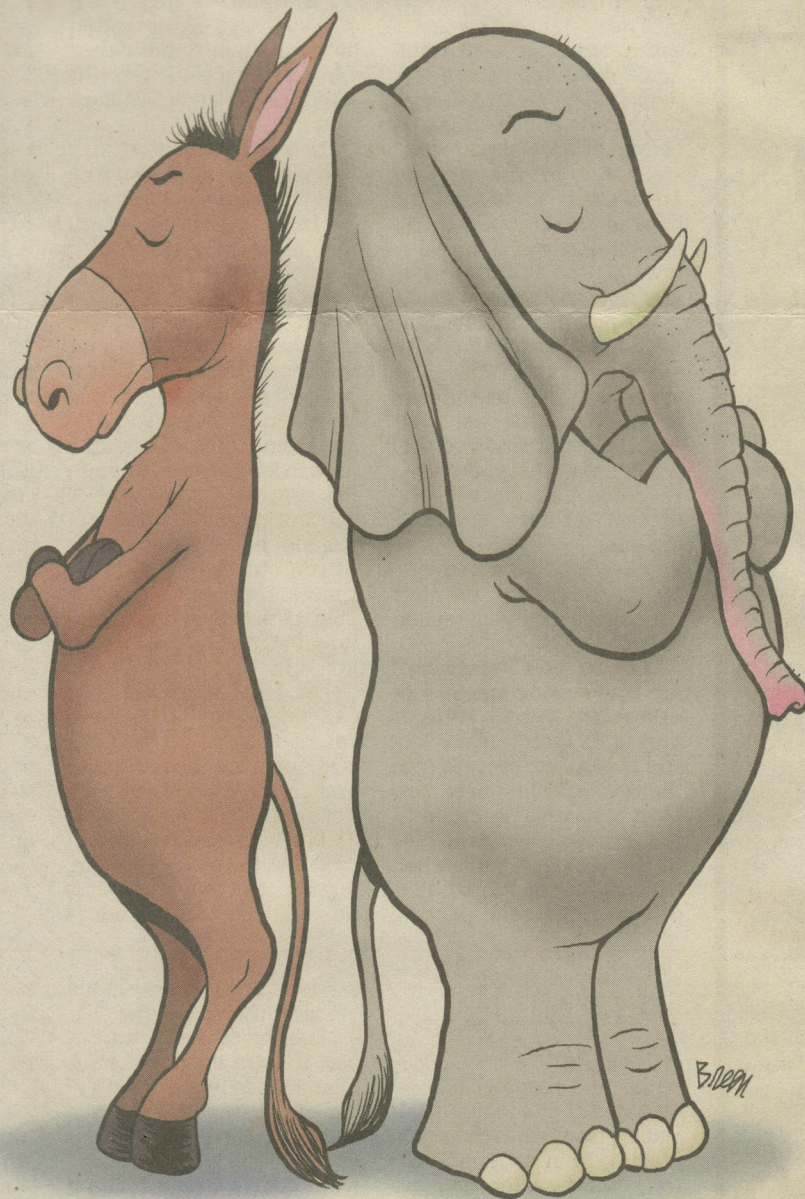




# 2021 SCRAPBOOK



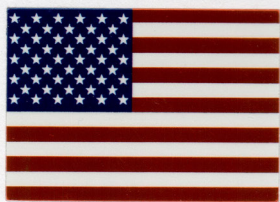
**STEVE BREEN**  
San Diego Union-Tribune



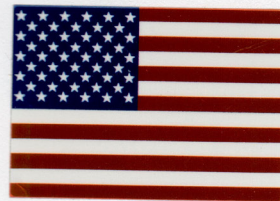


# CORONADO

# DEMS



CORO  
NADO  
DEMS



## BOARD MEMBERS

President: Susan Marrinan

Vice President: Brian Trotier

Secretary Pro Tem- Judy Bambace

Treasurer: Patrick Callahan

Member at Large: Frank King

Membership Committee Chairs:

Mercy Mandelbaum & Donald Fink

Program: Brian Trotier

Hospitality Chair: Jenna McIntosh

Legislative: Alexia Palacios-Peters

Newsletter: Peggy Thayer

Go Team: Frank King

Technology/Outreach: Peggy Thayer &

Laura Wilkinson

# 2021



# JANUARY

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE | THURSDAY • JANUARY 7, 2021

**ASSAULT ON THE U.S. CAPITOL**

## TRUMP ASKS GA. OFFICIAL TO 'FIND' VOTES

In recorded phone call,  
president asks secretary  
of state to recalculate tally

RIOTERS  
STORM  
BUILDING,

FORCE EVACUATIONS

# CAPITOL ATTACK SHAKES NATION

TRUMP'S REMARKS  
BEFORE RIOT MAY  
BE INVESTIGATED

BIDEN DENOUNCES  
STORMING OF CAPITOL



# TRANSITION OF POWER

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE | WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 20, 2021

## PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION



## DEMOCRATS CLAIM CONTROL OF SENATE



## HARRIS SHATTERS BARRIERS WITH INAUGURATION

# BIDEN, HARRIS PAUSE TO MARK COVID TOLL

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Jan. 27 - Feb. 2, 2021

Coronado Eagle & Journal

*Coronado COVID-19 Vaccination Site Opens To 65-plus*



Action Alert

CORO  
NADO  
DEMS

## Act Today: Protect our Democracy

Trump is a clear and present danger to our Democracy.

He must be removed from office immediately.

- Support the movement to invoke the 25th Amendment.
- Demand that Trump is impeached and removed from his position of power immediately.
- Call for the censure of the "sedition caucus", all of the senators and representatives who objected. May their names be entered in a hall of shame.

Please contact:

Sen. Dianne Feinstein [feinstein.senate.gov](https://www.feinstein.senate.gov)

Sen. Kamala D. Harris [harris.senate.gov](https://www.harris.senate.gov)

U.S. Rep. Scott Peters ( 52nd) [scottpeters.house.gov/](https://www.scottpeters.house.gov/)

U.S. Rep. Juan Vargas (51st) [vargas.house.gov](https://www.vargas.house.gov)

U.S. Rep. Mike Levin (49th) [mikelevin.house.gov](https://www.mikelevin.house.gov)

U.S. Rep. Sara Jacobs (53rd) [sarajacobs.house.gov](https://www.sarajacobs.house.gov)

**TRUMP  
IMPEACHED  
SECOND TIME**



# CORONADO DEMOCRATIC CLUB NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 30, 2021

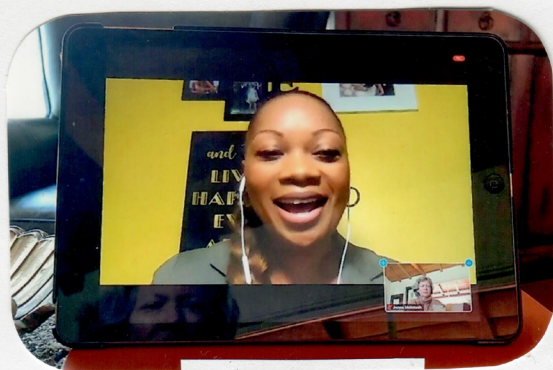
## Notice of Motion to Amend Club By-Laws

On Saturday, January 30th, the Coronado Democratic Club hosted Geneviève Jones-Wright, the Executive Director of Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance aka MoGo ([www.moralgovernance.org](http://www.moralgovernance.org))

(<http://www.moralgovernance.org/>). Ms. Jones-Wright has degrees from the University of San Francisco (BA), Howard University (JD), and California Western School of Law (LLM). Her presentation focused on the need for increased oversight and better budget transparency in police departments, regardless of community size. She also explained how the term "defund the police" is often misinterpreted as calling for an end to local enforcement; when in fact, it represents a desire to reimagine and reinvent community policing, while also reallocating funding for law enforcement to reduce the need for an armed, uniformed officer to respond to every 9-1-1 call.



Ms. Jones-Wright's entire presentation will be put on the Coronado Democratic Club's website under Links to the archives ([www.coronadodemocrats.com](http://www.coronadodemocrats.com) (<http://www.coronadodemocrats.com/>)).



Geneviève Jones-Wright

*Democratic Club  
Hosts Speaker*



General Meeting via Zoom



# FEBRUARY

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

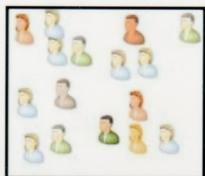
U.S. VIRUS DEATHS  
NEARING 500,000  
IN JUST ONE YEAR

MORE THAN IN 3 WARS



What is  
Redistricting?

Redistricting is when we redraw districts so each has the same number of residents.



Meeting via Zoom

DUES ARE DUE

FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

## Democratic Club Hosts Speaker

On Saturday, Feb. 27, the Coronado Democratic Club heard a fascinating presentation by Kathay Feng, the National Redistricting Coordinator for Common Cause. Feng has been with Common Cause for 15 years and previously served as the Executive Director of California Common Cause.

Common Cause was founded in 1970 by John Gardner, a former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, as a non-partisan, grass roots lobbying organization often referred to as the "people's lobby." Feng's presentation covered the history and evolution of the redistricting process, how the census impacts redistricting, and an overview on various federal and state laws which would impact voting rights, voting methods and voter turnout in 2022 and beyond.

Her presentation may be accessed through the following links: video link: <https://coronadodemocrats.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Kathay-Feng-Coronado-2.27.21.mp4>; and PDF link: <https://coronadodemocrats.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Coronado-Redistricting-HRI-CA-and-US-KF-0227.pdf>.

## Young Democrat Award Deadline

The Coronado Democratic Club is currently accepting applications for the John F. Kennedy Young Democrat Award. Each year, the Coronado Democratic Club awards one or more scholarships to deserving Southwest Community College students.

The current application period opened on Feb. 1 and closes on Feb. 28, 2021.

This year, the Club will award two \$500 scholarships to two students who demonstrate outstanding academic promise and dedication to the values of the Democratic Party.

The Club Scholarship Committee will review applications from March 5 to March 22; the winners will be announced at the April 24, 2021, General Club Meeting via zoom. Club Scholarship Committee members include Chair Patti Flores-Charter; Edry Groot; Luke Serna; Lucy Howell; and Sanjay Bhandari.

Applicants can find more information regarding the application process at this link:

<https://www.swccd.edu/admissions-and-financial-aid/financial-aid/financial-aid-types/scholarships/>

Please contact Patti Flores-Charter at [ccnado@san.rr.com](mailto:ccnado@san.rr.com) for additional information.

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE | SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 14, 2021

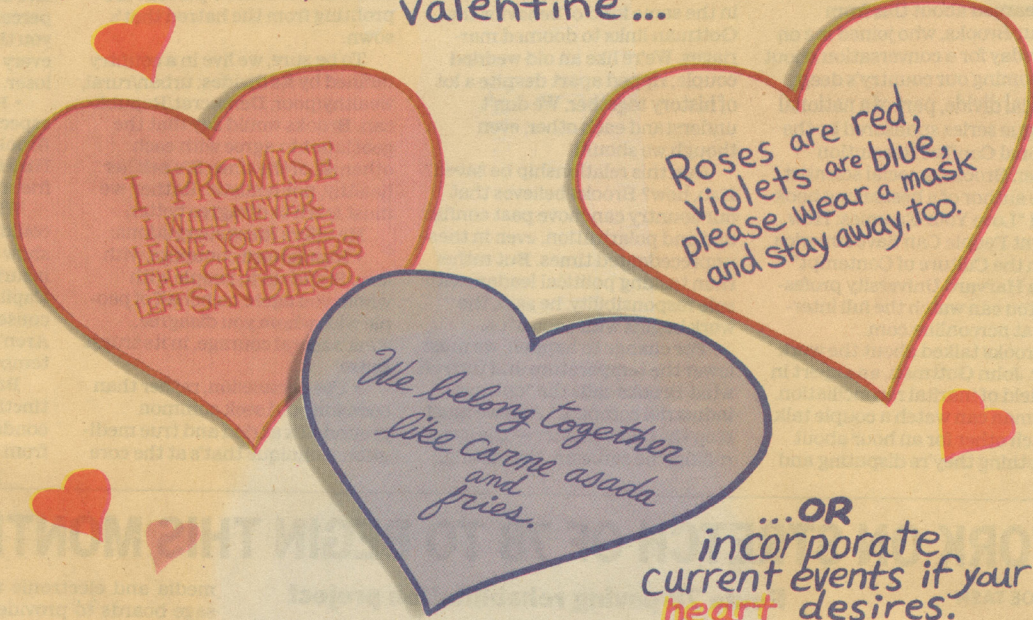
PRESIDENTIAL IMPEACHMENT

SENATE ACQUITS TRUMP



THE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

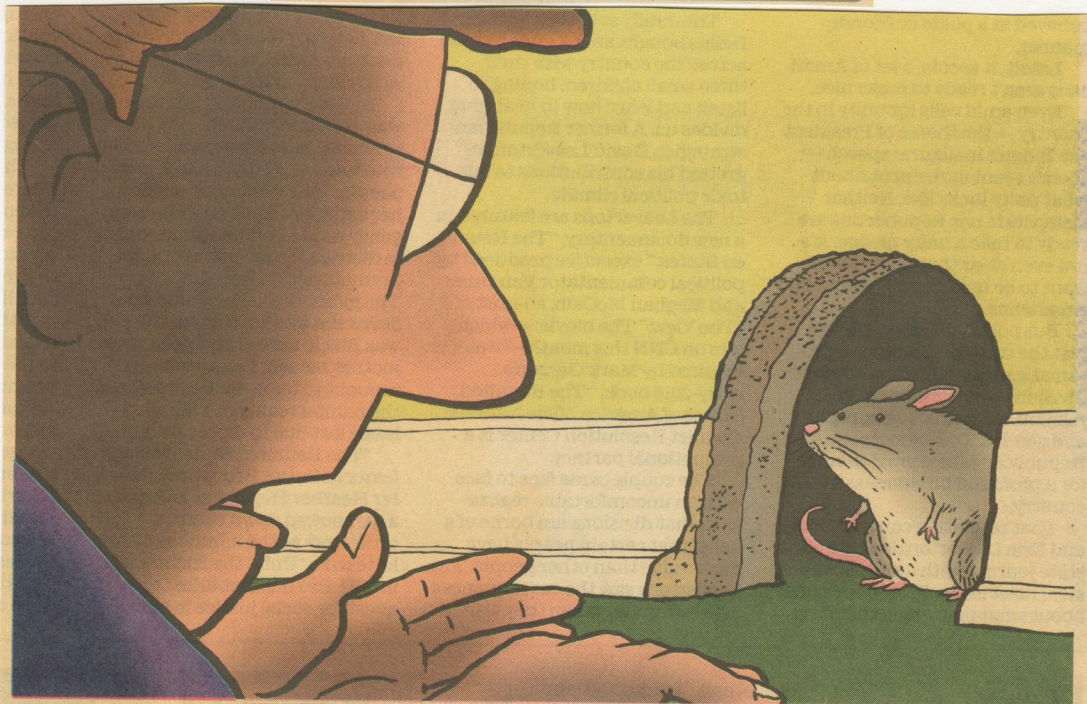
Write a caption like a San Diego-themed valentine...



...OR  
incorporate  
current events if your  
heart desires.

The sweetest thing I've ever seen: a nurse, my arm and the vaccine.  
Mickey Hansen, Coronado

THE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST



"You can't have a cheese and cracker party until we get Dr. Fauci's OK."

Mercy Mandelbaum, Coronado



## THANK YOU SUSAN MARRINAN, President of CDC



"I first met Susan in the 1980s. She was a well-respected attorney and then a Superior Court judge. Our paths crossed again years later as members of Coronado Democratic Club. Knowing that Susan had true leadership skills, and was smart, innovative, forward-thinking and passionate about social issues in our community, country and the world, I nominated her to be club president. Despite the unprecedented challenges that ensued (pandemic, tortilla-gate, bullying, harassment, anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers, etc.) she was a wonderful spokesperson for our club and led us with courage, grace, confidence, empathy, integrity and diplomacy. During her term, our membership doubled and Coronado trended "Blue". Our club was nominated as County Democratic Club of the year (2021) and missed the award by only one point.

Thank you Susan, for your friendship, kindness, wisdom and leadership!"

Judy Bambace

"Our "Pandemic President" has taken the Club to great heights because above all, people matter to her!"

Marely Ramirez

"Susan's composed and intentional approach to connecting every member, and taking bold action when needed the most, is the type of leadership people flock to."

Akshay Sateesh

"Watching Susan lead the club through the pandemic and the 2020 election gave me a real appreciation for calm, quiet leadership. The club was most fortunate to have her in charge for the past two years.

Brian Trotier





"Susan is a welcoming and strong leader. As a new member of the club and a new member of the Board, I received her guidance, support, and friendship as we worked together this year. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have worked with her."

Alexia Palacios-Peters

"Susan is a gifted leader and guided us through a most difficult time. She is a champion for justice, equality and diversity. She supported us in developing a comprehensive strategic plan and many more initiatives. We are fortunate to have had such a dynamic leader as our president."

Terry Zack

## SOMEONE SAN DIEGO SHOULD KNOW

# HEROIC WORK HELPED AFRICA'S MAASAI PEOPLE

BY JAN GOLDSMITH

As a child, Susan Finlay Marrinan's favorite comic book character was a female African-jungle hero. Finlay dreamed that one day she, too, would become a hero. Little did she know at the time that her dream would someday come true.

It began in 2009 with a phone call from Diane Raleigh, a lifelong friend who had just returned from Africa.

Raleigh told of the Maasai people, a tribe living in northern Tanzania. "They were pastoral, roaming with their herds of cows, but the government wanted them to farm. The Maasai resisted, and the government's response was to say 'fine, you're on your own,'" Finlay said. "They had nothing. No medical services. No school, little



NANCEE E. LEWIS

**Retired Judge Susan Finlay Marrinan helped build a clinic and school for the Maasai in Africa.**

water or electricity. People lived in 12-foot diameter huts made from branches and cow dung."

Babies were born in primitive, unsanitary conditions. Premature deaths were rampant, yet preventable, with basic medical

care.

Finlay and Raleigh decided to help the Maasai. They reached out to the tribe, which agreed to donate land for a health clinic in Olmoti village. Finlay and Raleigh created Our One Community, a non-

profit foundation, and included Maasai leaders on the foundation's board of trustees. They also reached out to the Tanzanian district government, which agreed to help staff the clinic. With their partners in place, Finlay and Raleigh worked at raising funds.

In June 2010, the 10-room, 3,000-square-foot clinic was completed. At the ribbon-cutting, Finlay recalls, "word got out that this clinic was opening. The Maasai came from everywhere — huge numbers of people. They brought their sick, lame and blind."

By 2016, the clinic was seeing 700 patients monthly. It not only provides medical care for long-untreated conditions, it also provides preventative education.

SEE FINLAY • B2

## FINLAY

FROM B1

Next, Finlay and Raleigh turned their attention to education. The nearest primary school was miles away requiring children to walk through the dangerous jungle. Few did. So, they worked to build a primary school. The new school opened in 2015, offering basic education to some 500 students, preparation classes for secondary education and adult classes.

Finlay and Raleigh's group also started a library, helped bring solar power, constructed housing in Olmoti village for medical staff and teachers, and is building a playground and soccer field. Construction of the clinic and school brought to Olmoti a fresh-water pipeline, freeing women from

### About this feature

**Goldsmith** is a member of the U-T Community Advisory Board. People San Diego Should Know is a weekly column about local people who are interesting and noteworthy because of their experiences, achievements, creativity or credentials. If you know of someone you believe San Diego should know, please send your idea to [advisoryboard@sduniontribune.com](mailto:advisoryboard@sduniontribune.com)

miles of walking to fetch water in large jugs.

While working with the Maasai people, Finlay and Raleigh developed unique relationships with them. "You just don't march in and

try to change their culture. What you do is listen to their tribal leaders and elders as to what they want. Meet with the people and develop relationships."

Finlay has visited Olmoti every year but one since 2010, learning their culture and attending their council meetings. She leads an annual fundraising safari from the U.S. to the Olmoti village and the surrounding jungle.

A retired San Diego Superior Court judge who spent 37 years on the bench, Finlay said she learned important life lessons from working with the Maasai people.

"I learned more from the Maasai than they learned from me. I learned how important relationships are. When you live in a culture where nobody has anything, where you have more in your

duffle bag than they will acquire in their lifetime, relationships and caring is important. Greetings take 30 minutes as they ask about each other's lives and families. They ask me and I ask them. It's genuine.

"They don't have much need for lawyers. If they have disputes, they typically work them out through discussion and mediation.

"They are a wonderful people. They are generous, kind and warm. It is a beautiful country."

Today, the Maasai have healthier children, sanitary childbirth, schooling and medical care. They have more accessible water and solar energy. Their children will grow up someday to be doctors and leaders.

They can thank their partners who some might describe as heroes in an African jungle.



# MARCH

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC  
ONE YEAR AFTER THE SHUTDOWN

CORO  
NADO  
DEMS

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

March 13, 2021

Check-in and social time: 10:30 A.M - 11:00 AM

Notice of Election for Secretary and Treasurer: March 13, 2021

### Agenda:

1. Call to order- 11 A.M.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. In Memoriam
4. Introduction of Elected Officials, Candidates, and Guests
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes as distributed
7. Treasurer's report
8. Membership Report
9. Unfinished Business
10. New Business: Election of Secretary and Treasurer
11. Program  
Speaker: Nora Vargas- S.D. Board of Supervisors District 1
12. Committee reports
13. Announcements
14. Open Mic: what issues are on your mind? Questions, suggestions, concerns
15. Adjourn- 12:45 P.M.



## Coronado Democratic Club Elects New Officers

On March 13, 2021, the Coronado Democratic Club elected a new Secretary, Alexia Palacios-Peters, and re-elected its Treasurer, Pat Callahan. Both officers will serve two-year terms as members of the Club Board of Directors.

Callahan, attorney at law, and his wife Debra are long-time residents of Coronado. Callahan comes from a distinguished Coronado family that has served Coronado through many generations. His father, Captain C. Patrick Callahan, served on the Coronado City Council from 1974-1978 and served three terms as Mayor of Coronado from 1974 to 1984. He was the President of the Coronado Democratic club. Callahan's mother, Rose, was also an active member of the Club. Callahan's father served on the Coastal Commission and was a member of the San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee. His uncle, Joseph W. Callahan, served on the City Council from 1962 to 1974 and 1967 to 1974. Both his father and uncle were retired U.S. Navy Officers. Cal-

lahan was a surveyor for the California National Guard and served on the original Coronado Bicycle Advisory Committee. He and Debra are avid cyclists and are founders of the Crown City Cyclists, which is still going strong after 40 years. They have two children and six grandchildren, many of whom are Coronado residents.

Palacios-Peters is a Coronado resident, attorney at law, former educator, and military spouse. She was a candidate for the CUSD Board in 2020 and is committed to our children and our community's best interests. She and her spouse and children moved to Coronado from Virginia, and their family is enjoying the fellowship of Coronado, a military town. As a politically active resident, Palacios-Peters hopes to be a voice on local issues. She encourages others to get involved. Palacios-Peters is an advisor for the Board of Veterans Appeals. She is also serving as Chair of the Democratic Club Legislative Committee. Palacios-Peters is the

*Dem. Club, Continued on Page 14.*

### Dem. Club, Continued from Page 6.

former C.E.O. and Executive Director of the Family Justice Center, which offers services to spouses and children victims of Domestic Abuse. She has served as Treasurer for the Coronado

Band and Choir Boosters and helped organize Artisans Alley.

Both Palacios-Peters and Callahan exemplify the spirit of community service. The Club is grateful for their leadership.

## Democratic Club Hosts Speaker

On Saturday, March 13, the Coronado Democratic Club welcomed County Supervisor Nora Vargas as the keynote speaker at the club's annual meeting. Supervisor Vargas shared a wealth of information on items of concern to residents of Coronado, including: the status of the county-wide Covid vaccination effort as well as the issue many people are having getting an online appointment scheduled; how the new South Bay Equity and Economic Recovery Task Force will be working with South Bay busi-

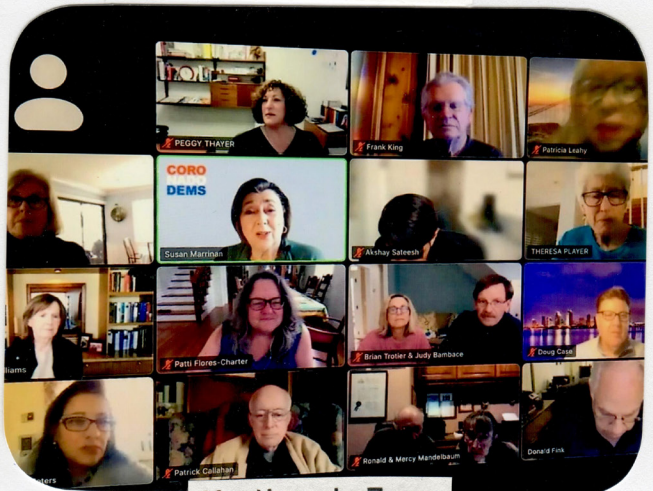
nesses on accessing funding and other forms of assistance to successfully scale reopening efforts;

A new literacy campaign designed to boost reading and writing programs throughout the Supervisor's district; and why the Board of Supervisors labelled both the Tijuana River sewage problem and ongoing, embedded institutional racism as public health issues.

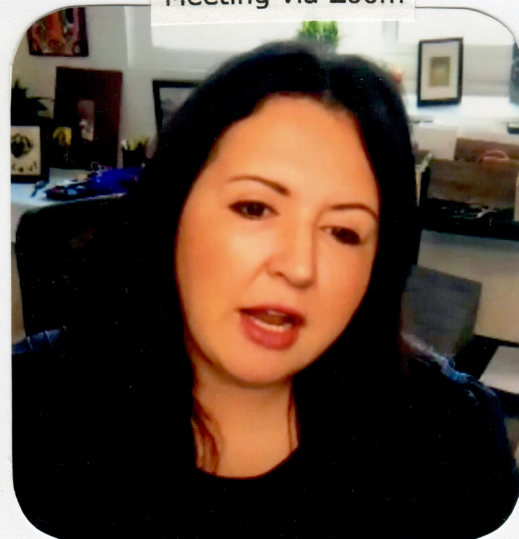
To view the Supervisor's entire presentation you can use this link: [https://coronadodemocrats.com/noravargas\\_3-13-21-mp4/](https://coronadodemocrats.com/noravargas_3-13-21-mp4/).



Alexia Palacios-Peters



Meeting via Zoom



Nora Vargas Keynote Speaker at Democratic Club Annual Meeting



# SPECIAL EVENT

## Learn to Write a Letter to the Editor

On Saturday, March 6, Jean Seager presented on how to write a letter to the editor and get it published! She shared tips:

1. Write about an article in the newspaper (paper/online)
2. Keep it short
3. Refer to the article title, date of publication at the beginning
4. Summarize briefly the content of the article
5. Then state your response
6. Be polite, straight forward, unemotional, use facts if appropriate

Jean did an amazing job with participants sharing their experiences. She encourages us all to get involved with letter writing to get our beliefs and values out publicly, it makes a difference!

**CORO  
NADO  
DEMS**

*Coronado Eagle & Journal*



Donna Manning and Terry Zack

## Phone Banking: How To Reach Voters

The Coronado Democratic Club presented a Phone Banking Workshop via Zoom on Tuesday, March 30. A recording of the Workshop can be accessed on the Club's website at <https://coronadodemocrats.com/resources/video-archive/>

The Workshop featured Coronado residents Donna Manning and Terry Zack. Both are experienced phone bankers and both are active members of the Club. Manning, a retired psychiatrist, has been active in political campaigns since 1968. Her co-host, Zach, moved to Coronado from Washington, D.C. three years ago after retiring as the Chief of Leadership development for the FDIC.

The workshop provided a lively and in-depth look at phone banking, with special focus on voter bills pending in over 47 states.

In the age of COVID, phone banking has become the most effective means of reaching voters, and is now more user friendly and efficient than ever.

Following the Workshop, the Coronado Democratic Club established a phone banking team designed to support all levels of interest and experience. In the months ahead, the team will be working on various political campaigns, including a focus on pending voter laws. Phone banking helps get out the vote and acquaints voters with important issues to be determined by elections and by legislative sessions.

Individuals interested in joining, or learning more about the Coronado Democratic Club's phone banking team should contact [www.info@CoronadoDemocrats.com](mailto:www.info@CoronadoDemocrats.com).



Club members Judy Bambace and Brian Trotier had a special birthday greeting for fellow Democratic Club member Bill Seager



## A Pandemic Year: Life In The Time Of Covid

A commentary  
by Jon Sinton

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization said COVID-19 was a pandemic, and the world closed. Offices, schools, businesses, travel—everything stopped. As though we were prepping for a nationwide hurricane, there was at first a run on toilet paper, and then the rest of the grocery shelves were stripped bare. Nursing homes in Seattle and New York were losing people faster than the coroners could work. Refrigerated trucks became makeshift morgues. We isolated from our friends and families. Infections and death increased exponentially. “Flatten the curve” became a mantra as our infectious disease-related vocabulary expanded. The things we took for granted about everyday life became stark reminders of our helplessness.

As usual, those with the least suffered the most. Inequities were laid bare. That we are not a fair or equal country has never been more obvious. Our essential workers—farmers, food processors, drug store clerks and pharmacists, delivery people, and grocery store workers—have paid a particularly high price. Most are minorities living paycheck-to-paycheck in places without good healthcare options or the highspeed internet connections that have become education essentials.

In the moment when we

needed everyone to pitch in, Amazon, Apple, Google, and the rest of the high-tech titans didn’t do enough to ensure poor kids had computers or internet access when schools shuttered.

Our police, fire, EMS, ER and ICU staffs, docs, and nurses worked tirelessly, and at great risk to themselves and their families, as they tried to stem the tide. I’m concerned for their mental health going forward. No one should have to bear witness to so much suffering. The human mind and heart are not made to absorb tragedy on this scale. Some significant number of those healthcare professionals who watched helplessly as they lost patient after patient, will suffer from PTSD. Let’s make sure we don’t forget them, or we will have a secondary infection: suicides. It’s especially concerning because we haven’t done very well in that battle where veterans are concerned.

For the families who had to watch on screens as their loved ones died alone, the light at the end of the Covid tunnel is not as bright or promising as it is for the rest of us. I hope we remember that as we, the lucky ones, return to normal.

Now, exactly one year and more than 545,000 American deaths later, we are beginning to see stirrings of a normal life. That we are 4.4% of the world’s population and own 20.1% of the deaths is an embarrassment.

Sinton, Continued on Page 14.

### Sinton, Continued from Page 9.

While the desire to “downplay” the crisis to avoid a panic undoubtedly was a bad call that showed us government at its worst, Operation Warp Speed is an example of government at its best. It funded a solution in just a year—that’s five times faster than any vaccine in history. We’re now getting as many two-million shots in arms every day.

It was hypocritical of the former president to take his shots privately. He petulantly refuses to promote the effort publicly like his predecessors. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, “Nearly four in ten Republicans and three in ten rural residents say they will either ‘definitely not’ get vaccinated or will do so ‘only if required,’ as do one-third (32%) of those who have been deemed essential workers in fields other than health care.” Our next challenge is making the efficacy and safety of the vaccines clear to everyone. That would be easier if Trump pitched in.

Perhaps the Reagan-era trope that government is incompetent and only makes matters worse is receding. As David Sanger wrote, “When properly organized, the same

government that mobilized for World War II and landed men on the moon can in fact save lives on a mass scale.” But, As Dr. Fauci said on NBC, “Even simple common-sense health measures took on a political connotation. It wasn’t a pure public health approach. It was very much influenced by the divisiveness we have in this country.” President Biden has had the last word here, and it is optimistic: “Put trust and faith in the government to protect its people. Government isn’t a foreign force in a distant capital. It’s us; it’s all of us.”

Competence in leadership goes a long way. Look particularly at South Korea, Australia, Israel, and the other countries that gained early control of the outbreak. Had our leadership played up the seriousness of the virus, and advocated for the mutual sacrifice of social distancing and masking, as opposed to making fun of those who heeded the science, this journey might’ve been easier.

Grace and hope, patience and kindness. That’s the prescription for our well-being.

Now, let’s get vaccinated, so we can eat out, hug our kids, and go watch the Padres mount a pennant drive!



# COMMENTARY

## Correcting The Record

In his recent column J. F. Kelly, Jr. wrote, in reference to the claims of election fraud, that "last minute changes to rules and deadlines *not authorized by state legislatures as the Constitution requires*, resulted in a contested election (emphasis added)". This is simply not true and leaves the reader with the opinion that some states did something wrong in how they conducted their elections...which is also not true.

The truth is the US Constitution provides the following guidance on the conduct of elections in Article One, Section 4 (the Elections Clause), where it states:

*"The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing (sic) Senators."*

This section makes it clear that states have the right to prescribe the time, place and manner for holding elections (emphasis added). Those claiming otherwise typically assert only state legislatures can create and adopt the rules governing the manner in which elections are conducted and this is not correct. The constitutional delegation of the right to determine the manner in which elections are conducted (see, above) does not require that only state legislatures set the election rules for each respective state. There is nothing in this section of the US Constitution that prohibits each state legislature from in turn delegating its constitutionally derived authority to create rules governing the conduct of elections to a state office or entity charged with doing so unless the state's own constitution does not allow it.

## Letters to the editor and commentary by Democratic Club Members

This is why virtually every lawsuit filed by the Trump campaign or Trump's surrogates not only failed, but most were summarily thrown out of court, including the case that made it to the Supreme Court challenging the manner in which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Supreme Court also specifically held, in another case interpreting the Elections Clause, that a state legislature may delegate its authority under the Elections Clause to other entities or officials so long as nothing in the state constitution prohibits such action. Therefore, implying a state violated the US Constitution by allowing a state official (like the Secretary of State) or state created entity (like the Board of Elections) to adopt rules governing the conduct of an election during a global pandemic is incorrect and misleading information.

This section of the US Constitution does allow Congress to step in and create its own set of rules for the conduct of federal elections, but the fact it has not done so is further proof each state retains unfettered authority under the US Constitution to conduct all its elections as it sees fit so long as the state does not violate its own constitution when doing so.

Going forward, I hope Mr. Kelly will stick to factual information that he personally has researched and verified as the basis for his opinion pieces and stop using talking points developed by some of Trump's seditious supporters in Congress.

**Brian L. Trotier**

## Disingenuous And Hypocritical

The last two op-eds penned by J.F. Kelly, Jr. are, if nothing else, both amusing and amazing.

In the first, Kelly would have us give him a free pass for the last four years of op-eds penned in support of either Trump or his policies because Kelly claims he has been a Romney man all along. The amusing part is that Romney came out against Trump a year ago when Romney was the sole Republican Senator to vote to convict Trump and remove him from office, yet as far as I can see Kelly never jumped off the Trump train. The amazing part is Kelly thinks this proclamation of unwavering sup-

port for Romney wipes his slate clean. Sorry Mr. Kelly, but after four years of praising Trump or his policies almost weekly you need to not only profess your somewhat secret support for Romney, you need to apologize for even feigning support for Trump.

In the second, Kelly seems to acknowledge the insurrectionist attack on the Capitol Building was wrong and tragic, but then he also questions why Congress is proceeding to try Trump's second impeachment because Trump has left the building. The amusing part of this is Kelly seems to suggest the U.S. will be better off by letting bygones be bygones and just forgetting Trump was impeached for his personal role in inciting the attack. The amazing part is, as a former commanding officer, Kelly seems to be suggesting we do not pursue justice for Brian Sticknick, the Capitol police officer who died while protecting the building and its occupants because doing so would be seen as seeking revenge against Trump and his administration. I wonder if Kelly would be singing the same tune if a junior officer had incited an insurrection of sailors against his command and failed. Would he see trying and convicting that junior officer as an act of revenge or as an act of well-deserved military justice?

**Brian Trotier**



### Clarifying Some Points On New EDCO Program

I'd like to clarify a couple of things I saw in last week's letters regarding food scraps and EDCO's new program that misunderstood the program.

I am a Master Composter and am working as part of Emerald Keepers to build composting sites at Coronado Elementary School to teach about the sciences behind composting, biology, chemistry, and entomology that facilitates it. It's not a messy, smelly, bug laden process like regular garbage is. That is a common fallacy. Composting with food scraps is a historically beneficial reuse of resources that agriculture has used for centuries. I have three quick points.

First, EDCO is just implementing a new state law that requires food scraps from businesses and restaurants must be separated for composting. We, as residents, will be next for the mandate and are encouraged to start now. Why? Because, simply put, we are running out of landfill room. If we had to store all of our garbage, plastic trash and waste on the island, we'd have been composting years ago. It is a state mandate, not EDCO's whim.

Second, methane emitted from landfills is 84 times more deadly and contributes that much more to climate change than carbon monoxide. Landfills create methane, so we want to reduce landfill garbage.

Organic waste is a renewable natural resource. It mainly comes from yard and kitchen waste from homes, and food waste and scraps from industrial and commercial operations.

Mandatory recycling of organic waste is the next step to achieving California's Zero Waste goals. EDCO has constructed the first state-of-the-art, advanced technology Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility in San Diego County, capable of producing renewable natural gas that will serve the needs of the region. It is a huge investment in our grandchildren's future on EDCO's part, and it is planning for the future. EDCO is doing their part to cut down on harmful methane emissions. We should do ours, too.

Third, composting does not smell (a common fallacy). Collecting a few wilted lettuce leaves, peelings from fruit and vegetables, rice, and other food scraps (no meats or oils, though) and mixing them with shredded-paper and other nitrogen and carbon based waste like yard clippings creates that earthy, wonderful compost most gardeners pay \$10 a bag for. It's free if you take the time and want to learn! Your garden will turn into a blue ribbon winner, and the earth will thank you. Plus, you'll be diverting garbage from landfills.

For more information on the program through EDCO click here to our city site <https://www.coronado.ca.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=746090&pageId=17448858>. For information on composting and the new set up at Coronado Elementary, join us at [www.EmeraldKeepers.org](http://www.EmeraldKeepers.org).

Sincerely,  
**Laura Wilkinson**

### Once A Book Worm, Always A Book Worm

I want to take a moment to share my gratitude to the incredible staff at the Coronado Library. Their Book Bundle and Curbside Pickup services have been a fantastic resource and diversion during this long COVID winter. If you haven't used these services yet, I would wholeheartedly encourage you to do so. I called and spoke with the librarian, shared some interests and she pulled an incredible treasure trove of books for us to safely pick up - my kiddos and I have spent many happy hours cuddled up reading about princesses, pirates and unicorns!

Many thanks\* to Tara Davies and everyone else there for all your efforts.

If you haven't yet sampled these services, dust off your library card and visit [[https://www.coronado.ca.us/government/departments\\_divisions/library\\_services/adult\\_book\\_bundles](https://www.coronado.ca.us/government/departments_divisions/library_services/adult_book_bundles)] for more information (or call 619-522-7390) If anyone needs me, I'll be over here with a cup of hot tea and some fabulous books. Join me!

**Whitney Antrim**

### Help Support The Little Free Libraries

Please join in supporting a book drive to stock new Little Free Libraries, approved in this year's budget by the Board of Supervisors for countywide installation. You've probably seen these Little Free Libraries, attractive book-sharing boxes mounted on posts at various locations in Coronado. Under the leadership of Supervisor Nora Vargas and coordinating with the County's library system, the Coronado Democratic Club's community outreach program is collecting books for the new libraries in the First Supervisorial District.

The libraries are greatly needed in the South Bay, where the pandemic has impacted student learning and many families struggle to make ends meet.

If you have new or used children's books in Spanish and/or dual language English/Spanish adult books please call Jean Seager at 619 435-8130 and she will arrange to have them picked up.

Sincerely,  
**Jean Seager**



# APRIL

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE | FRIDAY • APRIL 2, 2021

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

### VACCINE • Eligibility expands to 50 and up

FEWER  
COVID-19  
PATIENTS  
IN LOCAL  
HOSPITALS

OVER 1M  
PEOPLE  
HAVE  
RECEIVED  
VACCINE

Fletcher cites number  
as measure of success  
in San Diego County

CORO  
NADO  
DEMS

### Democratic Club Hosts Speakers

On Saturday, April 24, the Coronado Democratic Club heard a joint presentation by Congressman Scott Peters and Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina on the current status of the work being done by the federal, state, county, and local governments to address and resolve the long standing issue of sewage being discharged into the ocean from the Tijuana River.

Peters and Dedina explained what work must be done to resolve the problem, how funding for the necessary improvements will be handled, what obstacles remain for the problem to be solved, and what the next steps are in keeping the issue at the forefront for the EPA, the lead agency handling the problem.

To view their presentation, go to: <https://coronadodemocrats.com/resources/video-archive/>.

He pushes proposal  
to expand education,  
child care, preschool

BY PETER BAKER

President Joe Biden laid out an agenda Wednesday night to rewrite the American social compact by expanding family leave, child care, health care, preschool and college education for millions of people to be financed with increased taxes on the wealthiest earners.



President Biden gives State of the Union address



## The Scholarship

### Committee

Edry Goot  
Patti Flores-Charter  
Sanjay Bhandari  
Lucy Howell  
Luke Serna

## Coronado Democratic Club Awards College Scholarships

The 2021 scholarship winners were announced at the Coronado Democratic Club's general meeting on April 24. Every year the Coronado Democratic Club awards John F. Kennedy Scholarships to students at Southwestern College. This year \$500 scholarships were awarded to Yahir Ibarra and Elizabeth de la Torre. These students exemplify our country's democratic values.

Ibarra was born in San Diego, grew up in Mexico, and moved

to San Ysidro where he learned English as a Second Language while attending high school. His single mother motivated him go to college. Since middle school he's had the goal of a career in computer engineering. He is on his way with a GPA of 4.0 to date in his rigorous coursework. He's involved in the Math and Science Club as well as a reporter for the award-winning Southwestern College newspaper, The Sun. Working on the newspaper is extremely time consuming, yet the faculty advisor to the paper praises Yahir's work ethic as well as the values and assistance he brings to his peers.

His work on the newspaper demonstrates his commitment to unbiased reporting in our democracy. As a citizen he takes his responsibility to vote seriously by researching candidates, issues, and legislation. The issues most important to him include women's rights and a strong concern for our country's role as a global super power. Ibarra sees that we need to participate by supporting human rights and working with

other countries to identify solutions for global needs.

De la Torre is the daughter of immigrants who had less than an elementary school education. She grew up in South East San Diego and was taught that nothing was impossible. She is the single mother of middle school twins. She worked 15 years in the hospitality industry until she was laid off due to the pandemic. She was motivated by her children to return to college in 2018. In fall 2019 she was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer and had a bilateral mastectomy, chemo, and radiation treatment. De La Torre says, "As I continue through the journey, I understand it has its positives and negatives, but I don't ever give up."

She was able to enroll back at Southwestern College in fall 2020. She's used multiple food banks as she works to make ends meet. While she attends college, she is also working hard to be a teacher and role model for her children.

De la Torre is politically active. *Scholarships, Continued on Page 19.*

### April meeting via Zoom



Scholarship winner  
Elizabeth de la Torre

### Scholarships, Continued from Page 4.

tive at her union, Local 30. She is supporting AB 1074 which will protect those laid off in the hospitality industry during the pandemic in a priority rehiring process. She fights for the rights of hospitality workers. The two political issues most important to her are stricter regulation in gun laws as well as environmental conservation. Currently she is

forming a group for beach clean-up from members of her Local 30 and college clubs at Southwestern College.

De la Torre and Ibarra epitomize our American democratic values and the American dream. We are proud of their hard work. They are winners in every respect and give us hope for the future.



Serge Dedina



Congressman Scott Peters



# MAY

CORO  
NADO  
DEMS

## SPECIAL EVENT!

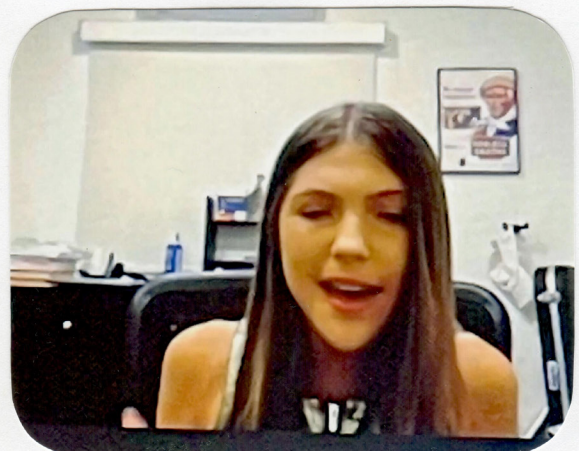
**Celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> Day of Biden/Harris Administration**

After a year of drama and trauma, we are ready for a break.

**LET'S CELEBRATE THE ELECTION OF  
PRESIDENT BIDEN AND VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS**



Keith Prentiss



Katie Moreno



Our 100 Day Celebration was held May 14. I am sorry some of you had to miss it. We had about 26 guests, which provided a great, informal opportunity to discuss our hopes for the future and what needs to be done leading up to our next elections.

Frank King, Gail Bardin, and Patricia Leahy received Election Hero Awards and will each receive a gift copy of Stacey Abrams' book, Our Time is Now., which is a blueprint for getting out the vote. Stacey Abrams received an Election Hero Award in absentia, and I will send her a letter and her award certificate. Laura Wilkinson spoke about Stacey's work in Georgia and Fair Fight.

Each of the awardees will receive a beautiful certificate designed by Peggy Thayer.

We were entertained by Katie Moreno, a middle school student from Coronado who sang "Breathe" by Lin Miranda. Katie will receive a \$50 Starbucks gift certificate. Keith Prentiss, a club member, inspired us by singing and playing the guitar. His choice of **For What it's Worth**, by

Stephen Stills, and recorded by Buffalo Springfield in 1966, was relevant to our current times.

Laura Wilkinson won the Liberal Libation contest with her suggestion of **Gin and Guiliani**, served with a subpoena and a search warrant. She will receive a copy of Hunter Biden's Memoir, Beautiful Things.

Patricia Leahy took photos for our scrapbook for Jenna.

The Special Events Committee, chaired by Patti Flores-Charter, includes Donna Manning, who did the polling on the Libation contest; Gail Bardin spoke about what we did during the campaign and asked for our most "memorable moments," JoAnn Antrim led a discussion on our hopes for the future. Michelle Krug helped with the planning of the event and attended.

It appeared that everyone had a good time.

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

**STATE  
MASK  
RULES**

**TO EASE  
JUNE 15**



# JUNE

## Coronado Democratic Club Hosts Diane Benscoter

On Saturday, June 26, the Coronado Democratic Club welcomed Diane Benscoter who spoke on psychological manipulation and the effect it has on all of us.

Benscoter is the founder of [www.antidote.ngo](http://www.antidote.ngo), a non-profit helping people from all over the world deal with the impact of psychological manipulation. Drawing from her own experience inside a religious cult (the Unification Church) and later as a deprogrammer, Benscoter came to realize the need for an organization that recognizes that psychological manipulation is a public health problem.

Her experience in the technology industry informs her understanding of the need to utilize technology, and especially social media, to reach those who are most at risk of being taken advantage of. Antidote is the result of her many years of effort to find a comprehensive solution to the problem of psychological manipulation. Benscoter is determined to build a solution that is proportional to the dangerous and harmful effects these deceptive tactics have on individuals, families and society at large.

Here is a link to Benscoter's presentation: <https://youtu.be/G2Qh351WrDY>



Meeting via Zoom

MONDAY • JUNE 21, 2021

## CORONADO DISTRICT APOLOGIZES, CONDEMNS INCIDENT

Tortillas thrown at Orange Glen players after heated game

BY DAVID HERNANDEZ

Coronado school district leaders apologized Sunday to Orange Glen High — a predominately Latino school in Escondido — after tortillas were hurled at the school's basketball team during an altercation in the aftermath of a championship game Saturday night.

Coronado police have said they are "extremely disturbed" by the behavior at the basketball game and are currently investigating the incident. Police said Sunday they identified the man who brought packs of tortillas to the game.

Mueller has called the tortilla incident "reprehensible" and apologized to Orange Glen.

"The individuals who participated in these actions do not reflect our school district values," Mueller said in a statement Sunday. "I want to make it clear that there is no place for such conduct in Coronado Unified School District."

A video being circulated on social media shows two Coronado players flinging tortillas high into the air toward Orange Glen basketball players in Coronado's gym. Another video shows the tortilla throwing happened during an altercation between coaches and players of the teams after the game, which Coronado won 60-57 in overtime.

Coronado High School basketball coach JD Laaperi has tweeted that a community member brought and distributed the tortillas, "which was unacceptable and racist in nature."

"I do not condone this behavior. Coronado High School does not condone this behavior and is already taking appropriate action," Laaperi said in a tweet on Saturday.

Orange Glen head basketball coach Chris Featherly said in an interview his team had been waiting for a postgame award ceremony when Laaperi said disrespectful comments to him and his players.

According to Featherly, Laaperi said, "That's why you don't talk (expletive). Get your kids and get the (expletive) out of here."

Featherly said he confronted Laaperi about his disrespectful comments, and that's when the tortillas were flung.

Laaperi said the district has asked him not to say anything more to the media about the incident.

## CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP CALLS FOR FIRINGS FOR TORTILLA INCIDENT

Coronado school board will hold special meeting today

## CORONADO GROUP: IT'S TIME TO GIVE ESCONDIDO AN APOLOGY

InclusioNado says reconciliation is key, not intent of tortilla throwing



# CORONADO FIRES COACH OVER TORTILLA INCIDENT

Tensions run high at district's special school board meeting about game's aftermath

Excerpts from President Susan Marrinan's  
statement on the incident :

Coronado Democrats Support Respect for Others

...

One fact that has come to light is that a Coronado resident, Luke Serna, took the tortillas to the game. Mr. Serna is a CHS and UCSB graduate and a member of the Hispanic community. He was also a member of the Coronado Democratic Club. He joined the club in August of 2020 and served on the scholarship committee. We were shocked to learn that he was responsible for taking tortillas to the game. We had no prior knowledge of his involvement. We explicitly condemn this behavior. It in no way reflects our club values. He acted on his own, without our knowledge, and certainly without our consent. Immediately upon learning of his actions, I accepted his resignation from the club.

As Americans and Democrats, we support inclusivity and treating others with respect at all times. We do not condone acts of racism or hurtful behavior toward anyone for any reason, including their race, ethnicity, or religion. The Coronado Democratic Club supports opportunities to overcome the barriers of racism and proudly stands for any movement that tries to build a more just and equal society. This hurtful incident illustrates how far we all have to go.

...

What should have been a night of celebration is now a night of shame. We are sorry to say that one of our former members has brought such negative attention to our town, and we offer our apologies to our guests from Orange Glen.

The Coronado Democratic Club pledges to help move our club and our community forward and do everything it can to learn from the terrible altercation of June 19.

Our response will demonstrate our values. As one of the speakers at the School Board meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> observed, "Our children are watching."

Susan Marrinan

President

Coronado Democratic Club

MAN WHO TOOK TORTILLAS TO CORONADO HIGH GAME APOLOGIZES

Resident says no racist  
intent; throwing them a  
tradition at alma mater

THURSDAY • JULY 1, 2021

## CHAMPIONSHIP STRIPPED FROM CORONADO HIGH



# JULY

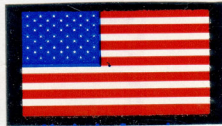
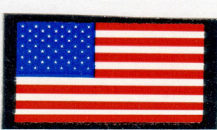
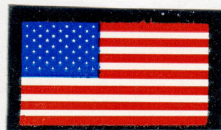
CBC participated in the July 4th parade



organized by Patti Flores-Charter









# AUGUST

## *Democratic Club To Meet*

The Coronado Democratic Club is holding its August general meeting on Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Avenue. The speakers this month will be Amy Steward from Emerald Keepers and Congressman Scott Peters and their topic will be climate change. Amy will share what is being done locally and Rep. Peters will give us an overview of how the military is responding on a national level. The meeting runs from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and is open to the public. If you cannot attend, the speakers' presentations will be recorded and made available to anyone interested. All attendees must wear masks.



**Greeters: Patricia Leahy and Jo Antrim**  
Offering masks and hand-sanitizer because COVID was still a concern







Congressman Scott Peters spoke about climate change and an overview of how the military is responding

### Volunteer of the year-Mercy Mandelbaum



In 1999 when Mercy moved to Coronado, she looked around for Democrats. When she joined the club there were only 20-40 members. Seeing the need, Mercy started volunteering for club activities. She made a difference!

She started the club newsletter and the hospitality committee, she served as the club historian and worked on special events. She has served as membership chairman, welcoming new members, keeping a roster, redesigning the member application. She also started and chaired the new voter registration project. She has played a big part in growing the club to the current 225 members.

In her honor, a new award will be given each year: The Mercy Mandelbaum Award, given to the year's outstanding volunteer.

Congratulations and a big thank you to Mercy.



# Go Team

Frank King

2021 began as an off year, with no major elections anticipated, until the Republicans succeeded, thanks to an extension of the time required to gather sufficient signatures, in qualifying a special election to recall Governor Gavin Newsom for the ballot. The California Democratic Party joined forces with the Newsom campaign and the labor movement to defeat the cynical, Trump-inspired effort to elect one of their own as governor when they couldn't do it in the 2018 general election.

The GO Team, which is an arm of the San Diego County Democratic Party, played an essential role in persuading Democratic voters to vote against the recall in this off-year, special election which the Republican Party saw as their best chance to take the governor's mansion. Because there was only one issue on the ballot, a different approach was taken. Phone and text banking was organized directly by the County Party whereby volunteers logged onto a predictive dialer, while the various GO Teams focused on physical neighborhood canvassing and door hanger distribution.

As many as 30 members of the Coronado GO Team participated in the Coronado Day of Action on August 28, 2021. Congressman Scott Peters, who had addressed our general membership meeting earlier, gave our GO Team a great sendoff from Spreckels Park as we ventured out to canvass our neighborhoods. Many of our members volunteered to canvass on other Days of Action in various neighborhoods in San Diego County. As a result of the efforts of volunteers throughout the state, including in Coronado, the recall attempt was so resoundingly crushed by a margin similar to that in 2018, that the Republicans ended up not only defeated but totally demoralized.

# Action Alerts

Judy Bambace

## Coronado Democratic Club Action Alerts 2021

### **January:** Local Politics Matter

Attend one or more board meetings – CUSD, Coronado City Council, County Board of Supervisors.

### **February:** Write Letters to the Editor

Write about issues that matter to you and send them to the Eagle/Journal, San Diego Union-Tribune, USA Today and other newspapers.

### **March:** Support Emerald Keepers

Educate yourself about climate change, plastics and marine debris.

### **April:** Oppose Voter Suppression Bills

Join Coronado Dem Club phone banking team or a texting group; donate to organizations that protect and expand voting rights throughout the country.



**May: Thank a Superhero**

Express your appreciation to nurses you know for their tireless effort in the fight against COVID.

**June: Applaud CUSD's Efforts in Schools**

Send an e-mail to Superintendent Mueller (and copy the CUSD Trustees) applauding the District's efforts to make our local schools safe and welcoming to every child, and stating full support for the ongoing work of the Equity Action Committee and No Place for Hate Program.

**July: Support the Equality Act**

This legislation would ban, on the federal level, any discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation or gender orientation. This month, participate in San Diego's Pride activities.

**August: Climate Change**

Contact Senators Feinstein and Padilla and ask them to include a price on carbon in this year's Budget Reconciliation Bill.

**September: Emerald Keepers Activities**

Join "Emerald Community Read" about sea-level rise; tell City Council you want a Climate Action Plan that shows real leadership; participate in Coronado trash clean-up; take the "Golden Sands and Pristine Seas" walking tour of Coronado.

**October: Support Women's Reproductive and Healthcare Rights**

Tell our Senators to vote YES on the Women's Health Protection Act.

**November: Demand Civility at Coronado School Board Meetings**

Write or call individual CUSD Trustees to express your views; write Letters to the Editor on this topic.

**December: Focus on the Supreme Court**

Call or email Senators stating support to expand the Court if the Justices refuse to respect settled precedent; pressure members of the House and Senate to codify *Roe v. Wade*.



# SEPTEMBER



Our club provided and distributed yard signs to promote voting no on the recall of Governor Newsom. Frank King and the Go Team distributed signs and knocked on doors to help defeat the recall.



## RECALL FAILURE SHOWS POWER OF DEMS



## The Coronado Democratic Club presents

### A Strategic Planning Workshop: Empowering the Vision of Our Club

We heard your ideas. Now come help make your vision a reality as we shape the future of our club.

**When: Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Where: The Coronado Public Library's Winn Room**

This will be a fun, interactive and energizing event. Masks are required.



The workshop was well attended by members.





# COMMENTARY

## Think Of Others

It is irresponsible to promote potentially lethal misinformation, but it is even more egregious when a writer uses medical credentials to add credibility to inaccurate dangerous disinformation. A global pandemic is no time to be self-serving and divisive.

Our world has lost more than 4 million lives to Covid. Some of our best and brightest individuals worked tirelessly to make a vaccine to stem the tide of loss. If you are not close to someone who has died from this disease you are fortunate. There is no partisanship nor hidden agenda associated with wearing a mask. I wore one every day during my 26 years of active duty as a Navy dental surgeon. It is a basic precept of infection control.

When I counseled patients on smoking cessation I always pointed out that their drug, unlike others, was not just a personal choice. They were imposing their carcinogens on those around them as well. Likewise refusing a vaccine contributes to increased infections, frequency of mutation, (delta and other variants), and ultimately loss of lives, a supremely selfish act.

I heard a sad and galling story this week. Several unvaccinated couples have fled the heat of their homes to rent in more temperate Coronado. Proud of their privilege to go maskless and their right to eschew vaccines, they and locals like them are the ideal incubators for viral mutation and spread.

Perhaps, as suggested by a local physician, the unvaccinated should be caring for the unvaccinated who become Covid victims. Seems fair to me. Please try to think of others and get your medical advice from your primary care physician, not the internet or some attention seeking pundit.

**Holly Nappen**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No Place For Hate

In the June 2 edition of the *Coronado Eagle & Journal*, two letter writers using similar inaccurate and inflammatory rhetoric assailed the Coronado Unified School District (CUSD) for having an Equity Action Committee (they called it social engineering)

and for adopting the No Place For Hate program (they called it critical theory).

One focused on declining enrollment and poor math scores as evidence the school should spend its efforts elsewhere. This myopic view ignores the reality that enrollment will drop and children will perform poorly in situations where children feel unsafe and unheard. This year 30% of Coronado High School students reported having been bullied while attending school in Coronado. This is a staggering number and reveals the school board is spending its time and efforts right where they should...on making children feel safe and secure when at school.

The other writer claimed the No Place For Hate program is somehow flawed since it was created by the Anti-Defamation League. The writer also repeated the reference to social engineering and then even went so far as to assert this program "in fact teaches hate".

I can say that every person I know of whose children have participated in the program has sung its praises. The foundational lynchpin of this program is "kindness" and not hate as the writer asserts.

Inasmuch as CUSD has as part of its mission statement that "Every child should feel safe, valued, and respected", both of these letters miss the mark...badly.

**Brian Trotter**

### CIF's Ethics In Sports Agreement

The recent incidents involving not only CHS but other schools county-wide has reminded me of something that I (and many others I'm afraid) have paid too little attention to recently. Every student-athlete, parent, coach and the Officials Association must agree to the CIF's "Ethics in Sports" agreement. It can be found (along with penalties for violations) on the CUSD web site: coronadousd.net. Click the "Parents & Students" tab, click the "Athletics" tab, click the "More" tab, Click the "Ethics in Sports" tab, and click on the link near the bottom above the CIF logo.

It is critical that all involved take this seriously. I would even recommend that all coaches spend a little time at the start of the season reviewing the document with their team, assistant coaches, and parents. And likewise, that parents review it with their athletes.

I have been involved with our schools in one way or another for the past 46 years. I've been in the dugout of our baseball team since 1995. My children went K-12 here. Coronado schools have been my life, and I love our district. It hurts to the core when we don't present the best version of ourselves to the rest of the world. The adults in our community owe it to our student athletes to show them we care about these values. We can have both good sportsmanship and a strong athletic program. We all need to work together to do better; it's the right thing.

**Bill Seager**



## Letters & Commentary

# RECOGNIZING BIAS IS A FIRST STEP

BY PATRICIA FLORES-CHARTER

My heart is breaking. I am a member of the Coronado Democratic Club who has lived in the city since 1993. Luke Serna, the person who thought it was OK to bring and throw tortillas at a Coronado High School basketball game, was a member of our club for 10 months. Our club is now being targeted as planning this event to force critical race theory on our schools. What? But that's OK, we can take attacks and lies. We recognize our privilege and as a result our responsibility to continue to educate ourselves and fight for racial justice. A Hispanic friend asked me if Luke had apologized. I had to tell her that not only did he not, that in the June 24 article in The San Diego Union-Tribune a part of Luke's unsigned letter to the Coronado Unified School District board said, "Those who have inflamed this issue into a racially charged issue should be utterly ASHAMED of themselves."

Self-righteousness, redirection of blame and claims of innocence are common when racism is called out. I'm ashamed that someone raised in a safe, wealthy community still thinks this was OK. His apology on June 25 because it "has been perceived as racially insensitive" was not an apology. It insulted us yet again. That he is still not willing to listen, take responsibility for how this act impacted the Hispanic players on the Orange Glen High School team and their family members was, again, when my heart first started breaking.

I grew up working in the grueling fields of the Central Valley where racism and hate was/is rampant. I grew up hearing Mexicans vilified as lazy, on welfare and dangerous, but good enough to pick their fields. Like Luke, I, too, am half-Mexican. But my skin is light, so I had the unique experience of hearing racist statements because people assumed I was as racist as they were. I thought I escaped that when I left the valley for graduate school in Los Angeles. But it followed me to L.A., North San Diego County and Coronado.

"You know how those people are." "Watch, I bet they use food stamps." "Why are they in line? They can't have a bank account." "Those people came to our neighborhoods again (on Halloween) for our candy."

Any people or students tossing tortillas should educate themselves to understand why this is so hurtful and offensive.

bodies on the floor in tiny apartments as people on work shifts came and went to jobs no one else wanted to do. I witnessed the drive of these families to better the lives of their children. Having lived in Mexico, I know that no matter how bad living conditions are here, they can be a hundred times worse there. At Southwestern College, I was driven to make sure that the students did not have my experience in college. I was humbled daily by the students' abilities to overcome incredible adversity to get to school each day and succeed.

## No excuse for the racist act at Coronado game

Re "Coronado school district issues apology after tortillas thrown at opposing basketball team" (June 20): I want to support and extend the apology of the Coronado school board and superintendent of schools for the disgracefully racist behavior of our basketball team in last Saturday's championship game against Orange Glen High.

As Superintendent Karl Mueller put it, this is a teachable moment reinforcing the urgent need of our school system to implement its "No Place for Hate" program of diversity training.

Some people in our community oppose this program on the grounds that racism is not a current issue in our idyllic town and that their kids should be protected from painful topics.

But this ugly incident makes crystal clear that if our kids don't learn from the injustices of the past and confront the poisonous attitudes in the present, they will be ill-equipped to function in the future as citizens in a civil society.

Donna Manning

## Equity At CUSD

For more than a year, CUSD and concerned community members have been working on achieving CUSD's goal that "every student feels safe and respected every day at school." We know that goal has not yet been achieved because students and parents report bullying and harassment at school, in sports and on campus.

We use the word "equity" with the meaning Webster ascribes it: "fairness or justice in the way people are treated."

For adults to criticize the use of the word "equity" is to miss the important work our community is doing to ensure that all, not some, of our students are treated fairly and with respect.

Let us agree to use Webster's definition of the word "equity" and move to help CUSD meet this important goal. It benefits us all to do so.

Gail Bardin

Not many people stop to understand the toll racism has taken on generation after generation of communities of color. It is easier to become passive and complacent when you have realized the American dream. The thinking is "I'm not a racist, so I didn't mean this as a racist act." That is simply no longer acceptable. Our country has had many racist traditions that are changing after being called out. Any people or students tossing tortillas should educate themselves to understand why this is so hurtful and offensive. Traditions like this are, and have been, microaggressions or blatantly racist. They must stop. An individual who has educated themselves on White privilege and the role it plays in racial injustice and divisiveness would never have done this, whether it was "a tradition" in college or not. Again, what is missing is the desire to understand the perspective of the players, the Hispanic families, and those of us in the Hispanic community.

There is a bright note because anyone at any time can decide to learn about how communities of color past and present, have experienced our history. There is safety in understanding racism and White privilege and their devastating impact on our society and economy. This history and knowledge does not divide us. It does not cause hatred. It provides insight and solutions for us as a society. We learn that we are all racist, including me. We all have biases. Recognizing this is our first step toward reconciliation and healing. We will never come together as a city, county, country or world if we aren't willing to take this first step. In this case, the first step is considering the impact of our words and actions on others. And so my heart is breaking again, but I will do what I've always done, dig down deep and keep my eyes on the goal.

Flores-Charter is a longstanding member of the Coronado Democratic Club and faculty emeritus at Southwestern College. She lives in Coronado.



# Editorial Page

## Running For CUSD School Board

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the 2022 Coronado Unified School District School Board election. I look forward to bringing a varied perspective to the Board as a mom of three kids in CUSD, military spouse, attorney, and former educator.

I have spent my career advocating for families, children, and veterans – first as a teacher, then as an attorney. Schools are a central and integral part of a child's life. It is imperative that our children feel accepted and safe in the school they attend.

To this end, I support the district's efforts to promote kindness and inclusion in our district through the Equity Committee and the No Place for Hate program.

According to the American Psychological Association, school climate is the overall quality and character of school life. Research shows that bullying and school climate are linked to children's academic achievement, learning and development. Children who are bullied are more likely to have lower academic achievement, higher levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness, and are more likely to attempt suicide. Bullying can occur for many reasons, including based on disability, weight, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, or religion.

Research shows that prevention of bullying can be significantly reduced through comprehensive, school-wide programs designed to improve school climate by the promotion of respect for individual differences and an overall norm of tolerance.

As a school board trustee, I will work towards an inclusive and safe environment for our students so they can achieve their highest potential.

**Alexia Palacios-Peters**

## Public Behavior

This letter is not about politics. It is about public behavior.

We have seen rude, angry, and abusive behavior in a prior city council election (2018), and recently at our school board meetings. We have read about it in the local media.

When candidates for office

and officeholders experience acts of vandalism, intimidation, bullying and social media harassment, it is time for all of us to pay attention.

What kind of person thinks it is ok to interrupt other speakers at a business meeting?

What kind of person refuses to listen to a viewpoint at odds with their own?

What kind of person slashes a tire? Throws tortillas on cars? Throws potted plants through a window?

Steals political signs? Makes threatening phone calls?

Takes videos of an officeholder and her children and menacingly posts them on their website?

What kind of person sends an email to an officeholder that begins, "Someone should kick your face in...?"

What kind of person laughs when another says they are in pain?

Obviously, not a kind or considerate person. These are the actions of bullies, rabid fanatics, and childish, immature people. They are behaving like children who throw a temper tantrum, yelling and screaming in an attempt to get their way.

I urge our elected officials to refuse to let the loud and the rude dominate public comment.

I urge all adults who believe in community civility and community spirit to speak up. Let's join together, regardless of political party, to say "Not in our town." We need to put a stop to this dangerous, childish, inappropriate, and indecent behavior. Coronado deserves better.

**Hon. Susan Finlay  
Marrinan,**

Coronado Resident for 44 years, Judge of the Superior Court, ret., Former lawyer, public school teacher and adjunct professor

## Rushing To Judgement

One of the things I have my 11th and 12th grade students in US History and US Government watch each year is the episode of the John Adams HBO miniseries about the Boston Massacre. I show this episode because I want my students to see that our Founding Fathers were aware of the danger of the people and the public to jump to conclusions. Because of our occasional human tendency to make judgements based off of emotion more than fact, America's earliest public servants tried to build safeguards into our systems that required facts and reason to help to counteract rushes to judgment.

When I show this episode of John Adams, I'm privately amused at how quaint everything seems. I like that John Adams is objective enough and skilled enough as an attorney to get a

jury of New England men to acquit the British Soldiers. I like the idea that we've had nearly 250 years to improve on these earlier successes.

However, after observing the aftermath of a basketball game between Coronado High School and Orange Glen High School, I'm sadly aware that human nature hasn't changed all that much from 1770 to 2021. People still rush to judgement. People, when they know how they feel, don't necessarily look to take in all the facts. What is different this time in 2021 is the lack of a fair process to adjudicate this conflict, and certainly the lack of a John Adams to represent the children who played their hearts out on June 19, 2021, at a gymnasium in Coronado.

The adults have unequivocally let down the interests of the children in this instance.

**Casey Tanaka**

## Letters & Commentary



### Thuggish Speech Is Not Free

In an iconic 1919 Supreme Court ruling, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr made clear that an individual's right to free speech, like all rights, is limited when it directly and materially harms other individuals or the public good.

His well-known analogy was the obvious inappropriateness of allowing someone to generate panic in a crowded theater by falsely shouting "fire". The law is clear. Your right to exercise free speech ends when you willfully abuse it to falsely and maliciously attack and harm me.

Thus, the recent blatant bullying at Coronado School Board meetings is not protected "free speech." Thuggish threats to School Board members are not protected free speech. Vandalism and racial attacks are not protected free speech.

Our Founding Fathers placed the highest value on free speech as an essential protection of democracy against the risk of authoritarian take-over. In contrast, the current perversion of free speech in the service of mob intimidation presages the demise of our democracy.

People in our community may disagree on political questions, but we can and must join together in condemning the small group of extremists willing to resort to cruelty, bullying, and thuggishness.

**Donna Manning**

### Happy Holidays

When I greet a friend who celebrates Christmas, I wish them a Merry Christmas. When I greet a friend who celebrates Hanukkah, I wish them a Happy Hanukkah. When I don't know, I wish them Happy Holidays. It's quite easy to forget that there are those who don't celebrate Christmas. When I'm wished a "Merry Christmas" I will sometimes just say thank you. However, on occasion I will say that I don't celebrate Christmas but I do appreciate the good wishes. When businesses wish us "Happy Holidays" I view it as positive; they're trying to include everyone. It certainly does not exclude those who celebrate Christmas. However, when businesses wish us a "Merry Christmas" they are, I would guess most often unintentionally, excluding those of us who don't celebrate Christmas. I much prefer "Happy Holidays."

**Bill Seager**

### School Is The Place To Learn

Questions have been raised about the use of the words "equity," "justice," "inclusion," and "diversity" in CUSD policies and classrooms. For centuries, scholars, schools and communities have used these words and concepts to imagine a more just, fair, and productive society and to debate the best ways to achieve that ideal.

There is no logical reason to prohibit CUSD students or staff from doing the same. Our students will undoubtedly hear

these words in college, in the news, in the books they read, and in the jobs they have. These words are not dangerous or somehow wrong. We can all agree that we want our students to be prepared for life off-island. School is the place to learn how to think, how to reason, how to debate. Let's prepare our students to be citizens who understand and contribute to a just, fair, and productive society.

**Gail Bardin**

### Closing The Achievement Gap

Joseph Piepenkott's letter ("Equality and Equity: Beware New Words" Nov. 8) absurdly suggests that it is "hostile to freedom and liberty" for public schools to strive for equality in educational outcomes for all groups of students.

For decades, long before today's politically motivated hysteria over word use relating to issues of race, school districts throughout the U.S. have been seeking to close persistent achievement gaps. These gaps — in graduation rates, test scores, college and career preparation — begin as early as kindergarten when some students come to school with advantages such as educated parents, books at home, access to preschool and healthy food, while many others, disproportionately students of color, have few of those advantages. In addition to the academic challenges faced by students who start off behind, many must negotiate school climates where their culture or ethnicity is not supported or understood. Providing supports for all students to succeed does not harm the students who are already high achieving, nor does creating equity for traditionally underserved students mean those who are traditionally advantaged must pay an academic price.

To prepare the next generation, and thus our society, for success, all students must be supported academically and nurtured in healthy, inclusive school environments. There's nothing radical or nefarious about that long-held goal. It's one that all Coronado parents should be able to support.

**Ann Bancroft**

### Misplaced Blame

A recent letter to the Eagle criticized Trustee Antrim for being emotional when describing the attacks she and her family have suffered since her election to the CUSD Board of Trustees. This shows a total lack of empathy by the writer for the very real threats Trustee Antrim has received. In a civilized society, most normal people would come to her defense in this situation and not attempt to blame and/or shame her for being a victim.

The writer then blames Trustee Antrim for the Board's difficulty in getting any real business done due to the "Jerry Springer Show" antics at Board meetings since last spring. Such a mischaracterization is not terribly surprising since the writer is part of a group that includes Trustee Keszei and other members of We The Parents Coronado (WTPC) working in the shadows to try to get Superintendent Mueller fired.

When describing the "disgusting spectacle" of screaming and yelling at school board meetings, what school board meetings has the writer been watching? The CUSD Board meetings I watched were dominated by members of WTPC and it was their disruptions and rude behavior that prevented the CUSD Board from functioning properly in recent months. If, as he states, the board meetings have become a circus, the performers on center stage at recent meetings were largely members of WTPC.

The writer is correct: this behavior has to stop and the community must get back to "doing what's best for Coronado's students." It's safe to say the entire community hopes this happens, but maybe the writer needs to ask the members of WTPC to stand down instead of trying to blame Trustee Antrim for the chaos they are causing.

**Judy Bambace**



# OCTOBER



Marching for reproductive rights through downtown San Diego Saturday morning, thousands of women and men helped connect a nationwide chain of demonstrations from coast to coast.

CDC members attend and march for reproductive rights.



## Democratic Club To Meet

The Coronado Democratic Club will hold its next meeting on Saturday, Oct. 30, in the Winn Room in the Coronado Public Library. The doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin promptly at 11 a.m. There will be a presentation by Safe Harbor Coronado, aka Coronado Safe, and the public is welcome to attend. Masks are required, per club policy.

Greeters and attendees still in masks as COVID was still an issue.



# Coffee

# in the

# CAYS



Hosted by Tom & Vickie Bernitt and Jenna McIntosh hosted residents of The Cays and members from the village for a beautiful morning of coffee, donuts and lively conversation.





# DECEMBER



Invitation designed by Peggy Thayer

## Coronado Democratic Club

### *Holiday Happy Hour*

**Date:** December 9, 2021

**Time:** 5 - 7 PM

**Place:** Home of Gail and Bob Bardin  
601 First Street, Coronado

**Please join fellow members for spirited  
conversations, appetizers, wine and soft drinks.**

**Please RSVP by December 2nd:**















Holiday Happy Hour December 9, 2021

The Club's Holiday Happy Hour was a wonderful evening of good conversation, happy greetings, relaxed enjoyment and an opportunity to get to know each other.

As one party-goer said in a thank you to our gracious hosts , Gail and Bob Bardin,

**"Thank you for the wonderful party last night! You were very brave to have so many of us Dems at your house for Happy Hour. I came home feeling a connection to the community that I have not had since T. was elected to office. And that's a good feeling."**



And indeed, the 70 club members who attended would agree that it was a very "good feeling".

Thank you, **Gail and Bob** for inviting us to your lovely home and sharing your warmth and holiday spirit.

Thank you to the Holiday Happy Hour Committee, **Jenna McIntosh, Jo Antrim, Jill Rooney** and **Susan Marrinan** for planning the event.

Thank you to **Mike Marrinan** and **Mike McIntosh** for welcoming guests with greetings and name tags.

Thank you to members **Courtney McGowen, Connie and Charlie Pinkus, Jill and Tom Rooney, Mickey Hansen, Ann Marie and Ken Bryan, Alexia Palacios-Peters, Carol Grimaud, Howard and Jean Somers, Jo Antrim, Julie Young, Frank and Joan King, Jenna and Mike McIntosh, Susan and Mike Marrinan, Judy Bambace and Brian Trotier** for contributing the delicious food and wine.

Thank you to **Woody Watson**, our wonderful photographer. Here is a link to photos from the party.

It was a very, very Happy Holiday Hour. We are a community, connected by shared democratic values. This Holiday Happy Hour, 2021, reinforced our collegiality and our mutual hopes for a better tomorrow. Together we can bring change. Best wishes for 2022.

President: Susan Marrinan  
Vice President: Brian Trotier  
Secretary: Alexia Palacios-Peters  
Treasurer: Patrick Callahan  
Member at Large: Frank King

Membership: Tom Bernitt  
Program: Brian Trotier  
Hospitality: Jenna McIntosh  
Legislative: Alexia Palacios-Peters  
Newsletter: Laura Wilkinson  
Go Team: Frank King  
Technology/Outreach: Laura Wilkinson  
Scholarship: Patty Flores Charter

Strategic Planning: Judy Bambace & Gail Bardin

