

# The Trumpeteer

Since 1960, the newsletter of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Republican Women Federated

May 2024 | Volume 64 #5



Desiree Myers



David Bradley



Robert Gaddis



Joshua Gottheim



## Event Details and Reservations

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 28

**TIME:** 10:30-11 Social /  
11-1:30 Meeting, Lunch,  
Panel Discussion

**WHERE:** PV Golf Club,  
3301 Via Campesina, PVE

**COST:** \$50/pp

**RSVP:** by 5pm Tue., May 22:

★ to Ann Hindman at  
[eahindman318@gmail.com](mailto:eahindman318@gmail.com)  
or via text to 310.896.6653  
(Phone if you're unable to  
text or email.)

★ to reserve and pay  
online, [click here](#)

*Luncheon-Meeting-Speaker Forum, Tuesday, May 28*

## California Forced Density Forum

Join us for a panel discussion about the laws eliminating local control of housing development on the Peninsula.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

What is California Forced Density? What's causing it? Will it create more affordable housing? What laws have changed, and what do the laws do? What can we expect? What can we do about it?

### THE PANELISTS:

**Desiree Myers**, forum moderator, advocate for local governance and control for Palos Verdes

**David Bradley**, RPV City Council, collaborates with the state to craft reasonable housing development standards, focuses on restoring/maintaining local control

**Rob Gaddis**, Redondo Beach Planning Commission chair, spokesman for Our Neighborhood Voices

**Joshua Gottheim**, real estate/land-use attorney, represents RPV residents for the Silver Spur Project and represented St. Francis Episcopal Church in PVE ★



Carol Allison

Ann Harder

**“It will be a thrilling time in the months ahead, and we look forward to having you all along for the ride; together, we can make a difference!”**

# View From the Top

## Hello, Conservatives Friends!

Another fantastic meeting is in the books, with many voices heard from at this information-packed luncheon event.

- ★ Several fresh faces joined us as **first-time guests and members**; let’s keep the momentum going and grow!
- ★ We met two conservative candidates for the PVPUSD School Board, **Jeremy Vanderhal and Alexandra Blumer**. Both would make outstanding additions to this very important committee of five. We’ll hear more from them over the next few months and at our School Board Candidate Forum in the fall.
- ★ **Programs VP Sandy McElroy** updated us on our plans to help sponsor an event for US Senate Candidate Steve Garvey. Your excitement and positive “show of hands” on intent to attend provided much energy and direction.
- ★ **Desiree Myers**, Advocate for Local Control, gave us a glimpse into the state’s Forced Density initiatives impacting our four cities on the Peninsula—critical information every resident should know. Much more will come next month as we host a small forum of experts on the subject with solutions for pushing back. You will not want to miss this meeting on May 28; mark your calendars.
- ★ The one and only **Susan Shelley**, our featured speaker, is so engaging, so well versed in the machinations of the California government, and able to dissect the impacts of the current political climate. Still, she is always able to show us the good news of what we can expect, not only for the presidential election outcome but also hope for California taxpayers with an important initiative from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association on the November ballot. More information and guidance from her leading up to the election.

Carol and I continue to be deeply grateful for your unwavering support and infectious enthusiasm, which are the lifeblood of our conservative movement! It will be a thrilling time in the months ahead, and we look forward to having you all along for the ride; together, we can make a difference!

As always, we encourage you to check out our website at [pvprwf.org](http://pvprwf.org) for updated information, access to the newsletter, photos of our events, and much more! And do not forget our Facebook page at [facebook.com/pvprwf](https://facebook.com/pvprwf). ★

Ann Harder, PVPRWF Co-President

# "I'm running for the PVPUSD School Board!"

My name is Alexandria Blumer, and I'm thrilled to announce my candidacy for the PVPUSD School Board 2024. The prospect of collaborating and working with the other board members to maximize the prosperity of our excellent school district is exciting.

My goals are to protect students, include parents, and support teachers. As a former special education teacher in the PVPUSD for six years, I have first-hand experience and insight into how classrooms are run, teaching and connecting with students, and building and maintaining relationships with parents.

Today, as the stay-at-home mom of two children who attend school here in Palos Verdes, I have the experience of being on the "other side" of the table. As California laws and policies evolve, I am dedicated to protecting parents' rights and including parents in their children's education.

It's time for high-quality education to be restored to prepare our students for college and their careers. I will continue supporting our teachers and advocating for up-to-date and appropriate checks and balances, safety measures, curriculum, technology, materials, and training to prepare both teachers and students for success. ★



*"I am dedicated to protecting parents' rights and including parents in their children's education."*

—Alexandria Blumer



## PVPRWF CALENDAR

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 pm

Location: TBD

All members are welcome to attend.

### AFTER DARK

A new members' get-acquainted dinner. Everyone is welcome!

Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 pm at Avenue Italy in Golden Cove

### Meeting & Luncheon

Tuesday, May 28

Palos Verdes Golf & Country Club, 3301 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates

10:30 social; 11 meeting followed by lunch

Program: California Open

Density open forum with four panelists

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 4:30 pm

Location: TBD

All members are welcome to attend.

## news bites

### PVPRWF's 2024 High School Senior Scholarship(s) Set to Be Awarded

This year, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Republican Women Federated will award a scholarship to one or more high school seniors. Recipients must have a strong academic record, outstanding activities in and out of the classroom, and a

well-constructed essay on how the U.S. Constitution protects election integrity.

"We always receive very thoughtful applications," says co-Chair Jill Surace. "These students give us hope for the future," she adds.

The winner or winners will be announced at scholarship nights at ★ Palos Verdes High on May 22 and ★ Peninsula High on May 28.

The winning essay will be featured in the next issue of The Trumpeteer. ★



**Co-Membership Vice Presidents**  
*Danica Keese, left, and Claudia Gerstner.*

**WELCOME TO  
OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Gina Awtry  
Norma Campbell  
Sue Welsch

**A BIG THANK YOU TO  
OUR NEWEST GEM DONORS**

Krista Johnson  
Liz Peterson

**PVPRWF 2024  
Membership Directory  
Deadline Nears**

May 31 is the deadline for Members and Associates to be included in our 2024 PVPRWF Membership Directory to be printed in June and mailed to all who are listed. If you haven't yet joined, please contact Claudia Gerstner promptly at [ccg@squareoneinc.com](mailto:ccg@squareoneinc.com). ★

PVPRWF Membership

**Gems, Newbies, AFTER DARK,  
and Cottage Meetings!**

*By Claudia Gerstner and Danica Keese, Co-Membership Vice Presidents*

**GEMS.** Thanks to two new Gem Donors, we're almost at our annual goal of \$6,000. Only \$265 more to go.

**NEWBIES.** Including the three new Republican women who joined us last month, we now have 141 regular members.

**AFTER DARK. LAST CALL UNTIL FALL** for this grand experience with like-minded, critical thinkers! We've enjoyed the dinnertime conversations and we always look forward

to what YOU have to share. Join us on **May 14 at 5:30 at Avenue Italy in Golden Cove.** Please let Danica know you'll attend by sending her a text to 310.528.1095. (\*\*Note: AFTER DARK is NOT a PVPRWF-sponsored event. Everyone is responsible for their food and beverage orders.)

**COTTAGE MEETINGS.** Last month at "AFTER DARK," there was some talk about a "cottage meeting," inspired by speaker Kimberley Fletcher. Inspirational stories of our nation's history will be told, and camaraderie will be shared at a home that remains TBA. Stay tuned! ★

**"Meeting like-minded women  
has empowered me to speak up  
and stand up for America."**

—Christine Barnicki



*As always, there was lively and thought-provoking conversation at the AFTER DARK dinner event in April. Join us in May for more of the same.*

# someone to know

## *Jill Surace*

### This month, get acquainted with one member's revolutionary spirit!

**She's in the spotlight** at every PVPRWF luncheon and board meeting, analyzing and projecting the important details of our association's income and expenditures while referencing the detailed spreadsheets she prepared for our edification.

Jill Surace, however, is far more than a numbers nerd. She's a revolutionary! In her various community leadership roles, she is well-known as a contributor to an organization's goals and is respected for reforming and improving its operations when appropriate.

For instance, since becoming a PVPRWF member in 2018, Jill has revolutionized

- ★ our member-application process, setting up an online system as membership chair in 2021-2022;
- ★ our accounting system as treasurer since 2023;
- ★ our website, managing a complete overhaul last year; and
- ★ our new email system, also implemented last year.

And since 2020, she's solicited and reviewed entries and awarded monetary prizes as chair or co-chair of our annual high school scholarship essay contest. Jill says, "Staying active with this project is a perfect way for me to maintain a hands-on interest in young people."

**Jill's interest in and involvement** with both finances and students is significant and includes a stint as president of the Peninsula High School PTA. During her two-year term, she revolutionized the organization's accounting system, bringing it up to date with improved analytical and reporting software in addition to implementing its online membership system. Currently, she's a member of the PVPUSD Parcel Tax Citizens' Oversight Committee, created as a result of the passage in 2011 of Measure M. She explains that, "We oversee the allocation of approximately \$10 million annually to schools, paid through the property taxes of the Peninsula's citizens."

A Massachusetts native, Jill earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, and an M.B.A. from Suffolk University in Boston. However, with her first postgraduate jobs in accounting and finance in the mid-1980s, her talents in these fields were discovered and developed just as the 401k and computer revolutions took off. To expand and solidify these talents, she moved to California in 1990, where she worked for an international human resource consulting firm and was involved in the many details of



*Jill Surace*

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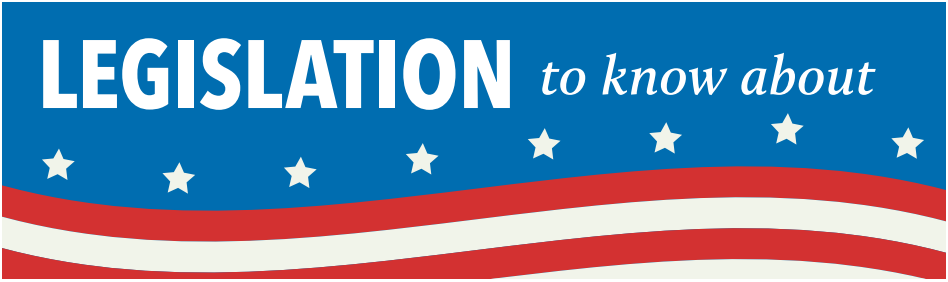
**Revolutionary:  
improving, changing,  
recasting, refashioning,  
reforming, remodeling**

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myriad benefit plans of Fortune 500 companies, eventually becoming a principal and client manager at the firm.

She loved the Southern California weather and met her husband, Michael, while bicycling on the Peninsula. The couple have a son and a daughter, both young adults. Jill is the only non-engineer in her immediate family, but she is doing her best to cope!

**Thanks, Jill,** for sharing your talents and revolutionary spirit with our community, especially with the PVPRWF. ★



By Deena Gribben & Ariana Hakami, Legislation Chairs

**CRIME: SOLICITATION OF A MINOR**

**California SB 1414** introduced by Senator Shannon Grove, seeks to amend the current legal treatment of purchasing a child for sex by elevating it from a misdemeanor to a serious felony.

Under existing California law, the act of soliciting a child for sex is penalized lightly, with consequences ranging from two days to a maximum of one year in jail, alongside a fine of up to \$10,000. This leniency has raised concerns about California’s commitment to protecting its children.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**FISA REFORM AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024**

**H.R. 6611. Passed in Congress.** Under this bill, the U.S. government is granted broad latitude to surveil the electronic communications of non-U.S. persons located outside the country without requiring a court-issued warrant. Surveillance can include emails, phone calls, and text messages,

Section 702’s provisions enable intelligence agencies to intercept the communications of foreign individuals outside the United States. This authority can inadvertently lead to the collection of communications that involve U.S. citizens.

Critics argue that this indirect surveillance effectively allows federal law enforcement to monitor the communications of Americans.

Click [here](#) for more information. ★

**Overheard  
in the dog park**

By Carol Allison

**The Dog Park is supposed to be a safe space** for dogs to exercise and roam freely and allow dogs to socialize with other dogs and socialization for the dog owners, too!

A relatively new dog owner approached me and asked if we could speak “privately.” Of course, I was curious about this private matter: dog food, veterinarians, flea control, or politics? Well, it was the latter, politics. This dog owner was warned, “Do not go to the dog park; they only talk about politics!”

After a year at the dog park, this dog owner told me this was not her experience. She would love to meet with me to discuss politics but fears jeopardizing our relationship as we have become friends.

She came to our Alex Villanueva event, sat through the entire meeting, and discovered that Republicans are passionate and caring and want what’s best for their community and country. We will not change each other’s minds; however, we can have an excellent discussion and hopefully learn from one another with respect and grace. ★

**She discovered that Republicans are passionate and caring and want what’s best for their community and country.**

# Scenes Seen

## PVP Republican Women & Events

PHOTOS BY ARLENE DI JULIO  
April 23, 2024



# The Trumpeteer

THE TRUMPETEER is a publication of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Republican Women Federated (PVPRWF), providing news about and for its members, guests, and friends. Published monthly except in July, August, and December; distributed digitally to members, with a limited number of hard copies available to guests and prospective members at our luncheons.

## The Palos Verdes Peninsula Republican Women Federated (PVPRWF)



THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA REPUBLICAN WOMEN, FEDERATED (PVPRWF) is a Diamond-Award Club and a 527 tax-exempt organization celebrating its 64th year in 2024.

REGULAR MEETINGS of the PVPRWF are held, with few exceptions, on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Palos Verdes Golf Club, 3301 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Ests.

ANNUAL PVPRWF DUES: \$50.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Forms, applications, deadlines, events, and more can be found at [PVPRWF.org](http://PVPRWF.org). Access available upon request. Join us on Facebook: [facebook.com/PVPRWF](https://facebook.com/PVPRWF). For an invitation to join, contact Arlene Di Julio at [arlenedj@gmail.com](mailto:arlenedj@gmail.com).

PVPRWF is affiliated with the:



National Federation of Republican Women: [nfrw.org](http://nfrw.org)



California Federation of Republican Women: [cafrw.org](http://cafrw.org)

## Your 2024 PVPRWF Leadership

### Officers

#### CO-PRESIDENTS

Carol Allison  
Ann Harder

#### 1ST VP, PROGRAMS

Sandy McElroy

#### CO-2ND VPS, MEMBERSHIP

Claudia Gerstner  
Danica Keese

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Juliet Zamel

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Terry Fredrickson

#### TREASURER

Jill Surace

#### PARLIAMENTARIAN

TBA

### Chairs

#### CHAPLIN

Kenna Bynum

#### CHECK IN / DECORATIONS

Judy Dezelan & Michele Higgins

#### DIRECTORY

Jill Surace

#### EDUCATION

Charity Malin

#### FELLOWSHIP

Sheila O'Neill-O'Connor

#### LEGISLATION

Deena Gribben & Ariana Hakami

#### RESERVATIONS

Ann Hindman

#### SCHOLARSHIP (HIGH SCHOOL)

Michele Higgins & Jill Surace

#### SOCIAL MEDIA/PHOTOGRAPHY

Arlene Di Julio

#### THE TRUMPETEER EDITOR

Christine Barnicki

#### WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Jill Surace



Kenna Bynum, chaplain

## the chaplain's corner

By Kenna Bynum, PVPRWF Chaplain

### May is the time when nature transitions

gracefully from spring to summer. In this season of renewal, allow yourself to feel the loving presence of the Creator.

In celebrating this Mother's Day, extend your gratitude to those who have birthed life and also celebrate the nurturing spirit woven within yourself.

It was Nancy Reagan who said, "A woman is like a tea bag. You can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water"

This resilience, forged in adversity, mirrors the comforting embrace of a mother as promised in Isaiah 66:13: "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Here, resilience and comfort intertwine, as the strength gained through being steeped in challenges, equips you to offer profound solace and support to others.

**In the gentle breezes of May**, ponder how you can nurture your community with the tenderness and commitment of a loving parent.

This season, let the transformation of the landscape of the season inspire a transformation within the landscape of your soul. ★