As the Democrats of Rossmoor celebrate March as National Women’s History Month and Earth Day in April, let us consider two powerful figures - a courageous, American colony immigrant and our powerful feminine Earth Day archetype. The first is obscure - just one of the thousands of women whose contributions to the building of America are only now being told. The second is familiar.

Deborah Dunch was born in London in 1586, married into royalty, became Lady Deborah Moody, was widowed at age 43, became a member of the persecuted Anabaptists, and fled England for Saugus, Massachusetts – a refugee seeking asylum. Once established there, she attracted the attention of a Puritan leader who put her on trial, demanding that Lady Deborah convert or be excommunicated and expelled. She was described as “A Dangerous Woman,” (similar to the “Dangerous Woman” who leads our House of Representatives today. May we all be so “dangerous!”)

Lady Moody chose excommunication, then led her fellow Anabaptists to a place where they could peacefully practice their religion. She had money and followers attractive to the Dutch West India Company which, in 1643, offered her the opportunity to create a new community which she named Gravesend, the neighborhoods of Coney Island, Brighton Beach, and Sheepshead Bay in today’s Brooklyn. Gravesend was the first New World settlement founded by a woman. That community is interesting, isn’t it, that new American heroes like Lt. Col. Alexander Vin- dman found refuge in Brighton Beach too. Lady Moody allowed total religious freedom in Gravesend, as long as it fell within the laws of the colony. She influenced Peter Stuyvesant and acted as a business and legal leader until her death in 1659.

The archetype is Mother Earth, the concept figure of all that is our planet, the only home we have ever known. Mother Earth has been around for far longer than Lady Deborah Moody, but she was there for Deborah – providing a new, safe, dwelling place with resources that would assure a life of possibility. Mother Earth generously continues that gift, the great survival kit – water, air, dirt, trees, seeds, animals, vegetables, and minerals on which we have depended since life here

continued on page 2
began. Why refer to her as our Mother? Do we recognize the beauty, the breath-taking miracles of “spacious skies, amber waves of grains, purple mountains, fruited plains,” the warm embrace of summer days, life-giving rains, glorious sunsets, parents and newborns, no-two-the same snowflakes? Do we consider the nurturing, careful, easy-to-follow rules that Mother gives us to continue this ancient Milky Way, blue dot space journey that we travel with our children, grandchildren, and, as Elijah Cummings cautions, “the family that we will never know?” If we asked Mother Earth what she thinks of our stewardship, of our care for her gifts, what would she say? Perhaps, she’s already giving us answers in Mother Earth language. Like a good mother, she shows us what she wants. She warns us about egregious behavior, and her time-outs are redirections called floods, droughts, fires, glacier melt, more frequent hurricanes and tornadoes. She promises that if we come out of our rooms chastened and committed to changing our behavior, she will help us by embracing the repair work on which we embark. This is what love looks like.

Why choose Lady Moody and Mother Earth to be our honorifics? Why? They exemplify love, strength, and guidance. One is unsung but significant to our history and the other taken for granted but the key to our continued existence. Lady Moody refused to accept the ignorance and discrimination of her day, and our Mother Earth directs us to science and inclusion in our day, showing us that we belong to her and are in this together.

Finally, consider an April stressor. We learn more of this Administration’s values – how it spends time and our money. The tax structure was changed dramatically in 2018. It is a significant campaign issue in 2020. Benefits have gone to the wealthiest. Major corporations paid no taxes in 2018. Corporate tax cuts are permanent; individual tax cuts, if any, are temporary. The Trump 2020 budget calls for massive cuts to the insurance policies for which we paid all of our working lives: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The programs that enhance our opportunities to compete on Mother Earth suffer significant cuts – EPA, education, health care and human services, science and technology grants, foreign aid, housing, the arts, Interior protections, transportation, justice, and the State Department. The Wall and the Defense Department win. Join or renew now. We are engaged in the fight of our lives, and we offer many opportunities to contribute.

Happy Spring, and don’t forget that Mother Earth and our country need us!

Katha Hartley
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 if a couple shares one email address then only one of them gets to reply to a survey. And if we have no email address for you, you’ll miss out of surveys as well as our weekly updates. Many of you might opt out of what appear to be one-off items in hopes of diminishing 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
Once each decade, the U.S. Census Bureau attempts to count every person in the United States. The next enumeration will be April 1, 2020 and will be the first to rely heavily on online responses.

An accurate count is one in which every person is counted once, only once, and in the right place.

The primary and perpetual challenge facing the U.S. Census Bureau is the undercount of certain population groups. That challenge is amplified in California, where more residents are considered traditionally hard to count. Those include foreign-born residents, renters, individuals living in homes without a broadband subscription, people living close to or below the poverty line, and children younger than five years old.

**CALIFORNIA’S CENSUS EFFORTS**

A complete and accurate count of California’s population is essential. The data collected by the decennial Census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to state and local governments.

That is why California has launched a statewide effort to ensure an accurate and complete count of Californians in the 2020 Census. The California Complete Count – Census 2020 Office (California Census Office) is coordinating the State’s outreach and communication strategy, which focuses on the hardest-to-count residents. Working through local governments, Tribal Governments, community-based organizations and media, the state is funding work that will complement work being done nationally by the U.S. Census Bureau.

California leaders have invested $187.2 million toward a statewide outreach and communication campaign. Download the California Census Office’s one-pager (PDF)

The California Complete Count – Census 2020 Mission

Ensure that Californians get their fair share of federal resources and Congressional representation by encouraging the full participation of all Californians in Census 2020.

**KEY 2020 U.S. CENSUS DATES**

**Internet Self-Response:**

**March 12-20:** Invitations will be mailed to complete the 2020 census questionnaire online

**March 16-24:** Reminder letters will be mailed

**March 26:** Reminder postcard will be mailed

**April 3:** Reminder postcard will be mailed

**Hard-Copy Responses:**

**April 8-16:** Another reminder and hard copy questionnaire will be mailed

**Final Reminder Before In Person Follow-Up:**

**April 20-27:** Final postcards will be mailed before an in-person follow-up.

[www.californiacensus.org](http://www.californiacensus.org)
2020 Census Facts

$2000 per year ($20,000 for ten years) is the amount of our federal tax dollars that is returned to California for each person counted. Just think! If we fail to count 1000 people, we lose $20,000,000 over ten years!

Being counted is safe! Everyone counted is protected by Federal and California law. Every person with access to your data is sworn for life to protect your information and understands that the penalties for violating this law are applicable for a lifetime.

Violating the census privacy law is a serious federal crime. Anyone who violates this law will face severe penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to $250,000, or both.

If we don’t count all of the people living in California during the census, we risk losing seats in the U.S. Congress. Reapportionment of Congressional Districts happens AFTER the census.

The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies.

The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home.

2020 Census Key Dates

January 21, 2020: The U.S. Census Bureau starts counting the population in remote Alaska. The count officially begins in the rural Alaskan village of Toksook Bay.

March 12 - 20, 2020: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

March 30 - April 1, 2020: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.

April 1, 2020: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you’ll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

April, 2020: Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.

May - July, 2020: Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven’t responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

December, 2020: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

March 31, 2021: By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
The DoR Voter Registration team is inspired. Nancy Cohen, shown here in Martinez, is one of several of our volunteers who braved 28mph winds and winter weather at local Farmers Markets, helping voters who moved or wanted to change parties: Over 160 so far in 2020. This includes voters in nine retirement homes and underserved areas where larger numbers are unregistered than the state average.

State statistics show 80% of eligible voters are registered in CA — higher than since 1952! Records from 2019 show 43% are Democrats, 24% Republican, and 28% “Independent” (no party preference). That doesn’t include over a half million teenagers aged 16 and 17 who preregistered since that program started in 2016.

Swing Left (SL) and many other grassroots organizations are working to flip CA’s red districts, most located in rural areas: Far northern CA, the counties near Lake Tahoe, and in the Central Valley. Our SL volunteers are also registering voters in the battleground states of Arizona and Colorado.

Registering voters is nonpartisan; it requires close attention to detail as well as people skills. Spanish speakers are needed. Contact Carol Weed (carol4ofa@gmail.com) to sign up for a 2-hour training on one of the following: Fri 3/27, 10-12; Tues 4/21, 1:00-3:00; or Sat 4/25, 12:30-3:30. A reservation is required.
Text for Super Tuesday

It’s time! Text through Super Tuesday March 3 to Get out the Vote. Text from home or with us, the Dems of Rossmoor Texters. Contact Susan at stlewis@amihome.com for Rossmoor locations and times.

April Movie with Democrats of Rossmoor

All Rossmoor residents and guests are invited to view Where’s My Roy Cohn? a 2019 documentary directed by Matt Tyrnauer, in Peacock Hall on Monday April 13 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, and then again from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

The title of Matt Tyrnauer’s “stone-the-bastard” documentary about the corrupt lawyer, attack dog, and inhuman being who everyone loved to hate comes from Donald Trump. “Where’s My Roy Cohn?” the President reportedly shouted in frustration when his attorney general Jeff Sessions dared to recuse himself from the Russia investigation. Cohn died in 1986, leaving Trump without the mentor and fixer who helped make him the Donald that he is today.

In tracing the origins of a monster, Tyrnauer, known for docu-profiles like Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood, Valentino: The Last Emperor, and Studio 54 (in which Cohn was prominently featured), comes out swinging. We’re shown the legal eagle pushing hard for the execution of accused spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and making his name in the process. He then passes the pitchfork to Senator Joseph McCarthy and acts as his right-hand man during the Hollywood witch-hunt against com-mie infiltrators. And there’s the closeted Cohn railing against gays in the army and federal jobs, denying his own homosexuality even while having daily sex with men and eventually dying of complications from AIDS. Tony Kushner wrote Cohn into his prize-winning Angels In America (curiously not mentioned here) in a bristling portrait of a man at war with himself.

Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world... would do this, it would change the earth.

—William Faulkner

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
My day with Rosa Parks

BY JOYCE BROCK

It was 1963. I was married with two daughters who were now in school, and I had time to pursue the career in fashion I had always dreamed of. I had read in a national magazine that Jackie Kennedy, along with her wealthy friends, sold their clothes to a designer resale store in New York. There was nothing like that in Los Angeles. I knew many show biz ladies who didn’t want to be seen in the same gown twice and told them my idea of opening a designer resale store. They loved the idea, and I opened my store which became the premier resale store in the country. With the largest selection of top celebrity clothes, I became popular with the media appearing on local and national talk shows throughout the country. It was an exciting career for me for 40 years.

Now it was 1996. I received a call from a friend who was a popular literary agent. Excitedly, she said she had been hired to escort Rosa Parks around L.A. to promote her new book. She asked if she could bring Rosa to my store to dress her for a trip to Washington where President Clinton was honoring her, as the first civilian ever, to receive The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

My business gave me the opportunity to meet many celebrities, but nothing excited me like the expectation of meeting this icon of American history and one of the most important heroes of my lifetime.

When Rosa walked into my store it had to be one of the proudest moments of my life. What an honor!! The person who coined the phrase “Never judge a book by its cover” must have been thinking about Rosa. She was a living example of an outwardly modest woman who had the strength and fortitude to withstand the racism and publicity that she knew her actions would ignite.

I had already picked out several outfits I thought would be appropriate for Rosa to meet the President and at the same time compliment her petite figure. We decided on a Red Armani suit which looked wonderful on her and was perfect for this momentous occasion.

Over lunch, I had the opportunity to learn more about this fabulous woman and some of her experiences before the bus incident. She was very active in the NAACP and worked on many cases of flogging, murder, and rape. She said they didn’t have many successes because of the segregationist powers of the time, but she and all African Americans wanted it to be known that they didn’t wish to continue being second class citizens.

On December 1, 1955, after a long day as a seamstress at the Montgomery Fair department store Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. This brave woman was arrested and fined for violating a city ordinance. Her lonely act of defiance was a singularly important event that contributed to the end of legal segregation in America and made Rosa Parks an inspiration for millions.
Join and/or Recruit for Dems of Rossmoor Texters

The Democrats of Rossmoor Texters want to help you start texting to get out votes in Federal elections and key states. It’s fun, convenient, and it will help save our future. Seriously, what we do this year will help save all of us. Come join and/or recruit for us. Here’s the how and why of texting:

Our aim, with your help, is to top 20 million texts and 202 texters in 2020, as we help save our world! This invite is open to all. Thirty-Nine percent of us don’t live in Rossmoor.

It’s done on a web site; doesn’t use your phone, phone number, or last name.

THIS WORKS!
People 27-50 years old are 8% MORE LIKELY TO VOTE if they receive a related text.

IT’S A MATCHING TASK!

You select pre-written texts to send and respond. Ex: they reply “Yes I’m voting for Democrats”; so you select the “Yes” response and send.

SMALL CHANGES IN TURNOUT MATTER: 5000 VOTES ELECTED A DEMOCRAT FOR KENTUCKY GOVERNOR IN 2019

Contact Susan stlewis@amihome.com for info and for training 1-2 individuals or Brad bradwaite@comcast.net for group training or presentations to groups.

You can text from most anywhere

Our TEAM OF 68 SENT 4,700,000 TEXTS IN 2019

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
Upcoming Events

Monday, March 2 – Book Club At 3:00PM in MPR 2. A discussion of the book A Warning by Anonymous, a high-ranking member of the Trump administration.

Monday, March 9 - Movie At 1:00PM and 7:00PM in the Peacock theater American Factory. A discussion follows the film. Contact Cathy Brostrand for more information at brostrandcathy@gmail.com

Monday, March 9 - The Women’s Conference- At 1:00PM in the Event Center. The speaker is Christine Pelosi. $25 tickets are available at the Gateway front desk.

Thursday, March 12 – TGWD (Thank God We’re Democrats) At 4:30PM in the Club Room at Creekside. This Campaign Volunteer Fair will be your chance to find a way you can be a part of this important election process. You will hear from candidates and representative of groups who are looking for volunteers. Bring snacks to share. Beverages will be available for a donation. GRF policies restricts bringing alcohol into Creekside.

Thursday, March 26 - Events Center - Dinner Meeting-Social at 5:00PM; dinner, catered by Scott’s, at 5:45PM. Reservation forms are available at all events and in the club mailbox at Gateway. The speakers are reporters Carla Marinucci and Joe Garofoli. Their topic will be “Two Italians Talking Politics.”

April 13 movie - Where’s My Roy Cohen? Peacock Hall 1:00PM and 7:00PM.

April 30 - General Meeting. Dr. Tony Iton is the speaker

Wednesday Volunteering Opportunities: Gateway Card Room 4:00PM to 6:00PM.

Texting: (over 1 million sent in 2020): Text Democrats across the U.S. to vote, volunteer, and/or contact Congress on key issues. To get started with training (1-1 any day of the week) and for additional information, contact Susan Lewis at stlewis@amihome.com. You’ll need a laptop (preferred) or iPad/tablet. We use a website (not your phone’s texting app or number), selecting (not typing) pre-written texts and responses. Once learned this technique may be used from home.

Flip to Blue 2020 - Every Wednesday: The work to engage voters continues in the Gateway Oak Room from 4:00PM to 6:00PM until November 2020! We partner with Commit to Flip Blue to work with several organizations working to make an impact in key Swing States, where one or both Senate races are in play as well as the Presidential Electoral College. Mobilizing disenfranchised and new voters is key to winning in these states. Interesting phone banking and post card writing opportunities to newly registered democrats and de-registered but eligible voters of color and continued Get Out the Vote letter writing to registered but infrequent voters which will be mailed in October. Monetary donations to support the work always welcome.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
March/April Thank God We are Democrats (TGWD)  
All About What you can do in 2020

By Rose Holmes

The Democrats of Rossmoor will host multiple local activists’ organizations at the TGWD meetings in March and April to explain to DoR members what their organizations are doing to ensure a Democratic sweep in the 2020 election. Come learn what it is already happening and how you can plug in. All hands-on deck is required for this most important election of our lifetime!

Is access to healthcare your concern? Is the environment and the existential threat of climate change your issue? What about voter suppression? We can’t lose what we gained in 2018, keeping Blue California districts blue is a must. How about flipping the Senate to Blue and sending Mitch McConnell packing? And of course, we all agree on the need for a change in the White House.

It’s not going to be easy, we need to mobilize every voter in 2020: new voters, regular voters and not so regular voters, the young voters, and voters from disenfranchised communities, so come learn about texting, postcarding, phoning, voter registration, and canvassing. If giving money to make it happen is important to you - learn about that too.

March 12 & April 9, 4:30PM to 6:30PM Creekside Club Room.

April Book Club

By Jane Walter

The Democrats of Rossmoor book club selection for April is Dark Towers: Deutsche Bank, Donald Trump, and an Epic Tale of Destruction by David Enrich.

This book describes how this conservative German bank became seduced by the call of Wall Street riches and turned into an infamous casino of Wall Street which resulted in a staggering array of ethical and legal lapses including money laundering, tax fraud and sanction violations.

In the absence of regulations and with its leadership in the hands of seekers of short term profits, management looked the other way when employees broke the rules and did business with dictators like Russian President Vladimir Putin and a New York real estate developer named Donald Trump whose multiple bankruptcies made him a pariah in the banking world.

Trump’s relationship with Deutsche is still under congressional investigation but Enrich’s book is a cautionary tale about what happens when a bank abandons ethical considerations and pursues profits at any cost.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
By Jeanne Thom

Trinity Center is the charity that the Democrats of Rossmoor enthusiastically support. Trinity Center’s mission is to be the doorway to opportunity for homeless and working poor people. The Trinity Team gives care and hope through supported access to services and resources. Now, Trinity Center is providing residential opportunities in a new facility called St. Paul’s Commons.

Construction at St. Paul’s Commons is nearly complete! In the coming weeks, tenants will begin to move to their new apartments. This is a life-changing, emotional experience, and the Trinity Center staff looks forward to supporting their neighbors and being part of a community that thrives. Once Trinity Center relocates, there will be opportunities to visit the new space. For now, Trinity Center will remain at the temporary location at 1300 Boulevard Way until the new center is complete, likely in April. www.trinitycenterwc.org/st-pauls-commons-2

Trinity Center’s 6th Annual Night of Hope Gala

Friday, May 8, 2020
The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak, Walnut Creek.
Tickets on sale at
www.trinitycenterwc.org/night-of-hope-gala

Volunteers Needed! Evening Program

From December through March, the Evening Program provides members with a hot meal at Trinity Center and overnight shelter at the Walnut Creek National Guard Armory. They depend upon the generosity of volunteers to help our homeless community stay safe, dry and warm during the winter months.

More information at www.trinitycenterwc.org/winter-evening-program.

Join Friends of Trinity Center

Working together, we can provide a “hand up” to a better life for those suffering from homelessness and poverty.

$1000 a year or $83.33 per month
YOU WILL RECEIVE
VIP recognition at events, on our website, in newsletter, on social media and in Annual Report; appreciation gift; and 2 tickets to a Friends of Trinity Center Event
Join today at www.trinitycenterwc.org/friends-of-trinity-center

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