We enter the season of gratitude with hope. Despite the fact that we have to brace ourselves as we begin each day hearing or reading the latest attack on the institutions we hold dear, there is hope. There is much to celebrate.

We are observing the 100th anniversary of Women’s Suffrage. In 1890, two woman suffrage associations merged into the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). It became the largest organization of its kind in the country and led much of the struggle for women’s voting rights. In 1919, the NAWSA reorganized into the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan group that continues its work today and which we invite to share recommendations during every election cycle.

In January 1918, the 19th Amendment that guaranteed women’s suffrage passed the House of Representatives. In June 1919, it was approved by the Senate and sent to the states that ratified it in 1920. The struggle for women’s rights is not finished since we still wait for one more state, Virginia, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, but we certainly have made progress. Who would have predicted a hundred years ago that in June 2019 a woman would be the Speaker of the House of Representatives? And what a woman she is! This remarkable 79-year-old mother of five is the formidable warrior who does battle for us as she checks the reckless machinations of the man who occupies, albeit temporarily, the White House.

Recently, during a now-famous White House meeting, Pelosi asked why Trump withdrew U.S. troops from Syria—a geopolitical calculation that allowed a toehold in northern Syria for Russian President Vladimir Putin. “All your roads are paths to Putin!” she stated. An impeachment inquiry is under way, and we watch and admire Speaker Pelosi’s disciplined, targeted approach to upholding the constitutional mandates that govern abuse of power.

There is more to celebrate. Despite obstructions, daily deluges of falsehoods, refusals to comply with subpoenas, and threats to career diplomats, defense department experts and

Continued on page 2
Department of Justice lawyers, current and former officials like Marie Yovanovitch, Fiona Hill, and George Kent told House investigators how the government was circumvented by a rogue foreign policy operation on Mr. Trump’s behalf. Michael McKinley, a four-time ambassador and senior adviser to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, described resigning after four decades at the State Department because of the treatment of the career foreign service. We admire Ambassador William Taylor, called out of retirement by Secretary Pompeo to assume the position of top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, who has testified about the shadow state department headed by Rudy Giuliani on behalf of the President. Assistant Defense Secretary Laura Cooper waited five hours to testify after some GOP Congressmen stormed a secure congressional hearing. These are the heroics people that have been called “human scum.” In truth, we celebrate their courage and dedication to truth. They give us hope.

The Democrats of Rossmoor are also beacons of hope. Since last spring, we have been working to support the voting rights of fellow Americans in states where they have been removed from registration rolls and have already sent 2 million texts and composed 30,000 handwritten letters of encouragement to them to reregister and vote in 2020. We are supporting our Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and will work for the other Democrats whom we will choose in our March primary. We are registering voters locally at Gateway, Farmers Markets, and other Contra Costa sites. Democrats of Rossmoor have begun treks to other states in support of candidates who can win Senate and House seats. We attend debate watches together, share information about candidates, and contribute to campaigns. Join us in these efforts and meeting opportunities.

A final thought - we are grateful for the life of Congressman Elijah Cummings who, as Speaker Pelosi reminds us, was the North Star of the House. He was a model of empathy, goodness, and integrity who never forgot his sharecropper family roots or the people of Baltimore whom he represented. Let us respond to his challenge. “When we’re dancing with the angels, the question will be asked, in 2019, what did we do to make sure we kept our democracy intact? Did we stand on the sidelines and say nothing?” The Democrats of Rossmoor will not stand on the sidelines! We will work tirelessly in 2020 to redirect our country to the aspirational journey designed for us in our Constitution—one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Happy Thanksgiving! Happy Holidays! Happy New Year! On to the work of 2020!

Katha Hartley
NO November TGWD or General Meeting

November 20 Democratic Party Presidential Primary Debate Watch Party

Please join us for the fifth Presidential Primary Debate on Wednesday, November 20, in the Creekside Fairway Room. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bring finger food to share. Beverages will be available. The suggested donation for a glass of wine is $5 and $1 for a soda. There will also be a debate December 19 in the Club Room, time to be determined.

The November debate is sponsored by MSNBC and The Washington Post. The following candidates qualified to participate:

- Former Vice President Joe Biden
- New Jersey Senator Cory Booker
- South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg
- California Senator Kamala Harris
- Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar
- Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders
- Billionaire philanthropist Tom Steyer
- Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren
- Businessman Andrew Yang

NO December TGWD or General Meeting

DoR and Survey Monkey?

The Democrats of Rossmoor are using a new tool, SurveyMonkey, for soliciting your votes, opinions, desires, and priorities. We will send infrequent emails to those Democrats of Rossmoor members for whom we have valid email addresses.

The subject line will have words that we hope will draw you to weighing in on the topic of the email. And we'll have an opening page that tells you what we're doing with this particular "survey," as well as an estimate as to the time required from you to participate. (The two most recent ones have an average completion time of less than one minute.)

The sending email (from) address will be RossmoorDems@gmail.com. Please add this email address to your contacts list.

We're using this tool because getting answers from you is much more efficient for you and for those who tally the results than asking you to reply to some question by email. Survey Monkey makes great use of checkboxes and uses open-ended questions only when it seems necessary and appropriate.

Please note that many of you opt out to what appear to be one-off items and hope thereby to diminish the spam coming to you. Survey Monkey is a good tool in part because your email address won't be shared with others—hence, no spam. If you do opt out of DoR's Survey Monkey queries, then you're off our lists for this tool, and your voice won't be included in future opinions that might matter to you. There is a process of re-opting in, but it's not an obvious process and while we'd be glad to help you, you'd have to let us know that's what you want. So please stay with us!

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
DoR’s Charity, Trinity Center, Update

The new temporary site at 1300 Boulevard Way is well settled in thanks to GREAT cooperation from the operating staff. They did extensive work getting the outdoor areas ready as well as making staff schedule changes that cover more responsibilities and changes to work hours for coordinating the new shuttle service, medical appointments for members, food recovery pick-ups, and van maintenance. Hooray!

The Safe Parking Program began on October 7 and as of October 12: there were 8 participants, seven women and one man. One of them said, “Thank you so much for doing this. Last night was the first night I slept without being afraid in months. You don’t even know how good that felt!” Participants will be receiving ongoing one-on-one case management as well as group discussions maintaining the standards and rules for the success and safety of the program.

The Evening Program is scheduled to operate from December 9, 2019, to March 27, 2020, allowing people without homes to sleep in the Walnut Creek Armory each night. Volunteers are needed; contact (925) 949-8712 or www.trinitycenterwc.org/volunteer-opportunities/.

A Marriage and Family Therapist Trainee has been added to the Trinity Center staff Tuesdays through Thursdays, offering mental health services to members and consulting with Member Advocates for crisis intervention.

The move to St. Paul’s Commons has been delayed until January 13, 2020, and tenant occupancy until late December/early January due to PG&E scheduled interruptions. A request for extension of the lease at 1300 Boulevard Way through January has been requested.

County Supervisor John Gioia and his team just made this video showing how easy it is to sign up for Vote By Mail (VBM). And, he actually did sign up. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyGkIMgGneA.

To sign up for Vote By Mail, go to www.cocovote.us/Vote-By-Mail-Request/ if no other change is needed to one’s voter registration status. In Nov 2018, 69% of Contra Costa voters were VBM, while 79% were VBM in Rossmoor.

To verify that one’s registration is correct, go to www.cocovote.us.

To make changes (e.g. address, political party), go to www.covr.sos.ca.gov/.

In November 2018, 69% of Contra Costa voters were VBM, while 79% were VBM in Rossmoor.

Visit www démocratsOFrossmoor.org for more information
If we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction.

Visit www.democratsOFrossmoor.org for more information

Why do I wish people “Happy Holidays”?  
Because from November 1 to January 15 there are about 29 holidays observed by 7 of the world’s major religions.

And I don’t think that mine is the only one that counts.

“Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes.

Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not a coincidence.”
—Emma Bombeck

“Reflect upon your present blessings—of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”
—Charles Dickens
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AB 5 — Contract Workers</td>
<td>codifies the 2018 Dynamex decision by the California Supreme Court that makes it harder for gig workers, truckers and other industries to classify workers as independent contractors. The bill provides exemptions for a host of professional and specialized services from doctors to hairdressers.</td>
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<td>AB 32 — Private Prisons</td>
<td>ends the state's use of private, for-profit prisons and immigration detention facilities. Prohibits the state from entering into new such contracts or renewing old ones starting January 1. These facilities would then have until 2028 to shut down.</td>
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<td>AB 44 — Fur Ban</td>
<td>bans the sale of new fur products such as coats, shoes, and accessories in California. Similar bans already exist in West Hollywood and San Francisco. The bill doesn't apply to used items—family heirlooms, for example, or fur used for religious reasons. Shearling and leather are also exempt. It is the nation's first statewide ban.</td>
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<td>AB 61 — Stronger Red Flag Laws</td>
<td>gives coworkers, teachers, and school staff the right to ask a judge to order the firearms removed from someone if they are believed to be a threat to themselves or others. The removal period can last up to 21 days before the subject of the order is given an opportunity to appeal the decision. Currently, only immediate family members and law enforcement officers have that power.</td>
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<td>AB 290 — Dialysis</td>
<td>crack downs on a dialysis-industry practice: signing patients who would qualify for Medicare with a company that will pay their premiums for private insurance instead, because those insurers pay more for dialysis than the government-run program. The &quot;third-party&quot; companies are nonprofits that receive a significant amount of funding from dialysis providers. The bill would allow patients already in these arrangements to continue but would bar dialysis companies from steering people to third-party payers in the future. It wouldn't go into effect until 2022.</td>
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<td>AB 342 — Oil Drilling</td>
<td>bars state agencies from allowing pipelines or other development that supports oil and gas production to cross state land, if those projects are near national parks, monuments, wilderness areas and other specially protected places.</td>
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<td>AB 879 — Ghost Guns</td>
<td>allows only licensed firearm dealers to sell &quot;unfinished&quot; gun receivers, which, with a little machining, can be assembled into untraceable &quot;ghost guns.&quot; The new regulations would not go into effect until the summer of 2024.</td>
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<td>AB 1383 — College Admissions</td>
<td>requires athletes and others admitted to public universities outside the normal admissions process to be approved by at least three administrators. Campuses would have to create clear rules for how they choose the exceptional admits, and anyone recruited to a sports team would have to play on that team for at least a year.</td>
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<td>AB 1482 — Caps on Rent Hikes</td>
<td>limits how much landlords can increase rents annually to 5% plus inflation. It would also force landlords to give a &quot;just cause&quot; before evicting tenants (right now landlords in California technically don't need a reason to remove renters from their property). Not quite conventional rent control, the measure exempts units built within the last 15 years and most single-family home rentals.</td>
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<td>AB 1505 — Charter Schools</td>
<td>adds significant regulations to the state's sector of independently operated, publicly funded charter schools. The bill gives local school boards much more discretion in approving new charters and allows districts in fiscal distress to consider financial impact, which hadn't been previously allowed. All charter teachers in California also would be required to hold some sort of state credential and undergo a background check, and new online charter schools would be banned for two years.</td>
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Continued on page 7
Legislation Signed by Governor Newsom, continued from page 6

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<th>Bill Number</th>
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<td><strong>AB 1507 — Far-flung Charters</strong>: removes a loophole that enabled the controversial practice of school districts authorizing charter schools outside of their geographic boundaries. Under the proposal, a charter school would be required to locate within the boundaries of the district that authorized it.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 5 — Redevelopment Resuscitation</strong>: allows local governments to set aside a portion of property taxes that would otherwise go to public schools and use to fund affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and infill projects. To gain this new financial tool, locals would have to apply to a new state board, whose approvals would be limited to $200 million per year.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 167 — Wildfire Outages</strong>: requires electrical utilities to prepare wildfire mitigation plans that include how to provide backup power for low-income and medically compromised people during temporary power shutoffs.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 273 — Domestic Violence</strong>: extends the statute of limitations on domestic violence abuse to five years. It would also make changes to officer training for domestic violence cases.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 276 — Vaccine Exemptions</strong>: makes it harder for parents to avoid vaccinating their children against serious contagious diseases. The bill changes how doctors provide exemptions that allow unvaccinated children to enter school, gives final say to a local public health official instead of a physician, and creates a process for investigating doctors with five or more exemptions and schools with less than 95% vaccine compliance.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 206 — Student Athlete Compensation</strong>: Allows college athletes to sign paid sponsorship deals and hire agents without being penalized by their schools or the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The bill contradicts current NCAA rules, though it doesn't allow schools to pay athletes a salary. Community colleges are exempt.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 230 — Police Training</strong>: establishes officer training programs on the new deadly force standard, and requires that basic training include lessons on de-escalation tactics, as well as awareness of mental illness, bias, and cultural competency. It also requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies that say officers must de-escalate situations when feasible, only use force proportional to the situation and intervene if they see other officers using excessive force.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 329 — Housing Discrimination</strong>: expands the definition of &quot;source of income&quot; to ban landlords from discriminating against people who receive federal Section 8 housing vouchers. Current law prohibits landlords from discriminating against tenants for reasons such as race, disability, and source of income.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 330 — Local Control over Housing</strong>: limits many tools developers say local governments artfully deploy to prevent new housing from getting built. Dubbed the &quot;Housing Crisis Act of 2019&quot;, the bill temporarily bans cities from imposing a moratorium on new housing construction, prohibits &quot;downzoning&quot; (changing zoning law to outlaw denser housing like apartment buildings), and prevents cities from raising fees during the development approval process. Intended to stop cities from wiggling out of their state-mandated housing goals, it will be in effect for five years unless re-authorized by the Legislature.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 464 — Maternal Health Bias</strong>: requires implicit bias training for doctors and nurses treating pregnant women, to improve awareness of the impact racial bias has on maternal and infant health. The bill would also require maternal deaths to be registered more consistently on death certificates.</td>
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<td><strong>SB 600 — Fertility Procedures</strong>: spells out that health insurance companies must cover certain fertility procedures for patients with medical diagnoses that indicate treatment such as chemotherapy could damage their fertility. The procedures include egg and sperm freezing, in vitro fertilization, and the freezing of embryos. This bill does not apply to the one-third of Californians enrolled in the Medi-Cal program for low-income residents.</td>
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Upcoming Events

November 4 Book Club: *The Forgotten* by Ben Bradlee Jr. MPR 2 at 3 p.m.

November 6, 13, and 20 Letter Writing/Texting (texting continues 11/27): Gateway Oak Room 4:00–6:00 p.m.

November 11 Film: *The Candidate.* Peacock Hall at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.

November 14 TGWD: cancelled

November 20 Democratic Party Presidential Primary Debate Watch Party: Creekside Fairway Room, 4:00–8:00 p.m. See page 3 for details.

November 21 General Meeting: cancelled

November 28 Thanksgiving

December 2 Book Club: there will be no meeting in December.

December 4, 11, and 18 Texting: Gateway Oak Room 4:00–6:00 p.m.

December 9 Film: *Dave.* Peacock Hall at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

December 12 TGWD: cancelled


December 22 (evening)–December 30 (evening) Hanukkah

December 25 Christmas

December 26 General Meeting: cancelled

December 31 New Year’s Eve

Trump says his life was better before he became president. I understand. My life was also better before he became president.

2020 Membership Form

$25 dues paid now are for your 2020 dues; pls use the more complete form [here](#)

Check One: [ ] New member [ ] Returning member

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________ Date ___________

Please print.

Address ____________________________________________________________

(Cell) phone __________ Email (both, if two members) ________________________________

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 ______ Info 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](http://www.democratsOFrossmoor.org) for more information