

CONNECTIONS

May/June 2019



2019 CALENDAR

May 20	Media Group
May 29	Book Group
June 14	Monthly Luncheon Kimberly Jones, Watershed Mgmt.
June 17	Media Group
JULY	NO MEETING
July 15	Media Group
AUGUST	NO MEETING
August 19	Media Group
September 13	Monthly Luncheon

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

Upcoming Luncheon Dates

June 14	October 4 — Combined meeting w/Men's grp.
July - No meeting	
August - No meeting	November 8
September 13	December 6

Candidate Visits

Very often the candidates' visits are announced with very little advance notice. Liberal Ladies will place details of the visit on the member to member page of the website. To read, you will need to log on to the website, and then use the pull down tab for membership and then click on the member to member event posting. You might consider making it a habit to regularly check the website in the next months. It is expected that more visits will happen in the months leading up to the South Carolina primary February 29, 2020.

Notes From the Chair

Ladies Who Lunch.....

The Steering Committee is grateful to the management at Indigo Run who helpfully arranged for the Liberal Ladies to meet at Country Club of Hilton Head for its May meeting. Indigo Run had a workforce issue and could not guarantee they would be able to serve us the quality luncheon we have experienced in the past. Hats off to Indigo Run for facilitating this move. And of course, we are especially delighted with CCHH who so graciously and deliciously accommodated us. It was a very memorable luncheon. Thank you, CCHH.

We will return to CCHH for the June 14th meeting for a buffet lunch. This menu will not be the surprise treat we had as the welcome lunch, but we are confident CCHH will provide us with a second very positive experience.

For some months, the Steering Committee has been monitoring the luncheon registration numbers. Liberal Ladies has outgrown the space at Indigo Run. Space was tight and parking was more so. New management at IR asked us to cap attendance at 150. We agreed as it was more comfortable for all of us. But reluctantly, some members were being closed out.

Steering Committee has been reviewing and visiting sites to find slightly larger capacity with a reasonable lunch cost. We consider parking and also whether they have the second Friday of the month available. For at least 4 years the lunch fee has been stable and quite truthfully, low! (You probably attend other lunch functions and realize the bargain we had at \$17.00.)

Please be prepared for a new higher price. Venues charge service charges, rental fees and a 9% tax as of May 1. We will keep the fee as reasonable as possible to provide members a good lunch in a comfortable environment.

Fortunately, we had begun a review process so have narrowed the list. The Steering Committee hopes to be able to announce the new location and cost at the June 14 meeting.

Liberal Summit

Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry is a member of the Lowcountry Summit. This Summit includes representatives of the area's progressive organizations and primarily shares information. The group has developed a website with information on liberal organizations and links to the organizations. Of particular interest may be the central calendar of activities. Click here to view: lowcountryliberals.com.

Lynn Cordy

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continues to grow. Welcome to all the Liberal Ladies who joined since our last newsletter. Please continue to open and read any email you get from us as in some cases it is to remind you that your membership is due to expire and it is time to renew. You will receive three (3) reminders and after that, you will be moved to a basic status and will not be able to register for luncheons or any event.

Putting on my reservations hat, I would like to thank those members who help me check in guests for our events and to thank all members for their patience in dealing with the registration/website issues we had this month. Hope you had a Happy Mother's Day and see you in June.

Diane Polevoy

PROGRAMS

Our June Speaker will be Kimberly Jones, M.S., CEPSCI, Watershed Management, Division Manager for the Town of Bluffton. Dr Geoff Scott, our March speaker, suggested that Kim speak to us, as she's an expert on the May River. Kim has lived in the Lowcountry since 1995, working on numerous environmental projects. The title of her presentation will be "From Data to Decisions -- The May River Watershed Action Plan."

Please note that there will be **NO Liberal Ladies Luncheons** scheduled in July or August. Never fear, the Program Committee will return in September when Barbara Fry, ERA point person with the League of Women Voters in Charleston, will speak about the Equal Rights Amendment!

Myla Lerner, Randie Wolfe

WEBSITE

April was a very frustrating month for some of you trying to register for the luncheon. Websites can be very fickle and the simplest change can cause havoc.

Without going into too much detail, we upgraded to a dedicated server, which should make the website respond faster. However, that didn't fix the problem, as we discovered a day or two later. Fortunately, we were finally able to figure it out, and that seemed to allow most of you to register.

We realize that some of you still had problems even after we made those changes. We were able to help most of you by offering some simple suggestions.

1. Try using a different browser. For example, if you use Edge or IE or Safari, try using Chrome or Firefox.
2. Try shutting down your computer and then re-starting it. This can help clear out the cache in your browser.
3. If that still doesn't work, you can contact us (liberalladieswebsite@gmail.com) for additional help. We want to be sure everyone can register and pay!

We are very sorry for this inconvenience! We are testing a brand new way to register and pay that we hope will keep things running smoothly.

Suzi Huisman



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry have been busily engaged in small group conversations on Hilton Head and in Bluffton. Multiple get-togethers have been hosted in private homes where discussions have focused on many different topics including health care, future candidates for political office, books and movies, to name just a few. Personal connections and invitations to future events have grown out of these small group interactions. A genuine thank you to all members who hosted an event. During the summer months, some small groups continue to meet, while additional opportunities will be initiated in the fall. So, stay tuned for future announcements. All members are encouraged to participate, make new friends, and meet like-minded women from our community.

Linda Moniuszko, Judy Pizzuti

April 2019 Program Recap

In April, Amber Hester Kuehn, also known as “the Sea Turtle Lady”, provided an extremely interesting, educational, and amusing program on Salt Marsh Ecology. Amber is a marine biologist who was raised in the Lowcountry. She is the fourth generation to grow up in Bluffton and remembers that, as a child, she considered fiddler crabs as her toys. She is passionate about the salt marsh estuaries of our area and is an expert in sea turtles. We probably learned more in her one hour presentation that many do in an entire semester’s class. And, her wonderful sense of humor kept the group laughing along the way.

South Carolina has over 400,000 acres of marsh grass, the most of any state. This ecosystem acts as the “nursery” for over 50% of the oceans. We learned that we really do not have any creeks and rivers here (in spite of their names), but that our waterways are tidal and salt water. Although our waters look greenish brown, and some think that means it is not “clean”, just the opposite is true. It is colored that way due to refraction and it is full of microorganisms and larval “everything”, which provides the first step in the food chain upon which everything else is dependent. If you actually took a glass of the water out of the May “River”, it would be crystal clear. Also when it smells like rotten eggs, it means that ecology is working the way it should and we have a clean ecologically sound environment.

Amber continued to educate us about loggerhead turtles, dolphins, shrimp, tides, spartina grass, and much more than can possibly be summarized here. To learn more, to see the environment in person instead of through slides, and to support Amber’s efforts, you can join her for a marine ecology expedition with Spartina Marine Education Charters. Amber will be your guide in exploring the salt marsh estuary and allow you and your guests to observe the local environment and wildlife in person. Call 843-338-2716 or visit spartinacharters.com.

Linda Sheets

May 2019 Program Recap

Four volunteers from our local Lowcountry Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America shared a tremendous amount of information on the organization’s multifaceted efforts to try to stem the scourge of gun killings that occur in this country. The national organization was formed after the Sandy Hook murders, and it was especially gut-wrenching that this presentation took place after yet another

school shooting had just occurred. There have been over 288 school shootings in the past ten years, the U.S. has more than 20 times more gun murders than comparable developed countries, and, 4.5 million women are threatened with gun violence each year, with South Carolina topping the list as the deadliest state for women.

Moms Demand Action (MDA) is a non-partisan grassroots movement to mobilize moms, families, and everyday Americans to advocate for stronger gun laws. It is for “mothers and others”, and includes moms, aunts, grandparents, dads, brothers – everyone! The organization respects the Second Amendment and is not trying to take guns away from responsible owners, but advocates for common-sense, middle-ground solutions to the escalating problem of gun violence in America. Over 5 million members in 50 states belong to the more than 735 local chapters across the country. By wearing their red shirts, lobbying, educating, and much more, they are trying to bring awareness to this problem and advocate for solutions – especially in encouraging our legislators to enact common sense gun reform, including: requirements for background checks on ALL gun purchases; opposing reciprocal carry proposals (which would allow carrying without training or permit); eliminating the “Charleston loophole” by increasing the time allotted to complete background checks; opposing permitless carry in public; and banning assault rifles.

The four-part presentation included (1) background information on the problem and on the organization, (2) legislative actions and efforts, (3) information on their programs and volunteer opportunities, and (4) the “Be SMART” program, which seeks to reduce gun deaths and suicides in children and teens by educating people on how to:

- S**ecure guns (and they provide free gun locks)
- M**odel responsible behavior
- A**sk about unsecured guns in other homes when our children visit others
- R**ecognize the risk of teen suicide
- T**ell your peers to be SMART

Moms Demand Action needs your voice to join in this important cause. There are many volunteer opportunities. Even if you only have a minimal amount of time, you are encouraged to join because, as the organization grows larger and larger, our legislators will find it harder to ignore this force. Learn more at www.momsdemandaction.org and/or on Facebook. To learn more about the local Beaufort County organization, be informed about local activities, and be added to their email list, contact: lowcountrymomsdemand@gmail.com.

Linda Sheets

Elizabeth Warren Campaign

Minerva Castro Hernandez and I accepted an invitation to meet with a representative of the Warren campaign in April. Shanti Fry is the co-chair of the finance committee of Warren's campaign. It was a very cordial and informative meeting. Shanti has experience with multiple campaigns in the New England area and has been with Elizabeth for 8 years. Shanti was interested in the Liberal Ladies organization as well as our personal take on issues. She shared how costly campaigns are and the challenge when the candidate refuses PAC and big business money. The schedule is difficult when the candidate is in Congress and needs to schedule around the Congressional schedule and their responsibilities.

We are on the distribution list of Warren's South Carolina volunteer chair. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering for Elizabeth Warren, let me know. As I receive these emails, I will forward to you.

Lynn Cordy

Organizations of the Month

April 2019

The April organization of the month was the Hilton Head Island Computer Club (HHICC), which is celebrating its 30th year as an educational organization helping members in the use of computers, tablets, smart phones, the Internet, electronic communications, and more! Staffed by volunteers, the HHICC offers presentations, workshops, classes, and individual help to its members. It is located in the Senior Center at 70 Shelter Cove Lane. Additional information and a membership application can be found at www.hhicc.org.

May 2019

The May organization of the month was Heroes on Horseback, which has been working to "empower lives one stride at a time" since 2000. Located in Bluffton, it is dedicated to providing safe, professional and ethical equine assisted therapeutic activities for individuals in the Low-country with physical, mental or emotional disabilities. Its programs help children and adults overcome barriers that challenge their everyday lives. Its 194 volunteers work with children from 13 schools in Beaufort and Jasper counties, and it also offers a program for veterans, and a "Silver Saddles" program for mature adults. To learn more about this organization, and opportunities to volunteer or donate, go to www.heroesonhorseback.org.

Linda Sheets

For the Love of the World

Charlotte Tall Mountain

For the love of a tree..
She went out on a limb.

For the love of the sea..
She rocked the boat.

For the love of the earth..
She dug deeper.

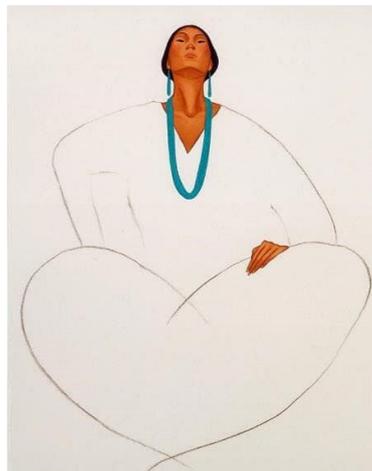
For the love of community..
She mended fences.

For the love of the stars..
She let her light shine.

For the love of spirit..
She nurtured her soul.

For the love of a good time..
She sowed seeds of happiness.

For the love of the Goddess..
She drew down the moon.



For the love of nature..
She made compost.

For the love of a good meal..
She gave thanks.

For the love of family..
She reconciled differences.

For the love of creativity..
She entertained new possibilities.

For the love of her enemies..
She suspended judgment.

For the love of herself..
She acknowledged her worth.

And the world was richer for her.

Special Interest Groups

Book Group

The Liberal Ladies Book Club meets the last Wednesday of each month. We will be holding our last meeting before the summer break, on May 29th at 7:00pm. Our meetings are held at the fire station on Whooping Crane Lane right outside of the gate to Hilton Head Plantation. We will be discussing the book, Bad Pharma: How Drug Companies Mislead Doctors and Harm Patients, by Ben Goldacre. After our May meeting, we will not meet again until September. Fall book selections will be posted on the website later in May.

Please join us for a wonderful evening of great discussion and geniality with a group of liberal-minded ladies.

You can register for the May meeting on the Liberal Ladies' website. If you have any questions, contact me, Nancy Nienstedt, at nnienstedt@gmail.com.

Nancy Nienstedt

Media Group

We will be meeting on Monday, May 20th at 5:15 pm at Hickory Tavern. The movie for discussion will be "The Chaperone". The movie is currently playing at Coligny Theatre. Reservations need to be made online or to Anita Loeser at dalelady11@gmail.com.

Tentative plans for the meeting on a Monday, June 17th will be a discussion of politically orientated documentaries. We are looking for a leader. Please advise. If a leader is not found we will not have a June meeting.

Our July meeting will be a social event. The meeting will be on Monday, July 15th. Information with final details will be sent to media members.

We will meet on Monday, August 19th at 5:15 at Hickory Tavern. The discussion will be on current movies.

Anita Loeser, Clare Seliger

Pickleball Group

Visualizing Republicans!

The Liberal Ladies Pickleball group had a smashing good time at Palmetto Dunes on April 29th. A dozen women gathered for the sport and we learned that visualizing Lindsey Graham inside of the pickleball will yield a blazing cross-court shot! The group gathered for a happy hour afterward at Big Jim's to make new liberal-minded friends and discuss our 2020 candidates. The Pickleball Group is open to all members who know the game (lessons are not available). Watch your email for the signup announcements. Our next matches are planned for Monday, June 3rd at Palmetto Dunes. Cost of courts depends on how many participants we have, but it should be less than \$10. Contact Donna Raines (585-281-6016 or DonnaRaines1@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Ann Durrin, Helene Kugit, Donna Raines

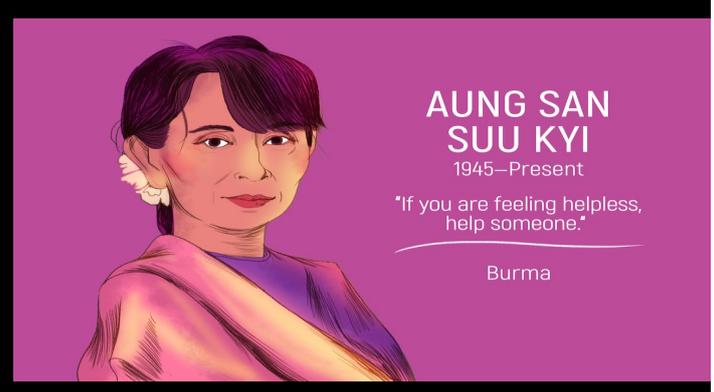
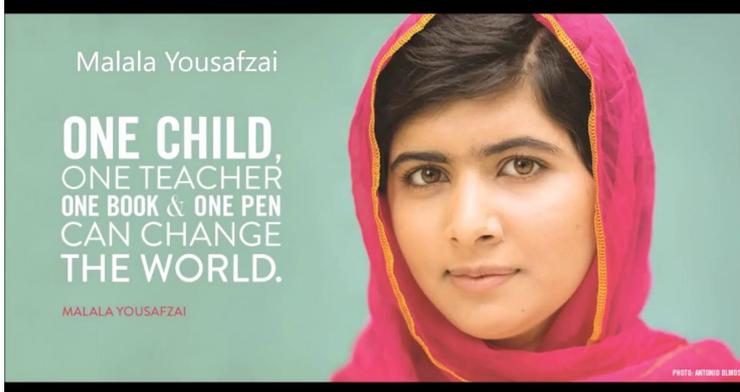
Tennis Group

Our next party is Tuesday, June 25th at Spring Lake. Tennis from 3-5 and potluck on the deck by the courts after.

Register on the website.

Contact Megan Sisson at 608-332-5448 or Harriette Greenberg 843-301-3981 if questions.

Megan Sisson



Member to Member



HILTON HEAD ISLAND/
BLUFFTON AREA

The League of Women Voters

Update on the Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in South Carolina, May, 2019

First, my sincere THANK YOU to all of the Liberal Ladies, their families, and friends who wrote and sent bright green "pass the ERA" postcards to the 29 members of the SC House Judiciary Committee. (almost 2,000 cards were mailed in a 30 day time period) Each of the front sides of these cards was emblazoned with the proposed constitutional language: "EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX." We definitely got their attention! We raised awareness in the Hilton Head and Bluffton area that South Carolina has not yet passed legislation to ratify this amendment. I spoke with both the mayors of Bluffton and Hilton Head and asked that each of their townships pass a resolution supporting the ERA.

History: The US Congress approved passage of the ERA in 1972. Thirty-three states ratified the amendment within the first two years. The SC legislature first considered ratification in March 1972. It passed in the House of Representatives but was defeated in the Senate. It has not been brought up for a vote since then.

Where are we now? The House Judiciary Committee **did not** move the proposed amendment forward at the end of April for a vote by the entire legislature. The amendment will be re-introduced at the start of the next legislative session, January 2020.

And going forward? Have no fear, we are not giving up on getting this very important piece of legislation passed here in our home state. We have joined forces with several League of Women Voters chapters throughout the state and have developed an action plan with specific objectives to begin NOW. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved in promoting equality for all and to help make sure that *women's equality is the language contained in our Constitution.*

Barbara Hammes

BEAUFORT COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SPRING
FLING
PICNIC

MAY 19
1:00 – 3:00 PM

FIELD OF DREAMS
OSCAR FRAZIER PARK
BLUFFTON, SC

The poster features a blue background on the left with white text. On the right, there is a photograph of a tree with vibrant orange and red autumn leaves against a clear blue sky.

Join the Beaufort County Democratic Party as we
celebrate Spring in the Low County.

Great Food, Lively Music, Door
Prizes, 50/50 Raffle and more.
Special Guest Speaker.

Tickets are \$25.00/each.
To purchase tickets visit:
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/maypicnic>
OR

Purchase tickets by check by making the check out to BCDP and
mail to BCDP: PO Box 21362, Hilton Head, SC 29925

No tickets will be delivered – Your name will be on the registration list.

Lynn Cordy

2019 Steering Committee

Chairperson: Lynn Cordy
liberalladieschair@gmail.com

Communications: Minerva Castro-Hernandez
liberalladiescommunications@gmail.com

Membership: Diane Polevoy
liberalladiesmembership@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gail Bottoms
liberalladiestreasurer@gmail.com

Programs: Myla Lerner & Randie Wolfe
liberalladiesprograms@gmail.com

Special Events: Linda Moniuszko & Judy Pizzuti
liberalladiesevents@gmail.com

Newsletter: Donna Morris & Linda Sheets
liberalladiesnewsletter@gmail.com

Website Coordinator: Suzi Huisman
liberalladieswebsite@gmail.com

Member-at-Large: Susan Sigalow - 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.

Myla Lerner - Programs

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and grew up in Akron, Ohio. I graduated from Syracuse University (Education) and earned a post-graduate degree in Legislative Studies from Georgetown.

I taught Junior High School English and History in suburban Washington, DC; worked in law firms in Princeton, NJ, and Washington, DC before moving to the Bay Area. We lived there 27 years, raised 2 kids, and ran an event planning firm. Thirteen years ago my husband and I moved to Manhattan and began my next career- theater producer, winning a Tony Award in 2013.

We moved to Hilton Head part-time (still live in New York and produce theater) in 2012. In Hilton Head, I helped found Lean Ensemble Theater. I serve as Board Chair, which is a passion project for me.

I love theater, film, dance, riding my bike and drinking coffee—lots and lots of coffee.

Randie Wolfe – Programs

I was born in Philadelphia but grew up in Chicago. We bought a second home in Belfair in 2003 and made the move to full time in 2016.

I graduated from Barat College with a degree in Psychology and have a Master's degree in Social Work from Loyola University in Chicago.

I was in Clinical practice in both hospital and outpatient settings and eventually was a Hospital Administrator in Behavioral Health.

I served on several Boards in Chicago, including Medical Research Institute at Children's Memorial Hospital and The Chicago Historical Foundation.

I enjoy golf, knitting, reading, Mah Jong and love to travel.

Linda Moniuszko -- Special Events

I was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois and discovered SC when I moved to Spartanburg in 1974 for a teaching job at Converse College. I was an early childhood educator, special education teacher, and elementary school administrator for more than 40 years. I vacationed on Hilton Head for 40+ years and moved here permanently in 2016.

My interests are public education, literacy, and all things related to the environment. I serve as a pastoral volunteer at the Hilton Head Hospital, but can most often be found working out at the gym, riding my bike, or walking the beach and picking up trash. I know that sounds weird, but somebody has to do it!

Judy Pizzuti - Special Events

I was born, lived and worked in MI until the summer of 2004. During my career, I attended Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, and then Wayne State University for various educational degrees. I spent 35 years in the Michigan public education system ending in the Allen Park Public Schools central office. Since my retirement and move to Hilton Head, I worked nine years as an administrator of the Art League of Hilton Head Academy. I loved the interaction with art teachers, students, and the community. I have made lifelong friends there.

I have two sons and five grandchildren back in MI whom I try to visit several times a year. I also have a seven-year-old Maltipoo (dog) which I adore. I volunteer at Meals on Wheels, at my church, and in my local women's club when I'm not being walked by my dog, doing water aerobics and Zumba, or "trying to play" Mah Jongg.