

# January 2026 Newsletter



Concerned Citizens



Laguna Woods Village

## This Month

**Tuesday, January 6  
7 PM**

**Clubhouse 7**

**Renée Van Vechten  
“Golden State  
Politics 2026”**

**Thursday, January 15  
2 PM**

**Clubhouse 1**

**Rick Hasen  
“The State Of U.S.  
Election Law 2026”**

## On Village TV

*Most speakers are recorded  
for later broadcast on Village TV*

**Concerned Citizens Presents  
Wednesdays at 1 PM**

**Friday, January 23, 2026  
Board of Directors  
Zoom Meeting 1 pm**

## Happy New Year 2026

Wishing you a fresh start,  
new adventures,  
and joyful memories

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that  
doing nothing is doing nothing  
for you.

That being unproductive is unproductive  
for you.

We've gotten so used to being busy,  
so used to doing things with visible results,  
so used to tracking our steps and logging  
our activity and ticking things off our to-do  
list,  
that we've forgotten the importance of rest.

‘Doing nothing’ and being ‘unproductive’  
are actually doing something productive.

They are helping you recharge.  
Recoup.

Reading a magazine or having a bath or  
sitting in the garden with a cup of coffee are  
not a waste of time.

Time spent rested is not time wasted.

We are not machines.  
We are not robots.  
We are not here to  
constantly work and move and do.

We are human beings.

And sometimes we just need to be.

~ Becky Hemsley

## MISSION STATEMENT CONCERNED CITIZENS OF LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE

The purposes of the  
organization shall be to  
promote world peace,  
economic and social  
justice for all peoples,  
good government,  
and protection  
of the Earth's  
precious resources.

## January 19, 2026



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Concerned Citizens



Laguna Woods Village

**Tuesday,  
January 6, 2026**

**Clubhouse 7  
7 PM**

**Members Free  
Visitors: \$5**

**For Laguna Woods Village  
residents and their guests**

**Website:**

[bit.ly/concernedseniors](https://bit.ly/concernedseniors)

**Email:**

[cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com](mailto:cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com)

## Concerned Citizens of Laguna Woods Village **MONTHLY MEETING**

### **"Golden State Politics 2026"**

**SPEAKER:**

**Professor Renée Van Vechten**



**Renée Van Vechten** is a full professor at the University of Redlands, having earned a B.A. in political science from the University of San Diego and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine. She has received several teaching awards and is an expert on state-level politics and policy. She is the author of *California Politics: A Primer*, as well as numerous papers and articles.

Professor Van Vechten has concentrated her research efforts on the state-level recall process and term limitations for elected officials. She is frequently consulted by local media for commentary about state and national politics.



Concerned Citizens



Laguna Woods Village

**Thursday,  
January 15, 2026  
2 PM  
Clubhouse 1**

**Members Free  
Non-members \$5**

**Website:  
[bit.ly/concernedseniors](https://bit.ly/concernedseniors)**

**Email:  
[cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com](mailto:cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com)**

**For Laguna Woods Village residents  
and their guests**

*Concerned Citizens of Laguna Woods Village*  
invites you to a live ZOOM presentation by

**Richard Hasen**

**“The State of U.S.  
Election Law 2026”**



**Q and A will follow the presentation**

**Richard Hasen** is a nationally recognized expert on elections. The author of several books on voting rights and voting practices, he holds the Schwartz Chair in Law and is also Professor of Political Science at UCLA. His research focuses on the laws and procedures that affect elections, including topics like the weakening of the Voting Rights Act (1965), the introduction of voter ID laws, and the expansion of gerrymandering.

In his Zoomed remarks, he will discuss the many factors likely to impact the 2026 midterms, such as redistricting, changes in election rules, declines in support for Trump, and the possible stationing of troops at polling places.

Professor Hasen holds a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Political Science and a J.D. in Law, all from the University of California.

# *The President's Corner*

by Suzanne Model

**As your outgoing and incoming President, a Happy Holiday Season to Concerned Citizens, their friends, and families.**

Politically, this has been the most disappointing year of my life (and probably yours as well), but Concerned Citizens has not swerved from its commitment to peace, economic and social justice, good government, and a clean environment. Through our meetings, newsletter, action committees, and e-mail blasts, we continue our goal of educating and engaging you in the fight for a fairer, cleaner, more tolerant America.

In these remarks, I will review where we've been and predict where we'll go. What did Concerned Citizens accomplish this year, and who deserves our appreciation? First, a big thank you to our Board members and Committee members. If you serve on any CC committee—Affordable Housing, Budget, Environment, Hospitality, or Program—I thank you for your contributions this past year. Immense gratitude goes as well to Joel Goldstein, technical specialist for all the best clubs in the Village.

**So what happened within Concerned Citizens during 2025?** Administratively, we saw some changes. Micki Nozaki replaced Allan Feldman as vice president, Judy Northrop added Peace Day Chair to her job description (which already included Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Web Mistress, Database Manager, and Archivist). Joining with Micki and past president Diane Bauman, Judy not only coordinated our Peace Day observance but also arranged our Winter Celebration. These three women are our crown jewels! Back in January, Wendy Burry resigned as Program Chair; Allan Feldman and I assumed her duties. More recently, Mary Sinclair resigned as Environment Chair. That position remains vacant. Finally, after six years of service, Hassan Alief resigned as Treasurer. Happily, a long-time member, Robert Cunningham, volunteered to replace Hassan. So that base is covered.

**Now, a few words about our programs.** This has been another very successful year, program-wise. As our engaged audience, you might enjoy hearing what they have to say about you. That's right...they have thoughts about you. How do I know that? Well, mainly because after they've given their talk, I email them a thank you. And they usually reply to my thank you. Here's how some of them replied:

Nick Roman, NPR host: "Thanks for your kindness! I had a terrific time during the event. Everyone was so nice!"

Tad Daley, UN expert: "THANK YOU for everything. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit. The presentation was a great opportunity for me to offer a large vision. The Q&A afterwards was full of insight and imagination from your erudite audience."

Felicity Figueroa, Immigrant Rights Advocate: "Thank you again for having me! It was great to see so many people concerned about what's happening to our immigrant friends and neighbors."

Dena Hoard, Director of the Orange County Campaign Finance and Ethics Commission: "It was my pleasure. Your group is an amazing gathering of humans. I enjoyed meeting everyone."

David Kaye, UCI law professor and expert on free speech: "Thank you so much for your note. I do hope people enjoyed it. I did! It's so rewarding to speak with a group of people who are so engaged and care so much about the future of our country and the world. Thanks for including me."

So, you see, CC members comprise a great audience and our speakers love you!

*Continued on page 5*



# The President's Corner

*continued from page 4*

Next year, we have more of the same. A brief rundown of speakers includes, on **Tuesday, January 6, in CH 7, Renée van Vechten on California politics**. She will talk about the laws the California legislature passed to thwart Trump's agenda. That includes laws about immigration enforcement, abortion protection, AI regulation, redistricting, and more. Will these statutes hold up against federal push-back? We'll find out what an expert thinks.

Then on **Thursday, January 15, in CH 1, we will Zoom with Richard Hasen**. A prominent expert on election law, Professor Hasen is in great demand. He will discuss actual and expected changes in election law: redistricting, voter ID laws, and upcoming Supreme Court decisions on campaign finance and the Voting Rights Act. What do these innovations portend for the 2026 midterm? No one is in a better position to predict than Rick Hasen. By the way, both Professors Van Vechten and Hasen have addressed Concerned Citizens in the past, and very successfully, too.

I will not project much further, save to say that in **March, Women's History Month, a former president of the Orange County Chapter of the National Organization for Women will speak**; in **April, Environment Month, Kathleen Treseder, a member of the Irvine City Council, will deliver the Bert Moldow Memorial Lecture**. And **sometime in the Summer, our own Dr. Joel Goldstein will discuss one of the year's most talked-about books: *Science Under Siege* by Michael Mann and Peter Hotez**. Mann is a nationally known climate-change scientist; Hotez is a pediatrician who researches vaccines. Goldstein is known locally as "the man with the camera"!

**Other upcoming events:** in February and March, the Affordable Housing Committee will solicit personal hygiene items for clients of the OC Rapid Response Network, a group of local organizations helping immigrants cope with ICE raids and ICE detentions. Also in March, Concerned Citizens will again participate in the annual Great American Write-In. GAWI is an Orange County event at which over a hundred progressive organizations staff booths to solicit signatures on petitions, cards, and letters urging public leaders to implement policies to make the world a better place.

Finally, **2026 marks Concerned Citizens' 45<sup>th</sup> year**. Forty-five is perhaps a minor rather than a major milestone, but it still deserves recognition. So we'll probably offer something in the way of a celebration. Stay tuned to find out more.

As we exchange 2025 for 2026, please renew your membership if you have not yet done so. Concerned Citizens also welcomes your suggestions for programs, activities, or advocacy. Feel free to e-mail us anytime at [cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com](mailto:cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com).

Finally, thank you for your support; we hope you feel that the time you spent with Concerned Citizens in 2025 was worthwhile.



Suzanne Model

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**"The American ideal is not that we all agree with each other, or even like each other, every minute of the day. It is rather that we will respect each other's rights, especially the right to be different, and that, at the end of the day, we will understand that we are one people, one country, and one community, and that our well-being is inextricably bound up with the well-being of each and every one of our fellow citizens."**

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**~ C. Everett Koop**

# Gratitude For Parody That Inspires Reform

by James Kahn, MD, MPH



The *New Yorker*, with its inestimable wit, published a wonderful list of absurd health insurance plans. It made me smile. But collectively they make a sadly sane point: it's time to abandon our ludicrous health insurance mess in favor of universal publicly funded coverage.

## **Which of These Updated Health-Care Plans Is Right for You?**

*The New Yorker—Shouts & Murmurs, November 26, 2025—By Eli Grober*

*Thrilling news: it's time to decide what health-care plan you'll be opting into for the coming year. Given the feedback we've received about how limited and expensive health care has become in this country, we've made some updates to our available offerings. Please choose from the following options.*

### **The Basic Plan**

*This is our most popular plan. It covers things like breathing (allowed, no co-pay), sleeping (hint: you must pretend to sleep in order to fall asleep), and eating (you pay for your own food). No other coverage is provided. This is an ideal choice if you are immune to all diseases and are also immortal.*

### **The Catastrophic Plan**

*If the San Andreas Fault opens up, we'll send Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson to help. Not to help you, specifically—he'll just generally lend a hand in California. Maybe he'll leap from one building onto another building. Very cool stuff.*

### **The Become-a-Doctor Plan**

*This plan costs sixty grand a year and includes a residency at a local hospital, where you'll learn everything you need to know in order to eventually become the primary-care physician to yourself and everyone you know.*

### **The “Looney Tunes” Plan**

*If a piano falls on your head, or you run off a cliff, because you thought that a painting was a road, you will be tended to by a cartoon rabbit in scrubs.*

### **The Plan Within a Plan**

*You have to sign up for this plan to read what the actual plan is.*

### **Comment by Jim Kahn**

Befitting the Thanksgiving holiday, many blogs included “Gratitude” in the title. Us, too. I'm truly grateful that the *New Yorker* put a smile on my face with this hilarious run-down of fantastically innovative health plans that seem almost plausible alternatives to the crazily dysfunctional insurance we actually have.

Indeed, the last “plan” listed above is largely true: we don't really know what our insurance covers until we need it. There are far too many limited networks with fictitious provider lists, over-crowded clinical practices, uncovered services, incorrectly denied prior authorizations, and huge (often unmanageable) financial obligations for beneficiaries. Ouch—too much truth.

Let's make this kind of parody archaic, with single payer. THAT will assure an enduring smile on my face—the economist's dream of efficiency merged with quality. Indeed, it's everyone's dream of health care when you need it, without financial barriers. THAT will justify a truly grateful Thanksgiving, every day of the year, for all the years in our lives.



**Jim (James G.) Kahn, MD, MPH** is an Emeritus Professor of Health Policy, Epidemiology, and Global Health at the University of California, San Francisco. His work focuses on the cost and effectiveness of prevention and treatment interventions in low and middle-income countries, and on single-payer economics in the U.S. He has studied, advocated, and educated on single-payer since the 1994 campaign for Prop 186 in California, including two years as chair of Physicians for a National Health Program California. **Click on the HJM logo above** to find out more about HJM and to subscribe so that you can remain current on the topic of health justice. *Reprinted with the permission of the author.*



# Out and About With Joel



Joel writes: "A nice walk for January or any month is a trip around Lake Rancho Santa Margarita. This paved one-and-a-quarter mile stroll is calm and scenic. There are exercise stops and benches along the way. Spot coots, ducks, and turtles, and enjoy nice close-up views of Saddleback Mountain, including a poignant memorial to a local victim of September 11. There are several restaurants at the south end of the lake and ample parking in the shopping center lot and at the north end of the lake. Stair-free access to the lake is available. These shots were taken on many trips over the years and show the area in various weather conditions which are always beautiful.

You may revisit past Out and About albums via the Newsletter archive menu on the Concerned Citizens website. This is the 64th such album."

**Click on the photo collage above to view the entire album.**



Joel Goldstein





## *Affordable Housing and Housing Insecurity*

*by Micki Nozaki*

Significant ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raids and operations continue to occur in Orange County, sparking major community alarm, fear, and protests. As we view the videos taken first-hand by concerned citizens, we see mothers and babies pulled apart, pre-school teachers dragged out of classrooms, innocent protesters pepper-sprayed, and parents so afraid to leave their homes, they are unable to take their children to school or purchase needed food and necessities.

The raids are impacting all of us to one degree or another as we watch this immoral and inhumane campaign play out. Yet, we persevere.

During February and March, we can help families who are targeted by supporting the **Orange County Rapid Response Network (OCRRN)** in donating food and other life necessities to persons and families who are unable to leave their homes.

**Concerned Citizens Committee member Leslie El-Sayad, who is leading the collection drive, spoke recently with Felicity Figueroa from OCRRN to discern exactly how our club could support their efforts. She was told that ongoing and pressing needs include diapers (sizes 5 and 6), toilet paper, and cleaning supplies, including dish soap.**

**Concerned Citizens members can bring donations to our February and March 2026 monthly meetings or drop them off at 68 Calle Aragon, Unit D. Just put them in the beach buggy on the patio.**

OCRRN is an interconnected system of non-profit and grassroots organizations, civil rights attorneys, law school clinics, and individuals working together to respond to dehumanizing immigration enforcement activities and policies in Orange County by documenting and disseminating information to the public about immigration raids and immigration enforcement actions; leading communication education events, training for activists & organizers, and outreach to public officials; supporting and enforcing local policies that advance and defend the rights of immigrants; connecting affected people with attorneys that embrace a participatory defense model of deportation defense; and connecting affected people and families with resources.



**Micki Nozaki**

### **ADMINISTRATION CRUELTY ABOUNDS — NOW IT'S AGAINST THE HOMELESS**

Note: We were about to inform our readers about a change to federal policy that had the potential to force hundreds of thousands of persons out of subsidized housing and back onto the streets. The federal government just announced that the policy change is temporarily on hold. We will continue to monitor the situation.

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**True compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it.**  
*~ Daniel Goleman*

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# December Celebration

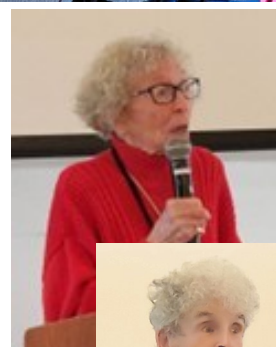


Photos courtesy of  
Joel Goldstein  
Judy Northrop  
Micki Nozaki



**Thank you for joining us!**  
Here's to you,  
members, volunteers, and guests!  
You're our guests of honor!  
Enjoy tasty treats,  
See friends and neighbors  
on the big screen!  
Mingle with old friends! Make new ones!  
Sing the songs of the season!

*A Time  
to  
Celebrate*





# December Celebration





# Goo Hoo

by Marcia Goldstein

In case he is flying below your radar, John Yoo is a professor of law at UC Berkeley and a Fellow of the American Enterprise Institute. During the George W. Bush administration, he wrote an opinion to the effect that executive authority allows “enhanced interrogation” in wartime. This opinion, widely known as The Torture Memo, has been accused of justifying war crimes; we remember its legacy as waterboarding.

Yoo is also a key advocate for a way to govern America called the Unitary Executive Theory. It differs from the “we the people” concept that most of us learned in school. We expect our elected representatives to do just that: represent us and create programs and laws that serve the greater good. We expect the president, as head of the Executive Branch, to faithfully execute the will of Congress.

**The Unitary Executive Theory**, on the other hand, vests sole authority over the federal government in the president. He can fire employees at will, including administrative law judges, prosecutors, inspectors general, and heads of independent commissions. He can employ only those loyal to him. He can ignore the laws and regulations of Congress. He can decide how the programs established by Congress are carried out and can cut off funds to programs that serve his political opponents.

Sounds pretty efficient, doesn't it? No messing around, no listening to other opinions, no need to be hindered by the rule of law. In this vision, the conservatives' goal of deconstructing the administrative state is achieved. However, what we have now is not turning into the dream state conservatives envisioned. The proponents of the Unitary Executive Theory were blind to the severe damage it can do to our government. They did not anticipate the heavy hand of the executive on an obedient House and Senate or the crippling control of media, universities, and vital scientific, medical, and legal institutions. If the conservative justices of the Supreme Court should decide against him, he can ignore their orders.

Yoo and other advocates thought only of the advantage that executive control of government would afford their interests: eliminate taxes and remove regulations that curtailed harmful business activities. One question never addressed was: What is government for if it does not meet the needs for which “we the people” created it? What is the point of a government that serves only a wealthy elite, not the public at large? A government that keeps the majority subservient, infringes on civil rights, and proceeds with surveillance, imprisonment, torture, and unauthorized attacks on another country?

Worse yet, what happens when the office of the president is held by an immoral, unethical, self-interested, and mentally unstable man? A man who whimsically declares any activity to be a national emergency in order to unleash more power. We are in the process of finding out, and it is not pretty.



Marcia Goldstein

As far as John Yoo is concerned, if I ever should meet him, I would have to ask, “How do you like your Unitary Executive now, John?”

**The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, & judiciary, in the same hands... may justly be pronounced as the very definition of tyranny.**

*~ James Madison*



# The Climate Corner

## DING DONG, COAL IS DEAD

Excerpted from [Climate-Colored Goggles](#)

This is the way coal ends, not with a bang but a whimper.

**The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power shut down the last coal plant directly powering California.** It happened 500 miles from L.A., in Millard County, Utah, with so little fanfare that the city hasn't even put out a press release yet.

The lights didn't flicker in Southern California, whatever President Trump might say about the importance of coal to reliable energy supplies. There were no Thanksgiving blackouts. Nobody noticed the difference.

That's possible in part because solar is soaring.

Read Sammy Roth's full article on [Climate-Colored Goggles](#). (It's not necessary to sign up for the newsletter to read the article—just click “no thanks.”)

## YOU CAN HELP THE ENVIRONMENT... ONE STEP AT A TIME

**When you eat out and have leftovers to take home, ASK FOR a paper container. If you grab a coffee on site (not to go), ask for a mug or cup rather than a paper cup. Or BYOC when you go for coffee!**

Two area restaurants always use coated paper take-home containers: [King's Fish House](#) in Laguna Hills and [Brü Grill and Market](#) in Lake Forest.

Our own [19 Restaurant](#) here in the Village also has paper take-home containers. However, they also still have plastic containers, so be sure to **ASK for paper**.

If you know of other eco-friendly eateries in our area that offer paper take-home containers and/or other eco-friendly options, let us know and we will share that info in this newsletter. Let's help educate each other!

~ Judy Northrop

## Don't forget...BYOC!

**Bring Your Own Cup!**

Bring it with you to our CCLWV meetings and fill it at the refreshment bar. Your coffee or tea will taste delicious and there will be no disposable cups to throw away!



**Reducing waste is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint.**

**Let's try to go ZERO WASTE!**

## RECYCLING IS LARGELY A 'TOXIC LIE'

A report published by Greenpeace exposes the plastics industry as “merchants of myth” still peddling the false promise of recycling as a solution to the global pollution crisis, even as the vast bulk of commonly produced plastics remain unrecyclable.

“After decades of meager investments accompanied by misleading claims and a very well-funded industry public relations campaign aimed at persuading people that recycling can make plastic use sustainable, **plastic recycling remains a failed enterprise that is economically and technically unviable and environmentally unjustifiable,**” the report begins.

[Read the full article here.](#)



# *A Pivotal Opportunity Is at Hand for Action*

by Joseph Siry

Throughout the globe, communities are promoting ways to ameliorate climate instability by easing the burden of investing and deploying renewable forms of electricity and by using a variety of means to prepare for the worst consequences. The unintended consequences of burning carbon-rich fuels include drought, firestorms, flooding, storm surges, and erosion. Basically, the power of the wind is one identifiable impact of an overheating planet with warmer oceans. Additional evaporation of water converted into water vapor that traps more heat brings excessive rainfall, snowfall, or precipitation events. We can prepare, or insure ourselves against losses, but eventually, reinsurance corporations will raise the price we have to pay to restore what property the ravages of climate chaos steal from us and future generations. A recent [Science](#) article suggests financial collapse could be an equally serious consequence of failing to reduce our risks from climate chaos, because expenses grow as pollution reduction is eschewed.

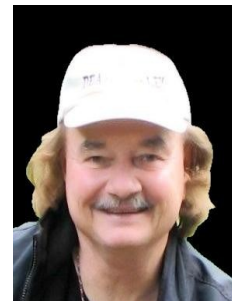
Examples of what is being done widely in countries that acknowledge beneficial actions are instructive. Installing solar thermal (hot water heating) in all new structures built in Israel is one approach. German investments in photovoltaics were enabled because financial agreements allow for roofs to be rented and used for solar-electric generation by corporately financed groups, thereby decreasing a building owner's initial costs.

Other steps include greasing the financial skids, removing obstacles to investments in renewable, climate ameliorating tools. Sweden is pioneering in fostering intercorporate cooperation. "Swedish industrial giants SSAB, LKAB, and Vattenfall are working together to develop fossil-free steel production using hydrogen instead of coal, with plans to license the technology to the broader industry to

maximize impact." Such steps are called resilience since they both reduce pollution and encourage ways to adapt to unseen risks.

"**Under2 Coalition**" is a worldwide movement of subnational governments (states, provinces, regions) committed to reducing heat-trapping gas emissions and limiting global warming, involving agreements and shared policy goals between members like California and Baden-Württemberg, Germany." California alone has agreements with Canada, China, Japan, Denmark, Mexico, and Kenya to electrify transport, better manage scarce water resources, and spread renewable energy sources with battery storage facilities. Leading international uses of technology to mitigate and adapt to abrupt climate change effectively function to reduce or limit human impact through innovative approaches spanning data analytics, engineering, and nature-based solutions. Natural investments include planting forests, restoring wetlands, and engineering green roofs for existing or new buildings.

Stop letting fraudulently misinformed climate deniers strangle your responses to the inexorable damage, destruction, and devastation of global climate chaos. Together, we can effectively inform people that existing techniques, partnerships, and financial means exist and are furthering preventive actions to minimize the worst that nature may hurl at our aging infrastructure. Such steps can save lives, improve health, create meaningful work, and protect property now and for decades to come. We can join the world in confronting abrupt climate change rather than turning away from such good ideas.



Joseph Siry

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**The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.**  
*~ Isaac Asimov*

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## **Moving from imagining peace to building peace. . .how do we do that?**

Peacebuilding is the heart and soul of the United Nations theme for this year: **Act Now for a Peaceful World**. Through their list of **Sustainable Development Goals**, peace is not just a vision. It's a call to action that each of us can answer by promoting respect, understanding, and justice in our daily lives.

From the UN's site, here are three actions for ensuring a **Just Society**.

### **Advocate for quality health care**

Add your voice to the global call for universal health coverage and quality care that people can afford. Many civil society groups have taken up these issues—donate to them or volunteer time or skills. Step up for better care in general or find an issue most important to you, like cancer or childhood vaccination. The pandemic showed us: health care, while getting better, still has far to go. Most health systems were unprepared, even as demands for care are growing. Now is the time for public and private health systems to gear up.

### **Help reduce mental health stigmas**

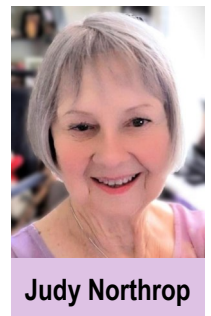
Many people will experience some kind of mental health concern at some point in their lives. Yet stigma means many of us will suffer in silence. The costs are tragic; every

40 seconds, someone dies of suicide somewhere in the world. If you feel comfortable, be upfront with friends and family members about your own mental health—just like you might with any other health issue. Speak up if you hear discouraging or discriminatory comments, and seek treatment if you need it. Educate yourself to be aware of mental health risks in yourself and those you love—and know what resources you can access for assistance.

### **Champion accessibility and inclusion**

Promoting an inclusive environment is an essential part of ensuring the rights of every person. Globally, 1.3 billion people, about 16 per cent of the population, have some form of disability—not all of which are obvious or easy to see. Yet, persons with disabilities are often subject to discrimination and exclusion. You can make a difference. Advocate for inclusive and accessible spaces—whether physical or online. And, when you witness any form of discrimination anywhere, speak up.

[Read More here.](#)



**NEXT MONTH:**

**THE UN'S DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

# Wait! There's More!



## Welcome Our Newest Members

**Mark and Ruth Brenner**  
**Lonnie Grabham**  
**Phyllis Herman**  
**Karen King**  
**Carole Liss**  
**Nancy Segal**

**Concerned Citizens is seeking a Chair for its long-standing Environment Committee.** The Committee, which has a mailing list of about fifty, maintains two workgroups, one on Energy & Water, another on Plastics. In addition, in April, it sponsors an annual Earth Day observance. That event typically includes exhibits, speakers, refreshments, and entertainment. In recent years, attendance has averaged around 300.

If you are interested in learning more about the position, send an e-mail to  
[cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com](mailto:cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com).

## 2026

Another year  
Is here  
Another year  
For hope, for fear

The music of the bells  
Promise all is well  
Oh, never cease  
Sing, sing of peace

Hey, our tomorrow is now  
We the people won't allow  
The chain-sawing of our country  
Out with monarchy, in with democracy!

*~ Diane Bauman*



**Officers for 2026**  
**Elected at the December 2025 meeting**  
**Installation at the January 6 meeting**

**L to R: Robert Cunningham, Treasurer; Suzanne Model, President; Micki Nozaki, Vice President; Judy Northrop, Secretary**

**INSTALLATION  
OF 2026 OFFICERS  
at the January 6  
Membership Meeting  
CH 7 at 7 PM**

**MEMBERSHIP FORM  
ON THE LAST PAGE  
OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

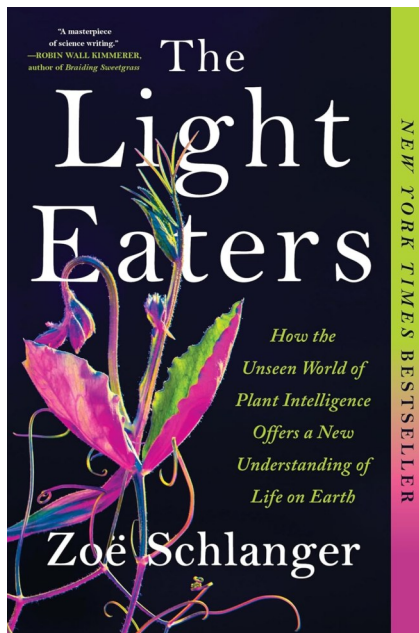
## MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

**All memberships expired December 31, 2025...UNLESS you received an email with the statement that "Your membership is valid through December 31, 2026."**

If you did not receive such an email or aren't sure, please email us at [cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com](mailto:cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com), and we will let you know your status.



# The Reading Nook



## NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The *New Yorker*'s Best Books of 2024 • *TIME*'s 10 Best Nonfiction Books of 2024 • *New York Magazine*'s 10 Best Books of the Year • *Washington Post*'s 50 Notable Works of Nonfiction of 2024 • *Smithsonian*'s 10 Best Science Books of the Year • A Best Book of the Year: *Boston Globe*, *Scientific American*, *New York Public Library*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Library Journal*, and *Publishers Weekly* • An Amazon Best Nonfiction Book of the Year

Longlisted for the National Book Critics Circle Nonfiction Prize • Finalist for the Chautauqua Prize • Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize • Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History

“A masterpiece of science writing.” —Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*

“Mesmerizing, world-expanding, and achingly beautiful.” —Ed Yong, author of *An Immense World*

“Rich, vital, and full of surprises. Read it!” —Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *Under a White Sky* and *The Sixth Extinction*

Award-winning Atlantic staff writer **Zoë Schlanger** delivers a groundbreaking work of popular science that probes the hidden world of the plant kingdom, “destabilizing not just how we see the green things of the world but also our place in the hierarchy of beings, and maybe the notion of that hierarchy itself.” (*The New Yorker*)

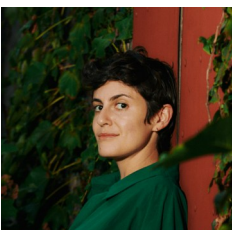
***The Light Eaters*** is a deep immersion into the drama of green life and the complexity of this wild and awe-inspiring world that challenges our very understanding of agency, consciousness, and intelligence. In looking closely, we see that plants, rather than imitate human intelligence, have perhaps formed a parallel system. What is intelligent life if not a vine that grows leaves to blend into the shrub on which it climbs, a flower that shapes its bloom to fit exactly the beak of its pollinator, a pea seedling that can hear water flowing and make its way toward it? Zoë Schlanger takes us across the globe, digging into her own memories and into the soil with the

scientists who have spent their waking days studying these amazing entities up close.

What can we learn about life on Earth from the living things that thrive, adapt, consume, and accommodate simultaneously? More important, what do we owe these life forms once we come to understand their rich and varied abilities? Examining the latest epiphanies in botanical research, Schlanger spotlights the intellectual struggles among the researchers conceiving a wholly new view of their subject, offering a glimpse of a field in turmoil as plant scientists debate the tenets of ongoing discoveries and how they influence our understanding of what a plant is.

We need plants to survive. But what do they need us for—if at all? An eye-opening and informative look at the ecosystem we live in, this book challenges us to rethink the role of plants—and our own place—in the natural world.

Source: Google Books



**Zoë Schlanger** is a staff writer at the *Atlantic*, where she covers climate change. She previously covered the environment at *Quartz* and *Newsweek*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *the New York Review of Books*, *Time*, *NPR*, and elsewhere. Schlanger was the recipient of a 2017 National Association of Science Writers reporting award. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.



# Think About It

In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousand fold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations. ~ Alexander Solzhenitsyn

A news show is a format for entertainment, not for education, reflection, or catharsis. ~ Neil Postman

Creativity requires the courage to let go of uncertainties. ~ Erich Fromm

They say we're disturbing the peace, but there is no peace. What really bothers them is that we are disturbing the war. ~ Howard Zinn

Lands of great discoveries are also lands of great injustices. ~ Anonymous



Created by Lorraine Schneider. Used with permission from *Another Mother for Peace*

Do not get lost in a sea of despair, Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble. We will find a way to make a way out of no way. ~ John Lewis

No one man can terrorize a whole nation, unless we are all his accomplices. ~ Edward R. Murrow

There is no such thing as "away." When we throw anything away, it must go somewhere. ~ Annie Leonard

Environmental stewardship doesn't demand perfection; it craves our dedication to making a difference, one mindful choice at a time. ~ Aloo Denish Obiero

Unity, not uniformity, must be our aim. We attain unity only through variety. Differences must be integrated, not annihilated, not absorbed. ~ Mary Parker Follett

A society that values women only when we sacrifice is a society in need of a reset. ~ Margaret Atwood

The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, **in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many,** and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced **the very definition of tyranny.** ~ James Madison, "The Father of the Constitution", writing in *Federalist papers No. 47*

And now let us welcome the New Year, full of things that have never been. ~ Ranier Maria Rilke

## Contact your State Legislators!

Click on the links below where you can express your views

CA State Assembly Member:

[Diane Dixon](#)

CA State Senator:

[Steven Choi](#)

## Contact your US Senators & Representative!

Click on the links below where you can express your views

Senator: [Alex Padilla](#)

Senator: [Adam Schiff](#)

Representative: [Young Kim](#) (40th District)

Representative: [Dave Min](#) (47th District)

Not everyone (even in Laguna Woods Village) has the same federal and state legislators. As a result of the 2020 Census, most of Laguna Woods is in the newly created 40<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (though some are in the 47th District), the 72<sup>nd</sup> State Assembly District, and the 37<sup>th</sup> State Senate District. To be sure who represents you, [click here](#) to find out.

### Unsure about how to email your elected representatives about issues that matter?

You aren't alone! Lots of people have strong concerns about issues like abortion, fair voting, war and military spending, the environment, humane treatment of migrants, immigration, etc. But they aren't sure what to say—or if their comments make any difference at all.

First, your comments to your elected representatives DO make a difference! According to the League of Women Voters, your representatives look forward to the views of their voters, and emails and phone calls are the best indication of what those voters are thinking. Voters get top priority with most elected officials.

The names above serve ALL of their constituents regardless of their party affiliation! It is important that they hear from us often about our concerns and

our expectations. When you contact the office of a legislator, you only need to write or say a couple sentences about what policy or legislation it is that you are for or against. The staff just wants to know what side of an issue you are on and that is what they record.

If you click on the links above, you will usually come to a prepared email template that makes it easy for you to enter your information and choose the topic you wish to comment on.

**Here are some email guidelines:**

*I am your constituent and I am concerned about [enter your concern]. If it is a specific piece of legislation you are urging them to either vote for or against, enter the bill number, if possible. Briefly explain why you are concerned about the issue or legislation. Don't forget to thank them for listening. And ALWAYS ask for a response.*

Public servants should be focused on serving the public—not any special interest group—and good governance should be an expectation, not an exception. ~ Abigail Spanberger

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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(Vacancy)

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MEMBERSHIP

Sue Snyder

NEWSLETTER; PEACE

Judy Northrop

PHOTOGRAPHY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Joel Goldstein

PROGRAM

Sue Model & Allan Feldman

PUBLICITY

Richard Snyder

WEB MANAGER; DATABASE MANAGER

Judy Northrop

CONCERNED CITIZENS  
OF LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE  
24310 MOULTON PARKWAY  
SUITE O — Box 119  
LAGUNA WOODS, CA 92637

### Quicklinks

E-mail:

[cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com](mailto:cclagunawoodsvillage@gmail.com)

Website:

[bit.ly/concernedseniors](http://bit.ly/concernedseniors)

YouTube:

[bit.ly/youtubecclwv](http://bit.ly/youtubecclwv)



## MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

Membership runs for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31, each year

**Membership dues paid on or after October 1 each year  
will include the following year as a paid membership**

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying in person, cash is accepted.  
If paying by mail, only checks are accepted.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX): ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

DUES ENCLOSED: ☐ Individual \$20  
(CHECK ONLY ONE BOX) ☐ Household (2 more members living at same address) \$30

I am enclosing an **extra** contribution in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES) \_\_\_\_\_

We are pleased to have you with us! What most appeals to you about Concerned Citizens?

If you would like more information about any of the work groups, check boxes below:

- ☐ Affordable Housing/Housing Insecurity ☐ Environment ☐ Budget/Finance  
☐ Hospitality ☐ Membership ☐ Peace ☐ Publicity ☐ Newsletter

If submitting by mail, send this form and A CHECK (no cash) payable to CCLWV to:  
Concerned Citizens of Laguna Woods Village  
24310 Moulton Parkway, Suite O, Box 119  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637