

THE ROSSMOOR DEMOCRAT

Volume 2016, Issue 7

M. Davin & J. Melaugh, Co-Editors

Holiday Edition 2016

DoR Holiday Edition



President Patsy Sharaf's Message

As the year draws to a close, we are all in recovery from the shock of the outcome of the Presidential race, and the Senate and the House races as well. DoR's Board of Directors is now thinking about the form our activism should most usefully take in 2017. But before we leave 2016 I do want to reflect on the year nearly past where so many people in our club worked hard on both our own programs and on local, state, and national campaigns.

You, our members, participated in our electoral process in myriad ways and with amazing perseverance and dedication. I am thinking of those who ran and participated in phone banks so terrifically crowded with volunteers, those who stopped to talk with (and support) the candidates and proposition representatives at tables at our Town Halls and those who manned the tables, those who participated in the *Rossmoor News* Hillary ad, and everyone who wrote articles, editorials, or letters to the editor on subjects near and dear to our Democratic hearts.

Kudos also go to all of you who worked to increase attendance at our monthly speaker meetings throughout the year. We couldn't



survive without your active support. It has been my great pleasure and privilege to serve you as your president this year.

There are many unseen hands organizing all these activities—many are members of the DoR board—and they deserve our special thanks. Carol Weed took a voter registration program and built it into a goliath team of more than 80 volunteers who registered nearly 1,000 voters in the East Bay. Formidable!

Jeanne Melaugh and Marilyn Davin took professional charge of our communications and spent a huge number of hours making sure our written words were polished, both on line and in print. Jane Williams, Elaine McGrath, and Rose Maggi took all aspects of our food service into their capable hands and planned, shopped, schlepped, and beautifully arranged all those cookies we grabbed from platters. They also organized both the popular meals we so enjoy and the Election Night pizza party, no small feat.

I single these volunteers out by name, but every member of the rest of the board—ten of

Continued on Page 2

President's Message, continued from Page 1

us in all, plus volunteers—spent hours and hours in meetings, writing emails, making phone calls, and thinking about DoR's programs, communications, films, book club books, and how best to support candidates and thoroughly understand the complexities of the California ballot. Every one of those things made a difference in the political picture writ large. They make us not only the

largest Democratic club in Northern California but also the most active and powerful.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we have interesting speakers, books, and films already planned, with much more to come. We will rebound! Let's try to put the election in the rear-view mirror.

Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season,
Patsy

2017 DoR Board of Directors



Not pictured above: Katha Hartley

Patsy Sharaf *	President	322-8926
Katha Hartley *	1st Vice President	(805) 907-5096
Cindy Ware *	2nd Vice President	956-1743
Sue De Carlo *	Secretary and Membership Co-Director: Roster/Communications	482-0582
Nancy Meredith *	Treasurer	954-7854
Jane Walter *	Immediate Past President and Book Club Coordinator	945-1429
Judy Canepa	Membership Co-Director	
Frank De Carbonel	Director at Large	946-1319
Marilyn Davin	Communications Director and Newsletter Co-Editor: Content	979-9887
Bobby Frankel	Director at Large	945-1743
Gary Hansen	Past President and Speakers Committee Chair	954-8425
Mary Lembke	Director at Large	946-9828
Rose Maggi	Social Co-Director	954-1980
Elaine McGrath	Social Co-Director and Volunteer Coordinator	944-9767
Jeanne Melaugh	Webmaster and Newsletter Co-Editor: Production	954-1007
Carol Weed	Voter Registration Director	(510) 409-4055
Jane Williams	Hospitality Director	934-2484

* Member of the Executive Committee





Our message: As your editors we have appreciated all of your support for the many phases of the DoR bi-monthly newsletter, its special editions, and the DoR website. We wish you a healthy and joyous holiday season and a happy new year. Best Wishes,

Marilyn Davin and Jeanne Melaugh

New DoR Board Member Judy Canepa

New DoR Board member **Judy Canepa** moved to Rossmoor from Brisbane three years ago. The Tacoma, Washington, native says she spent summers in California as a kid and really liked it. “As soon as I was legally able to leave Tacoma, I did,” she said. Soon after moving to San Francisco she married her husband Larry and moved to San Bruno and South San Francisco before settling in Brisbane. Judy is a life-long Democrat. “My dad was very conservative and my mom was very liberal; I grew up like her, with her Democratic values.” As a DoR board member Judy says she wants to do what she can to support union membership and steer the Democratic Party back to its working-class roots.



January 10 TGWD

Thank God We're Democrats will meet for cocktails and conversation in the Creekside Fairway Room at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10. Drinks are \$5. At 6 p.m. those who want to may wish to order dinner from the Creekside Grill. **Reservations are required for both** cocktails and for dinner. Please RSVP to Katha Hartley at kathah7@msn.com and include your name(s) and which and events you will attend.



DoR Supports Nationwide March in Oakland

DoR will help support the nationwide **Women's March on Saturday, January 21**, the day after the presidential inauguration. At least 200,000 men and women are expected to participate in the Washington march, which will end in front of the Capitol. Many other cities are planning marches at the same time, including NYC, Boston, Portland, and L.A., among others. Organizers of the marches nationwide write that, “Marching to promote the advancement of equality and human rights for all diversities sends a clear message to the incoming cabinet that we are watching.”



DoR is helping organize transportation for the Women's March Oakland, which will begin at 10 a.m. at Madison Park and end at about 3 p.m. at Frank Ogawa Plaza. DoR volunteers will coordinate transportation to Walnut Creek BART by Rossmoor buses and carpools. All are welcome! For more details call Carol Weed at 510-409-4055.

January 26 General Meeting

U.C. Berkeley Sociology Professor Arlie Hochschild will speak at DoR's membership meeting on **Thursday, January 26, in the Event Center**. Please note the winter time: **The social hour/town square will begin at 3 and Professor Hochschild's presentation will begin at 4.** Her presentation will focus on her observations and her research for her new book, *Strangers in Their Own Land*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, one of the 100 notable books of 2016 by *The New York Times*, and the DoR Book Club selection for January.



that their government would provide any remedies for their polluted lands, air, and rivers, their poverty, their short life expectancies, and their failing schools. Hochschild brings her naturally intense sense of empathy to the people she meets, reminiscent of a familiar Mary T. Lathrop poem written in 1895, one stanza of which reads:

Just walk a mile in his moccasins
Before you abuse, criticize and accuse.
If just for one hour, you could find a way
To see through his eyes, instead of your
own muse.

Watching with dismay the country's widening cultural divide, Professor Hochschild left her uber-liberal hometown of Berkeley to spend five years in the arch-conservative Louisiana bayou country. Her journey was as much humanistic as scholarly; she wanted to experience first-hand the forces that had tilted the region to Tea Party Republican at the same time that residents' hopes were dashed

Hochschild does just that: *Strangers in Their Own Land* puts readers inside the daily lives of the Tea Party conservatives of the Louisiana Bayou country and presents a much fuller, nuanced picture of their lives than is reported in the mainstream media. Don't miss her presentation. There will be ample time for questions.

In Case You Missed It...

Governor Jerry Brown emailed the following message to many state Democrats following his December speech at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco:

Wednesday I spoke to thousands of scientists at one of the largest international gatherings of its kind and called on the scientific community—the “truth-tellers” and “truth seekers”—to mobilize for the climate fight. My message was simple:

The climate is changing, temperatures are rising, oceans are becoming more acidified, habitats are under stress—the world is facing tremendous danger. It'll be up to you as truth-tellers and truth seekers to mobilize all your efforts to fight back. We've got a lot of firepower. We've got the scientists, we've got the universities, we have the national labs and we have the political clout and sophistication for the battle -- and we will persevere. Have no doubt about that.

You can view his speech in its entirety at: www.youtube.com.



February 23 Dinner and General Meeting

Don't miss **Politico** reporter **Carla Marinucci**



at DoR's February 23 dinner meeting at the Event Center. The February meeting time will be back on its regular schedule: **5 p.m. for the social hour/town square, 5:45 p.m. for dinner and 7 p.m. for Marinucci's presentation.**

Tickets are \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members (yet another benefit of DoR membership, just \$20 per year!). Dinner forms can be downloaded from the DoR website at www.democratsofrossmoor.com or picked up at DoR's Gateway mail slot or at any club event. The forms can be turned in, along with your check made out to the Democrats of Rossmoor, at the Gateway mailbox, at any club event, or mailed to Jane Williams at 2200 Golden Rain Rd., Apt. 6, Walnut Creek 94595. Those wishing to skip the dinner and listen to the presentation are welcome to do so free of charge at 7 p.m. as the dinner concludes.

Carla Marinucci is a popular speaker with an encyclopedic knowledge of California and national politics. She was a long-time *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter and has won more than two dozen national and state awards for reporting excellence. She has also broken many national political stories. Just eight years since *Politico* launched outside Washington, D.C., the news outlet is going nationwide. Marinucci was the first major hire for its Golden Gate operation. Asked in an interview why she left her long-time senior position at the *Chronicle*, she said that *Politico* "made me an offer I couldn't refuse."

Marinucci says she sees *Politico's* new model as the future of news, which has been moving away from print and toward online reporting for years. She started without a physical office, which she says is also becoming a thing of the past. "You can do this business anywhere now with a cell phone and a laptop," she says.

Bring your questions to the presentation and check back closer to the date for specifics on the menu. That info will be both in DoR's weekly email and posted on the website.

Only in America

Only in America does every drive-through ATM machine have braille.

Only in America are all the back-pain relievers on the bottom shelf.

Only in America does every single toaster have a setting so high it burns the toast to a terrible crisp that no decent human being would eat.

Only in America could politicians talk about the greed of the rich at a \$50,000 a plate campaign fund raising event.

Only in America can you buy a packet of peanuts which states "may contain nuts."

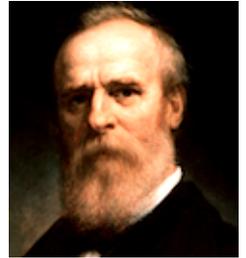
Only in America could there be a museum that shows dinosaurs and humans living at the same time, dinosaurs on Noah's ark, and a timeline of a 6,000 year-old earth.

Only in America do we choose our leader from just two people and need 50 to choose a beauty queen.

That Pesky Electoral Vote...

Because it's happening now, the Clinton/Trump election seems especially impassioned and dramatic—some might say melodramatic—as charges of dirty tricks and inaccurate vote counts dominate cable news networks and fly through the air via social media. It may be time to take a deep breath and get a grip: our 238-year-old country has survived many contentious elections and presidencies, one even featuring a duel. A couple of popular-vs.-electoral count examples follow, including the 2000 debacle that landed George W. in the White House.

One of the most contentious presidential elections happened in 1876, when New York Democrat Samuel J. Tilden won both the popular vote against Ohio Republican **Rutherford B. Hayes** and the electoral vote—184 to 165, respectively. Problem was, that because of widespread voter intimidation of black Republican voters in the South, 20 electoral votes were unresolved in Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina. An informal deal known as the Compromise of 1877 was eventually struck and all 20 votes went to Hayes in exchange for the Republican agreement to withdraw federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction. Incidentally, that presidential vote still holds the record for voter turnout, at 81.8%.



In 1888, Democratic President Grover Cleveland of New York ran for reelection against former Indiana U.S. Senator Republican **Benjamin Harrison**. Cleveland actually won the national popular vote by almost 100,000 votes. But he lost his home state, New York, by about 1 percent of the vote, putting Harrison over the top in the Electoral College. Voting was a public affair back then, and charges of selling blocks of votes in that election led to the federal law that ballots would be secret.

And, who can forget: Democrat Al Gore, who won the popular vote but lost the election to Republican **George Bush** in 2000. In arguably the most highly contested election in modern history, the U.S. Supreme Court stopped the Florida recount vote and gave the state's 25 electoral votes to Bush, giving him the presidency—and giving us endless war in the Middle East.



New Members



Welcome Ellie Bernard Schiff (left) and Shaune Hackett (right) to our club. Loyal Democrats both, Ellie worked for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, and Shaune is a retired Pleasant Hill middle school teacher of English and ESL.

Be sure to say "Hi" to them and introduce yourself at an upcoming DoR event.



DoR Board Members' Holiday Wishes

I hope for patience for all of us, not easy considering what we confront. We'll need real courage to meet the challenges. I hope I have it! I hope that the membership does not despair of being involved in DoR activities. Now more than ever we have to "hang together" so we can support our convictions. — *Mary Lembke*

I wish that all of Trump's campaign speeches were strictly hyperbole and that he knows that. Secondly, I wish that Trump would appoint Bernie Sanders to a cabinet post. — *Judy Canepa*

I hope that we will be stronger together to keep America great. — *Jane Walters*

I wish that states would continue to expand steps they have taken to improve the environment and address climate change. — *Carol Weed*

My hope for 2017 is that the buffoon in the White House can be prevented from reversing every humanistic gain our Democracy has made since the 1930s and bankrupting the country. Also, I hope that the Democratic Party can take majorities in the House and Senate in the 2018 Midterm Election. — *Sue De Carlo*

My wish is that the zigzagging Donald Trump reverts to being the Democrat he was ten years ago, thus throwing Congress into complete confusion. I hope those who elected him will vote for Democrats in the 2018 Midterm Election and sweep all the Republicans, particularly Mitch McConnell, out of office. — *Patsy Sharaf*

The ability of every citizen to vote, which is fundamental to our democracy and to the directions our country takes, is under siege. My goal for 2017 is to work to reverse the limits on voting being imposed in many states, including increased—unreasonable—requirements on voter identification and more limited access to polling place locations and hours. — *Cindy Ware*

I hope that the first act of the next Congress will be to close Trump's Twitter account to prevent our country from devolving into total chaos. I hope the second act of the next Congress will require Trump to take both Miss Manners and Anger Management training. — *Marilyn Davin*

I wish for peace and tolerance around the world and especially within our borders. — *Jeanne Melaugh*





CHRISTIANITY

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets

—Jesus, *Matthew 7:12*



JUDAISM

That which is hateful unto you do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole of the Torah; all the rest is commentary.

—Hillel, *Talmud, Shabbat 31a*



ISLAM

None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.

—The Prophet Muhammad, *Forty Hadith*



JANISM

In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own self.

—Lord Mahavira, *24th Tirthankara*



CONFUCIANISM

One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct...*loving kindness*. Do no do to others what you do not want done to yourself.

—Confucius, *Analects 15.23*



TAOISM

Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and you neighbor's loss as your own loss.

—Lao Tzu *T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien 213-218*



HINDUISM

This is the sum of duty: do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you.

—*Mahabharata, 5:1517*



BAHA'I FAITH

Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things that you would not desire for yourself.

—Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*



ZOROASTRIANISM

Do not do to others what is harmful to yourself.

—Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29



BUDDHISM

Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

—*Udānavarga 5.18*

The Golden Rule:
The Ethic of
Reciprocity



ATHEISM

Human decency is not derived from religion. It precedes it.

—Christopher Hitchens, *The Portable Atheist*

INFORMATION STATEMENT: *The Rossmoor Democrat*, newsletter of the Democrats of Rossmoor, is distributed six times annually to members and others expressing interest in *The Rossmoor Democrat*. Paid for by the Democrats of Rossmoor, P.O. Box 2070, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

“Constitutional rights may not be infringed simply because the majority of the people choose that they be.” — *Westbrook v. Mihaly* (1970) 2 Cal.3d

Upcoming Events

December: no General Meeting

December 24 Christmas Eve and Hanukkah

December 25 Christmas and 1st full day of Hanukkah

December 26 Christmas Day observed

December 31 New Years Eve

January 1 New Year’s Day and last day of Hanukkah

January 2 New Year’s Day observed

January 2 Book Club: *Strangers in Their Own Land*. Gateway MPR 2, 3 p.m.



January 9 Film: *She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry*. Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

January 10 TGWD: Creekside Fairway Room. **Cocktails** and Conversation, 4:30 p.m. RSVP required. **No-host Dinner**, 6:00 p.m. Additional RSVP required.

January 16 Martin Luther King Day

January 21 March in Oakland: see page 3 for details.

January 26 General Meeting: Arlie Hochschild. Event Center, 3 p.m. social, 4 p.m. speaker. **Note time change.**



It’s Time to Pay 2017 Membership Dues

It’s that time of year again to renew your DoR membership for just \$20 for all of 2017. The club has been growing by leaps and bounds, and our membership and many activities have grown right along with it. Membership now stands at 578, 122 more than at this time last year. So don't delay!

Membership runs January through December and costs \$20 per person.

Check One: New member Returning member

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Please print.

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Are you a registered voter? _____ Are you a registered Democrat? _____

(We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two)

Can you occasionally volunteer for any of the following?

_____ Voter Registration _____ Phoning on behalf of Democratic Party candidates
_____ Putting together mailings _____ Event set-up

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.