

# The Rossmoor Republican

June 2013

FLAG DAY



JUNE 14

## Contra Costa County: Trends and Issues

Contra Costa County, where we live, is one of nine counties in the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area and the ninth most populous county in California. The County has a population of over one million souls. With 8,500 employees, county government has almost as many employees as Rossmoor has residents.



**David J. Twa**  
Contra Costa County  
Administrator

served as county manager of Ramsey County, Minnesota's most densely populated county and home to the state capital. He joined Contra Costa County as county administrator in 2008.

Twa received his bachelor's degree from Mankato State University and his law degree from the University of Minnesota. He is a CPA in addition to being an attorney.

Mr. Twa's remarks will offer an important perspective on one of the largest and most expensive institutions of local government serving our community.

As to the costs of county government, for every dollar spent on employee salaries, another \$.40 is spent on pensions and yet another \$.41 is spent on other benefits. It's no wonder, then, that the annual cost of Contra Costa county government approximates \$2.4 billion.

The man in charge of this operation will speak to our club on June 12. His name is David J. Twa and he will address trends and issues in the county.

Twa spent two terms as an elected county attorney in Minnesota before moving into county administration. He

**A blue dinner reservation form for June 12 is included in this issue of the Republican. The form MUST be returned by noon, Friday, June 7. Reservation questions: 937-0125**

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## "Inside North Korea" Coming to Peacock Hall

We will be showing the 2006 documentary "Inside North Korea" on Tuesday, June 25, at 4pm in Peacock Hall.

Disguised as a medical coordinator, National Geographic correspondent Lisa Ling gains access into North Korea and gives viewers a powerful glimpse inside one of the world's most repressive countries. Through personal accounts and exclusive footage, this documentary exposes the difficulties North Koreans face coping with oppression, poverty, and starvation.

This film runs 50 minutes. For additional information contact John Littig at 256-8558.

### FYI

"Last Call" at the hosted wine, beer and soft drink bar at RCR Dinners is **6:00 P.M.**



# The Danger of Promiscuous Forwarding

## ...John Littig, Club Publicity Chair

This is the kind of thing that can make us look foolish. It concerns an exchange of two e-mail messages, both reproduced here. The two correspondents are both friends of mine (and of each other) and both are conservatives.

This first is a forwarded message purporting to show that recent mass murderers are Democrats. It has several signs of being bogus: it's in large bold type with frequent underlining, it lacks supporting documentation, it's anonymous, and it lacks any attribution. It just feels like the fake that it is. Unfortunately, my friend passed it along, apparently oblivious to the obvious red flags. Here's the bogus forwarded message:

**"I and fellow gun owners are responsible for all the carnage in our streets and our schools? Never mind that Ted Kennedy's car has killed more people than my entire collection of firearms. Obama calls us right wing gun nuts, clinging to our religion and our guns. But lets take a little closer look. The Fort Hood shooter, a Muslim, was a registered Democrat. The Virginia Tech shooter who wrote hate mail to George Bush and his staff was a registered Democrat. The Aurora Colorado shooter was a staff worker on the Obama campaign and took part in Occupy Wall Street. He was a progressive liberal and guess what? A registered Democrat. The Newtown, Conn shooter hated Christians and was a registered Democrat. The Columbine high school shooters were too young to vote, but both of their families were progressive liberals and registered Democrats. **Not a single one of these killers were members of the National Rifle Association. So, to make****

**this country safer, let's leave the guns alone and lock up all the Democrats."**

The second message is a response debunking the first. The recipient sensed that the forwarded message was bogus and he did a little research and analysis. (Out of respect for your time and concern for your endurance, I'm providing just the first two points of the rebuttal. But be assured that the remainder is equally convincing.) Now here's the partial rebuttal:

*"1. Nidal Hasan (the Ft. Hood shooter) lived in either Virginia (his state of residence prior to being sent to Ft. Hood) or Texas, neither of which has partisan registration. Therefore, the claim that he was a "registered Democrat" is false. I do not know if he voted or how he voted, but I do know that unless he was registered in a state in which he did not reside, the claim that he is a registered democrat is false.*

*"2. Since Virginia does not have partisan registration, there is also no way to tell whether Seung-Hui Cho was a Democrat. But again, because there is no partisan registration in the state we can say that the claim that he is a registered Democrat is false. Also, a more obvious point is that Cho was a resident alien, not a US citizen, so he was not eligible to vote at all."*

This exchange is instructive. It offers an example of how simple it is to spot a fake story. Our example displayed several badges of a fake: large bold type, underlining, anonymity, lack of attribution, and lack of documentation. In addition to those traits, fakes often exhibit red font, all-caps, and an exhortation to forward the message.

But also, it raises a troubling question: why do people on "our" side stoop to making up this sort of garbage? I don't have the answer to that one, and I know there's no way to stop them. But at least we shouldn't become their partners-in-crime by promiscuously forwarding their creations.

Spreading the truth should work to our advantage; spreading lies won't.

*"When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it. -Clarence Darrow*

## Are You an E-Mail user?

This past month we had occasion to use the RCR e-mail list to remind members of the Discussion Group meeting on May 21. If you are an e-mail user, but did not receive the e-mail notice, please make sure our Membership Chair (csworth@sbcglobal.net) has your correct e-mail address.

Your e-mail address will not be shared with others.

# Discussion Group

At the RCR May Dinner Meeting, Bob Randall extended the invitation to members to join the Club's Discussion Group (left). On May 21 members gathered for a lively Discussion Group meeting in the Garden Room at Dollar Clubhouse.



Photos by Peggy Fryer



## CLUB LEADERSHIP

### Elected Officers

- Mary Hufford, President, 979-9611
- Pam Parsons, Vice President, 831-1808
- Sally Nordwall, Secretary, 938-7026
- Bud Lake, Treasurer, 934-2266

### Directors

- Fran Cavanaugh, Immed. Past President, 945-7211
- Tom Fryer, Editor *Republican*, 947-5878
- Vickie Hipkiss, Webmaster, 933-5512
- Pam Parsons, Ambassadors
- Jean Meredith, Programs, 932-0719
- Devon Olson, Asst. Treasurer and Historian/By-Laws, 943-7905
- John Littig, Publicity, 256-8558
- Clair Weenig, Director at Large, 287-9795
- Carol Worthington, Membership, 256-1313

## Club Calendar

- Ambassadors**, Tuesday, June 11, 11 AM, Room 4, Creekside
- Dinner Meeting**, Wednesday, June 12, 5:15 PM, Fireside Room, Gateway
- Board Meeting**, Monday, June 17, 1 PM, Room 4, Creekside
- Discussion Group**, Tuesday, June 18, 2 PM, Garden Room, Dollar
- Issues Committee**, In Recess

**JOIN US!**  
**Simply call Carol Worthington at 256-1313. She will handle all of the steps needed to make you a full member of the Republican Club of Rossmoor. Annual dues are \$15 per person; \$25 per couple.**

## IN MEMORY OF LEO S. BACH

Leo Bach, who passed away on February 26, 2013 at age 93, was one of the Republican Club of Rossmoor's leaders for many years. Leo never served as Club President, but he was a guiding spirit for the Club's growth and development. He also regularly wrote a column expressing conservative values for the *Rossmoor News*.

Born in Brooklyn, Leo was present at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was shot down over Germany in a B-17 in 1944 and was imprisoned in a POW camp for 13 months, about which he wrote a book titled Going Home.

As Leo's years advanced from youth to old age, his political philosophy matured. He began as a Marxist, evolved to a Berkeley radical activist, grew to be a conservative Democrat, and thought his way through to become a staunch Republican.

He was a deeply thoughtful man who possessed a great sense of humor and remarkable insight into the processes of improving the human condition.

Thanks, Leo, and rest in peace.

## NEW MEMBER

**Richard Lapin**

**A WARM REPUBLICAN CLUB WELCOME!**

THE ROSSMOOR REPUBLICAN IS THE JOURNAL  
OF THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF ROSSMOOR  
"SENIORS FOR A GOVERNMENT OF PRINCIPLE  
ABOVE POLITICS"

Gateway Complex Mail Box  
1001 Golden Rain Road  
Walnut Creek CA 94595



## **JUNE DINNER MENU**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2013, Fireside Room, Gateway**

**5:15 pm Social Time, 6:00 pm Dinner**

**A HOSTED WINE, BEER AND SOFT DRINK BAR WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 6:00 pm**

### **Menu**

**Spinach with Hot Bacon Dressing, Hard-Boiled Egg and Red Onion**

**Roast Salmon with Mango Salsa**

**Vegetarian Option: Eggplant Parmesan**

**Spinach and Parmesan Risotto and Sautéed Garden Vegetables**

**Assorted Breads with Butter**

**Strawberry Shortcake**

**Decaf Coffee or Hot Tea**

**Reservation deadline: Noon, Friday, June 7**

**Reservation questions: Call 937-0125**