A new year begins, and the Democrats of Rossmoor (DoR) Club Board is changing responsibilities but not our focus on promoting the principles in which we so fervently believe as loyal Americans and members of the party of Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Carter, Clinton, and Obama.

I am Katha Hartley, the new President of the DoR. I am profoundly grateful to Patsy Sharaf who, thankfully, remains on our Board, and who has so successfully led our club for the past two years. I will count on her, our other Board members, and so many of you who contribute to our efforts to provide guidance and counsel as we face the challenges of 2018.

Perhaps being a Democrat is in my DNA since I was born into a large activist family who identify themselves as “Irish Catholic Democrats from Chicago.” We were expected to be knowledgeable about government and to work on campaigns, often those of family members. After graduation from college, I was the campaign secretary for an uncle who was on the Illinois Democratic Party ticket in 1960, which afforded me the great gift of meeting John Kennedy on the Friday night before the election. My husband and I were married on New Year’s Eve of that year, and we moved to Denver, his home, where we had five children and continued our work to support Democrat goals.

Our appreciation of immigrants and refugees was reinforced by the courage of our ancestors who left impoverished Ireland to build new lives in this country. My husband’s grandmother was an indentured servant who sailed from Ireland at age 14, worked for a wealthy New York family, and then used her meager savings to buy train fare “as far as the ticket would take her”—to Denver, Colorado, where she joined the Irish community there, married, and had seven children.

Six of the boys became police officers or firemen, and the only girl was my husband’s mother. She sometimes recounted seeing Ku Klux Klan crosses burning on a huge mesa outside of Denver and reading store signs saying “Irish need not apply” or “Catholics, Jews,
and dogs not allowed.” My Irish great-grandparents left Ireland, crossed the Canadian border (probably undocumented), and moved to Joliet, Illinois, where—after my great-grandfather traveled to California to find gold during the Gold Rush—they started a bakery. My story is like so many of yours…a history of brave risk-takers who, despite prejudice, discrimination, and poverty, worked courageously to build families and contribute to this country.

Perhaps like you, my husband and I were filled with hope when JFK was elected. His call to service resonated with us, and we promised ourselves that we would do what we could to respond to the call. As young parents, we participated in Civil Rights events, worked on school boards, and supported Democratic Party candidates. As an operations manager in 1967, my husband was one of the first leaders in Denver to address “equal pay for equal work” issues in his company when he changed the salary structure of his company to assure women that they would have the same pay rate as men doing the same jobs.

In 1992, after all of our children finished college and were living independently, we fulfilled our 1961 promise and joined the Peace Corps as volunteers in the Eastern Caribbean. Our two years there were life changing. Living in a third world country reinforced our view that being an American was a gift and that we had so much in common with the people we met—their longing for decent government; education and health care for their children; opportunities for work and living wages; and a sustainable environment.

Along the way, between 1961 and 2013, my family lived in several cities. We were part of the “transfer generation,” mainly husbands accepting company offers. Although challenging, we made new friends and enjoyed new experiences in the different communities where we moved. We ended our careers in southern California and finally retired to Eagle, Colorado, where we helped lead the local Obama campaign in 2008. Proudly, our team turned Eagle County blue for the first time in its history.

Now I have made my sixth move to California and the Bay Area for the first time (I chose the children with the best weather). I am happily living in Rossmoor, which I call “the great cruise ship that doesn’t go anywhere.” When a son-in-law suggested that I explore Rossmoor, I looked at the community website and saw the list of more than 200 clubs. Among them was the Democrats of Rossmoor. From my home in Colorado, I called Jane Walter, whose name was listed as the DoR contact. Jane described the club and assured me that I would be welcomed warmly. She was so right!

I’m proud to be a part of this club. I’m proud of what our members do: registering voters; calling, writing, and texting legislators; hosting informational book clubs, movies, town halls, and candidate meet-and-greets; supporting the Trinity Center; inviting excellent subject matter experts to our large events; providing social get-togethers; partnering with Democratic Clubs in Contra Costa; supporting marches and peaceful protests; and so much more. We do all of this because we firmly believe that politics should be about improving people’s lives.

So, I thank you for your confidence. I ask for your help. I invite you to continue to support the efforts of the Democrats of Rossmoor. As Paul Wellstone said, “The future belongs to those who are passionate and work hard.” In 2018 we must do the hard work of fighting the dangerous policies of the current administration. Let us unite as Americans who hear the cries of the poor, the marginalized, and the sick. Let us unite in our work to assure quality education, affordable housing, universal health care, and an environment that sustains life on earth. Courage!

Katha
January 11 Thank God We’re Democrats

The TGWD January meeting will be on Thursday, January 11, at 4:30 p.m. in the Hillside Complex Vista Room. Yoni Landau will speak on the “Technology of the Resistance.” Wine will be available for $5 per glass, and please bring finger food to share.

Yoni Landau is the founder of Rapid Resist. He was previously the Executive Director at Robert Reich’s Inequality Media. His background spans work at the White House and in venture capital, and he founded a campus food co-op training program. He lives in Oakland and enjoys singing with the San Francisco Choral Artists.

Rapid Resist was founded in February 2017 to leverage blue state energy in support of resistance work across the country in red or purple areas. They developed a system that uses peer-to-peer text messages to recruit for big events and requires little from local activist leaders. When someone is interested, Rapid Resist passes his/her contact info on to the organizer who can make sure he/she stays plugged in. “Text is intimate,” says Landau. “It lets people know something is really happening if someone has taken the effort to text them individually and have a conversation with them.” At last count, Rapid Resist volunteers were sending 92,716 texts per week.

Yoni coordinated with the Alabama NAACP to text to over 200,000 to register to vote online during one weekend. Rapid Resist texters were among the over 1,500 texters nationwide who participated in the Doug Jones Get Out the Vote campaign when over 1 million texts were sent during a three-week period.

Voter Registration Expands in 2018 by Carol Weed

Both experienced volunteers and first-timers are encouraged to attend a Voter Registration Orientation. The orientation will include a discussion of the nuances of the paper form and the online registration, an introduction to the supplies the group will use, and what to expect at the over fourteen different sites volunteers may choose from—both inside and outside Rossmoor. Choose one of the two sessions on Wednesday, January 17, at 1 p.m. in Gateway Multipurpose Room 3 or on Friday, January 26, at 10 a.m. in Dollar Clubhouse. To reserve your orientation date, email Carol Weed at carol4ofa@gmail.com.

During a six-month span in 2016, sixty-seven volunteers registered over 1,000 voters at multiple sites. These included live music, televised debates, retirement residences, an art and wine festival, the veterans’ hospital, farmers markets, opera-in-the-park, movies, a flea market, and ceremonies for newly naturalized U.S. citizens. This year we will be adding carpools to Tracy.

Sign-ups will be available for some sites, so please bring your calendar to the orientation. Volunteers are scheduled in pairs...a newcomer will be teamed with someone experienced. Volunteering to register voters is a wonderful opportunity to spend a couple of hours getting to know someone better, for making a new friend, or to go to an interesting place you’ve never been before—while helping to make democracy a reality.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
January 20 Women’s March Contra Costa 2018

The organizers of Women’s March Contra Costa are pleased to announce an anniversary march on Saturday, January 20, 2018. The gathering will begin in Civic Park at 10:30 a.m., and the rally is 11 a.m. to noon. The march will start at approximately 11:30 at Civic Park and will circle downtown Walnut Creek. The event is non-partisan and all are welcome to attend.

Marchers can expect to feel empowered by inspirational speakers, including local citizens committed to protecting the rights, safety, health, and freedoms of all families, including those whose rights are under threat. Visit womensmarchcontracosta.org to RSVP, donate, volunteer, or to learn more about the Women’s March Contra Costa 2018.

“We must learn that passively to accept an unjust system is to cooperate with that system, and thereby to become a participant in its evil.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

Swing Left

There may be paralysis in Congress but there’s concrete action stirring in the grass roots where the voters live. The Capitol Mall had barely emptied after Trump’s inauguration when Swing Left was born. Swing Left marries the passion of Progressives with the technical punch of the Internet: the goal is to elect Democrats to the House of Representatives in November’s midterm election.

Here’s how it works: you go to Swing Left’s website at www.swingleft.org and put in your Zip code. What will come back at you is a list of the congressional districts nearest you where a Republican won a seat in the House by fewer than 15%. When you select a district, the site then prompts you to sign up for a mailing list to receive more information. Easy peasy. In our case here in Rossmoor, the nearest to qualify is Republican Jeff Denham’s House seat in District 10, in the Valley just east of us. In his fourth term, conservative Denham has defeated his Democratic challengers by smaller and smaller margins, down to 3.4% in the last 2016 election. Swing Left is up and running full tilt all across the country. This is grass roots organizing at its purest—it’s time to get really hands-on serious about swinging red states to blue in November!

If you are interested in California District 10 Swing Left work, contact DoR member Rose Holmes at roseholmes2016@gmail.com to find out more about Swing Left Contra Costa County Voter Outreach/Registration efforts in Tracy or the Democratic Club of Greater Tracy "Go Team" canvassing initiative. Go to www.actblue.com/donate/greatertracydems/ to donate and help keep the new Tracy Democratic Club office open, as rent is only paid through March.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Holly Joshi will speak on "A World Next Door About Which We’re Blind: Race, Gender, and Commercial Sexual Exploitation" at our General Meeting on Thursday, January 25, at the Event Center. The Town Square begins at 3 p.m., followed by Ms. Joshi’s presentation at 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and there will be ample time for questions.

Holly Joshi is an Oakland native who has been committed to the issue of commercial sexual exploitation for over a decade. As the supervisor of the Oakland Police Department’s Child Exploitation Unit, she crafted victim centered department policy, formed the city’s first joint trafficking task force with the FBI, and worked in collaboration with the Alameda County District Attorney, advocates, and survivors for the successful passage of Prop 35 — California’s anti-trafficking legislation. She served on Attorney General Kamala Harris’s Human Trafficking Task Force and has taught trafficking prevention, intervention, and response to law enforcement and service providers across the country.

Joshi is a senior advisor to MISSSEY (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting, and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth), a survivor-centered, trauma-informed organization confronting the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Oakland, in Alameda County, and throughout California. She is currently a doctorate student with plans to focus her research on strengthening best practices in the field.

Joshi states, “We are all responsible for creating a society where women, girls, and other marginalized populations are free to grow and develop fully, and those who benefit the most from historical oppression have the greatest responsibility to advocate for others. Silence is participation and freedom demands action.”
Joan C. Williams will speak at the February 22 General Meeting on issues from her recent book, *The White Working Class: Overcoming Class Cluelessness in America*. The town square, which as always features information on candidates and other political issues, begins at 5 p.m. at the Event Center. Dinner is at 5:45 p.m. and Williams’s presentation begins at 7. Dinner reservations will be available later.

Joan C. Williams is a prominent feminist legal scholar whose work focuses on issues faced by women in the workplace. She currently serves as the Founding Director at the Center for WorkLife Law. Williams is also a Distinguished Professor of Law at the UC Hastings School of Law. Williams also contributes to the *Harvard Business Review* blog, the *Huffington Post*, and the *Psychology Today* blog. Williams received a B.A. in history from Yale, a master's degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Due to her numerous awards, her interdisciplinary work, over ninety academic articles, and eight books, *The New York Times* has described her as having "something approaching rock star status."

In *The White Working Class: Overcoming Class Cluelessness in America*, Williams explains why so much of the elite’s analysis of the white working class is misguided, rooted in class cluelessness. Williams explains that many people have conflated “working class” with “poor,” but the working class is, in fact, the elusive, purportedly disappearing middle class. They often resent the poor and the professionals alike. But they don’t resent the truly rich, nor are they particularly bothered by income inequality.

**95 OUT OF THE 100 POOREST COUNTIES IN THE U.S. ARE IN RED STATES.**

But tell me again how Republican politics are “good for the economy.”

Republicans say people are rich—and poor—because of their own efforts. Democrats are more likely to point to a person’s circumstances and advantages.

*In your opinion, which generally has more to do with …*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why a person is rich</th>
<th>Why a person is poor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked harder</td>
<td>Lack of effort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Had advantages in life</td>
<td>Circumstances beyond control</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rep/Lean Rep</th>
<th>Dem/Lean Dem</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked harder</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Had advantages in life</td>
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<td>21</td>
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Note: Don't know responses not shown.


Visit [www.democratsOFrossmoor.org](http://www.democratsOFrossmoor.org) for more information
2017 In Review

Book Club Books
• *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild
• *Our Revolution* by Bernie Sanders
• *Thank You for Being Late* by Thomas Friedman
• *The Art of Tough* by Barbara Boxer
• *The Glass House* by Brian Alexander
• *A Colony in a Nation* by Chris Hayes
• *Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton’s Doomed Campaign* by Jonathan Allen
• *Al Franken, Giant of the Senate* by Al Franken
• *This Fight is Our Fight* by Elizabeth Warren
• *What Happened* by Hillary Clinton

Films
• *She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry*
• *Wag the Dog*
• *Being There*
• *East Side Sushi*
• *The Visitor*
• *Dr. Strangelove*
• *Putin’s Way*
• *Now Is the Time*
• *Dr. Strangelove*
• *Putin’s War*
• *All the President’s Men*
• *All the President’s Men, Revisited*
• *The Manchurian Candidate*
• *Hugo*

Website Statistics

A Page View is a record of each time a webpage is accessed on the website.

2017 DoR Profit and Loss

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refreshments receipts</td>
<td>$1,288.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership receipts</td>
<td>11,895.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner receipts</td>
<td>11,191.00</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$24,374.25</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speakers’ fees</td>
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<td>Set ups</td>
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<td>Refreshments</td>
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<td>Catering</td>
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<td>General expenses</td>
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<td>Publications and publicity</td>
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<td>Activities</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Total Expense</td>
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Net Ordinary Income       -679.15

Net Income                $ - 679.15

The setups for both 2017 and 2018 are included in 2017 expenses, as the $2010 check for 2018 was written this December.

In 2017 we expended additional monies as donations and postage to Write2Blue. Donations were to Rossmoor Fund, Rossmoor Scholarship Fund, and Trinity.
In 2017 DoR membership reached 779, the largest number of paying members ever and 166 more members than 2016! It is gratifying to know that there are so many wonderful Democrats willing to spend $20 to support the ideals of government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." About 200 of you have already renewed membership for 2018. Thank you for making my job easier. I look forward to receiving all the rest of the membership renewals before the end of January.

Because it is an election year, 2018 will be a busy and exciting time for active Democrats. The club's outreach programs through the mediums of texts, phone calls, and post cards will be humming. The DRAAT group will continue phoning elected officials to let them know what we want them to do and thank them when they follow through. Club volunteers will be helping overturn the Republican Congressman in Tracy, our neighboring district. Interesting speakers will again enliven our general meetings, while the book club and films will expand our minds and give us the opportunity to share our thoughts and feelings. 2018 is sure to be a year for Democrats to share their outrage and work together to change things around. I look forward to meeting you all.

In the past some members have stubbornly waited until they receive notice in the mail that their dues are overdue. Please send in your dues without forcing us to spend money on a mailing. That money could help us reach 500 Democrats in Tracy to send another Democratic congressman to Washington. Follow the directions on the form on page 10 to submit your dues. With high hopes for Democratic victories in the New Year, I remain,

Sue DeCarlo, Membership Co-Director

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
My New Year’s resolution is to go on a diet after New Year’s Eve. Well, maybe Valentine’s Day. Or better yet, St. Patrick’s Day.

Among Americans who plan to make a 2018 resolution, 12% report they want to be a better person, and 12% say they want to lose weight. Exercising more, eating healthier, and getting a better job each garner 9%, while 7% want to improve their overall health. 6% of U.S. residents resolve to kick the smoking habit, and another 6% plan to spend less and save more money. 30% mention another resolution altogether.

My wife challenged me to make a New Year’s resolution I can keep... So I’m determined and committed to becoming fatter, lazier, and older this year...

Among Americans who plan to make a 2018 resolution, 12% report they want to be a better person, and 12% say they want to lose weight. Exercising more, eating healthier, and getting a better job each garner 9%, while 7% want to improve their overall health. 6% of U.S. residents resolve to kick the smoking habit, and another 6% plan to spend less and save more money. 30% mention another resolution altogether.
Upcoming Events

There will be no Book Club or Write2Blue meetings in January.

January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, Flip Red Votes Phone/Text Banks: Gateway Oak Room, 4–6 p.m.

January 8 Film: NPR's and Frontline's Poverty, Politics and Profit. Peacock Hall, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

January 11, TGWD: Yoni Landau, the founder of Rapid Resist, on Technology of the Resistance. Hillside Complex Vista Room 4:30–6:30 p.m. See page 3 for details.

January 17, Voter Registration Orientation: Gateway MPR 3. 1 p.m. See page 3 for details.

January 25, General Meeting: Holly Joshi on Combating Human Trafficking. Event Center, 3 p.m. social/town square; 4 p.m. speaker. See page 5 for details.

January 26, Voter Registration Orientation: Dollar Clubhouse. 10 a.m. See page 3 for details.

February 5 Book Club: Hacks by Donna Brazile. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

February 6, Write2Blue: Creekside Mulligan Room, 2–4 p.m.

February 7, 14, 21, & 28, Flip Red Votes Text/Phone Banks: Gateway Oak Room, 4–6 p.m.

February 8 TGWD: Hillside Complex Vista Room 4:30–6:30 p.m.

February 12 Film: to be determined. Peacock Hall, 1 & 7

February 22 Dinner and General Meeting: Joan Williamson on The White Working Class—Overcoming Class Cluelessness. Event Center, 5 p.m. social/town square; 5:45 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. speaker. See page 6.

It’s Time to Pay 2018 Membership Dues

It's the time of year to renew your DoR membership for just $20 for all of 2018. Please don't delay!

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 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