President Katha Hartley’s Message

2020 Vision – we see clearly that 2020 will be The Year of Living with Hope and Courage during “times that try men’s souls.”

In January and February, we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln, men who faced incredible threats and challenges during times that tried their souls and the soul of the nation. Now, Speaker Nancy Pelosi cautions us “the times have found us...” and, like Thomas Paine, we say, “If there must be trouble let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.”

Many of us share, “This is the election of my lifetime, and I am determined to work tirelessly to protect our democracy as my legacy for my children and grandchildren.” Perhaps our sense of urgency comes from the realization that the enemy is here among us. The unthinkable has happened; we are watching a catastrophe in the making, a President of these United States dismantling and attacking our historic institutions, the Intelligence Agencies, the FBI, career diplomats and military experts. He vilifies criticism in the Press as he works with a State News Channel that disseminates falsehood on a daily basis and acts as one of his key advisors. He weakens our attachment to our Allies, defends murderous leaders in Saudi Arabia, North Korea, and, especially, Russia. “In the wake of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s visit to the Oval Office last week (Dec. 9, 2019) Russian state TV aired a segment titled Puppet Master and Agent—How to Understand Lavrov’s Meeting With Trump and characterized the visit as an example of President Trump being subservient to Russian interests.” (Salon) And now he is impeached. Is he, at last, finally being held accountable?

Perhaps our fear is that the government on which we rely to protect us from a dangerous individual might fail. Unfortunately, that dangerous individual is Donald Trump, not Vladimir Putin. The fear is real, but we cannot succumb to depression and grief, and we cannot spend our precious time trying to understand why many Republicans are willing to put up with so much egregious behavior - 15,413 lies during 1,055 days in office.

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Extortion, bribery, insults. We cannot spend our time wondering why Republicans do not react to the fact that Trump had to pay $2 million in fines for cheating non-profit charities including one that supports veterans, a $25 million fine for swindling hopefuls who enrolled in the trumped-up Trump University. No, our time must be spent waging a noble battle and bringing a message of hope to our children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, and our fellow citizens.

So, we enter 2020 with 20-20 vision - the year of courage and hope, ready to work tirelessly to change the direction of this government by changing Administrations. We will work to restore dignity, decency, institutional strength, and our reputation as the Leader of the Free World. We must win the battle – our planet depends on it.

The Democrats of Rossmoor now have a record number of members – 1,100 and still growing. We are already engaged. From May to November, Commit to Flip Blue at Rossmoor mailed 30,000 letters to Democratic Party voters in North Carolina and Virginia to register and vote! By November 30, Susan Lewis’ Move-On Texting Team sent 3.5 million Get Out the Vote texts to Democrats in Virginia, North Carolina. And Democrats voted! We and our campaign partners have a targeted Action Plan which provides all of us opportunities to work together to achieve victory. Those opportunities will be made available during our Club meetings, on our website, updates, and newsletters, and at Campaign Volunteer Fairs in the upcoming months.

In the meantime, thank you for your work this year, for your support, for all the letters you wrote, the donations to the Trinity Center, the text messages you sent, the phone calls you made, the marches, the debates we watched, the events you attended, and the messages of encouragement you continue to give to our Board and to each other. We’re in this together – the election of our lifetimes! Here’s to a Happy and Very Blue 2020.

Katha Hartley
By Katha Hartley

Our wonderful and talented Democrats of Rossmoor webmaster and newsletter manager died on November 12th. She was hopeful, courageous, and a wonderful friend. When her cancer seemed to be in remission, I would say, “I’m so selfishly happy. The Democrats of Rossmoor can’t lose you!” Despite her brave fight, Jeanne left us peacefully surrounded by her family and friends.

Marilyn Davin wrote a eulogy for Jeanne which we share here:

“Jeanne was one of my very best friends. I loved her dearly and will miss her terribly. I’ve often pondered, including with Jeanne, what the mysterious force is that draws us to one person instead of to another. We’re left with the blunt instrument of words to describe our closest friends, what drew us to them, and what holds them tightly in the deepest chambers of our hearts.

One of my favorite quotes, sometimes attributed to Oscar Wilde but probably just written as an anonymous source somewhere and passed on, is that ‘You don’t love someone for their looks, or their clothes, or for their fancy car, but because they sing a song only you can hear.’

I like to think that I clearly heard Jeanne’s song. She was an incredibly loyal friend, and we shared a similar view of the world – not always negative but nonetheless with a critical if not jaundiced eye. We shared a slightly – actually forget the slightly – sick sense of humor that often left me with tears running down my cheeks. She was a real liberal and actually saw no differences between races, nationalities or the other human-made barriers that divide us as people. She shared herself fully; it was a gift and an honor to share our true selves – warts and all. She was always there for me, and I hope that she felt the same about me. Whether illness, sorrow, or one of a thousand other conditions that bedevils us as vulnerable human beings, she was the first to show up and the last to give up.

Jeanne adored her children and their children and always had updates on their activities. When I asked her what was hardest about raising her kids she said ‘Doing it alone.’ But as a devoted single parent in a suburban neighborhood where everyone else was married, she did it alone, and in recent years always said that what she was proudest of in her life were her kids – David and Amy.

Jeanne became even more of a night owl after her initial cancer diagnosis, and for months we spent hours on the phone every week, almost always late at night, talking through what her doctors told her and the voluminous research she conducted on-line about her disease. We even talked about how she could possibly break this terrible news to her children, an agonizing decision for her.

Jeanne would think this is getting too sad, which she wouldn’t want for us. She would want for us to remember the joys we all shared, keep our memories, and enjoy the good in life more than the bad as we keep on living. She was upbeat, knew her own mind, and lived her life on her own terms – something she would wish for all of us today.” — Marilyn Davin

Jeanne Melaugh
DoR and Survey Monkey?

The Democrats of Rossmoor are using a new tool, Survey Monkey, 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 check boxes 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!

“The common and continual mischief’s [sic] of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it. It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passion.”
—George Washington, from farewell address to Congress on 9/19/1796

“History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
**Confirm You’re Registered to Vote in 2020**

**By Carol Weed**

In California, ballots will be mailed out on February 3rd — exactly one month before our March 3rd Primary Election. For the first time, we can return ballots without a stamp. Rossmorians will again be able use a drive-thru drop off lane in the Gateway parking lot on Election Day. All CA voters have the choice to walk their ballots into their polling place — as fully one-quarter of voters did in our county in the last election. Rossmoor’s polling place will be in the Event Center, open on Tuesday, March 3rd from 7am until 8pm.

**CHECK NOW that you are correctly registered at:** [www.cocovote.us/](http://www.cocovote.us/), clicking on “My voter information”. Even if everything worked fine for you last time, check. Look carefully at every line. It should read ACTIVE at the top. Is your name spelled correctly and your street address precise? Is Permanent Vote by Mail a “YES”? Changing to permanent Vote-by-Mail (if you are not already) is easy and highly recommended for all the above reasons, and you will have a month to study and complete your ballot. In November 2018, 86% of Rossmoorians were registered vote-by-mail, (VBM). To change to be able to VBM, call: 925-335-7800.

A voter registered No Party Preference (NPP) will not be able to vote for any Presidential candidate in the Primary unless he/she takes an extra step. And, also not for delegates to any local political party. Some CA voters believe that being registered NPP gives them more choices as an “Independent”, but sadly, the reverse is true. A voter can choose or change a political party on paper or online at [RegisterToVote.CA.gov](http://RegisterToVote.CA.gov) up until February 17. If you make this change, do not use the ballot you receive unless it lists candidates for President; wait for that ballot to arrive.

A voter registered NPP who wants to stay NPP, can also request a one-time ballot at the polls in CA this March for the Democratic Party, the American Independent Party, or the Libertarian Party. The other political parties do not allow their ballots to be used by NPP voters.

Being registered in the American Independent Party is another matter altogether. It is an actual political party with its own candidates. Recently, over half million Californians who were registered in the American Independent Party thought it meant they were “Independent” voters. See above instructions to change political party if desired.

Same-day registration on Election Day will also be available at the polls for the first time in CA. These voters will use provisional ballots, but 99.9% of these are typically counted according to our county registrar. Only those with signatures that cannot be verified will be excluded. The line may be long, but if you moved just before Election Day, this is your best option.

And remember, **EVERY VOTE COUNTS.** Some elections are decided by just a few votes.

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**I WILL NOT SIT BACK AND WATCH MY AMERICA BE DESTROYED**

Visit [www.democratsofrossmoor.org](http://www.democratsofrossmoor.org) for more information
Democrats of Rossmoor, working with our partner Commit to Flip Blue, finished up the 2019 Swing Left letter writing campaign November 22nd. The numbers are amazing: 30,014 letters to potential voters mailed and 475 total volunteer writers from April to November with 90 from Rossmoor! Great job volunteers! After taking a well-deserved break, the work to engage voters will begin again January 22, 2020, in the Gateway Oak Room and continue every Wednesday 4pm to 6pm until November 2020!

Building on the great work done in 2019, many more opportunities will be available in 2020. We’ll be partnering with several organizations to broaden our impact across key swing states, where one or both Senate races are in play as well as the Presidential Electoral College. We’ll also focus on California swing Congressional Districts won in 2018 but at risk in 2020. We’ll be increasing our phone banking and post card operations and will continue letter writing and texting.

**Phone Banking**

We started a small phone banking effort in 2019 working with Reclaim Our Vote and the NAACP to call people in Colorado and Arizona who have been removed from the voting rolls. Tens of thousands of individuals don’t realize they have been purged. A call and a postcard can get many of these voters to re-register. We hope to expand these efforts in 2020. We’ll also be working with Arizona Democratic Party partners to call newly registered Democrats to welcome them to the party and encourage them to vote and get involved. We’ll be doing calls for the Colorado Democratic Party and calling our own Dems of Rossmoor and Commit to Flip Blue volunteers to get them activated for 2020 activities. Calling to recruit volunteers are easy and friendly calls.

**Post Cards**

We’re partnering with AZ Blue 2020 in Phoenix to send custom informational and friendly postcards to newly registered Arizona Democratic voters. They anticipate sending us upwards of 30,000 names and addresses every quarter until November 2020. Engaging these brand-new registered Democrats and encouraging them to vote and volunteer is central to flipping the Senate seat in Arizona and taking back the Senate. We’ll also partner with Flip the West to write postcards for California Congressional District 21 (TJ Cox), for Colorado and Arizona candidates, and other campaigns as we work toward November 2020.

**Letter Writing**

We’ll continue to write letters under the direction of Swing Left but the focus will change to a Get out the Vote (GOTV) effort instead of encouraging Voter Registration by Mail (VRBM). The effort to obtain large numbers of names of unregistered voters and the difficulty of evaluating outcomes, plus the cost of the mailings does not justify a continued focus on the VRBM efforts. The GOTV letters will be to voters in Swing States which will be mailed in mass close to the General Election in November. We’ll continue to have letters available on Wednesdays and we will also provide training for folks who wish to continue to write and mail either the VRBM or the GOTV letters on their own.

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Visit [www.democratsofrossmoor.org](http://www.democratsofrossmoor.org) for more information
Get To Work continued from page 6

TEXTING

The Move On texting team led by Susan Lewis of the Democrats of Rossmoor will continue to provide training and texting each Wednesday in the Oak room. The team of 58 texters has sent close to 4 million texts as part of the MoveOn campaign to Text Every Democrat (TED). Amazing! A second team of texters will be forming under the direction of Commit to Flip Blue working with Resistance Labs to work with Democratic County Chairs to get more Democrats to run against Republicans in uncontested seats in Arizona and Colorado and will also be available to text to recruit volunteers and work directly with candidate campaigns.

CANVASSING

Commit to Flip Blue is committing to send 10 canvassers at a time to register voters in Arizona and hope to commit the same for CO. We will be recruiting for this and also plan to fund raise to help canvassers cover these costs. Commit to Flip Blue will also be organizing bus trips from Walnut Creek to support TJ Cox and register voters in CA Congressional District 21. Carpooling from Rossmoor to CA Congressional District 10 to support Josh Harder and to register voters will be available too.

There is a lot to do come so join the effort - January 22, Gateway Oak Room, 4pm-6pm.

Dems of Rossmoor Texters need your texting help

BY SUSAN LEWIS

As you know, our country and the whole planet are in grave danger, dependent on the outcome of the 2020 elections.

Texting makes a difference.

• Voting is 8% higher for those receiving texts, between ages 27 to 50. (1% for general population.)
• Small changes in turnout matter: 5000 votes recently elected a Democrat for Kentucky Governor.

Please join us again to make a difference.

• We’re ramping up for 2020 NOW! Our current texts identify whom to text for crucial Get Out The Vote times.
• Susan Lewis is happy to give you a texting refresher, in person or over the phone. Or let her know when/if to check back in with you. She looks forward to hearing from you. Contact Susan at stlewis@amihome.com, 510-708-2851.
Help Wanted

From time to time, our webmaster needs help with adding special coding to the website. If you are interested in this, contact Gail Chesler at gailchesler@gmail.com for more information.

Smart Election Day Voters Get Ballots Early

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/ and click on My Voting Information. This is also the online site to make changes to your voter information.

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

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
Movies with Democrats of Rossmoor
Winter on Fire: Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom.

By Lynne Thorner

All Rossmoor residents and guests are invited to view Winter on Fire: Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom (2015), the January film program presented by Democrats of Rossmoor in Peacock Hall on Monday January 13th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM and again 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

This compelling documentary film, directed by Evgeny Afineevsky, focuses on the unrest in Ukraine during 2013 and 2014, as student demonstrations supporting European integration and entrance into the European Union grew into a violent revolution calling for the resignation of President Viktor Yanukovich.

Filled with amazing and powerful images of resistance, on both a personal and mass scale, this film presents a revolution in the age of pervasive cell phones and personal drones. And it leads to a combination of visceral immediacy and near epic scope in the telling of the Ukraine’s 3-month long citizens’ revolt against a corrupt, unresponsive and dishonest government. Audiences can anticipate experiencing a revolt from the inside: scary, intense, exciting – a powerful cinematic emotional roller coaster.

The documentary, which was filmed on location in Kiev, Ukraine, runs 102 minutes long and includes sub-titles. Please direct any questions or comments to Cathy Brostrand at brostrand-cathy@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 6 Book Club- 3 PM in MPR 2 at Gateway How Democracies Die by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt.

Monday, January 13 Movie- At 1 PM and 7 PM in the Peacock theater Winter on Fire: Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom. A discussion follows the film.

Tuesday, January 14 Presidential Candidates Debate. Watch party at the Event Center. Doors open an hour before the debate. Bring snacks to share.

Wednesday, January 15 Fund raiser by Contra Costa Women’s March. Poster making party for Women’s March from 4-6 PM in the Oak Room in the Gateway Complex.


Saturday, January 25 Health Forum- Co-sponsored by the Democrats of Rossmoor, the Rotary Club, and the National Council of Jewish Women and Physicians for a National Health Program to discuss the current state of healthcare in the US. Lunch provided by Atria Senior Care.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
2019 Legislation Passed by the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi

• Condemned Legal Campaign to Take Away Americans’ Health Care
• Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019
• Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act
• The Purple Book Continuity Act and The Orange Book Transparency Act aimed at lowering the cost of prescription drugs

Civil Rights: H.R.1, H.R.5, H.R.6, H.R.7, H.R.124
• For the People Act of 2019
• Equality Act
• American Dream and Promise Act
• Paycheck Fairness Act
• Opposition to banning transgender individuals service in the Armed Forces
• Gun Control: H.R.8, H.R.1112
• Bipartisan Background Checks and Enhanced Background Checks Acts of 2019

• Climate Action Now Act
• Local Water Protection Act
• National Resources Management Act
• National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019
• Banning Offshore Drilling on Atlantic, Pacific, Eastern Gulf, and ANWR Coasts

• Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act
• Directing removal of U.S. Armed Forces from unauthorized hostilities in Yemen
• Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019
• Disapproval of President’s proposal regarding sanctions on the Russian Federation
• Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act
• NATO Support Act
• Venezuela TPS Act


Do something today
THAT YOUR FUTURE SELF
will thank you for.
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

In 2020
Let the
Democrats of Rossmoor
be that small group
of thoughtful,
committed citizens!

Fear is never a word used with me.
I’m never afraid, and I’m rarely surprised.

—Nancy Pelosi

Some DoR Board Member Wishes for 2020

Steve Shields — “I’m spending the month of February in New Zealand. I’m thinking of putting down a refundable deposit on a place to live in a country where the woman in charge said “no assault rifles” and everyone went along with it. My wish for 2020 is that I get my deposit back next November and that we all celebrate in the Events Center until long past midnight that our long national nightmare is over. Happy New Year, Everyone.”

Katha Hartley — My hope is that in 2020 we will meet the great challenge of our time; that in November we unify as Democrats to elect a President who restores the dignity and reputation of our country and recommits us to the American values for which we have fought for 244 years.

Carol Weed — That the Republicans in Congress cave, and break with Trump, and that politicians of all parties stop embarrassing us in front of the world.

Rose Holmes — I hope for a blue sweep of the Senate and White House and my dream is immediate action on the climate crisis when the New Democratic President takes office.

Lynne Thorner — “In this joy-filled and hopeful Holiday Season, may the combination of Democratic decency and the power of our political activism be realized on Election Day 2020! Here’s wishing that all three governmental branches become Blue in The New Year!” Hugs and warm Holiday Wishes for You and Your Dear Ones

Nancy Meredith — My hope for 2020 is Democratic wins for the presidency and senate.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
2020 Membership Form

$25 DUES PAID NOW ARE FOR YOUR 2020 DUES.

Check One: [ ] New member  [ ] Returning member

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) __________________________________________________ Date ________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

Phone(s) _________________________ Email(s) ________________________________

Are you a registered voter at this address? __________________ As a Democrat?* _______________

Volunteer interests: ______ Voter registration ________ Event set-up ________ Data Entry

On behalf of democratic party candidates & Issues: ___ write cards/letters ___ Phone ___ Info table

Place your check payable to Democrats of Rossmoor and this form in an envelope labeled Membership and either:

(1) Put it in the Democrats cubbyhole inside the Gateway Admin Building; OR

(2) Hand it to folks at the Membership Table at any DoR meeting; OR

(3) Mail it to Joyce Brock, 2224 Pine Knoll #1, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

*We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information