Welcome to 2019, the prelude to one of the most important years of our lives—2020. What a year the Democrats of Rossmoor had! Our support of Democratic Party candidates and principles was unprecedented, and our work contributed significantly to the Blue Wave enjoyed in California and throughout the country—a 40 (hopefully 41) seat gain for Democrats in the House and the election of bold progressives down the ballot.

We can be so proud of the leaders of our efforts. The texting genius, Susan Lewis, and her team of 147 sent more than 4 million texts, actually a full 8% of the entire MoveOn effort focused primarily on Get Out the Vote for U.S. House and Senate elections. Not only did Susan's team send texts, they received responses like,

• “Yes, yes, yes. Will absolutely be voting blue, trying to save our country and our democracy.”
• “No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. I wouldn’t feel right about myself if I didn’t contribute. Thanks for helping to get me involved. You rock!”

Yes, you DO rock, Texting Team!

We are so grateful to the chocolate and comradery provider, Tricia Spiegel, whose Write2Blue group sent 11,000 handwritten postcards to registered Democrats on behalf of Andrew Janz who was a threat to Devin Nunes. Watch out, Nunes! In 2016, he won by 75%. In 2018, that number was reduced by 20%. We're coming for you. Tricia’s group sent 2,000 postcards in support of our newly elected Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. In 2020, two Write2Blue groups will combine to create an even stronger force that will increase numbers of writers and postcard messages sent.

Rose Holmes, canvasser extraordinaire, led our effort to elect Josh Harder in his race against Jeff Denham—in CD10, the congressional district next door. Josh was elected, defeating one of the targeted flippable Republicans in California. Rose’s group drove to Tracy and other district towns. They knocked on doors, asked issue questions, registered voters, and worked to Get Out the Vote when voting began. We helped with fundraisers and phone calls. What a fabulous effort and great success.

Yes, you DO rock, Texting Team!
President's Message, continued from page 1

Carol Weed organized 172 volunteers to register voters throughout Contra Costa—adding 750 to the 1000+ that were registered in the last election. Our volunteers at Gateway were happy to help several Rossmoorians change their parties from Republican to Democrat.

Individual Rossmoor Democrats hosted meet-and-greets and fund-raisers for our newly elected Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, while Tricia’s group wrote on her behalf. We phone banked for Rebecca, canvassed for her, and featured her at all of our monthly events. We delivered!! We also promoted Iman Novin and Spencer Dress for the Walnut Creek City Council. Lessons were learned, and we encourage rising stars to continue public service.

Our speakers were inspirational! Proudly we heard:

- Our Attorney General Xavier Becerra
- CA Senator Kevin DeLeon
- Newly elected Treasurer Fiona Ma
- Newly elected Board of Equalization member Malia Cohen
- Our local candidates Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Lynn Mackey, and Bob Hockett
- Newly elected Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis
- Our District Attorney Diana Becton, whom we featured and helped win in the June election
- POLITICO’s Carla Marinucci
- Jennifer Newsom (subbing for our new Governor Gavin)
- Former Mayor Willie Brown,
- Our great Congressman Mark DeSaulnier,
- Former Ambassador Michael McFaul
- Senator Dianne Feinstein and Captain Sully Sullenberger.

We should congratulate ourselves, but we must not rest on our laurels. In 2019, we will continue to oppose the destructive administration that threatens so much of what we hold dear. We will begin the work of identifying, vetting, supporting, and preparing for the 2020 election battles. We are strong, we are relentless, we are brave, and we commit ourselves to our children, their children and their children, to the children we don’t know, those who are not yet born but who depend on us to leave them a country that protects and values them and a planet on which they can live.

Finally, a special thanks to Marilyn Davin, who has devoted herself to the Board of the DoR for more than nine years by writing content for our newsletter, composing all of our advertising and articles for the Rossmoor News, and for being an incredibly creative Progressive View columnist and manager. Marilyn has retired from the Board. We will miss her greatly and will hold her to her promise to help us whenever we ask.

Get ready, everyone! And thank you for your participation, donations, marching, calling, canvassing, texting, convincing, and voting! Don’t forget—you belong to the largest Democratic Party Club in the nation!!

Katha Hartley
Join us for the third annual Contra Costa Women’s March on Saturday, January 19, at Civic Park in Walnut Creek. The gathering will begin in Civic Park at 10:30 a.m., with the rally starting at 11:00 a.m. The march will start at approximately 11:30 a.m. at Civic Park and will circle downtown Walnut Creek.

Women's March Contra Costa is a local, grassroots organization dedicated to promoting intersectionality and inclusivity. Our organization is distinctly independent of Women’s March, Inc., a national organization. Women’s March Contra Costa is independently funded and does not share any leadership, decision-making input or financial connection to Women’s March, Inc.

Women’s March Contra Costa is a local movement dedicated to empowering, educating and mobilizing citizens of Contra Costa County to stand together in support of civil liberties and protecting our planet. Our focus is to support, educate and organize events providing meaningful connections, and to speak out against intolerance.

The event is non-partisan, and all are welcome to attend.

January 24 — General Meeting

DoR’s January meeting speaker will be Jennifer Granholm. She will speak on the state of the Democratic Party, prospects for 2020, and the state of the union post-election.

Granholm served as the Attorney General of Michigan 1999–2003 and as the Governor of Michigan from 2003–2011. She was a member of the presidential transition team for Barack Obama before he assumed office. After leaving public office, Granholm took a position at U.C. Berkeley and, with her husband Daniel Mulhern, authored A Governor's Story: The Fight for Jobs and America's Future. Additionally, Granholm was a supporter of Obama’s re-election campaign in 2012 and Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

Granholm is currently a distinguished Adjunct Professor, UC Berkeley School of Law and Goldman School of Public Policy; and Senior Research Fellow, Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute and Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society. She is also a senior political reporter for CNN.

Join us in the Event Center on Thursday, January 24, for our Town Square/social hour at 6 p.m. and our speaker Jennifer Granholm at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

“I often wonder whether we do not rest our hopes too much upon constitutions, upon laws, and upon courts. These are false hopes; believe me, these are false hopes. Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. While [liberty] lies there it needs no constitution, no law, no court to save it.” — Learned Hand
February — Thank God for Democrats

The February TGWD event is still in the planning stages. In February, please check the website at www.democratsOFrossmoor.org or the weekly email for information.

February 21 — Dinner and General Meeting

Our February meeting speaker will be Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. He will speak on The House in Action: Our Goals and Priorities.

DeSaulnier has served as our U.S. Representative for California's 11th congressional district since 2015. He previously served in the California State Legislature, representing State Senate district 7 2008–2015 and State Assembly district 11 from 2006–2008. He also served as a Contra Costa County Supervisor (1994–2006) and on the Concord City Council (1991–1994).

Join us in the Event Center on Thursday, February 21, for our Town Square/social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 5:45 p.m. and our speaker Congressman DeSaulnier at 7 p.m. All are welcome, but reservations for dinner are required by Friday, February 15, using the RSVP form below.

DEMOCRATS OF ROSSMOOR DINNER/GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, February 21, 2019, in the Event Center
5 p.m. Town Square/Social — 5:45 p.m. Dinner — 7 p.m. Speaker
Speaker: Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

Member Name(s) ____________________________________________

Guest Name(s) ____________________________________________

Phone # _________________________________________________

Email Address ____________________________________________

Reserve by February 15. Members and guests $36. 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.

Menu catered by Scotts: hors d'oeuvres; salad with mixed greens, cucumber, tomato, and poppy seed vinaigrette; rolls; garlic mashed potatoes; seasonal vegetables; chocolate mousse; wine; and coffee. Check one entree below for each person:

☐ Salmon Alla Bella: salmon dipped in egg and Parmesan cheese with a lemon caper butter sauce
☐ Chicken Picatta: chicken breast, shiitake mushrooms, Marsala wine, garlic, capers, & demi glace
☐ Vegetarian Wellington: vegetarian selection wrapped in puff pastry

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
Total African Americans in the U.S. House:

1933:
- 1 Democrat
- 1 Republican

2019:
- 54 Democrats
- 1 Republican

Total women in the U.S. House:

1989:
- 16 Democrats
- 13 Republicans

2019:
- 89 Democrats
- 13 Republicans

Giving someone else equal rights does not infringe or take away rights from you. It just makes it illegal to enforce your prejudice and hate. It’s that simple.

Liberals love facts because facts make you smarter. Conservatives hate facts because facts make you liberal.

There were 307 mass shootings in 2018 and you can still buy guns at Walmart.

COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING; KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS; WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.

Henry Ford
Otto Schnepp by Marilyn Davin

Life-long Democrat, DoR member, and past Club president Otto Schnepp died peacefully in his sleep early this month. He was 93 years old.

Otto assumed DoR’s presidency during a particularly tumultuous period around the time of the 2008 presidential election when the Club was split into dissenting factions. Communications at that time, years before the dawn of DoR’s electronic age, were relatively primitive; the newsletter was copied and stuffed into envelopes by DoR volunteers before being snail-mailed to the membership. Otto brought a sense of order and calm to DoR’s management.

As former head of USC’s Department of Chemistry, he was experienced in managing groups and introduced organized agendas for the first time to the Club’s monthly board meetings. Though there was some grumbling about Otto’s insistence on ending the meetings at noon on the dot, sometimes in a board member’s mid-sentence, he brought down the emotional temperature of the meetings, more formally separated board tasks according to board members’ skill sets, and generally brought order to the Club’s leadership. Otto’s two-term presidency left the club in a far better place than how he found it when he agreed to become its president.

DoR will host a memorial for Otto, probably at some point in February when his two adult daughters have worked out invitations and other details. There will also be a memorial in Israel, where one of his daughters lives and where he taught at Haifa’s technical university for 11 years. Details on the Rossmoor memorial will be forthcoming as the time and place are worked out so that all who wish to honor his life may attend. Stay tuned.

“*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*” — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Post Turtle?

While stitching a cut on the hand of a 75-year-old farmer—whose hand had been caught in a squeeze gate while working cattle—the doctor struck up a conversation with the old man.

Eventually the topic turned to politicians and their role as our leaders. The old farmer said, “Well, as I see it, Trump is a ‘post turtle.’”

Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked him what a post turtle was.

The old farmer said, “When you’re driving down a country road, and you come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top, that’s a post turtle.”

The old farmer saw the puzzled look on the doctor’s face, so he continued to explain. “You know he didn’t get up there by himself. He doesn’t belong up there. He doesn’t know what to do while he’s up there. He’s elevated beyond his ability to function. You just wonder what kind of fool put him up there to begin with. And if there’s one thing you know, it’s that sooner or later that turtle’s going to fall.”
2019 was a banner year for the website. There were over 14,000 website pageviews (individual pages viewed by users). Due to the election, the most pageviews were in October, with a high of almost 1000 views.

The top ten webpages for the year (shown with pageviews) were:

1. Home (4,429)
2. Newsletter (3,005)
3. Event Calendar (2,350)
4. Vote! (820)
5. Join (465)
6. All DoR meetings (410)
7. Board (392)
8. Contact (385)
9. Other Democratic Club Events (319)
10. Political Events (291)

In case you have not noticed, the website has not been updated since November. While that is soon to be corrected, please be aware that we need a new Webmaster to maintain the website. If you comfortable creating a WORD or Pages document and have decent writing, spelling, and editing skills, there are only a few things to learn to maintain the website. You WILL be mentored. Please contact Jeanne Melaugh at jmelaugh@comcast.net or 954-1007 if you are interested.
Upcoming Events

January 14 Movie: *Glen Campbell...I'll Be Me.*
Peacock Hall at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

January 19 Women’s March Contra Costa:
Civic Park in Walnut Creek. Gathering at 10:30 a.m.; rally at 11 a.m.; march at approximately 11:30 a.m. See page 3 for details.

January 24 General Meeting: Jennifer Granholm.
Event Center, 6 p.m. Town Square, 7 p.m. speaker. See page 3 for details.

MPR 2, 2 p.m.

February 11 Film: *I Am Not Your Negro.*
Peacock Hall at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

February 14 Valentine’s Day

February 21 General Meeting and Dinner:
Mark DeSaulnier. Event Center, 5:00 p.m. Town Square, 5:45 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker. See page 4 for details.

It's the time of year to renew your DoR membership for just $20 for all of 2019. The club has continued to grow by leaps and bounds, and our activities and efforts have also grown. Membership at the end of 2018 was 901, 143 more than last year and 402 more than two years ago. Please save the costs of calling, emailing, and mailing you to renew your membership, as we want to save our funds for club events. Please pay your dues NOW using the form below.

Please Pay 2019 Dues before January 31

2019 yearly dues are $20.

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