

CONNECTIONS

January 2020



2020 CALENDAR

January 23	Special Event New Member Meet & Greet
January 29	Book Group
February 11	Tennis Group
February 14	Monthly Luncheon Aimee Deverall: Immigration
March 13	Monthly Luncheon Dr. Gloria Holmes: White Fragility
March 13	Newsletter Deadline
April 10	Monthly Brunch Meeting

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

2020 Meeting Dates

January 10
February 14
March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12
July - No Meeting
August - No Meeting
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 4

Notes From the Chair

Happy New Year, Liberal Ladies!

On behalf of the Steering Committee, our most sincere appreciation for your support and patience in 2019. You graciously supported the relocation to Country Club of Hilton Head (CCHH) for luncheons and demonstrated your patience as the website registration process tested us all; again, again, and again. You embraced the small group initiative. Thank you, thank you.

2020 promises to be a busy year as many of us will be working to impact the election. May the energy of the Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry motivate you to make one more phone call, address one more postcard, and donate time (and money) to elect the candidates who support our mutual issues. Let's keep Joe Cunningham in office and work to "color" South Carolina at least purple. And it goes without saying: President Trump must go!

The Steering Committee (SC) has reaffirmed its commitment to the by-laws to "gather and disseminate information" and "to provide a networking forum for like minded women." To that end, we have created a web page for the presidential primary candidates. Sign in to [LLL website](#) and under Activities you will find the candidates' 2020 campaign contacts in the area. Check the Liberal Summit calendar (www.lowcountryliberals.com/calendar-of-events.html) for a listing of political events.

In November 2020 LLL will be ten years old. A celebration is planned for the fall. A brief history of the early years is being compiled. The February and March programs address current issues and our program coordinators always welcome your suggestions for topics to be covered and/or speakers to be heard. Send those suggestions to liberalladiesprograms@gmail.com.

Are you aware that the monthly speaker receives a \$200 honorarium (your dues at work) that is made payable to a nonprofit of his or her choice? Recent beneficiaries have been Coastal Discovery Museum, Kershaw County Fine Arts Center, Sea Turtle Patrol HHI, and Planned Parenthood. Also, in December the donation for Bluffton Self Help was \$741 and Deep Well received \$1,154. These amounts included your donations and the honorarium was split between the agencies. What a generous group you are!

Look forward to sharing 2020 with you.

Lynn Cordy



MEMBERSHIP

We would like to wish all of our members and their families a healthy, happy and Liberal 2020. At the time of this posting, we have 548 paid members with 24 new members since the December luncheon. Remember to check your email for the reminders sent to you when your membership is coming due.

RENEWAL FAQs

When should I pay my dues? How soon before the end of my term can I renew my membership? You may renew any time before your current renewal date. Renewals run on a 365-day basis. For example, if your last renewal was 1/15/19 and you renew on 1/17/2020, your membership will be extended to 1/17/2021.

When renewing my membership, how do I pay my dues? Click on the [Membership Renewal tab](#), complete the form, and submit your payment by credit card or PayPal. Dues are \$15.

Will I receive a reminder to renew my membership? You should receive an email ten days before your renewal date asking if you wish to renew. If you take no action, you will receive another email three days before, and then, one day before your due date. If you do not renew, your membership level will revert to non-member/Basic. This means you can still log into the system, but you will not be able to view the member pages, e.g. register for an event, read *Connections*, etc.

To welcome new members, we have a reserved table at our luncheons. Please feel free to sit there if you are a new member, or if you have come alone and wish to meet other new members.

Suzi Huisman & Diane Polevoy

REGISTRATION

If you missed the last luncheon, you may not be aware that the Steering Committee lifted the waiting period of three days for a member to sign up with a guest. You may now register a guest (\$30) at the same time you register for the event unless it is a member-only event.

When you register for an event, **you should receive an email from Liberal Ladies confirming your registration with a ticket number.** We appreciate your patience as we work to understand and possibly remedy this inconsistency. As a growing organization managed by volunteers, we strive to make registration convenient and consistent for our members. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world!

If you register for an event and do not receive confirmation from Liberal Ladies, please contact us at liberalladiesreservations@gmail.com.

If you are wait-listed, you will be notified by someone in registration that there is a space for you. If you were on a wait-list and have been advised to come to the event, please bring a credit card with you as we do NOT take cash or checks.

Speaking of Lunch...

When you are asked about your dietary needs on the luncheon registration, we are seeking vegetarian, gluten-free, and/or allergies where cross contamination is an acute concern. CCHH is informed of these needs and makes every effort to provide a selection for those individuals. For the most part, the buffet lunch addresses the majority of special requests. LLL is sensitive to your needs but seeks your cooperation to be selective at the buffet line.

Penny Cron & Diane Polevoy

WEBSITE/ COMMUNICATIONS

Stay Up-To-Date with Current Events

When you join Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry, your contact information is maintained on a secure online database. During the registration process, your email address is automatically synchronized with our email delivery platform – Mailchimp. We strongly recommend that you keep your profile information up-to-date, specifically your email address. Follow these simple steps to update your contact information:

1. Log on to website www.liberalladieslowcountry.org
2. Select Membership / Your Profile from menu
3. Update information and select save changes

Our email strategy is simple – we limit the frequency and relevance of our emails to events and activities. To ensure that you don't miss our emails, we strongly recommend that your email is set up to allow liberalladiesreservations@gmail.com or liberalladiescommunications@gmail.com as safe senders or trusted contacts. Google, Yahoo and Outlook will usually deliver email from addresses that are in your contacts.

Minerva Castro-Hernandez & Barbara Ulrich

PROGRAMS

February Program

Back by popular demand!!! Aimee Deverall

Aimee Deverall is the owner and sole practitioner at Deverall Immigration Law, LLC, in Bluffton, SC. Her practice is devoted exclusively to immigration law. She handles complex matters involving family-based immigration, removal defense, asylum, citizenship and naturalization, and humanitarian-based relief. Aimee has previously lived in Spain and Puerto Rico and is fluent in Spanish. She is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and currently serves as the liaison to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Charleston Field Office. Aimee frequently speaks about immigration law and policy in the community and volunteers at citizenship workshops through the Lowcountry Immigration Coalition.

We are thrilled to have Aimee back to speak to us at Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry, and to present an update on the topic of immigration.

March Program

Dr. Gloria Holmes, noted educator and author, will be our guest speaker in March. Dr. Holmes's presentation will be designed around the book "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin DiAngelo. It will directly address whiteness, privilege, and the difficulty we have talking about race and racism. Importantly, she will discuss the ways in which the concept of 'whiteness' reinforces racial hierarchies, problematizes personal identity, and undermines intercultural communication.

Myla Lerner & Randie Wolfe

SMALL GROUPS

The small discussion group initiative continues to expand under the guidance of Steering Committee member Susan Sigalow. A new group has formed with 12 members, and a smaller group is forming in the Sea Pines area. Several members in the Bluffton area have also expressed interest in a small discussion group. The groups are kept small to encourage discussion; also, they can easily be hosted in a member's home. Two groups continue regularly from 2019. The groups are member-driven and self-sufficient. If you are interested in participating, contact Susan Sigalow (liberalladiesatlarge@gmail.com), who provides logistical support for new groups and connects interested members to openings in existing groups.

Lynn Cordy

PAYPAL IS YOUR FRIEND!

When registering for a Liberal Ladies event, you're directed to PayPal to make your payment. We have heard that there is some confusion about the use of PayPal.

You do NOT have to sign up for a PayPal account to register. PayPal merely serves as a way for you to use your credit card for payment.

When you register, click on the PayPal option and it will take you to the window that allows you to use your credit card. Enter your credit card information just as you do when ordering something online. You will receive a confirmation email from Liberal Ladies including your ticket number.

Mary Ann Littell



SPECIAL EVENTS

On January 13, we hosted a screening of the documentary "Equal Means Equal" at the Hilton Head Public Library. It offered an unflinching look at how women are treated in the U.S. today, specifically addressing the ten areas where women's equality must be remedied. We had a good crowd and discussion after the viewing. We learned how we can support the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in South Carolina with suggested action items.

New Member Meet-and-Greet

On January 23, from 5 to 7 PM, new members (six months or less) are invited to meet in the private room at Giuseppe's Pizza at 50 Shelter Cove Lane, next door to TJ Maxx. ENJOY appetizers and a cash bar while you meet other new members and make new friends. New members will receive an email invitation with instructions on how to RSVP. We hope you will join us!

Linda Moniuszko & Judy Pizzuti

NOVEMBER 2019 LUNCHEON RECAP Focus on Prison Reform



LLL Chair Lynn Cordy with
James Austin, PhD

The U.S. prison population has increased by 390 percent since 1978—even though our crime rate has fallen steadily over the same time period. U.S. incarceration rates are among the highest in the world. Clearly, change is needed if we are to have an equitable system that protects public safety while

respecting human rights and the dignity of all Americans, even those in prison.

James Austin, PhD, a nationally known authority in prison reform, was the keynote speaker at our November luncheon meeting. As president of nonprofit organization JFA Institute, he works with federal, state and local agencies to implement new and effective criminal justice policies and practices.

In his presentation Dr. Austin provided an overview of the U.S. correction system and spoke about efforts to reduce the number of incarcerated Americans. He identified many causes of our rising incarceration rate, including policy changes that put more people in prison and keep them there longer. A key factor is longer prison sentences, even for lower-level, non-violent offenders. Incarceration costs average \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year per inmate.

To safely reduce the number of people in U.S. prisons, Dr. Austin is working with federal, state and local prison systems on a variety of initiatives. Four states lead the way in adopting reforms to reduce the prison population: New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and California. In these states, crime rates have also dropped. And now South Carolina is joining this effort. The SC prison population is approximately 19,000.

With the input of Dr. Austin and others, the SC corrections system will improve social justice and reduce incarcerations through the following initiatives:

- Implement a new inmate classification system, parole and probation guidelines
- Divert technical violators and people sentenced to less than one year out of the prison system, keeping them in local jails or under supervision
- Implement programs to increase parole for compliant offenders and ensure that appropriate mental health and treatment services are provided

- Reform victim compensation (victims will be fully compensated at sentencing rather than having to wait)

Dr. Austin and others believe these reforms will safely lower our state's prison population to 15,000, a significant decrease.

How can concerned citizens support these efforts? Dr. Austin recommends writing to your legislators saying that you favor statewide prison reform. If hearings are being held in your community, you have the right to attend them. Your presence can make a difference.

Mary Ann Littell

DECEMBER 2019 LUNCHEON RECAP 'Tis the Season for Celebrating!

The holiday season got off to a jolly start at the Liberal Ladies luncheon held December 5 at the Country Club of Hilton Head. At this purely social event, members had the opportunity to meet others, network, and play a fun game of Trivia, seated at tables named for prominent, influential women.

In celebrating the holidays, we were able to bring much more than good cheer to two local nonprofit organizations: Bluffton Self Help and Deep Well. Representatives from both organizations made short presentations to describe the excellent work they're doing in the Lowcountry community. Program chairs Randie Wolfe and Myla Lerner unobtrusively circulated throughout the dining room with shopping bags to hold the checks and cash that poured in from members.

We are thrilled to report that \$741 was raised for Bluffton Self Help, which serves residents of Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, and Jasper counties. "We are extremely grateful for your generous donation toward our holiday programs," said executive director Kimberly Hall. "With your help, more than 2,000 children received holiday toys and more than 400 local families received holiday dinners. Thank you for being such a vital part of your community. Your efforts are an excellent example of neighbors helping neighbors!"

Additionally, our members donated \$1,154 to Deep Well to support their Empty Well Holiday Campaign. These gifts will provide food for approximately 500 people a month; shelter help for some 1,000 people through home repairs, furniture, appliances, and other necessities; and holiday meals and toys for 700-900 children through Deep Well's Santa Shop.

(Continued on next page)

“Deep Well is so thankful and appreciative--not just for the generous gifts, but also for the opportunity to be with your group and share a bit about our charity,” said executive director Sandy Gillis. “We wanted to let you know how kind your members were.”

Following lunch, a delicious Asian-themed buffet, the fun continued with a lively game of Trivia. The tables competed against each other to answer questions—some impossibly difficult, others not so hard. It was a close contest! The winners (pictured at right, in alphabetical order) were at the Ruth Bader Ginsburg table: Connie Bedette, Lynne Irvine, Mary Ann Littell, Cindy McCammon, Lauri Mitchell, Nancy Nienstedt, Marjorie Robinson, Barbara Slagowitz, Susan Solomon, and Dorothy Swimmer.

Mary Ann Littell



Organizations of the Month

November - *Island House*

Island House is a day treatment center for those with mental illness and a desire for recovery. In a safe, compassionate environment, they learn healthy coping skills and work toward reaching their full potential.

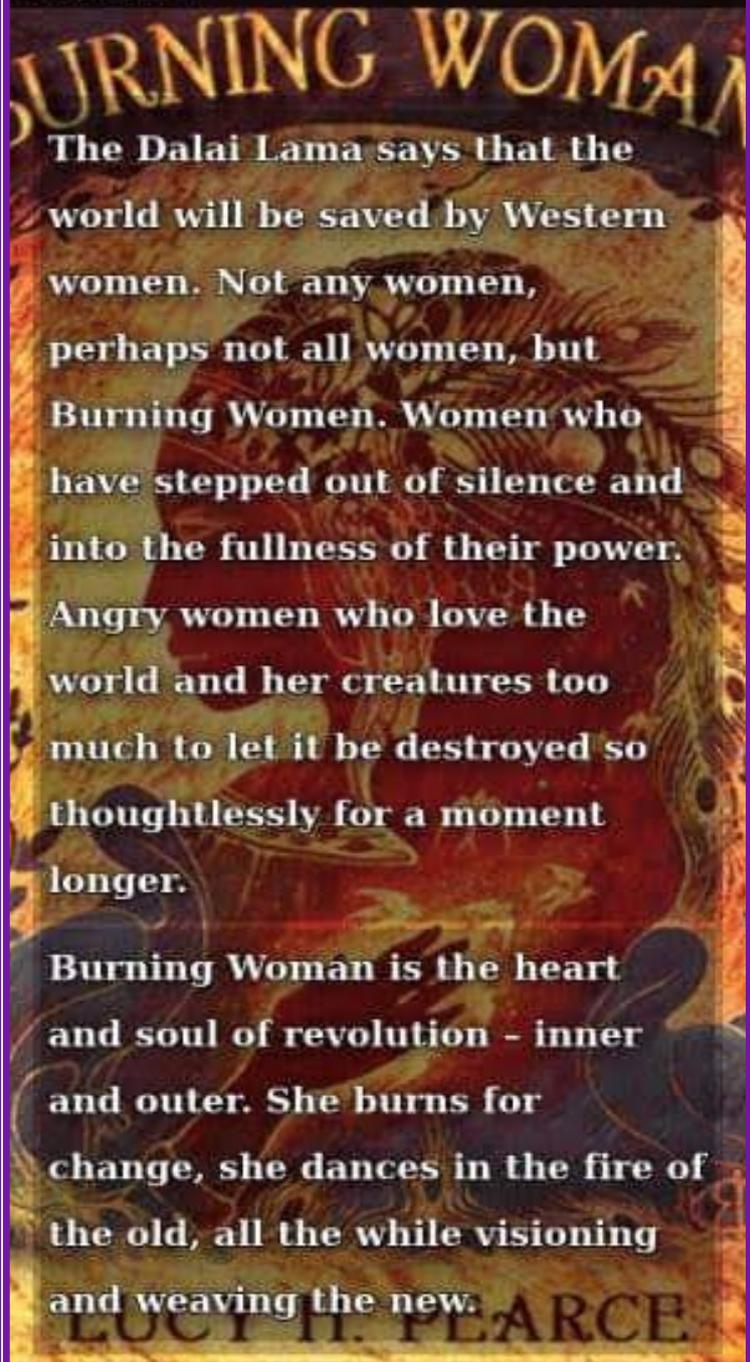
Learn more at their website;
www.mhaislandhouse.com

December - *Bluffton Self Help & Deep Well*

Bluffton Self Help provides emergency assistance to families in crisis, including food, clothing, and financial aid. To learn more, call 843-757-8000 or visit www.blufftonselfhelp.org.

Deep Well is a source of emergency assistance, providing food, housing assistance, furniture, holiday and children's programs for those in need. To learn more, email deepwellprojectthi@gmail.com or visit their website: www.deepwellproject.org.

Anger Quote



Special Interest Groups

Book Group

The LLL Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. Our meetings are held at the fire station on Whooping Crane Way, right before the entrance to Hilton Head Plantation. We have been meeting for almost three years and have read some wonderful books and enjoyed many interesting and lively discussions. If you'd like to see a list of the books that we have read over the last two years, as well as a short description of each book, log onto the LLL website, go to the activities bar, and click on: "book group year in review."

Our first meeting of the year will be on January 29. We will discuss the book "I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity" by Izzeldin Abuelaish. The discussion will be facilitated by Lynn Cordy. If you are planning to attend please register online, as space is limited. If you have questions or need information, email Nancy Nienstedt at (nnienstedt@gmail.com) or Susie Knight (sbknight66@gmail.com).

Nancy Nienstedt

Media Group

We will be meeting on Monday, January 20 at 5:15 PM at Hickory Tavern in Shelter Cove.

Discussion this month will feature "Harriet." Other current movies for review include:

"Little Women"
"Bombshell"
"Knives Out"

Upcoming movies to think about:
"The Marriage Story"
"Portrait of a Lady On Fire"

Anita Loeser & Clare Seliger

Pickleball Group

Dear Pickleball Players,
Between the development of the Lowcountry Pickleball League and our travel schedules, we regret that we're unable to continue organizing monthly matches for our group. We encourage any member to take over the lead. Thank you for participating; it has been great fun! A member interested in continuing this special interest group should contact Susan Sigalow at liberalladiesatlarge@gmail.com for assistance.

Helene Kugit & Donna Raines

Tennis Group

Our next tennis/ potluck party will be Tuesday, February 11.

Tennis is from 3 to 5 PM at Spring Lake. Party following at Sue Blake's home in HH plantation. Sign up on the LLL website.

Megan Sisson

Announcement to All Members



The Steering Committee is offering members a chance to order a jumbo-size heavy canvas tote bag with the Liberal Ladies logo. It's beige with black trim, 22 inches wide by 16 inches high by 6 inches deep. The handles are 24 inches. The bag is washable and has a small interior zippered pocket. Those who attended Friday's luncheon saw the bag. If you are interested in ordering one, **mail your check for \$15, made payable to Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry, to Judy Pizzuti, 9 Primrose Lane, Hilton Head, SC 29926.** The deadline for receipt of checks is January 22. The bags will be available at the February 14 luncheon. Questions? Please email Judy at pizzuti@gmail.com.

Judy Pizzuti

Member to Member

To All Equal Rights Supporters

Now is the time to be heard to make things happen in our South Carolina State Legislature in 2020. Hopefully, one of those things will be the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment!

South Carolina House Joint Resolution [H.3391](#) and Senate J.Res. [S.901](#) & [S.918](#), are identical bills, all waiting to be heard in their respective chambers. Your help is needed to move them along.

We need your help in contacting **three legislators** this week, which marks the beginning of the 2020 legislative session. We need a good showing of support as they return to work.

I'm asking you to mail a letter to get them to move their chambers ERA resolutions forward (they call a "bill" a "resolution" when it applies to an amendment). Those letters have been put together for you, with copy and mailing instructions. All you have to do is cut and paste, sign and mail.

The copy offered can also be modified by you to create your own personal letter, one that speaks to you. Once you have that letter in hand, it can be used multiple times with minor modifications. This is the first. There will be more ...

The instructions are on our Equal Means ERA website ([click here](#)).

Barbara Fry
Equal Means ERA
equalmeansera.org

Sandy Stern

Lean Ensemble Theater

Put on your thinking caps! Lean Ensemble Theater opens 2020 with Lucas Hnath's play, "The Christians." The play, a clever, elusively profound piece of theater, is about a charismatic pastor who has a revelation that upsets his congregation and asks difficult questions about belief and behavior in America. January 23-February 2, Main Street Theater; tickets available at www.leanensemble.org.

Myla Lerner

Congratulations to Liberal Ladies Diana Heitman and Maggie Hammer, who will step down after having led the local MOMS Demand Action for Gun Sense in America for the past five years. They were successful in increasing awareness of the need for gun safety locally and worked tirelessly with local legislators to advocate for legislation. Well done, ladies! Any members interested in filling the void these ladies leave? If so, please contact Lynn Cordy at liberal-ladieschair@gmail.com.

Lynn Cordy

The Liberal Summit is a group of representatives of liberal-leaning organizations (e.g. Liberal Ladies, Liberal Men, MOMS for Gun Sense, South of Broad Democratic Club, Lowcountry Immigration Coalition). When the Summit learned of spontaneous liberal groups forming in neighborhoods, they chose to support this effort. These groups are social and independent of one another. The Summit will connect interested individuals with neighborhood groups. Frequently, we are not aware of our neighbors' shared interests. To learn more, contact Richard Hammes at rhammes@comcast.net. Include your neighborhood in your email.

Lynn Cordy

The Democratic Club South of the Broad presents a new film, **Suppressed: The Fight to Vote** at Palmetto Electric Company Community Room, 111 Mathews Drive, on Tuesday, January 28. Social time at 6:30, film at 7:00. No reservations required.

Suppressed: The Fight to Vote is a new documentary by Robert Greenwald that weaves together personal stories from voters across the state of Georgia to paint an undeniable picture of voter suppression in the 2018 midterm election. Stacey Abrams fought to become the first Black female governor in the U.S. while her opponent, Secretary of State Brian Kemp, was in charge of running the election. In a race that was ultimately decided by 54,723 votes, the film exposes that the basic constitutional right to vote continues to be under siege in America. Runtime: 38 minutes

Lynn Cordy

2019 Steering Committee

Chairperson: Lynn Cordy
liberalladieschair@gmail.com

Communications/Website: Minerva Castro-Hernandez & Barbara Ulrich
liberalladiescommunications@gmail.com

Membership: Diane Plevoy
liberalladiesmembership@gmail.com

Reservations: Penny Cron
liberalladiesreservations@gmail.com

Treasurer: Suzi Huisman
liberalladiestreasurer@gmail.com

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

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

Newsletter: Mary Ann Littell & Donna Morris
liberalladiesnewsletter@gmail.com

Member-at-Large/Special Interest Groups:
Susan Sigalow
liberalladiesatlarge@gmail.com

Biographies of New Steering Committee Members

Penny Cron - Membership & Registration

Penny Cron was born in Little Rock, AR, and grew up in Irving, TX, a suburb of Dallas. She attended the University of North Texas, earning a BA in psychology. She married and moved to Hudson, NH and had a son. Her family then moved to Algonquin, IL and had a daughter. The family later moved to Allentown, PA, where they raised their family.

There she became involved with the Jewish Community Center, teaching preschool and working with preteens, involving them in the Junior Maccabi Games, Olympic-style athletic competitions for Jewish youth. From there she took over as Maccabi coordinator, involving preteens and teens in the Maccabi Games. The teens traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada to participate in the games, and she traveled with coaches and teens as coordinator and chaperone.

She was also involved with the PTO when her children were in school, holding several board positions.

In 2009 she and her husband bought their home in Hilton Head Plantation, moving here full-time in 2012.

Mary Ann Littell - Newsletter

Mary Ann was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Huntington, NY. After graduating from Hunter College, she lived in Manhattan, then moved to Montclair, NJ, where she raised her family. She came to Sea Pines, Hilton Head in 2017.

She has had a long career in communications, specializing in health and medicine, science, education, and social justice issues. She was a writer and editor at *Good Housekeeping* magazine for eighteen years, then

switched to health care and higher education communications at Rutgers University.

She retired from full-time work in 2011 to do her own freelance editorial projects: feature writing, magazines, newsletters, annual reports, blogs, marketing materials, and more. Her clients range from hospitals, universities, and foundations to the U.S. Navy Seabees.

In her free time, she enjoys tennis, reading, and needlepoint and makes frequent trips to see her two sons and their families (one son on each coast).

Barbara Ulrich - Communications

Barbara was born in Flint, MI, and grew up in Biwabik, MN, sixty miles north of Duluth. She attended college at Dominican College in Racine, WI. She has an MA in special education and a second master's degree in educational administration. After teaching in the Racine public schools for two years, she married and moved to the Chicago area where she raised her two sons.

Most of her teaching career after that was spent in the Schaumburg elementary school system, where she taught grades 1-6, finally becoming a library media specialist responsible for training district staff in using technology in the classroom, as well as developing and maintaining school websites.

In 2004 she married her husband Wes and moved to Menomonee Falls, WI. In 2012, she and Wes purchased their home in Hampton Hall. They currently spend the winter months in Bluffton and the warmer summers in the Chicago-Milwaukee area, where their four children and five grandchildren reside.