

## Summary of 2/28 LLL Book Group

The Liberal Ladies Book Group met on Wednesday evening, February 28 to discuss 3 books written after the 2016 election:

- Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-Ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in the White House by Donna Brazile
- Shattered: Inside Clinton's Doomed Campaign by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes
- What Happened by Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hacks was written by the interim Director of the Democratic National Committee when she took over for Debbie Wasserman Schultz after her resignation in July 2016, 4 months before the election. Brazile discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the Democratic Party, the effects of the Russian hacking of the DNC, missteps by the Clinton campaign and the Obama administration that enabled a Trump victory and her feelings about the candidate Hillary Clinton.

Shattered was written by 2 political writers who interviewed insiders from the top to the bottom of the Clinton campaign, uncovering missteps by the candidate, lack of a clear and articulated vision by Clinton and the Washington political establishment. The authors use their interviews to try and determine why the candidate lost, exploring her childhood to the present. What Happened, written by the candidate herself discusses her journey from deciding to seek the challenge of becoming the first female President of the United States to winning an election by popular vote but not the reality of winning the Electoral vote. Secretary Clinton writes about the emotional rollercoaster of the journey, of her campaign, what she could have done differently, making history, those "damn" emails, Comey, sisterhood and family.

Book group members could read one, two, or all 3 of the books in preparation for the evening's discussion. All books had been read by at least 3 participants. The book group discussion was lively and thoughtful, to say the least. The bulk of the comparative discussion centered on

1. How did Donald Trump end up in the White House?
2. What did we learn about women in politics?
3. If Hillary was part of our group this evening, what would we say to her/ask of her?

***(Did I mention that the discussion was lively?!)***

The group decided that each of the books was an interesting read, but if fellow Liberal Ladies members only had time to read one off the 3 books, the first choice by this group would be Shattered.

Favorite quotes from these books that were shared are as follows:

*"Well behaved women seldom make history."* Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

*"Having a child is like having your heart go walking outside your body."* From What Happened

*"Time is the coin of your life. You spend it. Do not allow others to spend it for you."* Carl Sandburg

Barb Hammes

