



**April 2021**

**Membership Meeting**

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# **Agenda**

**April is Autism Acceptance Month**

**Guest speakers:**

**Lita Epstein, Poinciana CDD Chair & SDC Member**

**Val Demings, U.S. Representative**

*- serving central Florida's 10th Congressional District*

**Current Events & Resources**

**Raffle**

**May meeting preview**

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# What is Autism ...

**Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability.**

It typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation.

Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a “spectrum condition” that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

While there is currently no known single cause of autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive the support and services that they need, which can lead to a quality life filled with opportunity.

**[What is Autism? - Autism Society \(autism-society.org\)](https://www.autism-society.org/)**

**Autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the United States.**

1 in 54 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, totaling more than 5 million young people and adults.

**[Autism Society of America \(autismacceptance.org\)](https://www.autismacceptance.org/)**

**[A Proclamation on World Autism Awareness Day, 2021 | The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2021/04/02/proclamation-world-autism-awareness-day-2021/)**

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## **Lita Epstein** Poinciana CDD

**In 2020, Epstein was elected to the CDD Board of Supervisors.**

In addition to currently serving as Chairman of the Poinciana CDD, Lita has served in the past as a Planning Commissioner in Polk County, as well as Chairman of the Board of Adjustments.

Lita's undergraduate degree from Rutgers University is in Community Development. Lita has also worked as a Press Secretary for a Southern California Democratic Congressman, and as Associate Director for The Carter Center (raising funds for President Jimmy Carter's international work).



# **Val Demings** Val Demings for Congress

**In 2016, Demings was elected to congress in Florida's 10th district.**

Her committee assignments include the following: Committee on Homeland Security (subcommittee- Transportation and Maritime Security) , House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (subcommittees- Defense Intelligence and Warfighter Support and Intelligence Modernization and Readiness), and the House Judiciary Committee (subcommittees- Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law and Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security).

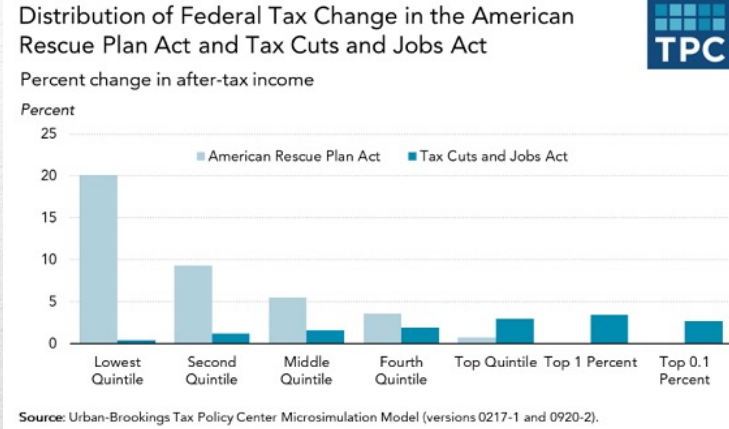
Demings is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Women's Caucus, and New Democrat Coalition. In addition, Rep. Demings is a Vice Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task , Recruitment Chair for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Member of the Election Security Task Force, and Member of the Congressional Badge of Bravery Review Board. In 2019, Demings, again, made history when she was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve as an Impeachment Manager, one of only 3 women to ever serve in that position.

Congresswoman Demings stays involved in her community through numerous organizations, including: Saint Mark A.M.E. Church; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Member of the Orlando Chapter of The Links; NAACP; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); as well as numerous other affiliations. Congresswoman Demings also enjoys riding her Harley Davidson Motorcycle.



# Current Events & Resources

## The First 100 Days of Biden's Presidency - POLITICO



### American Rescue Plan Act Will Help Millions and Bolster the Economy.

Rather than waiting for benefits to trickle down, the COVID relief package focuses on lower-income households, boosting income for the poorest 20% of families by an average of 20%, according to the **Tax Policy Center's analysis**, while top earners would see their income rise less than 1%.

**Join or Renew:** [Club Membership](#) | [Solivita Democratic Club \(solivitademocrats.org\)](https://solivitademocrats.org)

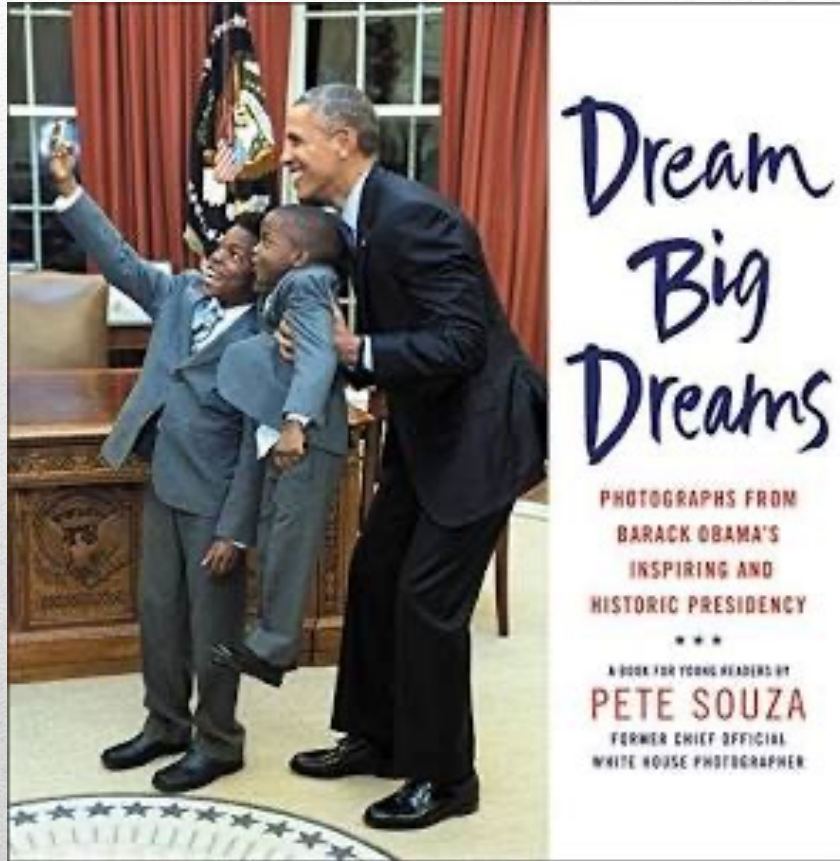
**NextDoor group:** [https://nextdoor.com/g/qikq82agv/?is=nav\\_bar](https://nextdoor.com/g/qikq82agv/?is=nav_bar)

**Facebook page:** [Solivita Democratic Club](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Darren Soto's newsletter:** <https://soto.house.gov/>

**Polk County DEC newsletter:** <https://www.polkdemocrats.org/>

# Raffle



## **April / May 2021 Events:**

**April 22 Earth Day**

**May 5 Cinco de Mayo**

**May 9 Mother's Day**

**May 10 Polk DEC Meeting**

**May 12 SDC Membership Meeting**

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