly

barriers to entry into the commercial food industry, MEHKO is an alternate business model. The state law allows each county in California to separately start permitting under the program as they have the public health departments with the power to inspect and regulate. The presentation is a thorough description of the process by which this grassroots movement can grow with kneading...



### **Essays Etc. by Club Members**

#### **Book Reviews**

*War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence.* By Ronan Farrow. W.W. Norton & Company: 2018. Updated June 2021.

By Holly Kurtz

Author Ronan Farrow takes the reader on a trip to the far reaches of the world – Afghanistan, Somalia, Egypt and others – as well as to the halls of power in Washington D.C. in this look at how diplomacy in the State Dept. is weakening while military power is growing.

Farrow previously worked for the State Dept. in the office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan-Pakistan. Parts of the book read like a personal



narrative highlighting big names of the department during its prime. Other parts show the path of how diplomacy worked or failed in hotspots including Afghanistan.

Farrow, now an investigative journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner for his writing on the MeToo movement, did comprehensive research for *War on Peace*, digging into documents and interviewing more than 200 people including every living Secretary of State.

He follows the trend of State Dept. cutbacks and diminishing use of diplomacy starting under President Reagan and going through George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump. Many in their administrations had little patience for the methodical legwork that goes with diplomacy.

It is clear that in many cases the United States made bad decisions. American leaders have supported despotic rulers who looked as if they agreed with our values but under the surface acted counter to them. In some cases, our leaders went along with violations of human rights. We just don't learn.

Writing about Afghanistan around 2006, Farrow writes, "The United States' inability to reshape its relationships – to forge a new set of bonds with civilian politicians who might counterbalance the entrenched culture of warlordism – reflected a deeper ill... the diplomatic muscle had atrophied."

At first, I thought this paragraph referred to August 2021, not 2006. Again, we just don't learn.

Farrow also tells the human side of these stories and manages to make his work sound like a novel. He describes the setting of meetings and foreign territories and the human impact of events. One example is when several career diplomats were fired soon after Trump took office.

One drawback for the reader is that the organization of the book is hard to follow. It is not chronological or by region. It shows decision making by country, by war and by personalities. Farrow devotes a large section to talented diplomat Richard Holbrooke, who helped put together the Bosnian accord in 1995 and whose style of diplomacy is no longer seen.

Section 1 looks at Vietnam, Bosnia, Pakistan, the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and Afghanistan going back many years. (Afghanistan is seen throughout the book.) In part 2 Farrow reviews action in Syria, Somalia, Egypt, and Colombia. Then it's on to China, North Korea, Iraq, and the Iran nuclear program.

Boiling down all of these events, one former State Dept official calls diplomacy the tool of first resort. Traditional diplomacy won't solve every crisis, but those institutions have been demolished with little thought to modern replacements.

Carol Anderson, *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*, 2021  
By Merrill Ring

One of the stories about the existence and nature of the Second Amendment (a better one than the Supreme Court's) is that, since the Founders were opposed to a standing army and rejected Constitutional provisions for one, they fell back on the idea of having citizen militias perform any necessary military functions in the new country. To perform those functions, the Founders needed to make it clear that those militias needed weapons. Given the financial arrangements of the day, that meant that individuals who joined the militias must have their own weapons. Hence the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

We today have a rosy picture of the militias in existence then: we think of the citizen farmers taking on the Redcoats at Lexington and Concord.

What Carol Anderson does is to cause us to rethink those notions: was the only reason that the 2<sup>nd</sup> exists to provide a surrogate for a regular army? Does the Lexington-Concord picture of what the militias were expected to do accurately represent what in fact they like?

Her book provides a No answer to both questions.

If you look at the debates about the Constitution among the Founders, what is dominant is not the question of what to do in the absence of a standing army. Rather, what the debates were all about is the need to have armed militias to suppress slave revolts and to capture escaped slaves. Here our heroic picture of Patrick Henry ('Give me liberty or give me death') is altered: he was the main spokesman for making sure that the maintenance of slavery was protected by arming militias – the Constitution would not have been achieved if he, as the leader of the pro-slavery caucus, had not been satisfied by an amendment allowing armed militias.

If you look, as Anderson does, at what the militias of the day actually did, rather than see them through the picture of the Lexington-Concord story, it is clear that they existed as protection against Haiti type insurrections (a great fear of the slave owners) and that their use was to protect the institution of slave ownership by hunting down those who escaped from their condition.

The bulk of Anderson's book is taken up with tracing how the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment was used over and over again through American history to prohibit Blacks from owning guns. The 2<sup>nd</sup> does not enshrine the right of all citizens to own a weapon (as the Supreme Court thinks) but to give a certain class of Americans the right to own weapons (whether they belong to a militia or not) but denying the right of self-defense to outsiders ("niggers, coolies and Indians" is the phrase used).

*Carol Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler professor of African American Studies at Emory University*

*This review was originally written for and published in the newsletter of the Claremont Forum*



## Letters

*This letter by Merrill Ring was published in the Courier*

Contrary to Scott Grannis (Courier 9/3/21), in the current dispute about vaccinations and mask mandates, there is a black and white: those, such as Grannis, who reject masks and vaccinations, have not a leg to stand on.

Grannis et al refuse to recognize that we rightly surrender pieces of our personal freedom all the time (sometimes only for the short term): we don't drive automobiles wherever our personal choices lead us, we don't punch others in the nose, we are not free to climb barricades into the national capitol and on and on. The price of our ability to live together in a civilized manner is giving up items of our freedom.

The right to require vaccinations has long been settled in this country: in 1905 in the case of *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* the Supreme Court ruled (7-2) against Jacobson (whose case was the same as that Grannis and others are making today): that "for the public good" the state may require vaccinations (smallpox in that case).

As a consequence, all of us have long since been vaccinated for smallpox and the disease has vanished. Why is Covid-19 any different?

Notice that the Supreme Court decision was made on the grounds that the "common good" takes precedence over an individual's wish to do what they want, over their freedom in this matter. Public health in certain cases trumps an individual's freedom.

Grannis recognizes that such a loss of freedom must be made on a case by case basis (one's freedoms are after all one of our major values) and so he tries to downplay the seriousness of the current pandemic. He says that hardly anyone dies from it. I don't think that 600,000 plus Americans and millions world-wide count as hardly anyone. But death is not the only way to tote up the consequences: being in the hospital on a ventilator, even if you survive, is not anything anyone wants. Then there are the discovered and undiscovered long term consequences. Don't kid yourself: this is a serious disease affecting millions – this is a situation that requires a major response on the part of the country.

Mandating vaccinations and masks (which are effective contrary to Grannis) is absolutely the right thing to do. Those that deny that are both intellectually bankrupt and morally obtuse.



*Now YOU write!*

*Do so! Of course, newspapers have so many restrictions (especially space) that very worthwhile letters do not get published. But try! And if it doesn't get published there, sent it to the VV and it most likely will be published here. (Or if it does get published, send it here also and have it published again.)*



Or call . . . . & Complain (or Praise)

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**MEMBERSHIP: JOIN THE DCC or RENEW**

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We have no corporate sponsors. Your membership dues pay all DCC's expenses which include our meeting expenses, P.O box, club charter, storage space for our booths, publicity, political donations, support for the CHS Young Democrats, and events such as Claremont's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and Village Venture,. Take this opportunity to renew if you haven't already done so. *Just complete and mail this form.*

**Mail this form 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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