

# CONNECTIONS

March/April 2019



## 2019 CALENDAR

March 18	Media Group Coffee & Conversation
March 27	Book Group
March 28	Wine, Whine & Wonder
April 2	Pickleball Group Current Events Dialogue
April 11	Tennis Group
April 12	Monthly Luncheon Amber Kuehn Marine Biologist
April 15	Media Group
April 24	Book Group
May 1	Conversation & Current Events
May 10	Monthly Luncheon
May 20	Media Group

Check our [WEBSITE](#) for updates, programs, and special interest group information.

### Upcoming Luncheon Dates

June 14	October 4
July - No meeting	November 8
August 9	December 6
September 13	



## Notes From the Chair

Please welcome new Steering Committee member Susan Sigelow. Susan will serve as an “at-large” member to assist as needed where needed in any program area. Susan was a clinical psychologist in private practice in Ohio. She has been an active member of Liberal Ladies for at least three years and participates in the media group and has attended the book group as well.

### Have you heard about the small groups?

The Steering Committee (“SC”) is encouraged by the members' response to its small group efforts. Two have been announced for March and three are confirmed for later in April and May... (after Easter and The Heritage). These first gatherings have a focus on current events and are offered at a variety of times and locations. Hopefully, one of these will fit your schedule.

The Steering Committee regards these efforts as “seeds.” Perhaps the discussion group will focus on a specific topic or continue in the broader scope. A member has suggested that one topic might be the Democratic primaries with each member following one candidate's background and platform. Or perhaps, one group might become a daytime book club. The SC is subsidizing these first efforts. We hope one or more of them might become another established special interest group and function as the book club, media group and tennis groups do.

If you have an interest in hosting one, contact [Liberal-ladieschair@gmail.com](mailto:Liberal-ladieschair@gmail.com) to explore the possibilities. Dunkin Donuts has a private room available. Panera? Starbucks? Or rotating homes? Wherever members gather, good conversation is sure to follow.

A shout out to Ann Durrin, Helene Kugit and Donna Raines who have taken the initiative to form a pickleball group. Six members enjoyed a few games followed by a social time in late February and are scheduled to play again in April. Thank you to these women for this effort. See details on page 5 or sign up by clicking [HERE](#).

### You asked about lunch.....

The following questions have been asked of the SC recently.

#### 1) What time does lunch begin?

The doors open for you to check in about 11:20 a.m. and Indigo Run is asked to have the buffet ready for serving at 11:30. Members may come anytime after 11:30 and eat when they are ready. You should have yourself served and seated by 12:30 when the program begins.

Continued on page 2.

## Notes From the Chair

Because of the parking challenges many members are arriving very early. But, members are not late if they arrived at noon or later.

### 2) *How do I cancel a reservation for lunch or any LLL event?*

The best way is to reply to your confirmation email which will go to the appropriate chair. In the text, indicate you are cancelling. Cancellations received by the deadline are eligible for a refund.

### 3) *When is the deadline to register for lunch?*

The new management at Indigo Run is requesting FINAL numbers one week prior to the luncheon. This is a change. Consequently, you will receive the announcement earlier to give you plenty of time to register. The deadline will be Thursday evening at 6pm **one week before the luncheon or when capacity is reached**. The deadline date will appear on the announcement.

### 4) *May I be waitlisted for lunch?*

Yes. Registration is closed once capacity is reached and you will not be able to register. Send an email to [liberalladiesreservations@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiesreservations@gmail.com) and request to be waitlisted. However, it is not a satisfactory solution. It is not very often that cancellations are received prior to the lunch. Experience shows that members are more likely to be no shows. Hence we can not offer you the seat prior to the lunch. So being waitlisted may give you false hope. The registrations, no shows (from previous months) and waitlist numbers are considered as we meet capacity and gauge "wiggle room." Waitlists have been the exception rather than the rule in the past.

Lynn Cordy

## MEMBERSHIP

As of this newsletter, we are still growing every month. I wish to remind you that if your membership is coming due you will receive an email from us reminding you to renew, with instructions on how to do so.

Please remember that The Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry no longer accepts cash or checks. All payments are made through our safe and secure Paypal portal. You do NOT need a Paypal account to use the portal; you may use Paypal or most any credit card.

In addition to the above questions answered by the Chair, please remember that in the interest of fairness you can not give up your paid luncheon seat to another member. We will refer to the waitlist when we receive your cancellation.

Please spread the word about our organization and let's make 2019 our strongest enrollment year to date!

Diane Polevoy

## PROGRAMS

We are looking forward to our April Luncheon Program. We are honored to have Amber Kuehn speak to our group. Amber grew up in Bluffton and has her Master's degree in Marine Biology. She spends half her life on the beach managing Sea Turtle Patrol HHI, and the other half on her boat. Amber will intro-

duce us to the waterways and teach us to relate to the whispers of the pluff mud and the secrets of the salt marsh estuary in our own backyard.

Maggie Hammer from "Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America" will be speaker for May.

Stayed tuned for future programs on ERA and Gun Control.

Randie Wolfe and Myla Lerner

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Member to Member Event Posting

Do you have news/events to share with our members? We have an area on our website for information shared by our members – Member to Member. To submit news/events, login to the website and click on the contact us page. Select Member to Member Submission, identify yourself and post your message. Your submission will be reviewed and posted.

To view what other members have posted, login to the website. Select Member / Member to Member from the menu.

Minerva Castro-Hernandez

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**Liberal Ladies in the movies!**  
Read Sharron Sypult's article [HERE](#).

## February 2019 Recap “From the Heart” Program

Continuing our tradition of a February “From the Heart” Program, six local non-profits presented information about their organizations, explained how they served the community, and let us know how we could help by volunteering our time, talent, energy, and money. These very worthwhile organizations, via their volunteers and leaders, fill a variety of needs within our community and remind us that not everyone in Beaufort County is fortunate enough to enjoy many of the things that we may take for granted. If any of these causes call to you, please check out their websites/contact information and see how you may be able to help our community.

**Backpack Buddies of Bluffton** is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to alleviating chronic hunger in school children in the community for the times when they do not have access to school breakfasts and lunches. Backpack Buddies provides food for over 700 children in 11 schools, primarily through: (1) bags of food on Friday for children who otherwise might go hungry over the weekend; (2) monthly boxes of food for families; and, (3) vouchers for the Bluffton Farmers Market in the summer. <https://backpackbuddiesbluffton.com/>

**Bluffton Self Help** has epitomized “neighbors helping neighbors” for more than 32 years. Over 200 volunteers help provide food pantry items, clothes, emergency financial assistance, haircuts, school supplies, Christmas toys, and other resources to those in need in an effort to break the cycle of poverty, promote self-worth, dignity, and create a pathway to personal success. It served over 5,500 last year. <https://www.blufftonselfhelp.org/>

**CAPA – Child Abuse Prevention Association** tries to break the cycle of abuse and neglect. CAPA operates a children’s shelter for 15 children and has licensed foster families. There are outreach programs and mentoring programs for families and money is raised through special fundraisers and its thrift store – CAPA’s Closet. Volunteers, mentors, and donations are welcomed. [www.capabeaufort.org/](http://www.capabeaufort.org/)

**Habitat for Humanity**, founded in the 1970’s, believes that everyone deserves a decent and affordable place to call home. Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity is currently working on building 16 houses at the Glen on Marshland Road. Habitat does not “give” anything other than opportunity, and requires the families to work on their homes and pay back a zero interest loan. Through the volunteer builders, donations, and money raised through Re-Store, Habitat is able to provide families with a simple, decent place to live. <http://habitathhi.org/>

**Meals on Wheels** provides meals and personal contact to check on the elderly, indigent, sick, and those

recently discharged from the hospital in the Hilton Head, Bluffton, and Sun City areas. Volunteering for Meals on Wheels can be very fulfilling because you can actually see the person you are helping. You, as the volunteer, may be the only person they see or have contact with and provide much more than just nutrition to those who are served. Volunteer drivers are always needed to deliver meals a few mornings a month and all monetary donations stay in the area to benefit residents of our communities.

[www.lowmow.net](http://www.lowmow.net)

**NAMI Lowcountry – National Alliance on Mental Illness** -- is dedicated to improving the lives of people with mental illness and their families. NAMI is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization and provides a multitude of services to those in our community, as well as providing education and support, and advocating for mental health. NAMI is committed to changing lives and reducing the stigma often faced by the 60 million children and adults who live with a mental health condition.

[www.NAMILowcountry.com](http://www.NAMILowcountry.com)

## February 2019 Recap Dr. Geoffrey I. Scott Coastal Development and Climate Change

At our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Geoffrey Scott, Ph.D., spoke about the dangers that coastal development and climate change pose for our coastal ecosystems and human health, and specifically about the impact upon us here in the Lowcountry. Dr. Scott is currently a Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, following a 27 year career with NOAA. He has authored over 150 publications.

[https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/public\\_health/documents/cvs/cv\\_scott.pdf](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/documents/cvs/cv_scott.pdf)

Throughout the world, and in the U.S., more than 50% of the population lives in coastal regions. This heavy concentration of population, development, and commerce affects both environmental health and human health. The urbanization of our coastal ecosystems is especially significant along our Southeast Coast of the U.S., where Myrtle Beach, Charleston, and Beaufort County are the three fastest growing areas. As the population increases and covers the land with more and more impervious surfaces, increased levels of bacteria and pollution threaten our ecosystems and our very health. More than 44% of our coastal regions are seriously impaired.

Continued on page 4.

## February 2019 Recap Dr. Geoffrey I. Scott

When this urbanization interacts with climate change and the carbon cycle, the threats we face are further amplified, resulting in harmful algal blooms, fish kills and coral bleaching. Warmer waters and pollution cause an increase in antibiotic resistant vibrio bacteria. Therefore, eating certain foods (especially oysters and other shellfish), or even swimming at the beach, can result in gastrointestinal issues, serious infections, the loss of limbs, and even death. Fatty liver disease, cancer, and respiratory diseases are also increasing at a rapid rate as a result of these environmental factors. Dr. Scott prepared much more information than there was time to discuss at the luncheon or to review here. He kindly agreed to allow us to post his slides on our website, so please look for them at a later date. They will be posted as soon as we receive them.

Linda Sheets



## Organization of the Month March 2019

The World Affairs Council of Hilton Head (WACHH) provides a forum to learn more about world events and their impact on the United State of America. It offers a variety of programs for members, the general public, and students in our area. The WACHH has approximately 1200 members and its Friday speaker series usually has about 700 participants. Many of our LLLC members already belong to WACHH. To learn more and find out about joining, check their [website](#).

Linda Sheets



## Let's Get Together!

Do you want to get to know other Liberal Ladies? Then attend one of the gatherings below that fits into your schedule:

- We are planning a coffee and conversation event with steering committee member Randie Wolfe in Bluffton on **March 18** at 10 am.
- Steering committee chair Lynn Cordy will welcome members in her Bluffton home on **March 28** at 4 pm for "Wine, then Whine, and Wonder at the Current Events."
- Members Roberta Glaser Carlsen and Margaret Mattison are hosting a current events dialogue at The Golf Club in Indigo Run on **April 2** at 2 pm.
- On **April 23** at 5 pm, you may "Wine, Whine, and Wonder at Current Events" with a steering committee member Linda Moniuszko at her home in Port Royal Plantation on Hilton Head.,m
- Meet with member Linda Devillier at 4 pm at her home in Indigo Run on **May 1** for conversation and current events at 4 pm.

Details will be emailed to members and you may register online to attend an event. Please remember that participation is limited to provide a good opportunity for discussion so be sure to sign up early if possible. Check the website calendar activities [HERE](#) .

Linda Moniuszko & Judy Pizzuti

# Special Interest Groups

## Book Group

The Book Group endeavors to provide members of the Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry an opportunity to meet with other Liberal Ladies to read and discuss books that are both diverse and relevant. Our meetings are held monthly, on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. We meet at the Fire Station on Whooping Crane Way just outside of Hilton Head Plantation. This location provides ample parking and no gate passes are needed.

Please check the calendar on the LLLC website for information on upcoming dates and reads, and to register for a meeting. We ask that you register in advance as space is limited. (Logon to our [WEBSITE](#), Open the Activities Tab, click on the "Calendar" and then click on the "+" sign next to the date/event.) For more information on the Book Group you may contact a co-coordinator, Nancy Nienstedt (nnienstedt@gmail.com) or Suzanne Knight (sbknight66@gmail.com). We hope that all of you bibliophiles out there will join us for an evening of interesting and lively conversation.

Date: March 27  
Time: 7:00pm  
Place: Fire Station on Whooping Crane Way  
Book: Sex Wars: A Novel of Gilded Age New York, by Marge Pierce  
Facilitator: Roslyn Grossman

Date: April 24  
Time: 7:00pm  
Place: Fire Station on Whooping Crane Way  
Book: If Beale Street Could Talk, James Baldwin  
Facilitator: Emily Oetjen

Date: May 29  
Time: 7:00pm  
Place: Fire Station on Whooping Crane Way  
Book: Bad Pharma: How Drug Companies Mislead Doctors and Harm Patients, by Ben Goldacre  
Facilitator: Linda Goldacre

Nancy Nienstedt

## Media Group

The Media Group of Liberal Ladies meets on the third Monday of each month at 5:15 pm at Hickory Tavern in Shelter Cove. Reservations can be made on our website or directly with Anita Loeser at [dale-lady11@gmail.com](mailto:dale-lady11@gmail.com) or at 843-342-6688. Reservations are encouraged by the Saturday prior to the Monday meeting.

Date: March 18th at 5:15 pm. The discussion will be on *If Beale Street Could Talk*.

Date: April 15th at 5:15 pm. The discussion will be on *Greta*.

Date: May 20th at 5:15 pm. Discussion topic has yet to be selected.

Please join us for refreshments and libations and discussion of current movies and plays.

Anita Loeser, Clare Seliger

## Pickleball Group

We are excited to announce that a new group is organizing Pickleball matches open to our members. The group is led by Helene Kugit and Donna Raines. The plan is to play at community Pickleball courts around the Hilton Head and Bluffton area followed by Happy Hour. We currently have two communities in Bluffton with available courts and we'll be looking for participating members to host in their communities. The group is not intended for first time players, but for those members who are familiar with the rules and scoring.

The inaugural Liberal Ladies Pickleball matches took place on February 25th on the courts in Rose Hill. Afterward, new friends adjourned to Oak Terrace at Rose Hill for cocktails and conversation. Our next matches will take place in Bluffton on Tuesday, April 2, from 3-5 on the courts of The Crescent. Stay for refreshments afterward at The 19th Hole featured by One Hot Mamas. We are looking forward to an active, fun and friendly group of Pickleball players. Watch your email for the signup opportunity

Next outing is:

Tuesday, April 2nd at The Crescent, 3-5.  
Happy hour to follow at The 19th Hole by One Hot Mama's (located in the Crescent Club house).  
1 Crescent Point, Bluffton, SC 29910

Ann Durrin, Helene Kugit, Donna Raines

## Tennis Group

The next outing is Thursday, April 11th, at Spring Lake in Hilton Head Plantation from 3-5. Potluck party following tennis at Louise Gorny's at 5 Hermit Crab Court in HHP. Sign up on the calendar on our [WEBSITE](#).

Megan Sisson

# Member to Member

## Low Country Community Health/Teen Health Connection

This program provides middle and high school students ages 11-19 with medically accurate, factual information to empower young people to make responsible decisions based on their own values.

The program has peer education, family engagement and hopefully expanded collaboration with local school and community organizations. Careen Turner, the local educator, is anxious for the community to know of this resource which is an initiative of Planned Parenthood.

For further information, Careen may be reached at 843-384-6725 or [careen.turner@ppsat.org](mailto:careen.turner@ppsat.org)

Lynn Cordy

## HHI Drinking Liberally

The Hilton Head Chapter of **Drinking Liberally** is up and going strong! Join us on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Mangiamo's at 6PM. You'll enjoy the comradarie and conversation.

Sarah "Tippy" Amick

## Lean Ensemble Theater

Lean Ensemble presents its fourth production of the season March 20-24. *If You Forget Me*, a dark comedy, is an exploration of growing up, the nature of memory, and the process of letting go. Tix for this world premiere are available at [www.leanensemble.org](http://www.leanensemble.org). See you at the theater!

Myla Lerner

## Tom Steyer in Hilton Head

The Liberal Summit is hosting Tom Steyer on March 18, 2019. There are no costs to attend this Town Hall Meeting. Lunch will be served to all who register to participate. The event will be held from 12 noon to 2 PM at Hilton Head Beach and Tennis, 40 Folly Field Road, Hilton Head. You **MUST** register online in advance in order to participate. The link for registration is: <https://goo.gl/forms/koJNdMB10e2ORq883>

Lynn Cordy



The League of Women Voters would like to inform you of several events they are sponsoring.

### Meet with Your Representatives

LWV of Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area in partnership with Campbell Chapel AME Church will host a LEGISLATIVE PANEL 3:30-5:00 p.m. March 30 at Campbell Chapel AME Church Located at 25 Boundary Street, Bluffton, SC

### Meet Our Mayors

HHI mayor John McCann and Bluffton mayor Lisa Sulka, who will speak on the state of their towns on Wednesday, April 10 at 10:00 am at HHI Public Service District, 21 Oak Park Drive, HHI. [www.lwvhhi.org](http://www.lwvhhi.org)

### CALL TO ACTION: Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in South Carolina

It is time for South Carolina to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (EqualMeansEqual.org)! This is what is proposed in H. 3391, which is supported by the League of Women Voters. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (D) Orangeburg, the longest serving member of the House of Representatives, and Peter McCoy (R) Charleston, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, are both sponsors and leaders working to move H.3391 forward. Ask your friends, family, and all those who care about gender equality and women's rights to help with this advocacy. Reach out to your elected representatives in the General Assembly.

**Host a Postcard writing gathering in your neighborhood!** If you would be interested in doing this, please contact Barb Hammes, LWV ERA Specialist ([barb.hammes@gmail.com](mailto:barb.hammes@gmail.com)) for an ERA Fact Sheet, hostess instructions for writing postcards and to whom, and materials (postcards and the pre-printed mailing labels for the 29 state legislators who will be deciding on this important issue)

Make the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage a true celebration of OUR time.  
Let's ratify the ERA in South Carolina!

For complete information, go to their [website](#).

Barb Hammes, Sandy Stern

# 2019 Steering Committee

**Chairperson:** Lynn Cordy

[liberalladieschair@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladieschair@gmail.com)

**Communications:** Minerva Castro-Hernandez

[liberalladiescommunications@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiescommunications@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Diane Polevoy

[liberalladiesmembership@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiesmembership@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Gail Bottoms

[liberalladiestreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiestreasurer@gmail.com)

**Programs:** Myla Lerner & Randie Wolfe

[liberalladiesprograms@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiesprograms@gmail.com)

**Special Events:** Linda Moniuszko & Judy Pizzuti

[liberalladiesevents@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiesevents@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:** Donna Morris & Linda Sheets

[liberalladiesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiesnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Website Coordinator:** Suzi Huisman

[liberalladieswebsite@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladieswebsite@gmail.com)

**Member-at-Large:** Susan Sigalow - [liberalladiesatlarge@gmail.com](mailto:liberalladiesatlarge@gmail.com)

## Meet the Steering Committee

The membership survey of last year suggested you would like to get to know the Steering Committee. We will be introducing them to you over the next few issues of CONNECTIONS.

### **Lynn Cordy - Chair**

Lynn Cordy assumed the leadership role of Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry as Chair of the Steering Committee in 2019, after previously serving as Chair Elect and Newsletter Editor. Lynn was born in Pittsburgh, grew up in New York State, and has lived in the Lowcountry since 2010.

After obtaining her B.S. from SUNY Geneseo, M.S. from SUNY Albany, and Administrative Certification from SUNY Plattsburgh, Lynn had a full career working as a school librarian and also in staff development. She was Director of the North Country Teacher Resource Center and also Director of the Dutchess County School Library System.

In addition to her work with LLL, Lynn has held a variety of positions with various educational and professional associations, including serving as President of the Champlain Valley AFS. Lynn currently lives in Bluffton where she is a Family Promise volunteer and serves on the Congregational Recruitment and Retention committee.

### **Gail Bottoms - Treasurer**

Gail Bottoms has been Treasurer of LLLC since January 2018. She was born in New Jersey and grew up there and in Ohio. Since then, she has lived in Georgia and Virginia and even lived on HHI for five years in the 1990's. Gail moved back to this area again in 2016.

Gail received a B.B.A. degree from the University of Georgia, with a major in Accounting. She worked at Marriott Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland until 1989, when the first of her two children was born. Thereafter, Gail made good use of her accounting skills by volunteering as a PTA treasurer at two elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

Gail currently lives on Hilton Head Island. Besides her work for LLL, Gail enjoys playing tennis four to five days per week.

### **Diane Polevoy- Membership/Reservations**

Diane Polevoy has been in charge of Membership and Reservations for the Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry since 2018.

Originally from New Jersey, Diane lived here part time (7 months of the year) for ten years, until 2018, when she moved here full time. Diane was a librarian in a public library for twelve years, and she now works part-time at VIM as the assistant to the Mental Health Director.

Diane lives on Hilton Head Island with her cat, Annabelle. She has one son who lives in Charlotte, NC. In her free time, Diane enjoys Mah Jongg, Pilates and yoga.

### **Minerva Castro-Hernandez - Communications**

Minerva Castro-Hernandez joins the LLL Steering Committee for the first time in 2019 and is in charge of Communications. She moved to Bluffton in April 2016 from Mechanicsburg, PA. Minerva was born in Puerto Rico and raised in New Jersey.

Minerva is a retired IT Professional with over 30 years of experience with Wide Area Networks, contract negotiations, operations management, and project management. She holds a B.S. from Montclair State College, an MIS from Shippensburg University, and is a Notary Public for South Carolina.

Minerva enjoys many various activities, including walking, biking, bowling, pickleball and traveling. Currently, she splits her time as a volunteer for Caring Neighbors and the LLL Steering Committee.