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-THE VOORHIS VOICE  
SEPTEMBER 2019

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**MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**



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**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS**

Fridays, 11:30-1:00 pm  
**Issues Luncheon**  
Village Grill, Claremont  
Get informed – and inform

Friday, September 13  
**Monthly DCC luncheon**

**LaKeisha Rivers** will discuss “**The Student Debt Crisis**” on Friday, September 13, at the Democratic Club of Claremont’s monthly luncheon. Ms. Rivers is Director of Financial Aid, Cal State San Bernardino. Her talk is part of the part of the Gar Byrum Distinguished Speaker Series.

The luncheon will begin at 11:45 AM at Eddie’s Italian Eatery, in the Stater Bros shopping center. The program will begin at 12:45 PM. The cost of the family style meal is \$17 and includes beverage, tax and tip. The program is free. Both luncheon and program are open to the public.

Saturday, September 21, 9:30am  
**Executive Board Meeting**

Monday, September 30, 7-9 pm  
**Member’s Meeting**  
Napier Center, Pilgrim Place

**Angela Su**, school finance specialist for the California Teachers Association, will speak on “**Charter Schools and School Finance**,” on Monday, September 30, 2019 at 7 pm in the Napier Center of Claremont. The talk is free and open to the public. A club members’ business meeting (beginning about 8:15) will follow the speaker.

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### **OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **September 12: Third Democratic Presidential Debate:**

Time: 5–8 pm (PDT)

Aired On: ABC News and Univision

Location: Texas Southern University, Houston, TX

Moderators: : Linsey Davis, [David Muir](#), [Jorge Ramos](#), and [George Stephanopoulos](#)

Candidates: Biden, Booker, Buttigieg, Castro, Harris, Klobuchar, O'Rourke, Sanders, Warren, Yang

#### **Saturday, September 7, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Congresswoman Norma**

**Torres**, 2020 Census Town Hall, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters-Local Union 909 3250 E. Shelby St. Ontario, CA

91764. <https://torrescensus.eventbrite.com> The Congresswoman has invited all members of Indivisible Claremont/Inland Valley to attend this Town Hall. Whether or not you live in her district, please consider registering for this event today.

#### **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:45 P.M., Indivisible Claremont/Inland**

**Valley General Meeting** at Louise Roberts Room, Claremont United Church of Christ, 233 Harrison Ave, Claremont. **Sol Guerra**, Deputy District Director for Congresswoman Norma Torres will be available to share about the recent Congressional site visit to El Paso, TX and to answer questions. Re Proposed Claremont Sales Tax Increase: City Manager **Tara Schultz**, Finance Director **Adam Pirrie**, and other city staff will be available to explain the situation and answer your questions. Residents of the City of Pomona voted to raise its sales tax last November (<http://bit.ly/30dxIpQ>). Our final guest speaker will be a representative from Pomona who will talk about why that decision was made and how it's working for the city.



### **Democratic Club of Claremont News**

From the Editor:

'Tis September and that means the Democratic Club of Claremont bursts into activity after a two month summer break. There will be meetings and speakers and public events: and the return of the *Voorhis Voice*. During the two month recess, material has piled up so this issue is even longer than

speakers and public events: and the return of the *Voorhis Voice*. During the two month recess, material has piled up so this issue is even longer than normal. As usual, the VV will attempt to keep members of the club informed on Democratic activities in and around Claremont as we draw nearer and nearer to the crucial 2020 election.

I have long maintained that Trump is the worst President in our history. I no longer will say that. To talk about him being the worst and listing our Presidential bottom feeders (Buchanan, the most recent Bush, Andrew Johnson, etc.) with Trump at the very bottom gives him too much credit. Let me explain.

A friend of mine in grad school pointed out that Hitler was not a very very naughty boy - he does not belong on the list of naughty boys, even at the bottom of it. He belongs on a completely different list - say evil doers. (Philosophers will say that there is a category difference between naughtiness and evil.)

The same point applies to Trump. He is not at the bottom of Presidential rankings. He is on some other list. Probably the best thing to call the list is National Disasters: and it includes Pearl Harbor, 9/11, slavery, the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, Vietnam ... That is the company that Trump keeps and to which his Presidency is to be compared.

The first question we Democrats must face as we prepare for the elections is: Given the disaster that is Trump, does our campaign consist solely of being anti-Trump or must we also offer a positive program? A recent poll showed that Democrats are presently evenly split on that issue - 1/3 say defeating Trump is the only aim we must have, 1/3 say that along with that there must be a progressive program offered the American public and the final 1/3 are torn between the two possibilities.

That is the first question - others remain. In future From the Editor columns in the VV, those other questions will be raised and perhaps explored. In the mean time every reader must think about which position they think best.

Email Contact: on the subject line write EDITOR VV and address the message to [m36ring@gmail.com](mailto:m36ring@gmail.com)

## **President's Message**

Sam Pedroza

California has a housing crisis.

Governor Newsom pledged to build 3.5 million new housing units by 2025. He is taking this seriously and even bringing lawsuits and threatening the withholding of state transportation funding to cities that fail to comply.

The development of housing defines how we live and the quality-of-life that a community provides. Claremont was meticulously planned as it metamorphosed from a railroad stop, into a citrus grove paradise, to a

community provides. Claremont was meticulously planned as it metamorphosed from a railroad stop, into a citrus grove paradise, to a budding college town and now a community of neighborhoods, or a bedroom community with a lively village.

The RHNA – Regional Housing Needs Assessment (pronounced *ree na*) - will bring a new defining era for our town. RHNA is mandated by State Housing Law as part of the periodic process of updating local housing elements of the General Plan. The General Plan, which allows cities to have zoning control, cannot comply without an approved housing element, which must have an approved RHNA. The RHNA quantifies the need for housing within each jurisdiction during specified planning periods.

The Southern California Association of Governments, or SCAG, is the regional institution that uses the RHNA in land use planning, prioritizing local resource allocation, and in deciding how to address identified existing and future housing needs resulting from population, employment and household growth.

SCAG is in the process of developing the 6th cycle RHNA allocation plan which will cover the planning period October 2021 through October 2029. It is to be adopted by SCAG in October 2020.

SCAG had originally planned for 430,000 units. However, the State Housing Authority, under the Governor’s discretion, recently announced that SCAG must now allocate and prepare to have built **1.3 million new homes**. The RHNA process will ultimately determine how many units Claremont will need to build.

The RHNA does not necessarily encourage or promote growth, but rather allows communities to anticipate growth, so that collectively the region and sub-region can grow in ways that enhance quality of life, improve access to jobs, promotes transportation mobility, and addresses social equity.

## **Claremont High School Young Democrats Club**

Carolee Monroe

Our local Democratic youth are proposing a program of activism.

The recently elected officers of Claremont High’s Young Democrats Club and their club advisor, Ms. Beth Bodnar, met to plan the club’s agenda for the new school year. Their approach is one that extends beyond the traditional meetings of past years.

One new project for this year is purchasing pins for the club members. In previous years, tee-shirts had been made available to them. With pins, students will be able to advocate for whatever is the most immediate issue.

Another decision the club leaders made was to promote activism in the community. To support marches, rallies, strikes and clean-up efforts, the officers will inform club members of such and urge them to attend as identified members of the CHS Young Dems. Information and publicity efforts will be a priority so that students will be given enough prior knowledge to

identified members of the CHS Young Dems. Information and publicity efforts will be a priority so that students will be given enough prior knowledge to act.

An activity begun last year is scheduled for each semester this year: that of writing post-cards to elected representatives. The issues of focus include: the environment, gun control, incarceration, race, women, and primaries and caucuses.

The 2019-20 CHS Democrats are aware of our current political, social and scientific situation and they want to do something about it.

### **Claremont's Fantastic 4th!**

Carolee Monroe

The Democratic Club, wholeheartedly and with great spirit, joined into Claremont's Independence Day celebration. The club and its members actively promoted the ideals of the day through words and actions. Our consent to be governed was demonstrated by the straw poll we conducted. Visitors to our booth were given a ballot listing all 24 current Democratic candidates for US President. The total vote count of our straw poll was 206. Elizabeth Warren received 60 votes (29%) of those cast. Kamala Harris received 49 votes; Pete Buttigieg got 26 with Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden receiving 23 and 22, respectively. The remaining 26 votes were spread among Andrew Yang, Amy Klobucher, Julian Castro, Jay Inslee, Beto O'Rourke, Marianne Williamson, Cory Booker, Tulsi Gabbard, Tim Ryan and Eric Swalwell.

Our pursuit of equality, life and happiness was extended in our booth through our display and distribution of patriotic temporary tattoos and bike decorating materials. Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poem, "Pity the Nation", drew attention to the need for action.

Remaining "YUNG DEMZ" tee-shirts were given to bike riders with the last one given to Congresswoman Judy Chu. Six people completed register to vote forms! Several inquired about becoming members.

Merrill Ring, our Issues Chair, spoke of *"America's Failing Democracy"* at the T. Willard Hunter Speaker's Corner.

Later, in the parade, our entry followed directly after Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Senator Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember Chris Holden and the Claremont High School Wolfpack Marching Band. Our entry consisted of the club banner, Green New Deal supporters on bikes and a truck with posters of all 24 Democratic candidates. We will be honored with the Novelty Entry Award (we were the only novelty entry).

Many people worked on and in the booth – we thank them all. There isn't a better way to promote and participate in our democracy! Thank you to all.

### **Talks at DCC June Meetings**

## Talks at DCC June Meetings

The programs at the club's two monthly meetings were:

June luncheon: Michelle Evans and Cherie Rabideau, 'Life and Love for a Transgender Person'.

June Members' meeting: John Forney and Jim Rhoads, 'The Opioid Crisis'.

Contrary to our usual practice, we cannot publish here summaries of these talks: they don't exist!

## Honoring Our Speakers

Chris Naticchia

The Democratic Club of Claremont is beginning what may become a new yearly tradition. We are honoring our 2018-19 presenters with a dinner on Sunday, September 8, 2019 at the beautiful home of Murray Monroe. The event begins at 5:30 pm, with a limited number of seats available to club members who make a fifty-dollar donation to the club's political action fund. It is too early to announce exactly which of our speakers, at both the luncheons and the members' meetings, will be attending. For details and reservations, contact Murray Monroe at [wedge28@icloud.com](mailto:wedge28@icloud.com) or 909-992-6603.

## Village Venture 2019

Our Democratic Club of Claremont will again be part of the 2019 Village Venture Arts and Crafts Faire. The event, on Saturday, October 26, from 9 AM until 5 PM, promises over 400 vendors and 16,000 visitors.

The DCC will continue its presence, maintaining a booth at the event, as part of our outreach. The focus this year will be on the Democratic presidential candidates. We will provide information about individual candidates as available to us. All of the then-current Democratic candidates will be on a Straw Poll ballot. Votes will be tallied and recorded hourly, beginning at 10 AM and ending at 5 PM. The final results will be compared with those from our July 4th booth.

Of course, potential voter pools differ as those voting on July 4th were mostly local Claremont residents while Village Venture attendees come from a wider area.

Besides the Straw Poll, our booth will enable Inclusive Claremont, a "Pro-Housing Coalition", to continue its efforts to engage the community. Register to Vote forms will be available, as will DCC membership forms.

**AS USUAL, VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Please contact Carolee Monroe (909) 626-8122 or [jackncarolee@verizon.net](mailto:jackncarolee@verizon.net) to sign up.





## Essays Etc. by Club Members

### Great California Progressives #6

*The Democratic Club of Claremont is in the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. We California Progressives have a long tradition of producing some of the great figures in American political thought and action. These essays are dedicated to ensuring that we current members of the club and the party know our ancestors.*

*Last year, upon assuming the post of VV editor I began the series. The people covered so far have been Carey McWilliams, Jerry Voorhis, Hiram Johnson, Dr. Seuss and Harvey Milk.*

*The sixth of the great California Progressives to be noticed in this series is Upton Sinclair.*

### Upton Sinclair (1878-1968)

This piece is being published in the newsletter of one of California's Democratic Clubs. Such clubs are members of the California Democratic Council. Those clubs were originally founded by Alan Cranston (who later became a Senator from California) and Helen Myers – Helen lived in Claremont and was a mainstay of the Democratic Club of Claremont.

Where did their idea of clubs and of a council of clubs come from? They were the successors of the California EPIC – End Poverty in California – clubs.

Those were the local clubs up and down the state that were formed in 1934 to support Upton Sinclair's run for the governorship of California.

Who was Sinclair? He had become a national sensation in 1906 when he published *The Jungle*, a searing fiction about life and work in the packinghouses of Chicago. That novel, and the uproar it caused, led almost immediately to the very first Federal regulations holding corporations responsible for their products (the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act.)

As a crusading investigative journalist and novelist, he became a nationwide phenomenon. And he was a Socialist!

In 1916 he and his wife moved to California – in fact (more local connections) to Pasadena and then to Monrovia. As a Socialist, he continued his writing career and also began running for offices (the U.S. Senate, the House and Governor) on the Socialist ticket. With the election of FDR in 1932 to the Presidency, Sinclair saw that he was more likely to have influence as a Democrat and so switched parties.

In 1934, he wrote a pamphlet entitled *I, Governor of California and How I Ended Poverty*. It became a huge best-seller in the state – he decided to run for



Because she is a Muslim, because she is an immigrant, because she is female, because she is non-white and because she speaks what she takes to be the truth, she is the subject of attacks.

In the current political climate in this country and given the position of her chief attacker, these attacks are not just unfounded, but put her life in danger. We call upon all Americans to stand with her and repudiate the witch-hunt.

*Note: That letter from the club initiated a series of letters (6 further letters) in the Courier concerning Representative Omar and a number of important issues. Pam Nagler wrote in the middle of that sequence a further letter to the Courier and obtained 25 further signatures in support of both Omar and the original club letter.*

**Letter:** In the COURIER during this last month or so, there have been letters volleying back and forth concerning verbal and social media attacks made by President Trump and other elected officials against Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar, one of the first Muslim women to be elected to the House.

The first letter came from the Democratic Club of Claremont, condemning the President and others for these attacks. The Democratic Club reported that these attacks have put Omar's life, along with the lives of her family members, in danger. (Omar has a husband and three children).

Two rebuttals followed, speaking against Representative Omar, accusing her of being both anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. Neither of these rebuttals is accurate. It is possible to stand up, as Omar has, for anti-Islamophobia and also stand against anti-Semitism. It is also possible to condemn Israel policies, as Omar has, and not be anti-Semitic or against Israel's right to exist.

Representative Omar speaks up for basic human rights, in general, and for Muslim-Americans and for Muslims in particular. She also speaks out against the treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli government.

The recent uproar is over President Trump's retweet, on April 12th, of an inflammatory video of the burning Twin Towers juxtaposed next to Omar's quote, "*Some people did something*" - her statement was taken out of context from an extended speech condemning Islamophobia. The tweet erroneously linked her to the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.

For the record, we stand with the local Democratic Club in their condemnation of the President and his 'tweet.' We don't need a President that incites hatred, violence and intolerance. What we need is to add more nuance to the conversation about basic human rights for everyone—including, but not limited to, both Palestinians and Israeli citizens.

*Signed by:*

**California Democratic Party Delegates, Assembly District #41**

Mike Boos, DMA

Tina Fredericks, President, **Democrats of Pasadena Foothills**

Steven Gibson, PhD

Una Lee Jost, JD

Steven Gibson, PhD  
Una Lee Jost, JD  
Julie McKune  
Pamela Casey Nagler, MA  
Robert M. Nelson, PhD Executive Board  
Marguerite 'Peggy' Renner, PhD  
Jordan Vannini

**Democratic Club of Claremont Members**

Bob Gerecke, Past President '05-'09  
Karen Chapman Lenz  
Alan Medak  
Carolee Monroe, Recording Secretary  
Lucia Nagler  
Steven Nagler, MFA  
Sam Pedroza, President  
Merrill Ring

**Affiliates:**

Mindy Pfeiffer, **Democrats of Pasadena Foothills**

Susan Young

**Academics**

Peter Pham, Graduate student, Archaeology, CSUN  
Daniel A. Segal, PhD Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology and Professor of History, Pitzer College  
Dorothy D. Wills, PhD Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Membership Chair, CFA, Cal Poly Pomona University

**Interfaith Community**

Reverend Dr. Thom Johnson, Claremont School of Theology  
Rehana Mowjood  
Tahil Sharma, Faith Outreach Manager, Brave New Films

**Note:** *The entire controversy was analyzed in a long piece by Merrill Ring which was published online by the Courier. The following note was printed in the paper on August 23 to inform readers of what was written and where to find it.*

Beginning on May 24 with a letter from the Democratic Club of Claremont (DCC) and continuing through July 26, the Courier published a sequence of seven letters dealing with remarks made by Representative Ilhan Omar. While the editor of the Courier, is to be thanked for allowing the reading public to follow that extended exchange on a single topic, the fact is that, in the end, no newspaper can devote sufficient space for a thorough discussion of the relevant issues.

As a result, I have written an analysis of the ideas found in those letters which more completely examines what the various authors have said on the matter. It must be noted that what I say here is pure me – none of the other people involved in these letters has seen much less commented upon what I have to say.

This is not a neutral analysis – I am committed to the support of the view originally taken by the DCC and to an understanding of what I see as going on in the exchange that is critical of those who could condemn Omar.

originally taken by the DCC and to an understanding of what I see as going on in the exchange that is critical of those who could condemn Omar.

[Editor's note: To read Mr. Ring's analysis in full, please visit our website at [claremont-courier.com](http://claremont-courier.com). —KD]

[Omar Locally: An Incomplete History by Merrill Ring](#)

*Note: The following piece of serious humor was submitted to the Biden campaign website by Merrill Ring*

### **Biden's Withdrawal Speech!!**

I'm here to announce that I am withdrawing from the contest to become the Democratic nominee for President.

I have come to realize that the country and the party have moved on, leaving me the candidate of the past. I have become a drag on the party as it attempts to find a leader who is responsive to the country's needs of today.

As I look at my support I find that it is based very importantly in the black community. While I deeply appreciate that, I must also confess that it has little to do with me and with my ideas about what I would do as President – rather it has to do with the fact that I was Barack Obama's chosen Vice-President. To support me in the here and now because of what role I played in the very successful Obama administration is simply nostalgia. That administration is over and done with and as I said a vote for me from the black community is a vote for the past not the present.

So I suggest to my friends and supporters in the black community, look carefully at the other candidates in the Democratic Party field and see who has the best ideas and the best character to be successful in making America a decent place for all of us.

To my fellow Democratic candidates: the party has a brilliant stable of candidates who not only have the strength of character to defeat the irresponsible blowhard is currently the President and who will be the Republican nominee, but also have creative ideas about what needs to be done to both repair the damage that loser has inflicted on the country (and the world) and to move the country forward. Continue your campaigns and may the best person win the support of Democratic voters.

I have had a long and successful career in politics. It is time I stepped aside and let the present and the future take my place.

Thank you America.

Joe Biden

*Letter from Bob Gerecke, published in the Courier June 21*

The plan for The Commons, a proposed mixed-use development NW of the intersection between Monte Vista and Foothill, does not include solar panels. This is extremely short-sighted. It's no secret that our consumption of electricity centrally generated by fossil-fueled power

intersection between Monte Vista and Foothill, does not include solar panels. This is extremely short-sighted. It's no secret that our consumption of electricity centrally generated by fossil-fueled power plants needs to be reduced drastically. Locally-generated naturally-renewable power needs to be part of every new development. The developers do plan to include hook-ups for solar panels, if the residents want to add them, but that's a very poor strategy. Equipping the entire development all at once instead would obtain significant volume-price reductions from manufacturers and installers. In addition, many of the units will be for rent, not for sale, and the renters won't want to pay for equipment that they may not be able to take with them when they move. The overall result will be higher costs to purchase and install solar, fewer panels, more electricity consumed from the grid, and higher utility costs over the long term.

Furthermore, the orientation of the buildings is wrong for solar energy. If they were planned parallel to Foothill, panels in line with the edges of the roofs could face south. Instead, most of the buildings are lined up from NE to SW. To install the maximum number of panels, they will have to line up with the roof edges and will not face the best sunlight. To face them toward the sun, they will have to be at an angle to the roof edge, and fewer panels will be possible.

The main reason for lining up the buildings at the proposed angle is to have a long, wide avenue through the middle of the development, where an airplane which has trouble while taking off from Cable Airport can make a crash landing without hitting a building. Good luck with that! This wide avenue is partially a road, partially a park where residents should enjoy the outdoors. Really? With noisy planes flying low overhead at full throttle, even when they don't crash? Would you want to play there or want your children to? Would you even want to live indoors right under the take-off flight path? Right in the likely crash zone?

Maybe this isn't the right place for a residential development. The current property owner tried it in 1985, and voters rejected 5-to-1 a change to the zone to allow that. Unfortunately for the owner, all of his efforts to attract a commercial or industrial tenant during the last 30 years have failed. Maybe he just made a bone-head property purchase.

On the other hand, our state and our region badly need more housing. We should do our part. There's not much vacant land in Claremont on which to build. If there's a way to build safe and sustainable housing on that land, it should be found. The current plan doesn't seem to be it.

*Letter from Merrill Ring published in the Courier July 26*

Trump's telling four congresswomen to go back to where they came from is humorous in the case of Ayanna Pressley. For her people almost certainly were in the US prior to Trump's.

Why? Because she is the descendant of slaves, of people who did not immigrate here but were brought to this country as slaves.

Why? Because she is the descendant of slaves, or people who did not immigrate here but were brought to this country as slaves.

As the US banned the importation of slaves in 1808, it is quite possible that her first American ancestor arrived here before 1808 – perhaps she is a Daughter of the American Revolution! – though smuggling of slaves continued after that, the 1808 Act mostly stopped importation.

Presumably, her ancestors were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation (though, since they come from Cincinnati, they may have escaped slavery and taken the Underground Railroad there.) In the long hard slog from being slaves to having a congresswoman in the family, it is a great success story.

Meanwhile Trump's grandfather arrived in this country from Germany only in 1885, perhaps a century after the arrival of the first Pressley. He became wealthy running restaurants and bordellos in Seattle and the Yukon. He went back to Germany briefly to acquire a wife in 1902. Then, in 1904, he tried to go back where he came from, but the German authorities would not take him (because he was a draft dodger), so he had to settle for the US and here became the founder of a morally troubled immigrant family (down through its fourth generation.)

I personally would rather have the Pressleys as fellow countrymen than the Trumps.



*Now YOU write!*

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



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

**MEMBERSHIP: JOIN THE DCC or RENEW**

We have no corporate sponsors. Your membership dues pay all DCC's expenses which include our meeting expenses, P.O box, club charter, storage

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

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**Mail this form with your check to: Democratic Club of Claremont, P.O. Box 1201, Claremont, CA 91711**

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Individual \$30    Family \$40    Contributing \$50-99    Patron \$100-249  
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**The Voorhis Voice is published by the Democratic Club of Claremont, PO Box 1201, Claremont CA 91711. The newsletter's name commemorates the late Jerry Voorhis, a talented and courageous Congress member from Claremont.**

**Newsletter Editor: Merrill Ring**  
***m36ring@gmail.com***

