

The Rossmoor Democrat

Volume 2018, Issue 6

Jeanne Melaugh, Editor

November–December 2018



President Katha Hartley's Message

In this season of thanks and giving, I want to acknowledge the incredible work done by our club and our friends during this election season to restore dignity, respect, and, yes, sanity to our government. I thank them for the gifts of their time, donations, for the sacrifices made to volunteer on behalf of our candidates, for the conversations joined in so many places and spaces during which our beliefs and principles were explained and promoted. Our club—largest Democratic Party Club in California—is a force of nature!

There are no adequate words to describe the remarkable leadership of Susan Lewis who spent hundreds of hours training and connecting our texters to groups dedicated to electing Democrats across the nation. Those texters sent three million (yes, three million) texts! Tricia Spiegel provided chocolate, camaraderie, and her personal treasure to the team who wrote and sent more than 16,000 handwritten postcards asking Democrats to vote. Carol Weed led and managed 190 voter registration volunteers who set up tables across our district and engaged hundreds of



voters to make sure they were registered. Rose Holmes and her volunteers drove to Tracy and other communities in CD 10 to support the campaign of Josh Harder. They canvassed, registered voters, and contacted Democrats, encouraging them to vote. So many of you, without fanfare, helped. You marched, you attended our meetings, you wrote

letters to editors, made donations, you hosted candidate meet-and-greets, and you talked to friends and families about the importance of electing Democrats. I'm sure that many of you, like me, told our voting age grandchildren, "Do you want Grammy to choose your play list? No? Well, then don't let her choose the people who will make laws that affect you. Vote!" Although, in our case, we probably would have chosen the right people.

Because of you, we have elected or reelected Democrats as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, Insurance Commissioner, Board of Equalization, County

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Superintendent of Schools, County Board of Education Area 2, and U.S. Senate. The CA races for the following are still too close to call, as tens of thousands of vote by mail and provisional ballots are yet to be counted.

- Five U.S. House districts, including the Jeff Dedham (R) / Josh Harder (D) race
- Insurance Commissioner: Ricardo Lara (D) / Steve Poizner (NPP)
- The Superintendent of Public Instruction: Marshall Tuck / Tony Thurmond
- State Assembly District 16: Catharine Baker (R) / Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D). As of November 9, Bauer-Kahan is behind by 1,000 votes.

Because of you, we have gained control of the House of Representatives and reelected our Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. Thank you!

There is hope now that the new Congress will be a check on the Administration that is on track to repeal every policy, regulation, and benefit that protects the citizens of our country. We know that the newly configured

House, which holds the purse strings, will fight any attempts to defund Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid. The new House will fight Administration and Senate attempts to blame the benefits paid by us during our working lives for the growing deficit—clearly caused by the new tax structure that benefits the wealthiest. We count on the new House to stand strong on affordable housing, education improvement, climate change mitigation, infrastructure jobs, tax equity, and preservation of the paid benefits on which we depend.

We know that our work is not finished. The fight continues as we approach the 2020 election. I think about the war against “nationalism” that we fought so many years ago. There were setbacks, but our resolve was great, our determination was constant, and, because of our belief in the aspirations that are the foundation of our government, we won the war together. So, we must remain engaged in this great battle. I ask for your help, and thank you for being a force of good.

Happy Holidays!

Katha Hartley



I’m so tired of people telling me what Trump “really meant to say.”

If he can’t speak for himself, then he shouldn’t speak for our nation.



Michael Moore: “We took the House with 35-40 NEW Democrats elected..and the MAJORITY of them were women! Dems flipped 7 governorships (including Kansas!). The first-ever openly gay Governor (Colorado) won! Dems took control of the Senates in New York, Maine, and Colorado. Republicans were tossed out of office from coast to coast!

"But the best news is that once again we WON the MOST votes (aka, the popular vote) throughout the entire country! ... In all the

House races combined, we got 3 MILLION MORE votes than the Republicans. And we got TEN MILLION MORE votes than them in the Senate races! The majority of Americans rejected Trump and all that he stands for. The three states that gave Trump his Electoral College win in 2016—Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania—all went from Red to Blue by electing Democratic Governors and Democratic Senators in all three states. In Michigan, all the top statewide office holders were won by Democratic women, along with three new Dem women being sent to Congress."

I am thankful to the current occupant of the White House for inspiring all our new members and making us the largest, most active Democratic Club in California and possibly the nation. — Judy Canepa

I'm thankful for my friends... — Marilyn Davin

I am thankful for those in the White House who are doing whatever they must to protect the United States from the daily onslaught of the President's megalomania. My wish for the future is that such activity cease to be necessary. — Sue DeCarlo

I'm thankful to the people, mainly women, who painted the House blue in 2018. — Marc Gould

I'm thankful for the DoR and all of the work it did to make a positive difference. — Andrea Gourdine

I am thankful that the Democratic Party won back the house, which will help restore checks and balances on the Trump administration. The hard work of all our volunteers deserves much credit for this achievement. — Gary Hansen

I am thankful to our members for the great privilege of being President of the largest and absolutely best Democratic Party Club in California. Knowing and working with this group of people who volunteer tirelessly to achieve the ideal of a "more perfect union" is an honor. — Katha Hartley

I am thankful for the friendship and support of my neighbors, friends, and family. — Jeanne Melaugh

I am thankful that Democrats can now stand as a check on the president. — Nancy Meredith

At the end of 2018 I am thankful for the strong-minded, active political figures, here in Rossmoor and in the wider world, who stood up in the face of the painful and maddening political maelstrom that pervaded the year. — Patsy Sharaf

I am thankful for all of the DoR members who ask such informed questions of the speakers. They always add to what we've heard. — Linda Walonen

I am thankful that Democrats came out to vote in the November 5th election, proving again the resilience of our democracy and the common sense of the majority of our citizens. — Jane Walter

During over five years here, Jim and I have watched DoR grow in breadth and frequency of meaningful events. In response, we now have a record-breaking almost 900 members! We are thankful to all the current and former board members and dedicated volunteers who make DoR such a vibrant community! — Cindy Ware

I'm thankful for our amazing President, Katha Hartley—for her inspiration, attention to detail, and determination. And all the other Board members who each contribute their special skills. I'm thankful to all the team of Voter Registration volunteers, especially those who stepped up to take on extra responsibilities and everyone who lugged our supplies to and fro. — Carol Weed

I am thankful for the Democrats of Rossmoor and for the efficient, and extraordinary board of directors and for our intelligent, competent, and articulate president, Katha Hartley. — Jane Williams

November 15 — General Meeting

Hon. Justice Ignazio (“Nace”) Ruvolo (retired) will speak on Thursday, **November 15, at 7 p.m. in the Event Center. There will be a social hour and town hall at 6.** His presentation will focus on the most significant United States Supreme Court 5-4 decisions of the last term, several of the most important cases pending for the term beginning this October, and the possible impact newly confirmed Justice Brett Kavanaugh will have on the dispositions of these cases.



Justice Ruvolo's work in legal and judicial ethics is well-known, and he has served as a member or chaired numerous local, state and national committees regarding legal ethics and professional responsibility. He was appointed by the California Supreme Court as a member of the Commission on Judicial Performance, ultimately serving as commissioner and chairperson. In addition, Justice Ruvolo was a member of the California State Bar Commission for the Revision of the Rules of Professional Responsibility, where he played a part in drafting new ethics rules for attorneys.

Justice Ruvolo began his legal career as a trial attorney with the Torts Section of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., before transitioning to private practice with a San Francisco firm. As a trial attorney and litigator, he spent 17 years representing plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of civil matters. He was appointed as an associate justice to the California First District Court of Appeal, Division Two, in 1996 and became presiding justice of Division Four in 2006. Prior to that, he served on the Contra Costa Superior Court.

Justice Ruvolo has participated extensively in legal and judicial education, teaching students, lawyers, and judges such topics as legal and judicial ethics, judicial and appellate process, trial skills, and professional liability.

Justice Ruvolo now is affiliated with Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS) where he serves as a private arbitrator, mediator, special master, referee, and neutral evaluator.

There will be no Book Club meeting, TGWD, or General Meeting in December

January 3 — Volunteer Appreciation Party

On January 3, the Democrats of Rossmoor will host a Thank You celebration in the Event Center to honor the members of our club and our Democratic Party partners in Contra Costa who worked with us during the 2018 election cycle.



whom we supported, and recognize the heroic work done by so many to win the House of Representatives, offices in California and Contra Costa County, and more across the nation.

We will join friends, old and new, to share campaign stories, hear from candidates

We'll have games, tributes, and prizes. The DoR will provide beverages. Please bring finger foods to share. The party will begin at 6 p.m.



“Bullies may land a punch. They may leave a mark. But they have never, not once in the history of our nation, managed to match the strength of a people united in defense of freedom.”

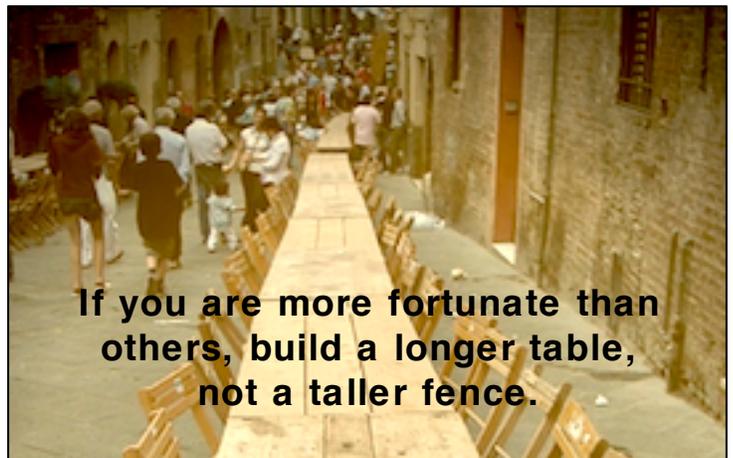
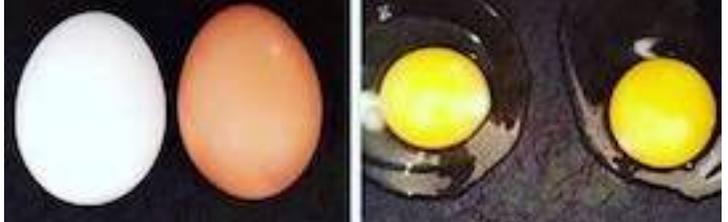
I just needed to see a few more campaign ads to be able to make my final decision on how to vote.

Said no one ever.

someecards
user card



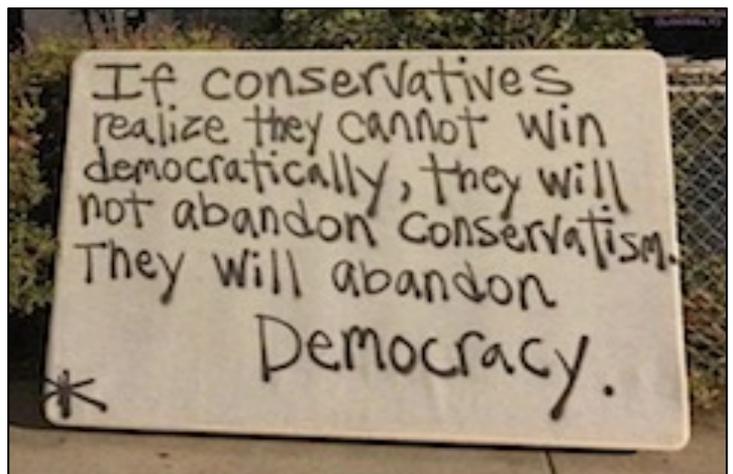
My views on racism? Pretty simple...



People say that I'm anti-Trump.
That isn't the real story.

I'm pro-humanity. I'm pro-diversity.
I'm pro-decency. I'm pro-equality.
I'm pro-compassion. I'm pro-justice.

That almost always leaves me in direct
opposition to this president is simply a
sad by-product.



Washington Post's Mensa Invitational

The *Washington Post's* Mensa Invitational once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of the August 2018 winners:

- **Cashtration:** The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
- **Intoxicato:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- **Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- **Bozone:** The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- **Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- **Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- **Decafalon:** The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
- **Dopeler Effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- **Arachnoleptic Fit:** The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
- **Beelzebug:** Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- **Caterpallor:** The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

The *Washington Post* has also published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. Some of the winners are:

- **Coffee:** The person upon whom one coughs.
- **Flabbergasted:** Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
- **Abdicate:** To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
- **Esplanade:** To attempt an explanation while drunk.
- **Lymph:** To walk with a lisp.
- **Gargoyle:** Olive-flavored mouthwash.

Texting Update

As of November 6, counts for the 35 weeks since we started tracking: **4.0 million texts** with a high of **843,290 in one week and 80 texters**.

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.

Upcoming Events

November 12 Veteran’s Day

November 12 Film: *The Secret State of North Korea*. Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.



November 15 General Meeting: the Honorable Nace Ruvolo. Event Center, 6 p.m. social/town square; 7 p.m. speaker. See page 5 for details.

November 22 Thanksgiving

There will not be a December Book Club, TGWD, or General Meeting

December 2–10 Hanukkah

December 10 Film: *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* Peacock Hall, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

December 25 Christmas

December 26 Kwanzaa (first day)

December 31 New Year’s Eve

January 3 Appreciation Party for Volunteers. Event Center, 6 p.m. All are invited. Please bring finger food to share. See page 5 for details.



2019 Membership Dues Payable in December

2019 yearly dues are \$20.

Check One: New member Returning member

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Please print.

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Are you a registered voter at this address? _____ As a Democrat? _____
(We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two)

Volunteer for any of the following? ___ Voter registration ___ Event set-up

On behalf of Democratic Party candidates & issues: ___ Write cards/letters ___ Phone ___ Table

Place your check (made out to Democrats of Rossmoor) and this form in an envelope and:

- Leave it in the Democrats’ mailbox at Gateway during office hours,
- Mail it to Sue De Carlo, 901 Terra California Dr. #6, Walnut Creek, CA 94595,
- Or bring the form/check to the Membership Table at any meeting.