I’ve just returned from Ireland where I learned just how very long the Irish were under the thumb of the English and just how awful it was. The English first arrived in the late 1100’s with their longbows, and then returned to wreak havoc over and over again in repressive moves, trying to subdue the Irish Catholics. Some of my favorite historical figures were leaders in this repression. Elizabeth gave away huge swaths of land to Anglican “colonizers” in her Plantations Program, leaving, after later kings continued the program, only the stoniest poorest land for the Catholics.

As a result of continued unrest, the venal Penal Laws were enacted beginning in 1607 and were not fully repealed until 1920; they prevented Roman Catholics from attending their church, from joining the military, from holding public office, from living in towns and, for a while, from owning land. Cromwell carried out a scorched earth policy against Catholics in Ireland, reducing the population by one-third, to me much like Sherman's march through the South during the Civil War.

The English crushed the Irish Rebellion of 1798 (they were not about to lose another colony). Queen Victoria was indifferent throughout the 1840’s famine, where she and her government made no effort to aid Ireland and did not even reduce the amount of foodstuffs Ireland was required to export back to England.

Ireland lost 35% of its population through emigration or starvation.

Next, in the 1914 Easter Rebellion for Irish Home Rule, the English decimated a good part of Dublin. Finally, in the Battle of Bogside in Derry in 1969, marchers in the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association marching for Catholic equality were attacked by Royal Ulster Constabulary, and then the British Army was called in. This precipitated twenty years of Troubles, not settled until 1998. I detail it all because it was so unrelenting. About 800 years of torment by England. It puts seven months of upheaval here in perspective.

This has brought to mind other historical periods. At the height of the French revolution, when governments seemed to change monthly, did the French wonder if their country would emerge intact at the end of the conflict? Caught in the maelstrom, did some people wonder what, if anything, would be left at the end?

We have cycled through some emotionally rough times in the last seven months, and we sit braced to be shocked anew each day. This is not where we want to see our country heading. After huge anxiety and stress (and about a million phone calls), we dodged the

Continued on page 2
The UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education (Labor Center) Chair Ken Jacobs will speak at the Democrats of Rossmoor monthly membership meeting on Thursday, September 28, at 7 p.m. in the Event Center. The social hour and town square begin at 6 p.m.; refreshments will be served.

The Labor Center, established in 1964, is a public service and outreach program of UC Berkeley’s Institute for research on Labor and Employment. Jacobs has been a labor specialist at the Labor Center since 2002. His areas of specialization include low-wage work, labor standards policies, and health-care coverage.

Jacobs argues that low-wage jobs, including manufacturing jobs, are a drain on taxpayer-funded programs. In a new report that he co-authored at UC Berkeley, he writes that, “new evidence shows that more than a third of workers in non-supervisory manufacturing jobs receive some form of assistance from public-safety-net programs for themselves or a family member. The costs, essentially, have been shifted from businesses paying low wages to federal- and state-funded programs, and that those low wages “in the manufacturing industry cost taxpayers approximately $10.2 billion each year in public assistance.”

Jacobs goes on to write that a disturbing trend is the dramatically rising number of manufacturing production jobs hired through temporary staffing agencies, where workers earn even less. He estimates that 50% of those workers and their families utilize safety-net programs, similar to the rate for fast-food workers. Unsurprisingly, Mississippi has the highest rate at 59%.

Jacobs states that it’s long past time for lawmakers at the federal and state levels to demand not just factory jobs—but good-paying ones that will once again provide paths to the middle class.

This is a hot topic so be sure to bring your questions to the meeting.

Best Wishes,
Patyy
Income Inequality

Income is a specific measure of the amount of money a household earns in a year. Wealth—perhaps a better measure of a household’s financial well-being—includes unearned proceeds from capital: largely stocks, bonds, and mutual funds and, to a lesser degree, inheritance.

Source: www.metrocosm.com/, data from Congressional Budget Office

U.S. Income Disparity
Bottom 40% vs Top 1%

U.S. Wealth Disparity
Bottom 40% vs Top 1%

Income Gains at the Top Dwarf Those of Low- and Middle-Income Households
Percent change in real after-tax income since 1979

Source: Congressional Budget Office

Who benefits from a higher minimum wage?

What People Think

Teenager
Works part time after school
Lives with parents
Earning extra spending money

The Reality
Average age is 36 years old
89% are not teens—they’re 20 or older
56% are women
28% have children
57% work full time
On average, they earn more than half of their family’s total income

Source: Economic Policy Institute

Since 1978, the cost of:
College tuition is up 1,120%
Medical Care is up 601%
Food is up 244%
Shelter is up 380%

Meanwhile, the pay of:
The typical worker is up 10%
Minimum-wage workers fell 5.5%
The average CEO is up 937%

Source: EPI, Bloomberg, U.S. Labor Dept.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
St. Mary’s Professor of Politics Stephen Woolpert will speak at DoR’s October 26 membership meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m. in the Event Center. Professor Woolpert will begin his presentation at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. Bring your questions for what promises to be a lively discussion!

Woolpert specializes in the U.S. Constitution, civil rights, the Supreme Court, and California politics. He is well represented in local newspapers and other media outlets, including on both television and radio, and has written op-eds on a variety of issues.

An op-ed piece he wrote earlier this year for the San Francisco Chronicle was entitled “It’s not the economy; it’s education.” In it he argues that it’s really educational attainment that separates Americans geographically, politically, economically, and culturally. In dissecting the 2016 presidential election he wrote that the major parties are becoming foreign countries to each other; he sees the solution as focusing on the yawning educational divide that underlies the political divide.

Woolpert writes that differences between voter groups in 2016 were the widest in any election since 1980. He believes that the education gap also fuels economic inequality. Americans without a college education are poorer than they were a few decades ago. Their frustration is what has fueled their distrust of government, corporations, labor unions, and the media.

Jacques Leslie, an award-winning environmental writer, wrote an op-ed piece for the Los Angeles Times earlier this year laying out how California can build a green wall around its pioneering environmental programs regardless of what President Trump does to try to destroy them.

Leslie writes that what’s at stake in this state/federal face-off is California’s ability to maintain its own rigorous environmental laws and regulations as the Trump administration loosens them at the federal level. “We’ve got the scientists, we’ve got the lawyers, and we’re ready to fight,” Governor Jerry Brown told a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in December of last year. Leslie writes that the Trump administration could seize on a California policy it opposes to justify cutting federal funding to the state. This could create a budget crisis that would potentially hinder California’s ambitious energy programs. But he argues that Trump would not likely use such a blunt instrument on the sixth largest economy in the world, since it could threaten the vast economic expansion that he has promised. Another plus for California is that utilities, significant contributors to greenhouse-gas emissions, are under state authority, not federal.

Xavier Becerra, appointed by Brown as the state’s attorney general, summed it up: “If you want to take on a forward-leaning state that is prepared to defend its rights and interests, then come at us.” Them’s fightin’ words....
Trump Administration and the Environment

Since the beginning of April, the Trump administration:

August 22: suspended a study of health risks to residents who live near mountaintop removal coal mine sites
August 22: proposed cutting the Interior budget 12 percent and cutting 4,000 jobs
August 22: disbanded the 15-member federal advisory panel for the National Climate Assessment
August 15: revoked federal flood-risk standards that included rising sea levels forecast by climate science
August 10: the nonprofit Environmental Integrity Project published a report that the administration lags the last two presidents’ terms in enforcing pollution control laws and collecting penalties
August 7: reprioritized oil development and relaxed protection in the 11-state sage grouse habitat

**August 2: rescinded the delay of ozone standards in response to a 16-state lawsuit**

June 13: canceled the rule protecting whales from fishing nets
June 12: recommended shrinking Bears Ears National Monument
June 1: pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement
May 23: proposed a 2018 budget that will cut the EPA budget by 31 percent, the Department of the Interior by 12 percent, and the Department of Energy by 6 percent

**May 10: Senate rejected repealing regulations on methane emissions**

May 5: dismissed several members of the Board of Scientific Counselors who review the research of EPA scientists and began reviewing 200 advisory boards of the Interior Department

April 28: removed the website explaining climate change
April 28: ordered a review of bans on offshore oil and gas drilling
April 26: ordered a review of national monuments

**April 22: scientists march on Washington, D.C.**

April 19: changed the climate change website, removing much of the content
April 13: announced a ‘back-to-basics” agenda and ordered a review of the Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. Rule
April 7: all four EPA headquarters employees working on climate change adaption were reassigned

“...we’re dumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere at a rate the Earth hasn’t seen since the great climate catastrophes of the past, the ones that led to mass extinctions. We just can’t seem to break our addiction to the kinds of fuel that will bring back a climate last seen by the dinosaurs, a climate that will drown our coastal cities and wreak havoc on the environment and our ability to feed ourselves.” — Neil deGrasse Tyson, Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the Rose Center for Earth and Space in New York City.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Climate change is one of the most urgent environmental challenges of our time. But how much do you know about it? Test your knowledge with this quiz!

1. How does the greenhouse gas effect work? 
   a) Greenhouse gases reflect the sun's energy, causing it to warm the Earth. 
   b) Greenhouse gases absorb the sun's energy, slowing or preventing heat from escaping into space. 
   c) Greenhouse gases directly warm oceans and cause dramatic weather. 
   d) Oceans absorb greenhouse gases, which cause the Earth's temperature to rise.

2. What is the most potent greenhouse gas? 
   a) Fluorinated gases 
   b) Carbon dioxide 
   c) Nitrous oxide 
   d) Methane

3. How much have global average temperatures increased in the last century? 
   a) 2.1 ºF 
   b) 0.6 ºF 
   c) 4.3 ºF 
   d) 1.4 ºF

4. How much have sea levels risen in the past 100 years? 
   a) 7 inches 
   b) 2 inches 
   c) 5 inches 
   d) 16 inches

5. How much have carbon dioxide emissions changed in the United States since 2006? 
   a) Increased 560 million metric tons 
   b) Dropped 480 million metric tons 
   c) Increased 230 million metric tons 
   d) Dropped 120 million metric tons

6. Which of these is considered a critical threshold for carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere? 
   a) 123 parts per million 
   b) 250 parts per million 
   c) 685 parts per million 
   d) 400 parts per million

7. What is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.? 
   a) Farming, logging and manufacturing 
   b) Producing electricity 
   c) Heating and cooling buildings 
   d) Using transportation

8. What does carbon intensity measure? 
   a) CO₂ (carbon dioxide) produced per dollar of gross domestic product 
   b) CO₂ produced per kilowatt hour 
   c) CO₂ produced per electrical charge 
   d) CO₂ dioxide produced per British thermal unit of energy

9. Which state has the highest energy-related carbon dioxide emissions per capita? 
   a) Florida 
   b) Wyoming 
   c) North Dakota 
   d) California

10. During the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, how many countries committed to doubling clean energy research and development? 
    a) 76 
    b) 195 
    c) 20 
    d) 12

Source: [http://www.energy.gov/articles/](http://www.energy.gov/articles/)

Quiz answers: 1. b) | 2. a) | 3. d) | 4. a) | 5. b) | 6. d) | 7. b) | 8. a) | 9. b) | 10. c)
On Tuesday, August 22, the Trinity Center Committee of the Democrats of Rossmoor invited board members to a small fundraiser, a “picnic,” at the home of Jeanne Thomas. Thanks to everyone’s generosity $1,193 was raised. The checks were delivered to Trinity on August 25, along with $20 in cash donated by a client of the center.

When the checks were delivered, Donna Columbo and Carole Lombard of the Center mentioned that the money could be used that very day to solve “an urgent problem with transportation” the facility faced. See the photo to the right of Emily Ehm delivering the checks.

In addition, the Committee collects money at every DoR general meeting and, thanks to the generosity of our members, we have been able to donate between $2,000 and $3,000 every year.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in Democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." — Marjorie Moore

Our Progressives’ Table at Farmers’ Market

The photo above is of a DoR-sponsored Progressives’ weekly table at the Rossmoor Farmer's Market to share information with all Rossmoorians, including those that aren't DoR members. Tabling will continue on Fridays from 10 to noon through the end of October. Contact Nancy Ward at nancyward00@hotmail.com or (408) 568-2017 to volunteer.
Membership runs January through December and costs $20 per person. If you join after August 1, pay $10 and your membership will run through the end of the year.

Check One: [ ] New member [ ] Returning member

Name(s) ___________________________________________ Date __________

Please print.

Address ___________________________________________

Phone __________ Email ________________________________

Are you a registered voter at this address? ______ As a Democrat? _______

(We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two)

Volunteer for any of the following? \_\_\_Voter registration \_\_\_Event set-up

On behalf of Democratic Party candidates & issues: \_\_\_Write cards/letters \_\_\_Phone \_\_\_Table

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