President Katha Hartley’s Message

We, the Democrats of Rossmoor, have made good progress since our last newsletter was published.

We have increased our membership exponentially in the last year and continue to do so with our renewals. If you have not already joined or renewed, please do so.

We have increased our texting group, the group that helped elect Democrat Senator Jones in Alabama. We have increased our Swing Left Go Team, the people who go to Tracy to canvass, identify issues, and register voters in the effort to flip that Congressional district from red to blue.

We have invited Democratic Party candidates to speak in Rossmoor—to introduce them and to hear the plans they want to implement when we vote them into office. We are calling and writing legislators. We are focused on this election.

My message is—We will NOT be distracted.

We will not be distracted by the all too familiar and empty words, “Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims.” We grieve and support the students of Parkland, Florida, and the families there—more victims of the inaction of the Congress. We must flip this Congress to elect people who are not in bed with the NRA.

We will hold our AD16 Assemblywoman Catherine Baker accountable. She claims to be a moderate Republican, but she abstains or opposes common sense gun control bills. We will support the student movement that has begun in Parkland and find a way to participate with them on March 24 as they call national attention to the need for gun control. We will not be fooled by the NRA’s false claims.

Our Congressman Mark DeSaulnier is focused on gun violence prevention and recently held a Town Hall attended by more than 700 people, including many Rossmoorians. We continue to support him.

We will not let the reality–show-type behaviors that we witness distract us from the work we must do in the next eight months to flip the Congress and make America a bastion of liberty again.

We will not be distracted by the accusation that the people we have sent to Congress to represent us are traitors because they didn’t clap for the “most dangerous man’s” State of the Union speech.

Think of the dictators who made accusations similar to those of the 45th President. Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini, rose to power by

Continued on page 2
condemning and suppressing those in opposition, by calling the press “enemies of the people,” by sowing doubt and dissension, by identifying specific ethnic groups or races as dangerous criminals, contributors to economic problems, by calling those in opposition traitors. You remember...Jews, Muslims, Blacks, Catholics, Mexicans, Gypsies, the LGBT community—and now we have Red States pitted against Blue, the less educated against the college educated.

Even in our early colonial days, the British occupiers suppressed the press, arrested opponents of the king, and called the founders of our republic “traitors.” Nathan Hale, Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry—all wanted for treason! You know of Paul Revere’s call to arms; we also honor Sybil Ludington, Revolutionary War heroine, who on April 26, 1777, called out the volunteer militia by riding through the night, alone on horseback, at the age of 16, alerting the countryside to the burning of Danbury, Connecticut, by the British. Now we are being led by 16, 17, 18-year-old students who call us to stand against the tyranny of the NRA by banning assault weapons.

Fortunately, our founders fought the fight to create this republic. We are now called to protect it.

This president calls our representatives traitors because they didn’t clap??? If they are traitors, then I stand with them in resistance to the policies that undermine this nation.

Let us Make America Clap again...for all the right reasons by changing this Congress to Blue!

We will not be distracted by the failed Nunes memo, the attacks on the FBI, the Intelligence Community, the accusation that the Russia investigation is a witch hunt and hoax.

Be clear. Our elections are threatened by Russian interference. Let me quote Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona:

“In 2016, the Russian government engaged in an elaborate plot to interfere in an American election and undermine our democracy.

“The latest attacks on the FBI and Department of Justice serve no American interests—no American interests—no president’s, no president’s, only Putin’s. The American people deserve to know all of the facts surrounding Russia’s ongoing efforts to subvert our democracy, which is why Special Counsel Mueller’s investigation must proceed unimpeded. Our nation’s elected officials, including the president, must stop looking at this investigation through the warped lens of politics and manufacturing partisan sideshows. If we continue to undermine our own rule of law, we are doing Putin’s job for him.”

So, let Mueller do his work while we refuse to be distracted.

We must focus on what’s happening to our environment protections; by the attempts by Pruitt of the EPA to dismantle the Clean Power Plan and the Clean Air and Water acts; by Zinke of the Interior opening coastal drilling; by the dismantling of the Consumer Protection Agency; by attempts to cap Medicaid, by ongoing work to eliminate the Affordable Care Act; and by attempts to suppress voting.

We are committed, with neighboring Democratic Party clubs and other groups, to work to restore the Congress to a body of morality and integrity. We will be vocal about our support of the Democratic Party and the principles we support.

I have something to ask of you! We have eight months left—just eight. I ask you to contribute your time and treasure to one or more of the groups that are fighting this administration for us. Look for what we do on our website and at our meetings...and JOIN!

Join us during these next eight months to make a difference, to be able to say to our families, our children, grandchildren, friends, and relatives that we took a stand!

And, on behalf of the Democrats of Rossmoor, I thank you for whatever contribution you can make!

Katha
March 8 Thank God We’re Democrats

The TGWD January meeting will be on Thursday, March 8, at 4:30 p.m. in the Creekside Club Room. The speaker will be Diane Becton. Wine will be served at $5 a glass. Please bring snacks to share.

Becton was appointed to Contra Costa County District Attorney in 2017 and became the first African American and first female to serve in that office.

Becton's appointed term will end in January 2019, and she is running in the 2018 election for Contra Costa District Attorney. “I’m here because I want to do what I’ve done for the last 22 years as a judge, and that is to stand for what is right,” Becton has said. “My mission is clear, and that is to make Contra Costa County a place that is safer for everyone while we’re promoting fairness and justice in our system.”

March 16 Voter Registration Orientation

As both January voter registration orientations were filled up, another orientation is scheduled for March 16 9–11 a.m. in Gateway Multipurpose Room 3. Both experienced volunteers and first-timers are encouraged to attend. 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 sixteen different sites volunteers may choose from—both inside and outside Rossmoor.

Sites may include 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. There will also be 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. Registering voters is a fun, social way to reach out to underserved communities and keep democracy alive.

To reserve a space at the March 16 orientation, email Carol Weed at carol4ofa@gmail.com.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Dr. George Lakoff will speak on “How Progressives Win” at our General Meeting on Thursday, March 22, at the Event Center. The Town Square begins at 6 p.m., followed by Dr. Lakoff’s presentation at 7 p.m. Snacks and wine will be served, and there will be ample time for questions.

Starting in the 1980s, Dr. Lakoff’s research began to reveal the connection between the brain’s circuitry and political belief systems. He has since become nationally recognized for his books on how to effectively frame values and political discourse.

Called the father of framing by the New York Times, Lakoff’s many publications explain how framing is about ideas: ideas that come before policy, ideas make sense of facts, ideas that are proactive not reactive, positive not negative, ideas that need to be communicated out loud every day in public.

Dr. Lakoff will speak to the themes contained in his recent book entitled The ALL NEW Don’t Think of an Elephant! Know Your Values and Frame the Debate. The book shows how framing works, how framing has evolved in the past decade, how to speak to people who harbor elements of both progressive and conservative worldviews, and how to counter propaganda and slogans. (The April 2 DoR book club will be discussing the book.)

Lakoff urges progressives to go beyond the typical laundry list of facts, policies, and programs and to present a clear moral vision to the country—one that can become a guidepost for developing compassionate, effective policy that upholds citizens’ wellbeing and freedom.

Lakoff graduated from MIT in 1962 (in mathematics and literature) and received his PhD in linguistics from Indiana University in 1966. He taught at Harvard University, at the University of Michigan, and at Stanford, before coming to the University of California at Berkeley in 1972. He retired from there as Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics. He is now Director of the Center for the Neural Mind & Society at U.C. Berkeley.

“People do not necessarily vote in their self-interest. They vote their identity. They vote their values. They vote for who they identify with.” — George Lakoff

“With the same information being used as a base, the "frame" surrounding the issue can change the reader's perception without having to alter the actual facts. In the context of politics or mass-media communication, a frame defines the packaging of an element of rhetoric in such a way as to encourage certain interpretations and to discourage others. For political purposes, framing often presents facts in such a way that implicates a problem that is in need of a solution. Members of political parties attempt to frame issues in a way that makes a solution favoring their own political leaning appear as the most appropriate course of action for the situation at hand.” — Wikipedia

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
April 12 Thank God We’re Democrats

Supervisor Malia Cohen will speak at the Thursday, April 12 TGWD meeting, which will begin with a social time at 4:30 p.m. in the Club Room at Creekside. Wine will be available for $5 a glass; please bring finger foods to share.

Cohen currently serves as chair of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors’ Budget and Finance Committee. She is a candidate to represent the State Board of Equalization’s second district, representing nearly 10 million people in California’s 24 coastal counties stretching from the Oregon border to Santa Barbara and including Contra Costa County.

April 26 General Meeting

The speaker for the April 26 General Meeting will be Senator Kevin de León. The General meeting will be at the Event Center with social time and town square at 6 p.m. and the speaker at 7 p.m. Refreshments

After years as an educator teaching U.S. citizenship courses, de León became a community organizer. Following years as an advocate for teachers and public schools with the National Education Association and the California Teachers Association, de León served in the California State Assembly representing the 45th Assembly District. He was elected to the State Senate in 2010 and was elected Senate President Pro Tempore in 2014. A member of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, he is the first Latino to hold the former position in over 130 years.

On October 15, 2017, de León announced his bid to unseat incumbent United States Senator Dianne Feinstein in the 2018 Senate race.

At last weekend’s California Democratic Party State Convention, delegates declined to endorse Senator Dianne Feinstein’s re-election bid. Feinstein is way ahead in most polls and has a huge fund-raising advantage over de León. However, the vote is the latest indication of disenchantment with Feinstein, 84, among the party’s grass-roots advocates. Feinstein’s showing was particularly stark given her status as a Democratic institution. De León drew 54 percent of the vote compared with 37 percent for Feinstein.

Senator de León is the son of a single immigrant mother who supported her family in a San Diego barrio working as a housekeeper and other pick-up jobs. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school and college. He attended U.C. Santa Barbara and graduated from Pitzer College at the Claremont Colleges with honors. He is a Rodel Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California. He has one daughter.
On February 23rd, 2500+ Democratic Party delegates and observers came together in San Diego for the party’s annual convention. They were energized, focused, and unified in their goal of returning our country to a nation governed by those who build—not repeal, who preserve—not degrade, who protect—not endanger, who encourage voting—not suppress it, who repair—not defund.

Major candidates included Sen. Diane Feinstein, Senator Pro Tem Kevin de León, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Xavier Becerra and his election opponent, Dave Jones, Secretary of State candidate Alex Padilla, Superintendent of Public Instruction candidate Tony Thurmond, and more. Democratic Party activists like Tom Steyer exhorted the attendees to resist Trump Administration attacks on voting, affordable health care, environmental protections, and the influence of dark money on elections.

Other notable speakers included Nancy Pelosi’s daughter Christine Pelosi who urged women to run for office and fight the male dominated hierarchy in Congress. Kamela Harris noted that working class resentment should be directed at the current administration and that Democrats should remember what unites us. The most rousing speech of all took place on Saturday afternoon when Representative Maxine Waters absolutely took Donald Trump and his administration to task. The main mission of the Democratic convention in an election year is for the delegates to vote on competing candidates for statewide offices, after they have heard them speak. In this way the party endorses its chosen candidates for each office. This year the votes were evenly split so that there was no consensus/endorsement for the candidates for U.S. Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General. It was a surprise that big names like Dianne Feinstein and Gavin Newsom were unable to achieve enough votes to garner the party endorsement. This will make California’s June primary very interesting. However, there was general agreement that “California was not a part of this nation when it began, but we are certainly the key to its future.”

All of the candidates vowed their continuing opposition to fracking, to drilling off the coast of California and everywhere else in the nation, to accepting donations from corporations and big oil/coal. They agreed to preservation of our wetlands, national parks/monuments, to developing “smart” desalination techniques, to “regenerative agriculture.”

Members of an Environmental Protection Panel encouraged attendees and all Californians to register their opposition to offshore drilling and mining by going to the Bureau of Ocean Energy and Management (www.BOEM.gov) website where citizens can submit opposition statements. The specific target is BOEM-2017-0074-0001. All submissions are due by March 9, 2016.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi commanded the Republican Congress to “Get Out of the Way!” To get out of the way of health care for all, of preserving the environment, of protecting seniors, students, the vulnerable with rational gun control legislation, preservation of Social Security and Medicare, protections of Dreamers, and free college and vocational training.

Democrats are supporting teachers and students by opposing guns in schools and working to develop teacher housing and higher salaries.

The message to the Republican Congress is, “You repeal and NEVER replace! Democrats promote healthcare for all!” “You offshore and

Continued on page 7
Trinity Center News

In case you didn’t know, the plastic containers that you see on the tables at our General Meetings are for donations to Trinity Center, the designated charity of the Democrats of Rossmoor. Trinity Center will soon be temporarily moving to South California Boulevard (the old Kentucky Fried Chicken/Baja Fresh building). The old building on Trinity Avenue will be demolished to make room for the new St. Paul’s Common housing project, which will have 45 very low-income studio and one-bedroom apartments. The new permanent Trinity Center headquarters will be housed on the ground floor of that apartment building, which is expected to open in 2020.

At the February dinner meeting, the audience very generously contributed $306 for Trinity, a sum twice the size of our usual collection. The DoR Trinity Group added that to money collected among themselves and their friends, and the result was we were able to give a check for $455 to Trinity for their present food emergency, which involves their lack of a certified kitchen at the present location. The California Boulevard location has a professional kitchen.

BENEFIT FOR GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZING IN CA DISTRICT 10

Sunday, March 4, 4–7 p.m. at Temple Isaiah Social Hall, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette

Swing Left is partnering with the Tracy GO Team to raise crucial funds to support grassroots organizing in San Joaquin County to take back CA-10! The Tracy GO Team is an all-volunteer grassroots effort that has already made great progress toward the goal of unseating the vulnerable Republican Jeff Denham in November. They still need funding to continue their work through November so that Democrats can win this seat and other races in this district. Guest speakers include Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Congressman Jerry McNerney. Enjoy live music, food & drink, and more... For more information and tickets, go to www.tinyurl.com/March4GO.

We can’t fix Denham. But our help and our $ can send Denham home.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
**Upcoming Events**

**March 5 Book Club:** *Fire and Fury* by Michael Wolf. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

**March 6, Write2Blue:** Gateway Multipurpose Room 2, 3 p.m.

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

**March 8, TGWD:** Diane Becton, candidate for CCC District Attorney. Creekside Club Room, 4:30–6:30 p.m. See page 3 for details.

**March 12 Film:** Frontline’s *War on the EPA*. Peacock Hall, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**March 16, Voter Registration Orientation:** Gateway MPR 3. 9–11 a.m. See page 3 for details.

**March 22 General Meeting:** Dr. George Lakoff. Event Center, 6 p.m. social/town square; 7 p.m. speaker. See page 4 for details.

**April 2 Book Club:** *The ALL NEW Don’t Think of an Elephant! Know Your Values and Frame the Debate* by George Lakoff. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.

**April 3, Write2Blue:** Creekside Mulligan Room, 2–4 p.m.

**April 4, 11, 18, & 25, Flip Red Votes Text/Phone Banks:** Gateway Oak Room, 4–6 p.m.

**April 9 Film:** *Jesus Camp*. Peacock Hall, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**April 12 TGWD:** Malia Cohen, candidate for State Board of Equalization. Creekside Club Room, 4:30–6:30 p.m. See page 5 for details.

**April 26 General Meeting:** Kevin de Leon, candidate for U.S. Senate. Event Center, 6 p.m. social/town square; 7 p.m. speaker. See page 5 for details.

---

**It’s Time to Pay 2018 Membership Dues**

Please save us phone calls and a stamp—renew your DoR membership for all of 2018!

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.