I have just finished immersing myself in the Kafkaesque world of Dark Money, by New Yorker writer Jane Mayer, and my life view of America has been transformed. Years ago when I read Dostoyevsky’s or Kafka’s writings about the tangled, corrupt web of politics and public servants in Russia, it felt so distant, so alien, so lost, so not here in America; I sat smugly in my own world. Now I feel that we are nearly drowning in a political morass of our own in this country.

If you had asked me before I read this book about the Koch brothers, I would have said oh, yes, I’ve heard of them; I know they are spending huge sums trying to influence elections. Bad fellows. Now I feel they and their circle of billionaire friends have unleashed myriads of worms crawling in every direction under the surface of the seemingly unblemished fruit of American government, at every level. What I read reveals a slimy, sickening abuse that is fully coordinated at every level of influence. It permeates whole states (witness North Carolina and Wisconsin), not to forget the Republican Tea Party contingent in Congress that has stonewalled Obama since nearly his inauguration into office.

Why isn’t MSNBC quoting Mayer about Trump’s loss in Wisconsin? (For what it’s worth, I think his rant, after conceding, was probably 98% accurate about the corruption of politics in that state.) Why are progressive columnists like Paul Krugman not quoting Jane Mayer in their columns? And I wonder if President Obama is even referencing these billionaire operatives when he comes fund raising to San Francisco. It seems to me it should be on everyone’s lips these days whenever and wherever politics are discussed.

In rereading the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision, I was struck by the passage, “...we now conclude that independent expenditures, including those made by corporations, do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption...” I stepped back to wonder just what Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority and company, thinks.

Continued on Page 2
The President’s Message, continued

today about the incorruptibility of money. Have they read Dark Money? Maybe they’ll get to it over their summer break. I imagine them all squirming uncomfortably over the repercussions of that fateful decision.

Will we ever untangle ourselves from the nightmare of the Kochs and their ilk in our lifetimes? It is said that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Read the book to arm yourself.

I, for one, intend to send checks (small checks to be sure, but now we know from Bernie the power of small checks) to the opponents of my own personal list of the worst offenders: to Alma Adams, running for Congress in the new North Carolina district recently mandated by the Supreme Court following the Koch brothers’ machinations in that state; Patty Judge running against Chuck Grassley in Iowa; and Katie McGinty running against Pat Toomey in Pennsylvania. Two of these women, Adams and McGinty, are endorsed by Emily’s List. We must do what we can.

Best Regards, Patsy

To Vote for a Presidential Candidate on June 7

Party Registration Determines Who You Can Vote For. If you declared a political party on your voter registration, you will be given that party's ballot listing candidates running for its Presidential Primary nomination. The winner of each party's primary advances to the November General Election. To vote in another party’s primary, you must re-register as affiliated with that party.

"No Party Preference." If your voter registration lists "no party preference" (also known as "decline to state") you will receive a ballot with no presidential candidates to vote for. However, three parties (American Independent (AIP), Democratic, and Libertarian) will allow you to ask for their party's primary ballot, and you may participate in the selection of that party's Presidential nominee. To vote in the Presidential primaries for the Green, Peace & Freedom, or Republican parties requires that you be registered as affiliating with their party.

Changing Party Affiliation. Voters can change their party affiliations by re-registering. To vote in that party’s June 7 primary, voters must re-register by Monday, May 23, 2016. Voters can do this online at www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov or via a registration form. No Party Preference voters will receive a postcard from the Elections Department to remind them that if they wish to vote for a party's presidential candidate, they must request a ballot for the AIP, Democratic, or Libertarian party or re-register for the Green, Peace & Freedom, or Republican parties.

Other Partisan Offices. For non-presidential "partisan" offices (where candidates' party affiliations are listed), California uses an "open primary" system. All candidates are listed and voters may choose any candidate for that office regardless of party affiliation or the voter's registered affiliation. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office advance to the November General Election. This "top-two open primary" system affects contests for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, California State Senate, and California State Assembly.

Important dates.
• May 9—mail-in ballots mailed out
• May 23—last date to register to vote
• May 31—last day to request vote-by-mail-ballot
• June 7—Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

Information provided by the League of Women Voters
Our Country’s Democratic Political Structure
Or
What the Heck is the Central Committee?

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) is managed by the DPCCC Central Committee. The Central Committee consists of elected committee members from each of the five county supervisory districts and also includes representatives from state and federal elected officials in the county. Each election year it interviews, endorses, and provides services to local Democratic candidates and takes positions on local issues by issuing resolutions in support of legislation, propositions, and other actions. It also charters local Democratic Clubs like ours.

Rossmoor lies within the Second Supervisory District (Region 2), which includes 215,201 people living in the communities of Alamo, Danville, Lafayette, Moraga, San Ramon, and part of Walnut Creek. There are 131,110 registered voters in Region 2; of these approximately 40% are Democrats, 33% are Republicans, and 25% are No Party Preference. The Region 2 Regional Director is Craig Cheslog.

Unfortunately, it is felt by some party leaders that the current Central Committee members have not been as effective as they might have been. Cheslog therefore decided that he would like to see a slate of six new members run for the Central Committee seats in the upcoming Primary Election. Working with other Democratic leaders, he carefully selected people he knew to be effective Democratic activists from each geographic area within the region and asked them to join the slate. The recommendations, highlighted in the format that will appear on the ballot, appear as a tear-out on page 9 of this newsletter so that you can refer to it or take it with you to the polls on June 7th.

I was honored when I was asked to be part of the new Central Committee slate. Unfortunately, this county’s Democratic clubs do not have a vote at the Central Committee and therefore have not in the past directly participated in its activities. However, I have been active in the work of the DPCCC Club Council, which is a group that represents most of the local clubs. Because the slate of candidates proposed by Cheslog represents an effort to revitalize the Central Committee, I decided that I would run for the position. As a Central Committee member, I would work to allow Democratic clubs to have a vote in its proceedings. As a member of the board of the Democrats of Rossmoor, I would be in a unique position to work to elect Democrats at every level of government.

The Democrats of Rossmoor Board have endorsed my candidacy for the DPCCC Central Committee and that of the other members of the slate that appear on page 9. When you turn in your ballots for the June Primary election, please check the long list of delegates carefully and vote for me and the other five delegates endorsed by the DoR Board.

Sincerely,

Jane Walter

“Our voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better.” — Jane Auer
U.C. Berkeley physicist Richard A. Muller will speak at DoR’s May buffet dinner meeting on Thursday, May 26, in the Event Center. Social hour will begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 and the program at 7. Those wishing to hear the program but skip the dinner may do so free of charge at 7 p.m.

Dr. Muller began his storied career while receiving his PhD in physics from U.C. Berkeley, where he studied particle physics under Nobel laureate Luis Alvarez. He later branched out into the earth sciences, where his work included better understanding of the ice ages, patterns of extinction, and biodiversity through time.

In March 2012, Muller testified before the U.S. House Science, Space and Technology Committee, confirming an overall global warming trend. In July of that year he stated, “Humans are almost entirely the cause.” He and his daughter Elizabeth Muller founded the non-profit research organization Berkeley Earth, which directly addressed major complaints made by climate change deniers and led to a recent paper that showed that 4,400 people in China alone die every day from air pollution.

He has earned dozens of awards over his long and illustrious career and is a lively speaker. Among his many awards is the distinction of being named a MacArthur Fellow, often referred to as a “Genius Grant,” which is “an investment in a person’s originality, insight, and potential.” In 1999, Muller received a distinguished teaching award from U.C. Berkeley. His “Physics for Future Presidents” series has been one of the most highly regarded courses at Berkeley and has been publicly released on YouTube and published in book form. Though Muller officially retired from teaching the course, he still occasionally gives guest lectures.

Simple Elegance will cater the buffet dinner. Please see the RSVP form on page 9 of this newsletter for entrée choice and how to pay for the dinner. The deadline to sign up is May 20.

### U.S. Energy Consumption by Energy Source, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable energy</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear electric power</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydroelectric</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biofuels</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass waste</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 98.3 quadrillion BTU

Total = 9.6 quadrillion BTU


(A British thermal unit (BTU) is a traditional unit of energy equal to the amount of work needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.)
June 23 General Meeting: Ron Moss

The Gamble Institute’s Executive Director Ron Moss will speak at DoR’s June 23 general meeting in the Event Center. The social hour and town hall will begin at 6 pm, followed by the program at 7.

Founded in October 2009 as a place for and by parolees, the Oakland-based Gamble Institute describes its mission as “to work with community members to provide relevant services and implement research projects that create meaningful knowledge to improve conditions for formerly incarcerated adults and their families.”

To date, over 400 men and women have participated in and helped develop The Gamble Institute’s programs. Its newest project, the Street Scholars Peer Mentoring Program, is located on the Merritt College campus in Oakland. Street Scholars is a program created and led by formerly incarcerated adults and adults in recovery. Its purpose is to support formerly incarcerated women’s and men’s academic and vocational achievement, substance use recovery, and achievement of long-term stability in the community.

Ron Moss is a graduate of Merritt College and is now a Masters student at U.C. Berkeley’s School of Social Welfare. Moss is developing strategic partnerships with the Institute to ensure that the Street Scholars program comprehensively and effectively serves the needs of formerly incarcerated students. He is also working to institutionalize the Street Scholars program within the Merritt College campus.

The Gamble Institute’s logo is the thistle, described by one participant as “a beautiful flower that’s been through some rough times—the rain, storms, all kinds of problems—but it’s still standing and it’s still beautiful.”

Incarceration Factoids

From The SentencingProject.org: “More than 60% of the people in prison are now racial and ethnic minorities. For Black males in their thirties, 1 in every 10 is in prison or jail on any given day. These trends have been intensified by the disproportionate impact of the ‘war on drugs,’ in which two-thirds of all persons in prison for drug offenses are people of color.” “The United States is the world’s leader in incarceration with 2.2 million people currently in the nation's prisons or jails—a 500% increase over the past thirty years.” See below for lifetime likelihood of imprisonment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>All Men</th>
<th>White Men</th>
<th>Black Men</th>
<th>Latino Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Likelihood</td>
<td>1 in 9</td>
<td>1 in 17</td>
<td>1 in 3</td>
<td>1 in 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The California Legislature is off to a very busy start this session. There are almost 3,000 active bills in either various stages of committee review or awaiting a floor vote in the Assembly; there are about 1,500 such bills in the Senate. There are also over 500 specialty bills setting aside days, weeks, months, roads, or bridges that commemorate special issues, activities, or people. Lastly, there are over 300 resolutions, some stating intentions of the California Legislature and some requesting action from the U.S. Congress. Based on a review of about half of the bills so far, I will follow only those in categories of the most interest to the DoR. Because of space constraints, I will report on only a few key bills in each category. The following are the general categories I will be following:

- Business - Private Sector
- Consumer Protection
- Environment
- Human Trafficking
- Law Enforcement
- Political Reform
- Veterans’ Affairs
- Business - Public Sector
- Education
- Firearms
- Immigration
- LGBT Issues
- Social Issues
- Women’s Issues
- Children’s Safety
- Energy
- Health
- Judicial Proceedings
- Personal Privacy
- Transportation
- Workers’ Issues

If you have a special interest that is not on my list, please let me know by email at decarlo901@comcast.net, and I will do my best to report on that as well.

Most of the voting to date has largely been limited to unofficial votes in committee. The chart below indicates some significant outcomes.

### 2016 IMPORTANT VOTES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Issues</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Glazer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 3 raises minimum wage to $15 per hour and requires paid sick leave for in-home service workers. Governor Brown signed into law 4/16/2016.</td>
<td>Voted No</td>
<td>Voted Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Reform</th>
<th>Baker</th>
<th>Glazer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB 700 requires prominent publishing of the 3 top individual contributors to the cost of campaign advertising with contributions of $50,000 or more even if done through a PAC or other organization. Bill was passed overwhelmingly in the Assembly.</td>
<td>Voted Yes</td>
<td>Voted Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support our Club’s Local Charity by Mary Lembke

Our DoR Steering Committee invites you to stop by the Trinity Center table in the Town Square before each of our monthly general meetings. Come by to see what your dollar(s) can buy to help feed our less fortunate homeless Walnut Creek neighbors. They ARE our neighbors because the majority of them have lived in Walnut Creek for a number of years. They have become homeless for many different reasons, and they turn to Trinity to ease their many daily needs.
On May first, 317 District-Level Delegates and 30 alternates for each candidate will be elected in 53 Congressional District Pre-Primary Caucuses in California. Half of the elected delegates must be female and half male. In our Congressional District 11, Clinton and Sanders caucuses will each elect seven delegates. The presidential candidates will be awarded 317 District-Level Delegates apportioned based on the results of the June 7 Primary.

Then there are the 105 pledged At-Large Delegates who be allocated based on the statewide June 7 results. They will be confirmed at a statewide delegation meeting on June 19.

Also, there are 53 Party Leaders and Elected Officials (PLEOs) who are pledged to a candidate based on the statewide results of the primary and caucuses. Big city mayors, state legislators, and legislative leaders routinely fill these PLEO slots.

As of April 19, 73 additional Unpledged Delegates (also known as Superdelegates) are comprised of 31 California Democratic National Committee members, 41 members of Congress, and Governor Brown.

That makes a total of 548 delegates from California that will attend the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Currently, there are expected to be 4,765 delegates at the Convention.
May 1 Pre-Primary Caucuses: election of Congressional District 11 Democratic Party delegates. See the website for details.

May 2 Book Club: *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

May 6 Mother’s Day

May 9 Film: *Inequality for All.* Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

May 10 Meet and Greet w/Cheryl Cook-Kallio: Creekside Club Room, 4 p.m.

May 11 Film: PBS’s *Huey Long* by Ken Burns. Peacock Hall, 7 p.m.

May 14 Mark DeSaulnier Speaks in Support of Hillary Clinton. Event Center, 1–3 p.m.

May 26 Buffet Dinner Meeting: Richard Muller—*The Future of Energy.* Event Center, 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker.

May 30 Memorial Day

June 6 Book Club: *The Wilderness: Deep Inside the Republican Party’s Combative, Contentious, Chaotic Quest to Take Back the White House* by McKay Coppins. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

June 7 Presidential Primary Election: Gateway Fireside Room, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

June 13 Film: *Dark Money.* Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

June 19 Father’s Day

June 23 General Meeting: Ron Moss—*Breaking the Link of Young Black Men Being Sent to Prison.* Event Center, 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. speaker.

Membership Form

Membership runs January through December and costs $20 per person.
Check One: [ ] New member [ ] Returning member

Name(s)________________________________________________________Date_________________
Please print.
Address________________________________________________________

Phone________________________Email_____________________________________
Are you a registered voter? _________ Are you a registered Democrat? _________
(We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two)

Can you occasionally volunteer for any of the following?
_____Voter Registration _____Phoning on behalf of Democratic Party candidates
_____Putting together mailings _____Event set-up

Place your check (made out to Democrats of Rossmoor) and this form in an envelope and:
• Leave it in the Democrats’ mailbox at Gateway during office hours,
• Mail it to Sue De Carlo, 901 Terra California Dr., #6, Walnut Creek, CA 94595,
• Or bring the form/check to the Membership Table at any meeting.
SAVE to Fill Out Your June 7 Ballot

Please save the following list of Democratic Party and/or DoR Board endorsed candidates to either fill in your mail-in ballot or to take with you to the polls.

✔ U.S. Senate: Kamala D. Harris
✔ U.S. Congress, District 11: Mark DeSaulnier
✔ CA Senate, District 7: Steve Glazer
✔ CA Assembly, District 16: Cheryl Cook-Kallio
✔ Contra Costa County Democratic Party Central Committee, District 2 (Listed in the order they appear on the ballot):
  ➤ Sabina Zafar
  ➤ Jane Elizabeth Walter
  ➤ Tom E. Duckworth
  ➤ Brodie Hilp
  ➤ Jerome C. Pandell
  ➤ Katie Ricklefs

Democrats of Rossmoor Buffet Dinner
Thursday, May 26, 2016, in the Event Center
5 p.m. Social Hour — 6 p.m. Dinner — 7 p.m. Program
Speaker Richard Muller: The Future of Energy

Dinner Menu (Catered by Simple Elegance)

Salad: mixed greens with mandarin oranges, toasted almonds, and cider vinaigrette.
Choice of Entrées: grilled breast of chicken in sundried tomato cream sauce OR stuffed portobello mushrooms (no cheese). Both entrées served with warm sourdough bread and butter, roasted rosemary garlic red potatoes, and green beans in shallot butter.
Dessert: brownie sundae with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce; coffee and tea provided.

Member Name(s) ________________________________________________________________
Guest Name(s) ________________________________________________________________
Phone # ________________________________ ________________________________
Email Address ________________________________________________________________

Entrée choices (circle one) grilled chicken breast OR stuffed portobello mushrooms

Reserve by May 20. $30 members; $35 non-members. Total amount submitted __________
Please make your check out to Democrats of Rossmoor.

Put this form and your check in an envelope, and either:
  • Mail to Jane Williams, 2200 Golden Rain Rd. #6, Walnut Creek 94595
  • Or leave in the Democrats of Rossmoor mailbox at Gateway.