President Katha Hartley’s Message

WE SURVIVE TOGETHER

May this newsletter and President’s message find you safe and healthy. We want you to know that despite staying in our homes, the Democrats of Rossmoor are at work! Join us! Our website, newsletter, and weekly updates are full of stay-at-home opportunities to help remove the most dangerous Administration in our history!

Probably like you, I’ve been spending a significant amount of time reflecting, often considering what the devastating covid-19 pandemic is revealing about us as a people. We are laid bare. We have claimed to be a moral society, guided by “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” In Declaration-of-Independence-speak that means “All men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness.” Now we are put to the test as the starkly evident differences between the Founders’ aspirations and the realities of the fragility of our country’s safety nets are so evident. We are experiencing or witnessing the realities of the drivers of poverty: Limited or no access to food, income, health, education, housing. They are the measures of survival against which we now compare ourselves and our loved ones. Our appreciation for what we or our families once took for granted is heightened as income for many is disappearing. Have parents ever appreciated teachers and classrooms more than they do now?

Access to food and water are at risk. Suddenly, lines at food banks are hours long, programs for children are disappearing, farm workers and food production are at risk because undocumented workers lack protection and shoppers have lost incomes. Many of us, to help the restaurants we once visited so easily and which are struggling mightily, are ordering delivered food online. Strangely enough, most can turn on the tap, but clean water regulations have been rolled back by the EPA, the very agency charged with protecting us.

Incredibly, the most important items of clothing now are N-95 masks, protective gloves and covers, for the essential people on whom we now depend – all of us – to restore us to health and save our lives. The supplies are scarce or depleted. Cities, states, hospitals, medical workers beg for donations, and

continued on page 2
people respond from construction sites, paint companies, fire danger supplies, and caretaking leftovers.

Our health care systems are compromised, and we realize how important having health care insurance is to everyone. There is no clear remedy for the uninsured who develop the virus and become one of the thousands of people treated, intubated, saved in hospitals. Visiting the sick is no longer about taking a bouquet to a patient or soup to the house. It is about medical workers who daily put their own lives at risk, being called as soldiers in this terrible war against the invisible enemy. Thank your doctor. Thank the nurses. Thank everyone who is working to save us. We ask why the Center for Disease Control, the National Institute of Health, and World Health Organization all lost funding, and the Pandemic Prevention Agency was dismantled. Now the research and development of a vaccine is a national priority. The ability to get treatment and pay for it is so clearly important, but this Administration is in court trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act. If there were ever a reason to vote Trump out, this is it!

Housing is now sought for the sick and at-risk homeless – in hotels, empty college dormitories and apartments, and quarantined sections of houses. Hospital staffs have become the comforters when the families of the dying are not allowed to be with the people who love them the most. Burials, memorials, families grieving together are done apart. If our homes are still safe and we are free from illness, we hold each other dear and caution everyone to please be careful if they venture out, even for a walk.

Yet, hope springs eternal. May and June are the months of promise and new life. We are a resilient people, and many of us have lived through dark days. Hopefully, the government generated financial recovery plan – the benefits of which were largely driven by Democratic Party leaders Pelosi and Schumer – will work. May the people who are suffering great loss be made whole. More important, let us emerge more united, appreciative of each other and our common needs. Let us be grateful to the medical worker world especially Dr. Anthony Fauci, Governor Newsom, his governor partners, and our Democratic Party leaders, leaders in corporate America who acted on our behalf, all who told us the truth and made bold decisions so that we would live to dance again. On to victory in November! Voting has never been more critical.

Katha Hartley

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The old farmer said “Well, as I see it, Donald Trump is like a post tortoise.” Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked him was a post tortoise’ was.

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

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, and you just wonder what kind of dumb ass put him up there to being with.”
To continue to offer speakers during this pandemic and social distancing, Democrats of Rossmoor will utilize the popular and easy to use Zoom conferencing service. Zoom offers a free and easy to use service, and some of you may have already used this service to keep in touch with and see your family while we are sheltering in place. Zoom will allow you to see the speakers and have some level of participation. The youtube link below walks you through the simple steps to be ready for the upcoming Zoom speaker series.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E

The Essentials

Let us raise up the Essentials and give them thanks
...the healer combatants
...the masked guardian angel comforters of the sick
...never to be seen, nameless vaccine finders
...the stretcher bearers
...the grave diggers
...those who travel the roads to deliver the food
...from those gathered on knees deep in soil
...the sweepers and storekeepers
...the butchers, the bakers, the chardonnay makers
...the peelers, the cooks, the washers of dishes and floors
...the servers of the hungry
...those who find room in the inn for those with no room
...the artificially intelligent teachers sharing faces and spaces
...the deliverers of everything read and said
...the singers from balconies
...the preachers of hope
...the guardians of safety
...the truth tellers
Let us raise them up with treasure from opulent coffers
Let us build monuments to them, plaques that will say, “Here we give thanks and bow humbly before those who risked their all so that we might live. They were Essential.”  

Kathla Hartley  April 12 2020
By Katha Hartley

The Democrats of Rossmoor are honored to provide a presentation by Dr. Tony Iton, the nationally known Lecturer of Health Policy & Management at UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health. He is also a Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at The California Endowment. In the fall of 2009, he began to oversee the organization’s 10-year, multimillion-dollar statewide commitment to advance policies and forge partnerships to build healthy communities and a healthy California.

During the covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Iton’s work on the effects of income inequality, access to health care, fresh food, job status, and education challenges is more important than ever. Every day we read or hear statistics that reveal the identities of groups most at risk of contracting the coronavirus. They are, of course, people over 65, but more tragically, communities of color, the poor, the vulnerable are the most affected. Dr. Iton’s work on the importance of zip codes, for example, is revelatory and challenges us to consider the implicit bias that underlies so much social inequity.

Please click on the link below to see an example of Dr. Iton’s work. The Club is also preparing a Zoom event featuring Dr. Iton to which all will be invited later in May or early summer.

https://www.calendow.org/building-healthy-communities/
Join Us and Recruit Texters

BY SUSAN LEWIS

Please share this information widely with those over 18 in the U.S.

Join us virtually to learn how to text! Dems of Rossmoor Texters offer daily one-on-one training to Get Out the Vote in key states. Contact Susan at stlewis@amihome.com.

We all share the same November goals. Our interim targets and status are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targets for 2020</th>
<th>202.0 texters</th>
<th>20 MILLION text in 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current status</td>
<td>123 texters</td>
<td>11.8 MILLION since 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Text REMOTELY with Dems of Rossmoor Texters

Join the Dems of Rossmoor Texters to Get Out The Vote in key states for national elections. You text on a web site, not your phone. It doesn’t use your phone number or last name.

TRAIN AND TEXT REMOTELY.

Text from anywhere.

It’s fun, convenient and it will help save our future.

No commitment. Do as little or as much as you want.

Select/click pre-written texts to send and respond. Ex: They reply “I’m voting Democratic”. You select the “Yes” response and send.

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

Small changes in turnout matter: 5000 votes elected a Democrat for Kentucky Governor in 2019.

Remote Training & Presentations

Contact Susan stlewis@amihome.com: info and individual training.

Contact Brad bradwaite@comcast.net: group training or presentations.

Please join us virtually for this fun, important action to reach our Democratic November goals.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
Democrats of Rossmoor: Reel Commentary

BY LYNNE THORNER

Because Covid-19 safety restrictions have temporarily closed Peacock Hall, the Democratic Film Program Committee is pleased to suggest streaming options for Rossmoor residents. Fortunately, the documentary films planned for March and April are available (without additional cost beyond subscription) for streaming through Netflix.

For March: we selected *American Factory* (2019), directed by Steven Bognar. In post-industrial Ohio, a Chinese billionaire opens a factory in an abandoned General Motors plant, hiring 2,000 American workers. Early days of hope and optimism give way to setbacks as high-tech China clashes with working-class America. Interestingly, the film, which won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature, was executively produced by the Obamas!

For April: we selected *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* (2020), written and directed by James Lebrecht. Down the road from Woodstock, a revolution blossoms at a ramshackle summer camp for disabled teenagers, transforming their lives and igniting deep friendships, which ultimately ignites a landmark movement. This exuberant documentary arrives the same year as the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. This film has been nominated for several film festival awards, and it was also executively produced by the Obamas!

In addition to the March/April film selections, we have prepared a varied list of 10 essentially “feel good” comedic films streaming on Netflix that might delight residents while we stay-in-place!

We *reel-y* hope you enjoy all or some of the following selections!

- Stay safe, be strong, remain healthy. . .
- 1. *About Time*: Funny tale that combines true love with time travel! Stars
- 2. *Space Jam*: Funny sports film that pairs childhood heroes with iconic basketball legends.
- 3. *Hook*: This film about a grown-up Peter Pan who returns to Neverland is one of Robin Williams’ most endearing roles.
- 4. *Groundhog Day*: A weatherman, who hates Groundhog Day, finds himself living it . . . every day! Thankfully, the torture eventually leads to true love in this charming fable.
- 5. *Always Be My Maybe*: A goofy love story about 2 childhood friends, played by Ali Wong and Randall Park, who re-connect after 15 years.
- 6. *Morris From America*: This coming-of-age story follows 13-year-old Morris, who moves to Germany with his father, Curtis. While his father battles issues from the past, Morris finds solace in Rap Music.
- 8. *Tramps*: In this playful caper and romantic comedy, Danny and Ellie discover they have more in common than a talent for theft!
- 9. *Julie and Julia*: This dual-narrative comedic tale of food blogger Julie Powell (Amy Adams) and cookbook author Julia Child (Meryl Streep) pairs culinary adventures with two darling love stories!
- 10. *Silver Linings Playbook*: After a stint in a mental hospital, Pat (Bradley Cooper) moves back with his parents and tries to win back his estranged wife, until he meets and connects with Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence), a girl with problems of her own!
Democrats of Rossmoor Offer Film Discussion Via Zoom

BY LYNN THORNER

Rossmoor Residents are invited to participate in a Film Discussion Program via Zoom on Monday May 11th from 2:00 – 3:00PM. The award-winning feature film, available through Netflix, is *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (2019).

Written and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor (12 Years a Slave) in his skillful directorial debut, this outstanding international film tells the true story of William Kamkwamba, an ingenious African teenager, who overcomes an endless string of obstacles and builds a wind turbine from scrap metal and bicycle parts, in order to save his family and community from drought and famine.

Film critic Tomris Laffly describes the movie as “an irresistibly inspiring film with an urgent human-interest dimension at its heart.” Vividly shot by cinematographer Dick Pope, the film reveals the sunbaked, dust-covered colors of the Malawi territory, and it touches on recurring challenges facing the resilient Malawian people.

Rossmoor residents are asked to watch the Netflix movie *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* prior to the May 11th film program. Film enthusiast Lynne Thorner will facilitate the post-viewing discussion, which is sponsored by the Democrats of Rossmoor. Also, check out the Zoom Tutorial video on the Democrats of Rossmoor website.

And if you intend to listen in or actively participate, please RSVP to Lynne Thorner at: lbthorner4657@gmail.com.

Note: This film is available on Netflix; it is not being shown on Channel 28.

Visit [www.democratsofrossmoor.org](http://www.democratsofrossmoor.org) for more information
Let’s Take Back the Senate & White House

By Rose Holmes

If we’re going to transform our government this November and end gerrymandering, we need unprecedented voter turnout. We cannot canvass door to door during a pandemic but we can still use volunteer power to get voters to the polls en masse. It involves writing personal letters—lots of letters—to get people to the polls even if you are thousands of miles away.

Swing Left and Vote Forward have developed a strategy to Get-Out-the-Vote which can be done from home. It’s easy! You personalize a pre-printed letter, which is hand-addressed to targeted Democrat voters. Until October 2020, volunteers will be writing and holding these letters to send in late October right when voters are ready to go to the polls. Vote Forward letters encouraging the recipient to vote have been proven, through scientific testing, to increase the likelihood that a voter will turn out in an election. They are 3 to 4 times more effective at turning out voters than handwritten postcards. Democrats of Rossmoor volunteers have already written 1000’s of letters since May 2019. Are you ready to get started? We have MILLIONS of letters to write before the General Election in November.

Contact Rose Holmes at roseholmes2016@gmail.com to get started. The Dems of Rossmoor will supply instructions, the names of voters in Super States, the letters and the envelopes. We ask for a donation for stamps.
If it’s Phone Calling You Want to Do ...

Make calls from home for the Census and more: The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County is calling fellow Contra Costa Democrats using an automated call system (not your personal phone) - it’s easy and efficient. Callers do wellness checks; encourage completion of the census which is critical to maintain our Congressional seats and billions in State funding; and invite folks to join other volunteer efforts to win in 2020. Sign up for training and calling events below.

You don’t have to stay online for the entire time on call days - this is flexible to meet your availability. Training is available on Wednesdays and Thursdays too.

Commit to Flip Blue is calling disenfranchised Democratic voters in Arizona and encouraging them to re-register. Many do not realize they have been disenrolled.

**DoR Charitable Outreach**

The Democrats of Rossmoor are encouraging members and friends to donate to agencies who are providing much-needed support to our vulnerable fellow citizens affected by covid-19.

Money donations are preferred so that agencies can make purchases based on their services.

- **Monument Crisis Center**
  (food distribution)
  1990 Market Street, Concord, CA 94520.
  Additionally, Marilyn and Mark Weiss are willing to collect non-perishable food for the center. Please contact them at mw4544@gmail.com.

- **Trinity Center**
  (shelter and services) Official charity of the Democrats of Rossmoor,
  1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

- **Food Bank of Contra Costa**
  (food distribution)
  4010 Nelson Ave., Concord, CA 94520.

- **Meals on Wheels**
  (food for seniors and disabled)
  1300 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
HELP TRINITY CENTER STAY OPEN!
Trinity Center is a Contra Costa County Coordinated Assessment Referral and Engagement (CARE) Facility and therefore considered an essential service.
Our services provide a vital public health benefit. We help vulnerable populations to shelter in place and have access to the care they need to stay safe. This reduces risk not only for our members but for the entire community. Trinity Center is focusing our efforts on our Day Shelter Basic Needs Program, the Overnight Evening Program and Safe Parking Program. We are a place where we have always cared for each other, and we are continuing to do so, informed by recommendations and protocols from health officials and other authorities. Trinity Center remains committed to the safety and security of our members, volunteers, staff members and the community. We are implementing strict protocols, which can be found on our website. Please read below about how you can help and know that we want to keep in close contact with you to ensure you have accurate information and feel supported as part of our community. If you get an email or a call from our team, let us know how we can help!

Below, please find ways in which you can help Trinity Center stay operating, to care for our members, provide a vital public health service and keep our staff safe & employed. Thank you for your support!

• **Donate any amount**, no matter how small. Many of us are feeling uneasy about our economic future. Our members have very little resources and rely upon Trinity Center for basic needs. We appreciate any amount you can share to help us remain open and operating.
• **Visit our website** for ways to donate items, please note we cannot accept “walk-in” donations at this time.
• **Visit Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Walnut Creek Downtown Association** and support local businesses by purchasing gift cards and donating them to Trinity Center.
• **Visit our Amazon Wish-list** to purchase much needed supplies, which will ship directly to Trinity Center.
• **Purchase gift cards for gas & groceries and send them to Trinity Center.**
• **Contact our Development Director** at victoriab@trinitycenterwc.org and join our Fund Development Committee. Do you have skills that will help us sustain our future and continue to serve our community? Join us and work on projects from home!

**DATE CHANGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE**

**Night of Hope Gala**
Our Night of Hope Gala has been rescheduled to Friday, October 30, 2020 at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek. All tickets purchased for the original May 8, 2020 date will be honored for the rescheduled date, and anyone who purchased a ticket that is unable to attend on October 30th will have the choice to donate their purchase to Trinity Center or be refunded. Please click the link above to learn more, stay tuned for more information and continue to save that date!

**NEW! Virtual Fundraiser**
We plan to host a virtual fundraiser on our previously scheduled Night of Hope event on Friday, May 8, 2020. Please click the link above to learn more, stay tuned for more information and continue to save that date!

**St. Paul’s Commons**
Trinity Center’s new space is nearly complete and our partners are working hard to navigate the response to Coronavirus. We are hopeful that our move will be scheduled soon and will communicate as we learn more. Please click the link above to learn more and stay tuned for more information.

Please mail donations to:
Trinity Center Walnut Creek, ATTN: Community, 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Have Questions? Contact us at: victoriab@trinitycenterwc.org

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
Punny Fun (or Funny Pun)

BY LYNNE THORNER

To while away a moment or two while in lock down, here are some updated puns (at least to me)! As a reminder, “Lexophile” describes people that have a love for words, such as “You can tune a piano, but you can’t tuna fish” and “To write with a broken pencil is pointless.” ENJOY!

I changed my iPod’s name to Titanic. It’s syncing now.
  If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
  England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
  Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
  This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I’d swear I’ve never met herbivore.
  I know a guy who’s addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
  A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
  When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
  The dead batteries were given out free of charge.
  A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.
  A will is a dead giveaway.
  With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
  Police were summoned to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
  Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He’s all right now.
  A bicycle can’t stand alone; it’s just two tired.
  The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
  When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she’d dye.
  Acupuncture is a jab well done. That’s the point of it.
  I didn’t like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
  Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn’t control her pupils?
  When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
  When chemists die, they barium.
  I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
  I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can’t put it down.
  When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
  The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
  When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.
  The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
  A thief who stole a calendar, got twelve months.
  A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.

Visit www.democratsofrossmoor.org for more information
The Rossmoor Democrat May-June, 2020

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
Here’s a chance to name your fantasy Cabinet that will serve our Democratic Party Candidate Joe Biden. Join us as we work for his election.

Build Your Fantasy Government

Name: ________________

1. Share your choices with family, friends, and the DoR
2. Save your Fantasy Government sheet for after the election. We’ll share at a DoR event.

The Cabinet consists of the President, Vice-President, and heads of the 15 executive departments – the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, and the Attorney General. Additionally, the Cabinet includes the White House Chief of Staff and heads of the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Management and Budget, United States Trade Representative, Central Intelligence Agency, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Small Business Administration.