



AN LBDC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2

FIVE MINUTES WITH ALEX ROUNAGHI, LBDC VICE PRESIDENT



A man in a pinch, for a towel drive or housing issues: Alex came back to Laguna Beach after graduating from Dartmouth with a degree in Government and History and immediately re-embedded himself in the community.

Q. What was the catalyst for your early political involvement?

A. My dad is an immigrant from Iran. He believed in the American dream. He got an education and he worked hard. I want to make sure that that can be a reality for everyone, no matter where they grew up.

Q. What was some of your activism?

A. County Juvenile Justice Commission and as an advocate in the OC juvenile justice system.

Q. What about other youth issues?

A. I was lucky to grow up in Laguna Beach, with endless educational opportunities. I think everyone should have a great public education.

Alex is not one to brag...but during high school in Laguna Beach, he worked as Senator Feinstein's U.S. Senate Page, served as the Secretary-General of the Model United Nations program, and founded Safe Rides Laguna Beach. He was Class President and a Juvenile Justice Commissioner for Orange County. A Rockefeller First Year Fellow at Dartmouth, Alex enjoyed a term at Oxford and interned for Judge John Mott in the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Q. Alex, you're chair of the ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) subcommittee of the Laguna Beach City Housing and Human Services Committee. What motivated you to join that committee?

A. I'm passionate about affordable housing, the ability of seniors, young people, artists and others to find homes they can afford in Laguna Beach.

Q. A little bit about what you're about in the off hours. What's your favorite food?

A. Sushi, all types.

Q. Hobbies?

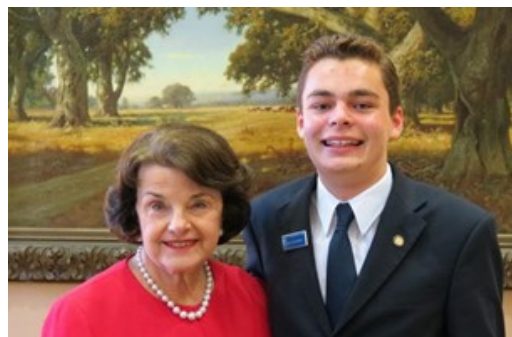
A. I like hiking, running, hanging out on the beach, and all genres of movies.

Q. Pets?

A. We have chickens! My mother and brother care for them. All I do is eat the eggs. And we just got a German shepherd mixed-breed dog named Ruby.

Q. What are you excited about for the Club?

A. Making positive change in our local community, electing Democratic candidates...and meeting in person!



Climate Concerns Drive Them



At Jon Light's retirement as the Head of North American ALM Treasury for BNP Paribas, he and his wife Melissa Waters, former New York-staters moved to Southern California three years ago to be near their twin sons. They immediately jumped whole-heartedly into Orange County and Democratic politics

"We both wanted to do something for the environment," said Melissa, a member of the Sierra Club. "And we realized that the best way to help was through political means. The Democrats are actively interested in doing something to protect the planet. Harley and Katrina fit that mold," Jon added.

Jon and Melissa donate to the towel drive

Melissa and Jon dropped literature at over 1,000 homes for Harley and perhaps 500 for Katrina, plus they wrote hundreds of postcards. "We did several precincts in Laguna Niguel, as well as Aliso Viejo, helping Democrats win Aliso Viejo city council races," Jon said. They are members of both the Laguna Beach and Aliso Niguel Democratic Clubs and volunteer through each one.

True to their commitment to environmental protection, Jon and Melissa are active in Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), helping Tom and Ginger Osborne with leadership duties. "We've been writing letters to the editor and Jon is doing presentations for CCL, as well as both of us managing some small workshops," Melissa said. (con't on page three)

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BOARD OF THE CLUB.

(continued from page 2) While deeply immersed in local politics, there is one area where Jon, at least, has not been completely sold. "I will always be a Mets fan. Before we moved, my old work team got them to put my name up on the scoreboard. Now, I'm watching more Dodger and Angels games. Maybe one will become my second favorite," Jon allowed. Jon and Melissa have seen games - Melissa admits to occasionally reading a book -- in nearly every Major League Baseball field in the United States. "We enjoy the National Parks and Jon enjoys baseball, so we might catch a couple of games on our vacation through the National Parks," Melissa jokes.

When not working on climate issues and campaigning for Democrats, Melissa and Jon babysit two days a week for their 8-month-old grandson in Los Angeles. Jon is a 25-year karate enthusiast; Melissa is a devoted genealogist and they both enjoy riding bikes.

Melissa's sense of Democratic values started early. "I was six and I remember driving through Pittsburgh and passing grade school schools with chain link fences and asphalt playgrounds. My school had nice green grass, and I thought, 'This is wrong.'"

MISSED OUR LAST MEETING ?
WATCH EMERSON'S TALK ON BATTLING
DISINFORMATION AND THE LEAD UP TO THE
INSURRECTION ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.THELBDEMS.COM

APRIL ZOOM MEETING
FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER
ACLU EXTERN SARAH KAHN
"A DEEP DIVE INTO OC'S
INCARCERATION SYSTEM"

APRIL 7
7:00 PM

