President Patsy Sharaf’s Message

When I was 29 I travelled to Greece. At the Athens airport, I climbed down the airplane stairway (in those days you climbed down the stairs right onto the tarmac) and there at the bottom of the stairs was a guy in uniform casually waving around a machine gun. I can still picture it and I remember how shocked I was and how scared. It was the time of the Junta.

It is the only time in my life I have seen a real gun in use. That says something I guess about the sheltered life I have led. I have never known anyone who was killed by a gun.

In contrast, when they asked eighth graders in Oakland, nearly all said they knew someone who had been shot. The elementary schools in Oakland now offer therapy to deal with the post-traumatic stress its children live with from their experiences with gun-related incidents. Oakland had 89 homicides last year, nearly all caused by guns.

When I read about a child’s murder, I wonder what it would be like to be the mother who has just been told her child was murdered; the same child she worried wasn’t eating enough vegetables, the child she stayed up most of the night when he or she was sick, the child whose toys are still strewn all over the house. You, no doubt, have your own thoughts at such a time, but those are mine. We understand why President Obama weeps whenever he thinks about Newtown. We are all there.

Most of us favor further gun controls, but we are pretty passive about it. The NRA is out in full force against any curbs on gun possession. We need to be vocal and we need to write letters and make phone calls. Most all of us are supportive, but we’ve got to do more than just be quietly supportive or the NRA will carry the day.

Mark DeSaulnier is waging the battle for gun control in the U.S. House of Representatives, currently in recess until July 5, and could surely use your support. Mark is a sponsor of the bipartisan Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act (H.R. 1217), which would close loopholes in our current background check system, and is working for passage of both the Imported Assault Weapons Ban Act (H.R. 4748) and the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act (H.R. 752). You can send him an email on his website or phone his Walnut Creek office at 925-933-2660.

At this writing, the California Legislature is teeming with proposed gun laws that are midway through passage. The Senate has approved eleven bills and sent them to the Assembly for their vote including: SB 1446,

Continued on Page 2
President’s Message, continued from Page 1

which bans high capacity ammunition clips holding more than 10 rounds; SB 1235, which requires background checks to buy ammunition; and SB 880, which expands the legal definition of the banned “assault weapon” to include rifles with quick release ammunition magazines or “bullet buttons” of the sort used at San Bernardino. You can contact our Assembly-person Catherine Baker to urge her support for these and the other eight gun-control bills.

At the same time, the Assembly has approved and sent to the Senate its own bill outlawing the “bullet buttons.” Also passed was a bill allowing employers, co-workers, mental health workers, and school employees to ask a judge to ban someone from possessing a gun for up to a year. The state already allows family members to seek such a ban, known as “a gun violence restraining order,” against relatives that a judge rules to be at high risk for violence against themselves or others with a firearm. Contact our State Senator Steve Glazer to urge him to speedily approve these measures in the Senate.

It is expected that these bills will be voted on this week (June 27th), and then proceed to Governor Brown’s desk to be signed or not by July 1, when he leaves on vacation. He will be hearing from gun advocates, so we need to make our voices heard. It is easy to express your opinion at his web site.

We are all terribly concerned about terrorism, which killed 229 Americans worldwide from 2005 through 2015. In that same time period, 310,000 Americans were killed by guns, not by terrorists but by each other.

Best Wishes, Patsy

Two Rossmoorians to Endorse County Candidates

Rossmoor now has two delegates on the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC). Jane Walter and Diddo Clark were elected for 4-year terms in the June primary election.

Though the acronyms are quite a mouthful, these delegates basically endorse Democratic candidates for many of the county’s elected positions, including for city councils, school boards, the BART board, and other boards. These positions also serve as important pathways to future elected Democratic positions, in both the county and the state.

In a nutshell, delegates will meet for four consecutive weekends in July to agree on interview questions for aspiring candidates. Once those questions are prepared the delegates will interview those candidates and, from those interviews, develop a list of recommendations for each position. That list is then emailed to the DPCCC board, where it becomes a consent item on the agenda for the board’s next regular meeting, in this case on August 15. Upon adoption of the endorsements, an official slate is created and Democratic clubs (like DoR), the candidates, and other sources kick off their support for the endorsed candidates. DoR, for example, will post the slate on its website at www.democratsfroossmoor.org, distribute it at regular meetings, and also make it available in other places. These details will be communicated frequently to DoR’s membership in the coming months.
Bernie vs. Hillary: What’s Next? by Jane Walter

In American history it has been common for social movements to be co-opted by political leaders who are able to translate them into policy. For labor leader and Socialist Eugene Debs, there was FDR’s New Deal; Martin Luther King had LBJ to shepherd civil rights legislation through Congress. During his primary campaign, Bernie Sanders gave political life to the ideas of the Occupy Movement, which brought to public attention the fact that the concentration of wealth in the top 1% has distorted our political life and led to the decline of the middle class. Bernie led his followers to believe that they could use their influence to reform our broken economic and political system. Unfortunately he was unable to generate enough votes to win the Democratic nomination, but that need not be the end of his movement.

Hillary Clinton is a practical politician with a long history of working for liberal causes. Perhaps Bernie pulled her to the left of her husband’s centrist positions or perhaps she was there all along, but in either case during the primary campaign she demonstrated that she got the message that income inequality and the stranglehold of big money on politics must be addressed. If she is elected, Hillary could become Bernie’s FDR.

When you examine the positions of Bernie and Hillary on major issues you see that they are not that far apart. For example, both favor campaign finance reform that would overturn the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision and require companies to disclose their donations to Super PACS. Bernie would break up the big banks and Hillary has a more nuanced plan, but both seek to prevent Wall Street from causing a second recession as it did in 2008. Both support raising the minimum wage, although Hillary seems willing to compromise on something less than Bernie’s $15.00 per hour proposal.

On immigration, both support a path to citizenship, the DREAM Act and President Obama’s executive orders. Both favor renewable energy policies, although Bernie would go further and eliminate tax breaks for fossil fuel companies and tax coal-fired power plants. Both candidates support universal and affordable health care, but they do differ in what they consider the best way to deliver it. While Bernie advocates a Medicare-for-all single-payer system, Hillary thinks that this is unobtainable in the current political climate and would compromise by tinkering with Obamacare to improve it. Both recognize that college must be affordable. Bernie wants free tuition and Hillary, again recognizing that achieving this is unlikely, would settle for improving the student loan program. In every case their goals could be achieved by legislation that would inevitably be a compromise between their two positions.

Ultimately Hillary is a pragmatist who shares Bernie’s goals but is willing to modify her positions to what she feels can be realistically achieved. With the difference between Bernie’s and Hillary’s positions so slight, and their contrast with Trump’s positions so great, it is time for Bernie to deliver his voters to Hillary and for Hillary to embrace his populist movement. Now the presumptive nominee, Hillary needs to understand the suspicion that Bernie’s supporters feel for Wall Street and big money in government, and adopt what is best in Bernie’s movement.

The best hope for Bernie supporters is to put aside their differences with Hillary and support her so that if she becomes President she can be Bernie’s FDR. However, without massive support from the voters to overturn Republican majorities in the House and Senate, there is little hope that, as President, Hillary Clinton could translate Bernie’s ideas into practical policies. Democrats need to come together to support each other in this critical effort.
DRAAT—Democrats of Rossmoor Action Alert Team—is fully engaged! We are a group of active citizens organized to voice our opinions and recommendations to federal, state, and local political leaders about important issues and actions that affect all of us.

Most recently, we have called Congressional offices demanding rational gun ownership reform specifically banning assault weapons, conducting effective background checks, and preventing “no-fly” and “Terror List” people from purchasing weapons anywhere in the nation.

We called Congressional offices demanding a vote on funding to mitigate against spread of the Zika virus in our country. We called California legislators demanding transparency and support of “Clean Money” legislation. Elected officials’ office staff must record and report calls they receive from voters, and we know that a surge of calls can influence a legislator’s position on issues.

Being a member of the DRAAT Team offers an opportunity to act, especially when we are frustrated and unsure of how we can actually do something. To join DRAAT, please email Katha Hartley at kathah7@msn.com.

Award-winning U.C. Berkeley political science professor Paul Pierson will speak at DoR’s August 25 Speaker/Dinner meeting. See the RSVP form on page 8 for details. Forms will also be available online at www.democratsfrowmoom.org, in DoR’s mail slot at Gateway, and at other club events.

Professor Pierson will discuss his new book American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper. In it he argues that the road to greater prosperity is paved with more—not less—government. In it he makes the case that, as recently as the 1950s, Americans broadly appreciated government. He cites Republican President Dwight Eisenhower’s first State of the Union Address, where “government was mentioned 40 times, almost all positively. By Bill Clinton’s first State of the Union address, the president mentioned the government half as often, and mostly negatively.”

Professor Pierson earned his B.A. in Government at Oberlin and his Masters and PhD at Yale University. He has written several other books and his first book, Dismantling the Welfare State? won the American Political Science Association’s Kammerer Prize for the best work on American politics published in 1994.

There will be time for questions and everyone is welcome.

August 25 General Meeting: Paul Pierson
Although most bills passed by both houses in the Legislature will be sent to the Governor for his signature at the end of July, a few bills have already been signed into law. One of the most significant is SB 254, which places a measure on the CA ballot in November that, if passed, will require that elected officials use their constitutional authority to propose and ratify an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision. That case determined, among other things, that corporations have the same rights as individuals and are entitled to free speech and further determined that spending election money is a form of speech. This opened the door for the super rich to funnel unlimited amounts of cash into the electoral process through Super PACS. Similar referenda are being held in other states. If the voters agree, legislators will be sent to Washington with a mandate to propose the requested amendment and begin the process of changing the U.S. Constitution to prevent this purchase of our government by the super rich.

Let’s take a look at the bills our local representatives have authored. Some have passed committees and are awaiting a House floor vote, some were cancelled by the author, and some died in committee. Of the 40 bills Assemblyperson Catharine Baker authored this session, seventeen died in committee and twelve were cancelled by Baker before a committee hearing could be held. Seven of her bills were signed into law last year and four more passed the Assembly and are currently in the Senate committee process or awaiting the Governor's signature. Two of these dealing with the rights of victims of crime were co-authored by Senator Steve Glazer.

State Senator Glazer authored sixteen bills this session. As yet none have been signed into law. Seven of Glazer's bills died in committee and one awaits further action, which may never come as the deadline for the floor vote has passed. Eight of Glazer's bills passed the Senate floor vote and are now in the Assembly committee process or awaiting the Governor's action.

### Viable Bills Authored by Assemblywoman Baker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACR 62</td>
<td>Proclaims CA Cancer Survivors Day</td>
<td>Signed into Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR 73</td>
<td>Proclaims Celiac Disease Month</td>
<td>Signed into Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACR 127</td>
<td>Commemorating Abraham Lincoln's Birthday on the actual date of his birthday</td>
<td>Signed into Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 773</td>
<td>Changes renewal date of Psychologists' License Renewal</td>
<td>Signed into Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1058</td>
<td>Provides child abuse prevention training to school personnel</td>
<td>Signed into Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1284</td>
<td>Brings transparency to the Toll Bridge Oversight Committee</td>
<td>Signed into Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1401</td>
<td>Provides financial assistance to National Guard, Military Reserve, and Naval</td>
<td>Signed into Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Militia so they can complete a bachelors degree</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 1399</td>
<td>Allows voluntary contributions to Domestic Violence Victims Fund</td>
<td>In Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 2263</td>
<td>Standardizes confidentiality protections for victims of domestic violence,</td>
<td>In Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sexual assault, and health care service providers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 2295</td>
<td>Forbids a judge from ordering less than full restitution to a Governor</td>
<td>Awaits Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Glazer Co-authored)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 2346</td>
<td>Requires position statements in public hearings to be on line no less than</td>
<td>In Senate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>two days before the hearing.</td>
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Viable Bills Authored by State Senator Glazer

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 412</td>
<td>Adds Biotech Industry to list from which state advisory committees are staffed</td>
<td>In Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 539</td>
<td>Prohibits naming any public property after persons associated with the Confederate States of America (Baker Co-authored)</td>
<td>Awaits Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 1128</td>
<td>Extends the sunset date for a program where employers offer alternative commute transportation to employees (Baker Co-authored)</td>
<td>In Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1311</td>
<td>Requires the DMV to make public the address of convicted felons’ families</td>
<td>In Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1389</td>
<td>Requires the electronic recording of the interrogation of anyone suspected of murder</td>
<td>In Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1422</td>
<td>Defines cable service providers as utilities</td>
<td>In Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCR 118</td>
<td>Proclaims Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month</td>
<td>In Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJR 15</td>
<td>Urges Congress and the U.S. President to rename all federal property currently named after leaders of the Confederate States of America</td>
<td>In Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR 69</td>
<td>Urges the Congress and U.S. President to exonerate and clear records of African American sailors convicted of mutiny in the 1944 Port Chicago disaster</td>
<td>Awaits Action</td>
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Voter Registration Update by Carol Weed

In June, the DOR Board sponsored an Ice Cream Social to thank all the volunteers: the film committee, the hospitality team, and the voter registration team. Partiers shared stories, sundaes, and root beer floats under the eaves of Fireside in Peacock Plaza.

Our summer and autumn voter registration plans will include some new venues and a shift in some locations to becoming partisan—sharing literature and information about our national and local Democratic candidates. New venues included Gateway during the Rossmoor’s Farmers Market and the Todos Santos Farmers Market in downtown Concord.

Compared with 2014, there’s been a shift among a majority of our volunteers to a preference to reach out to under-served areas rather than staying within Rossmoor. We’ll be returning to venues that were particularly busy during the spring, such as the Concord Swap Meets, Farmers Markets, and the Paramount Theater in Oakland to register newly naturalized citizens, and the monthly Newcomers meetings at Dollar Clubhouse.

New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Carol Weed at carol4ofa@gmail.com or 510-409-4055.
The Democrats of Rossmoor welcomes comments from members. If you send 'em, we'll publish 'em. The following letter was sent by DoR member Fred Ridel.

At the May 26th meeting of the Democrats of Rossmoor, which I attended as a member, Richard Muller made a presentation on energy. He was presented as a respected academic from U.C. Berkeley who could supposedly provide a balanced, accurate perspective on energy issues. I doubt that even a few people realized that he was actually a business partner and a shill advocating for the natural gas and nuclear industry.

However, a quick review of his affiliations and the organization (Muller & Associates) he runs with his daughter, Elizabeth Muller, will show that it is a consulting firm with a record of supporting the shale and natural gas-fracking business, which is also a primary business interest of one of the three members of the Advisory Board of Muller & Associates. Of that "board," two members are former U.C. Berkeley physicists; one who died in 2015 at the age of 99, the other who is 90. The third, Marlan Downey, is a former executive of fossil fuel companies (Shell Oil Company and Arco) and is the founder and current head of Roxanna Oil, a company devoted to the development of shale oil and gas (fracking).

Shale oil and gas is also a major business endeavor of Elizabeth Muller, who is cited as the president and chair, managing partner of Global Shale, and as the managing partner of the China Shale Fund. She is also the co-author, with Richard Muller, of the report "Why every Serious Environmentalist should Favour Fracking," as prepared for The Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) in the United Kingdom. The CPS is a conservative think tank in the UK that is similar to the conservative American Enterprise Institute or the Cato Institute, which was originally founded as the Charles Koch Foundation. Both Richard and Elizabeth Muller are also principals in "Berkeley Earth," a non-profit whose "large donors include the Charles G. Koch Foundation."

Regarding the "science" that Mr. Muller presented, much of it was blatantly misleading or inaccurate. For example, Muller dismissed the potency of methane as a greenhouse gas (half life of 8 years?). However, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) lists the potency of methane as 87 times that of CO2 for a 20-year period, and 36 times for a 100-year period. One field observation found that 6.2% to 11.7% of methane leaks into the atmosphere from natural gas facilities. The IPCC also reviewed the claims that the "hockey stick" effect was not valid, and found that, contrary to the deniers, there was that effect.

The list can go on, but it is obvious that Richard Muller is not an objective presenter of energy science, but rather someone who is actively promoting shale gas (fracking) for his personal business interests and that of his daughter. I believe that there was lack of good judgment by the Democrats of Rossmoor in presenting such a biased individual without the full disclosure of his conflict of interest. To remedy this, I suggest that the Club: (1) send a notice to its members explaining problems with Mr. Muller; and (2) schedule a future presentation by a speaker who can address the problems with fracking, natural gas, and fossil fuels. An organization such as Food & Water Watch, or another environmental group may be appropriate.

Sincerely,
Fred Ridel
“To suppress minority thinking and minority expression would tend to freeze society and prevent progress...Now more than ever, we must keep in the forefront of our minds the fact that whenever we take away the liberties of those we hate, we are opening the way to loss of liberty for those we love.” — Wendell Willkie

Upcoming Events

**July 4:** Independence Day.

**July 11 Book Club:** United: Thoughts on Finding Common Ground… by Corey Booker.
Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

**July 11 Film:** Michael Moore’s Where to Invade Next. Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

**July 14 New Members’ Party.** Please RSVP.
Hillside Complex, Vista Room, 4 p.m.

**July 28 General Meeting:** Closing night of the Convention. Carla Marinucci will speak if available.
Event Center, 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. speaker.

**August 1 Book Club:** American Amnesia by Pierson and Hacker. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

**August 6 Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall**
Gateway, Fireside Room, 1 p.m.

**August 8 Film:** United States of Amnesia.
Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

**August 25 General Meeting Dinner:** Paul Pierson on American Amnesia. Event Center, 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker.

August 25 Dinner RSVP Form

DEMOCRATS OF ROSSMOOR DINNER

**Thursday, August 25, 2016, in the Event Center**

5 p.m. Social Hour — 6 p.m. Dinner — 7 p.m. Program

Speaker Paul Pierson, U.C. Berkeley political science professor

Dinner Menu will be Barbeque *(Catered by Creekside Grill)*

Member Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Guest Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Phone # ___________________________________________________________________

Email Address __________________________________________________________________

**Reserve by August 19.** Members $30. Guests $35. 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.