

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



## February 2020 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Visit Us on the Web at [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)  
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

### COMING EVENTS

Join us at 2 pm to socialize!

#### FEBRUARY MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, Feb 16th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPICS:** Historic Moments

**SPEAKERS:** LACDP Chair Mark J. Gonzalez on AB 857 (Public Bank), PVLD Manager Leticia Polizzi on Women's Suffrage Centennial, Linda Herman on Schools and Communities First ballot initiative

#### MARCH MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, Mar 15th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPIC:** HOMELESSNESS is a State Emergency!

**SPEAKERS:** Leonora Camner, Abundant Housing LA, Grace Farwell, SBCCOG, Asm Al Muratsuchi

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Go to the LACDP's website to view their endorsements for the March 3 Primary - <http://www.lacdp.org/endorsements/>

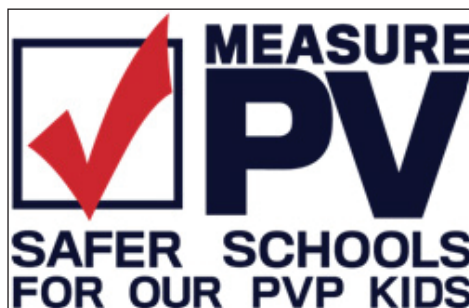
### February General Meeting

*Historic Moments is the theme for our February 16th meeting.*

**Mark Gonzalez, Chair of the LA County Democratic Party (LACDP)** since 2017 will speak to us about the historic passage of Assembly Bill AB 857, the Public Bank initiative. Mark also serves as District Director to Assemblymember Miguel Santiago who co-authored the bill with Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco). Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 857 into law on Oct 2, 2019 allowing local jurisdictions to establish Public Banks and provide capital at interest rates below those charged by commercial banks.

**Linda Herman, representative of the League of Women Voters**, will inform us about the Schools and Communities First ballot initiative for the November ballot. Supported also by the ACLU, the initiative will close the Prop 13 commercial business loop-hole.

Come hear **Leticia Polizzi, PV Library's Adult Services Manager**, speak about the PV Library's Women's Suffrage Centennial Parade and the library's plan for the Women's Right to Vote 100th Year Anniversary. Walk with the PV Dems in the parade.



March 3rd Primary Election  
Remember to VOTE YES for Measure PV  
Safer Schools for our PVP Kids

### January General Meeting Report

by Tex Yamada and Ann Nye

*January and Beyond* was the theme of our January meeting.

#### Muslim Americans in the Trump Era

**Dr. Sara Deen**, community service leader and political activist, helped answer the question on how being a Muslim translates into being an American, a Democrat and/or a Progressive.

Dr. Deen, a resident of Rolling Hills Estates, was a practicing family dentist and an associate clinical professor at UCLA School of Dentistry before retiring from her dental clinical practice in 2017 in order to concentrate on community service leadership, political activism, and raising her family. On the political front, Dr. Deen serves as our California Democratic Party Delegate, Assembly District 66. She is an advocate for humane immigration policies, minority rights, climate justice (Green New Deal), and public education reform.



Dr. Sara Deen

To begin her talk, Dr. Deen focused on basic Muslim / Islam key words and core theological beliefs. She explained how Muslims practice their faith through the five pillars of Islam: Shahadah (Faith), Salah (Prayer), Sawm (Fasting), Zakah (Almsgiving), and Hajj (Pilgrimage). She thought world heavyweight champion boxer, Muhammad Ali, despite his personal life, was "the best embodiment of being a Muslim" - he was informed by his faith and committed to justice.

According to Dr. Deen, research shows Muslims

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tend to lean Democrat and view abortion similar to the rest of the US population (55% support abortions in most cases). She showed an article where Saudi Arabia's abortion laws are more forgiving than Alabama's - "In Saudi Arabia, abortion is allowed in cases of risk to a woman's life and to protect her physical and mental health. A pregnancy arising from incest or rape might qualify for a legal abortion there under the mental health exemption. Saudi women just got the freedom to drive last year, but it seems they have less to fear when it comes to terminating pregnancies than women in Alabama."

Dr. Deen talked about the direct effects of the Ottoman Empire on the Muslim world during the height and fall of its glory years in the 17th-, 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-centuries. Ottoman rulers were known to have decriminalized homosexuality and promoted women's education. Following the fall of the Ottoman Empire during WWII and Europe's division of the "spoils" into "Nation States", more strife and conflict ensued in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Syria. U.S. involvement in Middle East wars has been well-documented in the case of Iraq and Afghanistan and with less direct interaction in Yemen and Syria. Dr. Deen believes the continued military presence of the U.S. in the Middle East has had an overall negative influence on the Muslim population.

Islamophobia and racism has increased during the Trump Presidency and has jeopardized safety, educational and occupational opportunities, and free speech of Muslim-Americans. Dr Deen cited the need for immigration reform to undo the travel ban on Muslims.

## Superior Court Judge Candidate, Seat No. 42

**Linda Sun, candidate for Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge, Seat No. 42** in the March 3 Primary Election, wants your vote. Sun, a State of California Supervising Deputy Attorney General



(SDAG) has worked in *Linda Sun* a prosecutorial capacity with the State of California for 18 years, first as Deputy Attorney General and more recently as SDAG. As Deputy Attorney General, she worked for

numerous state licensing agencies in the State Department of Justice with the majority of time in the Department of Consumer Affairs. She handled litigation in administrative, civil, criminal, and appellate courts.

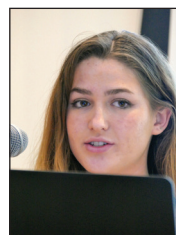
Sun, a first generation immigrant from Hong Kong, became a naturalized citizen while in law school. While growing up, she mused she used to study in the library for the AC and her first volunteering job was with the library.

Sun feels her work experience as prosecutorial attorney has helped prepare her for judicial responsibilities of Los Angeles County, the largest county in the U.S. Visit her website, [www.LindaSunforJudge.com](http://www.LindaSunforJudge.com) to view her numerous endorsements from political officials, judicial leaders, and well-established civic and political organizations. She is endorsed by Congressman Ted Lieu, 33rd District, Congressmember Nanette Barragan 44th District, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, 66th District, Mayor John Cruikshank, Palos Verdes Estates, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District and our very own go to judicial reviewer, The Honorable Thomas D. Long, LA County Superior Court.

When asked who was her opponent(s), Sun replied she has one opponent who signed up on the last day of eligibility. When she asked him why, he told her because he saw she was running unopposed. This is a non-partisan position and the ballot only shows your occupation; not your party affiliation. Her Republican opponent Robert "Bob" Villa, is a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney. Sun is worried his name reminds folks of Bob Vila from the 1980's show, *This Old House*. Responding to questions, Sun said she is against privatization of prisons, supports restorative justice, and wants bail reform but feels the current reform is imperfect because it gives too much discretion to the judge.

## Restore Democracy Amendment

**Alexa Stevens**, a native of Palos Verdes, student at Oberlin College in Ohio and intern at Citizens Take Action, spoke about the Restore Democracy Amendment to remove big money from the American



*Alexa Stevens*

political system.

Citizens Take Action (CTA) is a nonprofit organization focused on driving corporations and special interest groups with their deep pockets out of politics. It is also committed to boost better civic engagement among the citizenry. CTA believes the main way to overturn Citizens United, the 2010 Supreme Court decision which allowed unlimited election spending by corporations and labor unions and the rise of Super PACs, is to pass a constitutional amendment. The proposed amendment exists in draft form, subject to change, at [www.citizenstakeaction.org/restore-democracy-amendment/](http://www.citizenstakeaction.org/restore-democracy-amendment/).

During the Q&A, David Burke, founder of CTA, acknowledged other groups like Public Citizen are also organizing to get states to ratify a similar amendment.

## 2020-2021 Board Nomination Process in Progress

**By Kathy Bradford**

Our board of directors term of office is up at the July picnic meeting. The nominating committee is composed of Marilyn Weiker, Fraser Perkins and Kathy Bradford. There are at present two open board positions and an opportunity to join a committee. The two open positions are Newsletter Editor and LACDP representative. The committee is a new one we formed to support the Hospitality chair. If you would be interested in one of the board positions or in helping out with the Hospitality committee by donating cookies for a meeting or two, please call Kathy Bradford at 310-265-9812; or email [Kathy-bradford@cox.net](mailto:Kathy-bradford@cox.net).



## President's Report

**By Rascha Hall**

2020. A year divisible by four means many things. It's a Leap Year, the Summer Olympics, and then, in November, a presidential election. The Iowa caucus will happen in a few weeks and the race is on. No matter who your favorite candidate is, I think we can all agree that we will vote for the Democratic candidate no matter who wins the nomination.

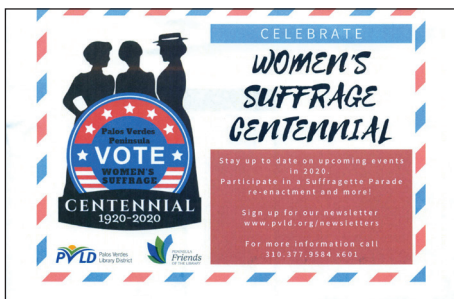
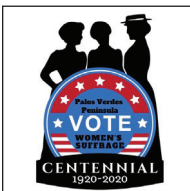


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The theme of the Rose Bowl Parade this year was the Power of Hope. I have hope that we will have a new occupant in the people's house in Washington next January. But hope is not enough. You may ask what you can do to help. Former president of the Palos Verdes Democrats, Lynn Bommer, runs BEACH CITIES FLIP THE HOUSE, which does phone banking for candidates running for Congress in swing districts. In 2018, they helped flip Orange County from red to blue. Beginning the 1st or 2nd week of February they will start phone banking once again. So far, only Katie Porter from Orange County has asked for help, but Lynn expects Harley Rouda and the others will also need our help. If you are willing to host a phone bank at your home or if you are interested in attending a phone bank, please call Lynn at home (310) 374-1188 or on her cell phone (310) 503-3030.

Another opportunity to help is through Field Team 6. To contact them, go to [www.fieldteam6.org](http://www.fieldteam6.org). On the website, you will find opportunities to phone bank, either hosting or participating, as well as opportunities to travel to precincts around the country to register Democrats.

This is the year we celebrate the signing of the 19th amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote. To mark this event, the Palos Verdes Library District has planned a number of activities. 1st Vice President Kathy Bradford, Recording Secretary Asha Shahed, and I have participated in the planning meetings at the library. The biggest event planned is the Women's Suffrage March to be held on March 14 from the Peninsula Center Library to the fountain at the Promenade. Palos Verdes Democrats will march with our banner and we will have a table at the library. To check out all the events planned, go to [www.pvld.org/celebrate/ws2020](http://www.pvld.org/celebrate/ws2020) and go to the events heading on the left side of the page.



## 4th Annual Women's March Downtown Los Angeles, January 18th

*On a beautiful Saturday, the Women's March started at Pershing Square and ended at City Hall, with a reported 300,000+ people in attendance. We heard from many speakers, including LA Mayor Garcetti, Reps Maxine Waters and Karen Bass, actors Rosanna Arquette and Raven-Symone, and we were serenaded by singer Seal.*



*PV Club members from left, Ann Nye, Anita Vaccaro, and Carol Freisleben. The pink coat hangers under our posters say, "This is not a surgical instrument."*



### Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2019-2020

President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334

President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812

2nd Vice President: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Recording Secretary: Asha Shahed 310-709-0264

Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn 310-326-4953

Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650

Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Parliamentarian: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526

Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694

Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526

Hospitality: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189

66th ADDC Rep: Connie Sullivan 310-567-2210

## Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

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

As a member of the Palos Verdes Democrats, you can:

- Meet other Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials, raise funds and work for candidates
- Attend special events and monthly meetings
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national import
- Receive a monthly newsletter
- Vote on club issues, unless registered as NPP (No Party Preference), and have the opportunity to be elected to the board

**Please send your membership form and check to P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274**  
**Please fill in all items to ensure that we have your full and correct current information.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I am a registered Democrat  
Name\* \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I am registered No Party Preference  
\* Fill in both names if applying as a family - two memberships ☐ I am a registered Democrat  
☐ I am registered No Party Preference

Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Select One: ☐ Individual \$ 25.00/Year ☐ Family Membership \$40.00/Year

☐ Young Adult \$10.00/Year **Check payable to: Palos Verdes Democrats**

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Please contact us to help in the following areas:

☐ Hospitality ☐ Newsletter ☐ Membership ☐ Publicity ☐ Correspondence  
☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Annual Picnic Committee