Governor Brown gave his customary inspiring, affirming State of the State speech on January 24, and I urge all of you who missed it to go online to either see or hear it. It bore so many personal touches that I believe he wrote it himself. It was not a traditional State of the State address that set forth a legislative agenda. It was instead a heartfelt statement of California’s collective values, especially its personal values in the face of attack. It was an address for the ages.

That the Governor’s speech was delivered at this time was significant to me. We are all shaken by how the Trump era is unfolding, tossing to the side of the road many of the laws and values that seemed integral to our country, many hard won. It is very affirming to see a commanding public figure like Brown step forward and state so simply and clearly his opposition to these Trump administration words and actions. His opening words set the tone: “Thank you for all that energy and enthusiasm. It is just what we need for the battle ahead. So keep it up and don’t ever falter.”

Brown then talked about the “disturbing” signs of the new administration, and nothing escaped his eye: “We have seen the bald assertion of ‘alternative facts.’ We have heard the blatant attacks on science. Familiar signposts of our democracy—truth, civility, working together—have been obscured or swept aside.” This set the baseline of his speech as he went on to elaborate about each of these.

Speaking about the nationwide women’s marches on the day following Trump’s inauguration, he said, “But on Saturday, in cities across the country, we also witnessed a vast and inspiring fervor that is stirring in the land. Democracy doesn’t come from the top; it starts and spreads in the hearts of the people. And in the hearts of Americans, our core principles are as strong as ever.”

Immigration and immigrants were a significant theme of his speech. “…In California, immigrants are an integral part of who we are and what we’ve become. They have helped create the wealth and dynamism of this state from the very beginning.” “…California has enacted several protective measures for the undocumented: the Trust Act, lawful drivers’ licenses, basic employment rights, and non-discriminatory access to higher education.”

“We may be called upon to defend those laws and defend them we will. And let me be clear: we will defend everybody—every man, woman and child—who has come here for a better life and has contributed to the well-being of our state.” The last sentence was delivered with all the fervor one could ever wish for.

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

On the topic of healthcare, Brown talked about the success of Covered California, California’s Affordable Care Act marketplace, in providing healthcare for five million previously uncovered Californians. “Were any of that to be taken away, our state budget would be directly affected, possibly devastated. That is why I intend to join with other governors—and with you—to do everything we can to protect the healthcare of our people.” It was heartening to realize that as many state budgets will be strongly affected by changes to the ACA, their governors, mostly Republicans, will surely object to having the costs of their states’ healthcare tossed back into their laps.

Elsewhere I read that California could lose $17 billion in federal funds for the cost of Medi-Cal, California’s Medicaid program.

But Brown’s loudest protests, as one would guess, came over climate change and environmental protections. Here is part of what he said: “We cannot fall back and give in to the climate deniers. The science is clear. The danger is real. We can do much on our own and we can join with others—other states and provinces and even countries—to stop the dangerous rise in climate pollution. And we will.”

Brown summarized with words we could all paste on our bathroom mirrors. “And then there is perseverance. It is not an accident that the sailing ship that brought my grandfather to America was named ‘Perseverance.’ That is exactly what it took to endure the dangerous and uncertain months at sea, sailing from Germany to America.

“While today we may face different challenges, make no mistake: the future is uncertain and dangers abound. Whether it’s the threat to our budget, or to undocumented Californians, or to our efforts to combat climate change—or even more global threats such as a financial meltdown or a nuclear incident or terrorist attack—this is a time, which calls out for courage and for perseverance. I promise you both."

Brown’s words made me proud to be a Californian, if only a recently transplanted one. And I take his words to be a call to action, which we will all do our best to heed.

The Governor, a reconstructed hippie at heart, then closed with two verses from Woody Guthrie’s “This Land is Your Land.” That’s why I am sure he wrote the speech himself.

Best Wishes, Patsy

This Caught Our Eye on Facebook…

What we could buy for $14 billion?

• A year of education for 1.3 million school children
• Or fund 70,000 $200,000 grants for research on cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, and diabetes
• Or eliminate half of the hunger in the entire world
• Or provide grants of $20,000 to 700,000 entrepreneurs and small business owners to expand their organizations and create jobs

• Or cover the cost of housing for all 49,993 homeless veterans in the US for 18 years
• Or pay the adoption fees for all 415,000 children in foster care and provide each one with a $30,000 college scholarship

...OR we could build a wall that experts say is the least effective and most expensive way to secure our borders.
February 23 Buffet/General Meeting: Carla Marinucci

What’s Ahead in California — Capitol of “The Resistance” to Donald Trump

DoR’s February Dinner General meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, at the Event Center. The Town Hall and Social Hour will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner at 5:45 p.m. and the speaker’s presentation at 7 p.m.

Highly respected Politico reporter Carla Marinucci is back by popular demand to speak about the good, the bad, and ugly in state politics. A long-time former San Francisco Chronicle reporter, Marinucci is a veteran journalist who has won more than two dozen state and national awards. She writes a daily article for Politico.

Marinucci’s broad experience includes stints at the Contra Costa Times and the San Francisco Examiner, and she has appeared on the PBS show “This Week in California” and “Hardball with Chris Matthews.” She also appears on the Ronn Owens KGO talk show in San Francisco and has been featured on the BBC, Irish Newstalk Radio, the Australian Broadcasting Corp., and RTE Morning Ireland. She has been a guest on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and Al Jazeera, as well as “Oprah.” She also writes the Spin Cycle political blog.

The Creekside Grill will cater the buffet dinner. See below for the menu. The cost for dinner is $30 for members and $35 for guests, and reservations are required. RSVP with the form below. The deadline for payment is Friday, February 17. Those wishing to hear the presentation only are welcome to come after dinner at 7 p.m. when Marinucci’s talk begins.

Democrats of Rossmoor Buffet Dinner
Thursday, February 23, 2017 in the Tahoe Room at the Event Center
5 p.m. Social Hour — 5:45 p.m. Dinner — 7 p.m. Program

Member Name(s) ___________________________________________________________

Guest Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Phone # ________________________________________________________________

Email Address ___________________________________________________________

$30 per member; $35 per guest. Total amount submitted ________________________

Reserve by February 17. Please make checks out to Democrats of Rossmoor.

Dinner will be catered by Creekside Grill. The menu is:

• Choice of stuffed pork loin, stuffed chicken breast, or vegetarian lasagne
• Spinach salad, sliced baguette rolls, broccoli, and roasted potatoes
• Ice cream sandwiches with strawberry garnish, wine, and coffee

Put this form and your check in an envelope and either:

• Mail to Jane Williams, 2200 Golden Rain Road, #6, Walnut Creek, CA 94595
• Or leave in the Democrats of Rossmoor mailbox at Gateway.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Now almost a year old, TGWD (Thank God We're Democrats) is showing growing pains. What was simply a great social get together has now morphed slightly. It will still be a social get together, but we’ve added a discussion component. There will not be a talk by a speaker, but rather a general topic around which we can all express our thoughts. We will include a discussion leader who will serve as a catalyst for the discussion. There may be discussions at each table, or it may be one discussion for the room.

On Wednesday, February 15th, Kevin Wilk, Walnut Creek’s newest City Council member, will come kick off this new format at 4:30 p.m. in Creekside Fairway Room. At 4:50 p.m., dinner may be ordered individually from the Creekside Grill Early Bird menu. If you prefer to attend just for the camaraderie, you are welcome to do so. Cash bar is $5 per drink. RSVPs are required: please email Jane Walter at walterjane4@yahoo.com and give your name(s), the date of February 15, and whether you will be ordering dinner.

March 19 Stanford Dinner/Speaker: Donald Sharpes

Keep an eye peeled for details of DoR’s joint dinner with the Stanford Club on Sunday, March 19, right here in Rossmoor. Professor Emeritus Donald Sharpes of Arizona State University will speak on ISIS: The Collapse of a Caliphate. Reservations will be through the Stanford Club. Stay tuned for all the details.

March 23 General Meeting: Sarah Muller

Sarah Muller will speak at DoR’s General Meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m. in the Event Center. The town square/social hour will begin at 6 p.m. Muller is Vice President of External Affairs at the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH). CAPH is a non-profit trade association that represents California’s 21 public health care systems, which serves as the core of the state’s health care safety net. Muller leads the communications and advocacy work that includes advancing the organization’s policy work and legislative platform and building relationships with key stakeholders at both the state and federal levels.

Most recently Muller helped lead CAPH’s advocacy effort to secure another Medicaid waiver for California, which provides $7 billion in funding to improve care in the Medi-Cal program. Prior to joining CAPH in 2011, Muller was Director of Health Care Policy and Community Development at Working Partnerships USA, a non-profit organization in San Jose, California, where she helped develop and implement local health coverage programs for low-income families, passed a living wage ordinance for 5,000 workers at the San Jose Airport, and helped advance multiple local ballot measures that support the county’s public hospital system. She has a Masters in Applied Economics and Finance, and Bachelors in Global Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Visit [www.democratsOFrossmoor.org](http://www.democratsOFrossmoor.org) for more information
1. What We Believe: see www.democratsOFrossmoor.org/beliefs.

2. We are developing actions to support the protection of critically important benefits that Americans have funded for decades, are recent improvements, or are aspirational.

   • Health Care
     o Social Security
     o Medicare
     o Medi-Cal
     o Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
     o Improve the Affordable Care Act, don’t repeal it
     o Support the California Single Payer Initiative
     o Support VA funding

   • Environment
     o Participation in the Paris Agreement
     o Full funding of the Environmental Protection Agency
     o Full funding of the science dealing with climate change

   • Public Education
     o Quality Standards
     o Full and equitable funding
     o Increases to teacher salaries
     o Research and grant development for colleges, universities, and other National Institutes of Health, Department of Education, and Department of Health & Human Services-supported projects

   • Job Creation
     o Infrastructure construction, repair, maintenance
     o Alternative energy development and manufacturing
     o Support re-training for workers affected by industry changes
     o Housing
     o HUD funding of affordable housing projects
     o Local funding for homeless citizens
     o Development of low-cost housing, especially for people critical to the safety of the public, e.g., police, firemen, women, teachers, nurses, and other health care specialists

3. We are developing actions that support and protect Dreamers—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)—children, vetted refugees, undocumented people who have contributed to our economy, and other immigrants. We oppose the use of taxes to build “A Wall” along our more than 1,980-mile border with Mexico.

4. We are expanding our communications and support of organizations, both within and outside of Rossmoor, that share our values and support our actions.

   • Increasing the number of website links to supported organizations
   • Expanding the calendar of events, website links to articles, and other information sources.
   • Training of volunteers who can represent the DoR at public meetings
   • Development and training of DoR members who use social media to communicate our actions, opinions, and refutations of untruthful assertions by the new administration

Continued on page 6
5. We will develop working relationships with our members of Congress, our state and county officials, and our local leaders.

6. We are improving connections to our members.
   - We are expanding our outreach to the DoR members through enhancement of TGWD (Thank God We’re Democrats) happy hour.
   - Town Square meetings will include an increase in pre-meeting table representation by advocacy groups.
   - We’ll increase the information, links, and events on our Democrats of Rossmoor calendar.

**Women’s March**

DoR members joined other Walnut Creek residents in marching in Oakland for the National Women’s March the day following Trump's inauguration.

“*If ever time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin.*” — Samuel Adams
DoR 2017 Budget

DoR's budget has remained pretty much unchanged in recent years. Our budget for 2017 is $20,500. The bulk of expenses are the costs of setting up rooms for various meetings (TGWDs, the monthly General Meetings, and new member parties), the cost of wine and refreshments at the monthly meetings, the stipends we pay most speakers and, the biggest chunk of all, the cost of our catered dinners. The cost of dinners is offset, of course, by what members pay to attend—it’s the biggest piece of revenue in the Income pie chart.

Unlike many clubs, we do not charge to attend our general meetings and they are open to all, so that cost must be absorbed by annual dues paid by members. If you have not paid your dues, please use the form on page 10 to do so!

Website Statistics 2016–2017

In the last two years, the DoR website, democratsOFrossmoor.org, has had 9,222 visits and 18,659 page views. Not surprisingly, the most active month was October 2016, before the election, when we had 787 visits and 1,515 page views. Shown below are the website statistics for the last 24 months. The upticks every other month are when we post a newsletter.

Visits represent continuous browsing events on our website.
Page Views are a record of all pages viewed.

Visit www démocratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Meet Just a Few of Our New Members!

Hot off the presses! Drum roll! DoR has grown to 676 members, up over 150 from a year ago. There’s strength in numbers, and our growing strength will serve our local, state, and national Democrats well. Meet a few of our new members and make a point of welcoming them when you see them at our events.

**Patty Quick**

Patty Quick moved to Rossmoor two years ago after she retired and sold her home in Kensington, next door to Berkeley. She was a private K–8 learning specialist, mostly in Richmond. Patty said she was single and looking for the social life that Rossmoor offers, adding that she also liked the idea of low house maintenance.

“I have not been an active Democrat,” she said. “For 25 years I rented out rooms to foreign students who came to learn English.” Patty said she hosted many students from Muslim countries, and travelled to Saudi Arabia with one of those students to stay with her family for two weeks. “My daughter-in-law is Latina, and I love her family. I am shocked and appalled by the new U.S. President’s racism and want to do what I can to overturn his orders,” she said.

**Jackie Bateman**

Jackie Bateman moved to Rossmoor 17 years ago and joined DoR last fall. Why now? “In one word: Trump,” she said. Jackie was in Mexico during the nationwide Women’s March and says she found a march 35 miles outside Puerto Vallarta, where she was staying. She said over a thousand showed up. Asked if she carried a sign she said, “Hell, yes.” One side read “Respect for All” and the flip side read “Women’s Rights are Human Rights.”

**Rose Holmes**

New member Rose Holmes and her spouse Carol Dvora moved to Rossmoor from Oakland last March after she retired from Kaiser Permanente. Rose and Carol met while working to defeat Proposition 64 in 1986. Prop 64, which would have restored AIDS to the list of communicable diseases, was defeated 71% to 29%. That was also when Rose switched from an Independent to a Democrat. She says that right now she is mostly working against Trump policies. She has joined DoR’s rapid response DRAAT Team. “Now that I’m retired I have more time,” she said. “It’s gonna be a long four years.”

**Amal Moulik**

New member Amal Moulik moved to Rossmoor 11 years ago. A retired librarian at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, he has been a Democrat since he became a citizen in 1985. Amal describes himself as a centrist and a pragmatist. As a first-generation immigrant, he says that he finds the current political climate frightening. “The center cannot hold,” he said.

Continued on page 9
In January alone, we have added 84 new members!

Changes to democratsOFrossmoor.org

The website has been freshened up. There are two navigation changes. The first is that some of the navigation menu choices have been consolidated into drop-down menus. If your cursor is over Calendars, Contact, or About on the navigation menu, a drop-down menu appears. You can then click on any of the choices. See black arrow below.

The second navigation change is that when the screen is narrow—as on a phone, tablet, or a narrow window on your computer—the navigation menu disappears, and the menu icon appears at the upper right. You must click on the menu icon to see the navigation menu. (Techy talk for the menu icon is “the hamburger.”)

Meet Just a Few of Our New Members, continued from page 8

Irene and Ron Zelman

The Zelmans came to Rossmoor from Simi Valley, in Southern California. “I always felt an affinity for this area,” Irene said. They describe themselves as die-hard Democrats. “The Democrats are all about helping people,” Ron said. Both Irene and Ron marched in the Walnut Creek Women’s march and said that they were impressed by the thousands of people who participated.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
The Rossmoor Democrat

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Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

Upcoming Events

February 6 Book Club: Our Revolution by Bernie Sanders. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

February 13 Film: Wag the Dog. Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

February 15 TGWD: Creekside Fairway Room. Cocktails and Conversation, 4:30 p.m. No-host Dinner, 4:50 p.m. RSVP required. See page 4.

February 23 Dinner/General Meeting: Carla Marinucci on What’s Ahead in California — Capitol of ‘The Resistance’ to Donald Trump. Event Center, 5 p.m. town hall/social, 5:45 p.m. dinner (RSVP required), 7 p.m. speaker. See page 3 for details.

March 6 Book Club: Thank you for Being Late by Thomas Friedman. Gateway Multipurpose Room 2, 3 p.m.

March 13 Film: Being There. Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

March 14 TGWD: Creekside Fairway Room. Cocktails and Conversation, 4:30 p.m. No-host Dinner, 4:50 p.m. RSVP required.

March 19 Stanford Dinner and Speaker. Donald Sharpe on ISIS: The Collapse of a Caliphate. When available, details will be in the weekly email.

March 23 General Meeting: Sarah Muller on What Is Happening in Covered California. Event Center, 6 p.m. town hall/social, 7 p.m. speaker. See page 4.

It’s Time to Pay 2017 Membership Dues

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now …and avoid multiple email and phone reminders!

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.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information