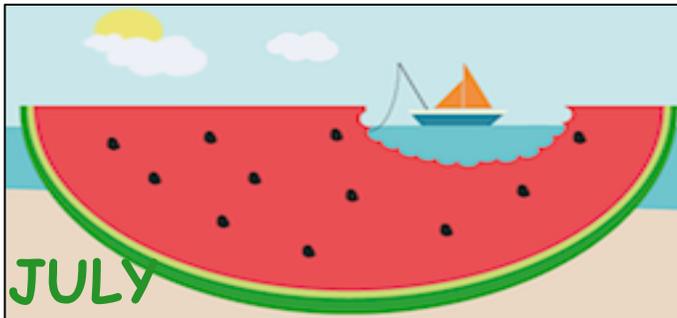


The Rossmoor Democrat

Volume 2019, Issue 4

Jeanne Melaugh, Editor

July–August 2019



President Katha Hartley's Message

“After 2½ years we’ve seen enough. Enough of the chaos, the division, the schoolyard insults, the self-aggrandizement, the corruption, and especially the lies. So many lies—from white lies to whoppers—told out of ignorance, laziness, recklessness, expediency, or opportunity. Trump’s capacity for lying isn’t the surprise here, though the frequency is. It’s the tolerance so many Americans have for it.”



Yes, for most of us, these are familiar words spoken by us in frustration, anger, fear, and disgust when we meet with friends, share rides, shop for groceries, strike up casual conversations, or have dinner with family. We are thankful for our Blue Bubble of validation and worry that others in our country do not share our deep concern.

Take heart. We are not alone. The words above come to us from three thousand miles away, delivered on June 18 by the Editorial Board of a conservative newspaper, *The Orlando Sentinel*, in Orlando, Florida. The *Sentinel* is a paper that historically endorses Republicans—with a few exceptions. The scathing rebuke of Donald Trump was printed on the day that he launched his 2020 campaign in that same city. The editors go

on. “There was a time when even a single lie—a phony college degree, a bogus work history—would doom a politician’s career. Not so for Trump...Trump’s successful assault on truth is the great casualty of this presidency, followed closely by his war on decency.”

Like the *Sentinel*, we wonder what is happening to our country and to fellow Americans who are so willing to overlook the egregious behavior and assaults on the Constitution. We’re baffled, we speculate on the motivations of Trump followers, we wring our hands, and then we kick into high gear because we are the Democrats of Rossmoor. We are fighting the good fight and encouraging others who have a need to “do something” to join us.

During the rest of 2019, we will be focused on Get Out the Vote actions in preparation for the next election cycle. Every Wednesday afternoon, 4–6 p.m., Rose Holmes, our liaison with Swing Left, has organized writers who are engaged at Gateway in the Oak Room, sending handwritten pleas to lapsed Democrats across the nation to reregister in order to vote in 2020. Join them! While the writers work, Susan Lewis has begun texting

Continued on page 2

President’s Message, continued from page 1

training again and is instructing new texters. Remember that in 2018, Susan’s group sent 4.5 million texts. Voter Registration at Gateway during the Friday Farmers Market is happening again. Carol Weed has led the expansion of the Voter Registration Volunteer group, which now numbers 200. We have invited the presidential candidates to speak here and are hosting Congressman Eric Swalwell on July 11 and Governor Jay Inslee on July 23—both in the Event Center. We look forward to visits from others.

We are hosting Democratic Party debate watches on all the scheduled nights. At our large monthly events, we are featuring subject matter experts on issues that matter to us—environment, affordable housing, health care, and political reform. We will unite when a presidential candidate is chosen. We will continue to support our elected Democrats for whom we worked so vigorously and

new candidates who are challenging incumbents in Republican held districts and states.

Because of all of you and the work you’ve been doing, as our Congressman Mark DeSaulnier says to “save our democracy,” the Democrats of Rossmoor were awarded Region 2 Volunteer(s) of the Year at the California Democratic Party Convention held in San Francisco in early June.

We agree with the *Sentinel* editors—“The nation must endure another 1½ years of Trump. But it needn’t suffer another four beyond that. We can do better. We have to do better.”

Yes, we can! Join your fellow Democrats of Rossmoor to fight the fight and return the nation to its pursuit of the goals to which we’ve aspired. Let us find our way back to truth and decency.

Katha Hartley



June 26/27 Democratic Party Presidential Primary Debates



Join us for debate watch parties at **5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, at the Fireside Room and Thursday, June 27, at the Event Center.** Please bring finger food to share for the Wednesday event. Refreshments will be provided at the Thursday event. Wine will be available both nights for \$5 and soft drinks for \$1.

NBC News anchors and hosts Lester Holt, Savannah Guthrie, and Jose Diaz-Balart will moderate the first hour each night. Holt, Chuck Todd, and Rachel Maddow will moderate the second hour. **The lineups shown below are in order of how they’ll be standing onstage, left to right.**

Lineup for Wednesday, June 26:

- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
- Ohio U.S. Representative Tim Ryan
- Former Housing Secretary Julián Castro
- New Jersey U.S. Senator Cory Booker
- Massachusetts U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
- Former Texas U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke
- Minnesota U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar
- Hawaii U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard
- Washington Governor Jay Inslee
- Former Maryland U.S. Rep. John Delaney

Lineup for Thursday, June 27:

- Author Marianne Williamson
- Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper
- Entrepreneur Andrew Yang
- South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg
- Former Vice President Joe Biden
- Vermont U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders
- California U.S. Senator Kamala Harris
- New York U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
- Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet
- California U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell

DoR Named Region 2 Volunteer(s) of the Year

Shown below is DoR president Katha Hartley displaying the *Democratic Party Region 2 Volunteer(s) of the Year Award*, which was awarded to the Democrats of Rossmoor at the 2019 California Democratic Party Convention.



“If you're not turned on to politics, ... politics will turn on you.” — Ralph Nader

As has been the case since 1972, Iowa will hold the first presidential nominating contest in 2020. Its caucuses will be held on February 3. This will be followed by February contests in the other traditionally early-voting states of New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina. Super Tuesday follows on March 3. That date will be even more prominent in 2020 as California moves up its traditional June primary. By the end of March, events covering well over 50% of each party's delegates will have taken place. The Democratic convention is in July 2020, with the GOP following in August.

The U.S. Senate has 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats (including two Independents). There are 34 seats up in 2020—including a special election in Arizona—of which the GOP holds 22 seats. Democrats only need to gain three or four seats to take control of the Senate.

Representatives from all 435 congressional districts are up for reelection in 2020. The Democratic Party currently controls the U.S. House, where 218 seats are needed for the



Democrats to retain their majority.

Democrats now hold 23 governorships, while the GOP holds 27. Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi hold gubernatorial elections in 2019, with 11 more states to follow in 2020. These races will have national implications with the next census in 2020; as many state legislatures redraw congressional districts, while the governors have veto power.

Republicans currently control state legislatures in 31 states, while Democrats hold 18. Republicans control the state legislatures in every state that President Trump carried in 2016. Democrats control both legislative chambers in every state that Hillary Clinton won, with the exception of the Virginia House and Senate and the Minnesota Senate, all of which are virtually tied but were not up for election in 2018. The same party controls the lower and upper chamber of every legislature but one—Minnesota. In three-quarters of the states, the same party controls both the legislature and the governor's office.

July 23 — Jay Inslee Special Event

On July 23 Democratic Party presidential candidate Jay Inslee—the current Washington Governor—will speak in the Event Center 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Inslee has long championed climate change action and is makes the issue the centerpiece of his presidential run. In early May, Inslee revealed his \$9 trillion collection of climate-change policies ranging from the closure of all coal-fired power plants within 10 years; a requirement that all electricity be "carbon neutral" by 2030; mandates for all new car and light trucks to be "emissions-free by 2030;" and a "Zero-Carbon Building Standard" to be implemented by 2030.

Inslee served in the Washington State House of Representatives 1989–1993 and in the U.S. House of Representatives 1993–1995.



He also served as regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton.

Inslee returned to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1999, this time from Washington's first congressional district. He was reelected six times before announcing that he would make his second—and first successful—run for the governorship in the 2012 election. Inslee was reelected to a second term in 2016. He chaired the Democratic Governors Association for the 2018 election cycle.

Inslee holds a B.A. from the University of Washington and a J.D. from Willamette University College of Law. Sixty-eight-year-old Inslee and his wife have three sons and three grandchildren.

July 27 — Eric Swalwell Special Event

Join us July 27 in welcoming Democratic Party presidential candidate Eric Swalwell, the U.S. Representative from California's 15th Congressional District. Check the weekly emails for the location and the time.

Swalwell's policy proposals include a national and mandatory buyback of military-style semiautomatic assault weapons (exempting law enforcement agencies and gun clubs) and universal background checks for weapons and ammunition purchases. He supports a huge public investment in finding cures from Alzheimer's to ALS to cancer. He has also called for no-interest federal student loans, tax-free employer contributions, and debt-free college for public university students who do work-study and commit to public service jobs in their communities after completing their education.



Swalwell was first elected to the House in 2012, defeating incumbent Pete Stark (D), who had been in office for 40 years. He was the ranking member of the Intelligence Subcommittee on the CIA in the 115th Congress.

Swalwell currently serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Judiciary Committee. Before serving in Congress, Swalwell interned for Ellen Tauscher, was a member of the Dublin town council, and served as an Alameda County deputy district attorney.

Swalwell graduated from Dublin High School, has a B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a J.D. from the Maryland School of Law. He is a son and brother of law enforcement officers. Swalwell is 38 years old, is married, and has two small children.

July 25 — General Meeting

The July 25 General Meeting will feature **Felicia Marcus**—the previous chair of the State Water Resources Control Board—at the Event Center. The Town Square will be at 6 p.m., followed by the Marcus’s presentations at 7 p.m.



Environmental Protection Agency Region IX in the Clinton Administration, where she was known for her work in bringing unlikely allies together for environmental progress on a wide range of issues. Prior to that, she headed Los Angeles’ Department of Public Works at a time when the city went from garnering lawsuits to earning national awards for environmental excellence.

The Water Resources Control Board manages the state’s drinking water and water quality regulation and it enforces the state’s water rights laws. Under Marcus’s guidance, the Board navigated California out of one of the worst droughts in our history, championed solutions to help fulfill the human right to safe water, developed laws and regulations to bring our groundwater basins into balance, and began needed improvements to our water data systems into the 21st Century.

Marcus was the western director for the Natural Resources Defense Council and was the Executive VP/COO of the Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit devoted to land conservation. She also was a private and nonprofit sector attorney in Los Angeles.

Marcus served as the administrator of the

Marcus has an A.B. degree from Harvard in East Asian studies and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.

"No Water. No Life. No Blue. No Green."—Sylvia Earle

Earth’s surface is covered 70% by water. But only 3% of the world’s water supply is fresh water, and 77% of that is frozen. According to National Geographic, of the 23% that is not frozen, only half a percent is available to supply every plant, animal, and human on Earth with all the water they need to survive. If the entire world’s water were fit into a gallon jug, the fresh water available for us would equal only about one tablespoon.



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 17% of the world’s population doesn’t have access to clean water—that’s nearly one billion people. The WHO estimates that almost 3.6 million people die annually from water-related diseases. On average, 2,000 children die each day from diarrhea caused

by unsafe water and poor sanitation. One third of what the world spends on bottled water in one year could pay for projects providing water to everyone in need. 85% of the world’s population lives on the driest half of the planet. Women in sub-Saharan Africa spend 40 billion hours a year, in total, collecting water.

The daily drinking water requirement per person is one half to one gallon. According to the U.N., it takes 250 to 400 gallons of water, on average, to produce one person’s daily food. Including raising animals as well as plants, more than 70% of the water used by humans each year goes to agricultural purposes.

Two-thirds of all rain that falls over the continents goes into the soil. Every inch of

Continued on page 6

No Water. No Life. Continued from page 5

water that runs off represents a loss of up to 150 to 200 pounds of food production per acre. While water planning and policy tend to focus on irrigation, 80% of cropland worldwide is rain fed and accounts for about 60% of global agricultural output (the other 40% of output is from irrigated crop land). About 10% of the world’s food is produced by overpumping groundwater. The many wells that nourish the farms of the California Central Valley are pumping so much water from underground aquifers that the land is sinking.

A tomato “costs” about 13 gallons of water, and eight ounces of broccoli accounts for 19.5 gallons. Eight ounces of asparagus is the water hog of the veggies, requiring 129 gallons of water. Notoriously, almonds require one gallon per nut. One ounce of chocolate requires 200 gallons of water. Four ounces of chicken need 130 gallons of water, while a quarter pound burger uses 462 gallons.

It takes at least twice as much water to produce a plastic water bottle as the amount of water contained in the bottle. Refilling a



half-liter water bottle 1,740 times with tap water is equivalent to the cost of a 99-cent water bottle at a convenience store. More than one-quarter of all bottled water comes from a municipal water supply—the same place that tap water comes from.

Recycling a pound of paper, less than the weight of your average newspaper, saves about 3.5 gallons of water.

If everyone in the U.S. flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lake full of water about one mile long, one mile wide and four feet deep. Today, a larger number of people own a mobile phone than those who have access to a toilet.

Running the tap while brushing your teeth wastes two gallons of water per minute. Older toilets can use three gallons of clean water with every flush, while new toilets use as little as one gallon. A water-efficient dishwasher uses as little as four gallons per cycle, but hand-washing dishes uses 20 gallons of water. A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drop per second can waste 3,000 gallons of water each year.

The video of Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., speaking to the Democrats of Rossmoor on June 19 is now available at www.democratsOFrossmoor.org/political-events.

July 30/31 Democratic Party Presidential Primary Debates

Join us for debate watch parties at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30, and Wednesday, July 31, at the Event Center. Please bring finger food to share for the Wednesday event. Refreshments will be provided at the Thursday event. Wine will be available both nights for \$5 and soft drinks for \$1.

August 8 — Political Trivia Championship

Instead of our August Thank God We’re Democrats (TGWD) meeting, we will be joining the Lamorinda Democratic Club for their third annual “Hot August Night Political Trivia Championship” at the **Lafayette Library Community Room at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 8.**



Participants usually associate with a team, so bring your friends or join a team at the event. No trivia experience is required. Frozen margaritas, tasty grub, goofy prizes, lively banter, and a fancy perpetual trophy will all be featured. **Watch the weekly emails for RSVP instructions.**

August 22 — General Meeting

Affordable housing expert **Randy Shaw** will speak at the Event Center on Thursday, August 22, at 7 p.m. The Town Square/Social Hour will be at 6 p.m.



Randy Shaw is an attorney, author, and activist. He is the executive director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, a San Francisco nonprofit organization that he co-founded in 1980.

Shaw also co-founded and is on the board of directors of Uptown Tenderloin, Inc., a nonprofit organization that spearheaded the creation of the national Uptown Tenderloin Historic District in 2009.

In addition to authoring San Francisco's "heatless hotel" and hot water laws, Shaw has drafted key city ballot measures and state laws strengthening rent control and housing code enforcement.

Shaw is the editor of the online daily news service Beyond Chron. He has written six books on activism, including his 2018 book, *Generation Priced Out: Who Will Live in the New Urban America?*

Shaw has a degree from U.C Berkeley, and a J.D. from U.C. Hastings College of Law. He lives in Berkeley.

DoR Letters, Texts, Phone Calls, and Postcards

DoR letter writing, texting training, phone banking, and postcard writing has begun—all in one room! Join us on any Wednesday from 4–6 p.m. in the Gateway Oak Room. To RSVP, please enter your ZIP Code at www.CommitToFlipBlue.com/events and choose an event.



To start texting, email Susan at stlewis@amihome.com for one-on-one training any day of the week. You'll need a laptop (preferred), iPad, tablet, or smart-phone. We use a user-friendly website—not your phone's texting app—to select pre-written texts to send and to respond to. After training, text from home or join us on Wednesdays!

As of June 19, 900 letters had been written to potential voters in Virginia, where there are 20 winnable seats in the Virginia State Assembly. Swing Left is seeing almost a 5% registration rate increase in districts we are targeting with letter writing! The goal was 2%.

As of June 19, we have:

- 14 leaders
- 26 letter writers who made reservations
- 29 letter writers walk-ins
- 6 phone bankers with reservations
- 2 postcard writers walk-ins
- 77 TOTAL**

DoR phone calls and postcards went to voters in the targeted state of Colorado who need to reregister.



Photo by Edward John Devin



“How is it possible that the most intellectual creature to ever walk the planet Earth is destroying its only home?”

— Jane Goodall —

It’s appropriate, at this juncture, to stop calling it *‘Climate Change’* and call it *‘Climate Crisis’* instead.

How sad it must be to believe that scientists, scholars, historians, economists, and journalists have devoted their entire careers to deceiving you, while a reality TV star—with decades of fraud and exhaustively documented lying—is your only beacon of truth and honesty.

“If you want to stop abortions, **vote for the party that is making sure everyone has healthcare, a high school diploma, and birth control.**”



— Rachel Maddow —



“In a **gentle** way, you can **shake** the world.”

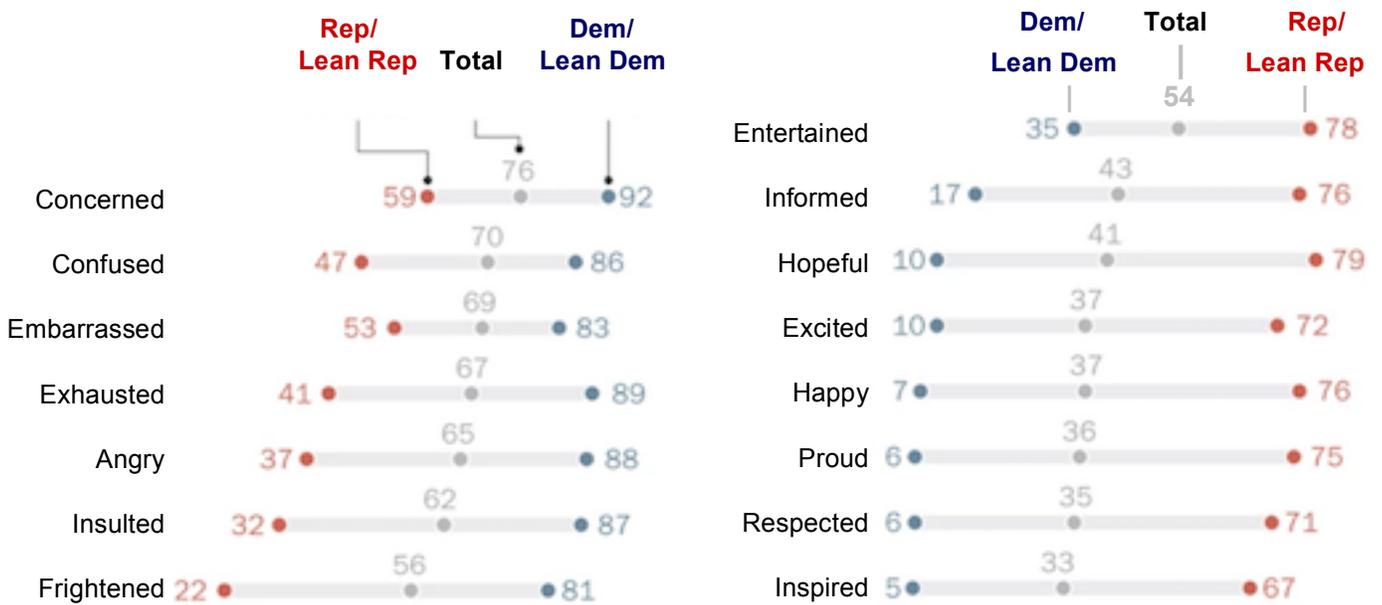
— Mahatma Gandhi —



Meanwhile, at today’s meeting on feline reproductive rights...

How Differently We See Things...

Trump's statements spur feelings of concern, confusion, and embarrassment.
% who say Trump's comments often/sometimes make them feel ...



Large majority says 'heated' rhetoric by politicians raises risk of violence.
% who say elected officials using heated or aggressive language to talk about certain people or groups makes violence against those groups more likely ...



Source for both above: Pew Research Center — survey of U.S adults, conducted April 29–May 12, 2019

Respondents tend to say presidents from their own party are trustworthy
% who say each president is trustworthy by party and leaned party ...



Source for above: Pew Research Center — survey of U.S adults, conducted September 18–24, 2018

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Upcoming Events

July 1 Book Club: *In my own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsberg. MPR 2 at 3 p.m.



July 30 & 31 Democratic Party Presidential Primary Candidates' Debate Watch: Event Center, 5–8 p.m. See page 6 for details.

July 4 Independence Day

July 8 Film: *Documenting Hate: Charlottesville*. Peacock Hall at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

August 5 Book Club: *Siege: Trump Under Fire* by Michael Wolff. MPR 2 at 3 p.m.

July 23 Special Event: Democratic Party Presidential Primary Candidate Jay Inslee. Event Center, 3:30 p.m. See page 4 for details.

August 8 Lamorinda Dem. Club Trivia Championship: Lafayette Library Community Room, 7 p.m. See page 6 for details.

July 25 General Meeting: Felicia Marcus, Water Expert. Event Center, 6 p.m. Town Square, 7 p.m. speaker. See page 5 for details.

August 12 Film: *to be determined*. Peacock Hall at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

July 27 Special Event: CANCELLED. Democratic Party Presidential Primary Candidate Eric Swalwell. See page 4 for details.

August 22 General Meeting: Randy Shaw, Affordable Housing Expert. Event Center, 6 p.m. Town Square, 7 p.m. speaker. See page 7 for details.

“When one with honeyed words, but evil mind, persuades the mob, great woes befall the state.” — Euripides, from Orestes

2019 Membership Form

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.