



# BLUE WAVE LAGUNA

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Congrats Renate Tries  
for naming  
our Newsletter!  
Winner of the \$25  
Laguna Beach Books Gift  
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## Five Minutes with Events Chair Nia Evans

Board Member Nia Evans -- straw bale gardener, design project coordinator, Club events and graphics pro.

Nia Evans has spent all but her college years in Laguna Beach, and is now deeply planted in many aspects of our community.

After graduating cum laude from UC Santa Barbara, Nia came home and got involved in the City's Recreation Advisory Committee and the KXFM Radio Board of Directors. She works full-time as a project coordinator for Laguna Creative Ventures, an arm of a real estate development company.

She was elected Events Chair of the LBDC Board in October, and since, has helped organize a successful towel drive for the homeless, launched planning for the summer Club picnic and supported web site images, meetings, and communications. She is the go-to person when you need a graphic asap. And it's always great. You have seen her eye-catching work in your emails.

So how did Nia become a straw bale gardener? It was her grandmother's garden in Wales that first inspired Nia to dig in the dirt, but her dad who introduced her to this unusual horticultural technique. Nia explained, "A few years ago, my dad said, 'Have you heard about straw bale gardening? I think we should give it a go.' We read a book about it. A lot of people buy straw bales in the fall for decoration then get rid of them, so they are available."

If you want to start your own straw bale garden, Nia advises, "You start watering and fertilizing the bale; it's called conditioning. This creates a warm and nutritious place to grow plants.

"The first time around I grew tomatoes and basil, then when Covid hit, we decided to grow root vegetables. I have seven bales in the back yard, my dad – woodworking is his hobby-- and I built a raised garden bed and I also have canvas bag planters. I won't ever be on the garden tour, but my garden is functional."



Nia's dad David, who came to Laguna Beach from Wales via Saudi Arabia and London, is an engineer. Her mom Molly, a long-time full-time working mother of whom Nia is very proud, is a color and fabrics designer for BMW. Nia believes she combines both the design and engineering talents of her parents in her work. "I love to plan events. You need to think like an engineer with the scheduling and logistics, but you also need to have a creative spin."

Like several other of the Club's younger board members, Nia began her political career in childhood. "My first political memory was in the third grade. We did a 'presidential election' where the class had to vote for Al Gore or George W. Bush. I was really excited to cast my vote for Gore. But Bush won the election. I cried. My next big memory was the night Obama won in 2008. My dad said, 'This is a huge moment, this is historical, you have to remember this. ' He took me down to the Democratic headquarters in the Boom Boom Room. I was privileged to grow up with a President like Obama, then voting for him in the first time in 2012.

"My parents are politically active. Especially my dad. It may be the viewpoint of an immigrant, valuing our system more highly because of what they've seen in other countries. Politics has always been a part of our lives."

## The Carries' Hobbies: Four Dem Clubs, Dozens of Seals, Scores of Butterflies, Two Vintage Porsches, including a 1965 356, and That's Not All.



Pam and Doug Carrie met at church, then wound up on a double date, but not with each other. There were sparks, nevertheless. Years later, these Glendale natives are still joined, and as a couple have become among the OC's most ardent Democrat campaigners

Long-time advocates of climate control and members of the Sierra Club, Pam and Doug are relatively new to political activism. "We have five grandchildren, so we are very concerned about the future of the planet," Pam emphasized. Then, "When Trump ran against Hillary, I thought, if I don't work for her, I will never forgive myself. I went down to Democratic headquarters on Coast Highway and began phone banking."

"I don't know how we would have stood the angst if we hadn't had political activism to help us feel like we had some control. We've since campaigned for Harley Rouda, Jamie Harrison, Joe Biden, Ossof and Warnock, Katrina Foley and many others, phone banking, writing postcards and knocking on doors. It was a thrill to get a Republican woman of 82 to sign up as a Democrat!"

Between the two of them, Doug and Pam are members of the Laguna Beach, Aliso Niguel, Costa Mesa and Newport Beach Women's Democratic Clubs. We are particularly proud of LBDC for its activism and community involvement. "We like how progressive the Club is, especially the updates on Facebook and Slack. And the young leaders...they're our future." Through their political campaign contacts, the Carries have also joined the Citizens Climate Lobby (Their main car is a Tesla.) A solar roof is their next home project.

These busy Democratic volunteers express their values in other ways. Pam volunteers in her grandchildren's school libraries. A new hobby is writing LTEs (letters to the editor). Doug is a volunteer for the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, where he rescues and rehabilitates struggling seals and sea lions, and they have both become advocates in the OC Friends of Detainees. One of their accomplishments has been helping a jailed 25-year-old undocumented mother by encouraging her, accompanying her to court appearances and launching a Go-FundMe campaign. The Carries have seen her through COVID and struggles with poverty. The young woman now has a work permit and is faring much better, thanks to this caring couple. "We admire her because she doesn't blame others for life's problems," said Doug.

An outgrowth of their environmental interests, Pam and Doug have "birthed" over 100 butterflies. They would collect butterfly eggs before they were eaten by predators, place them in a shelter, hatch them and set them free. "It's now illegal to disturb butterfly eggs as Monarchs are a California endangered species, so now we grow nectar flowers and milkweed to feed them," Pam says. (Con't on Page 3)

(con't from page 2)

The Carries have a son, Patrick, who is Art Director for Volcom Surf/Skate. (He also designed the logo for ANDC.) They enjoy living near their son and their daughter, Kelleen, who is a social worker for hospice.

All work and no play doesn't define the Carries. On top of their extensive philanthropic work, Pam and Doug enjoy traveling to Cambria, Big Sur and Carmel, favorite destinations! They love their two shelter dogs, Jake and Sadie, who deserve daily walks. Pam and Doug want to keep up their stamina for future canvassing!



*It is volunteers like the Carries who help elect Democrats up and down the ticket. Thank you, Pam and Doug, and all of our members who give of themselves to elect our candidates and serve our community. If you have a Club member you would like to see profiled in the newsletter, please email [deborah@dgesoundings.com](mailto:deborah@dgesoundings.com).*

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**HARLEY ROUDA TOWN HALL**  
**JULY 7**  
**MORE DETAILS TO COME**

**MISSED A  
MEETING?**

**GET CAUGHT UP AT  
THELBDEMS.COM FOR VIDEOS  
OF PREVIOUS PRESENTATIONS!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**LBDC SUMMER PICNIC**  
**AUGUST 29 AT NOON**  
**@ BLUEBIRD PARK**  
**EMAIL NIA TO JOIN THE PARTY PLANNING**  
**[NIA.EVANS92@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NIA.EVANS92@GMAIL.COM)**