

# CONNECTIONS

January/February 2019



## 2019 CALENDAR

January 21	Media Group
January 23	Tennis Group
January 30	Book Group
February 8	Monthly Luncheon "From the Heart" Program
February 12	Special Event (See page 4)
February 18	Media Group
February 27	Book Group

### Upcoming Luncheon Dates

March 8	August 9
April 12	September 13
May 10	October TBA Joint meeting
June 14	November 8
July—No meeting	December 6

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

## Notes From the Chair

On behalf of the Steering Committee, we wish you all a healthy and happy New Year. The Steering Committee (SC) is committed to continuing the varied and interesting luncheon programs for you. To meet the interests of the increasing membership, the committee was increased by 2 for 2019. This new position is Special Events. The facilitators, Judy Pizzuti and Linda Moniuszko, will be initiating small group activities and some other events. Be looking for these opportunities throughout the year and it is hoped one or more of them will be "just right" for you and at a location convenient for you. Look on page 4 in this issue for their first event targeted especially for newcomers.

### 2019 Member Survey

Thank you to the 166 members who completed the interest survey. The SC is pleased with the high response. The results will guide the 2019 program. Topics on the environment ranked first among interests. Coming in second was local politics. Please note the program for March which will address both topics. There was also support for dinner meetings and/or additional small group activities. Many additional suggestions were noted and the SC will review and respond accordingly.

It was also apparent that a few members, but still too many of you, are experiencing trouble with the website - both accessing and navigating it. The SC will be addressing this need soon. In the meantime, if you have a problem contact us via the website or email the Website, Communications or Membership SC member (addresses found on page 7 of this issue). The SC wants you to be comfortable with utilizing the website to be informed of all its activities.

### Carpooling efforts

In the same survey, fifty-five percent of you expressed an interest in carpooling. A pilot project was implemented with five locations to park and ride for the January meeting. Fifteen of you participated from three of the five locations. Members are encouraged to form their own carpools but we will continue to facilitate the registration as long as interest remains. Thank you to LLL members, Tippy Amick, Sally Ayotte, Ann Durrin, Eileen Poveromo, and Rosemary Smith who assisted at their locations. We intend to repeat in February and welcome Lisa Pianta who has volunteered to coordinate a site in Sea Pines.

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### Special Interest Groups

Anyone for pickleball? Ann Durrin, Helene Kugit and Donna Raines have plans to meet implement a pickleball group for liberal ladies. Schedules and locations were incomplete at press time. You will be notified when the activity is posted on the website.

The SC welcomes the initiatives of any members who have ideas for small group activities. Contact the chair with your idea and how SC may help you to get started.

Lynn Cordy

## MEMBERSHIP

Happy New Year to all Liberal Ladies of the Low-country. As of this newsletter, we are 512 members strong. If your membership is coming due you will receive an email from us reminding you to renew, with instructions on how to do so (See Website article below for detailed instructions).

Please remember that The Liberal Ladies of the Low-country 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.

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

Diane Polevoy

## WEBSITE

This month we will begin our rolling membership procedure. Below are some frequently asked questions as to when and how to renew membership.

**Q. When do I need to pay my dues? How soon before the end of my term can I renew?**

A. You may renew any time before your current renewal date. Renewals run on a 365- day basis. For example: if your current renewal date is 1/15/19 and if you renew prior to that date, your new renewal date is calculated from your current renewal date, so your membership would be extended to 1/15/20.

**Q. How do I renew my dues?**

A. Click on the Membership Renewal tab, complete the form and submit your payment by credit card or Paypal. Dues are \$15 and should be paid prior to meetings or events. Please note that dues will not be collected at the luncheons.

**Q. Will there be an automatic reminder of renewal time?**

A. You should receive an email 10 days before your due date, asking if you wish to renew. If you take no action, you will receive another email 3 days before, and then, 1 day before your due date. **If you do not renew, your membership level will revert to "non-member". This means you can still log in to the system, but you will not be**

**able to view the member pages, e.g., register for an event, etc.**

**Q. What happens if I want to renew after my renewal date has expired?**

A. In order to start up again, you can still log in (with restricted access as stated above), click on Membership Renewal Tab and select Renew Your Membership. Your new membership year will begin on the date your payment is received.

Suzi Huisman

## COMMUNICATIONS

I am very excited to join our Steering Committee and I look forward to seeing many of you at our events throughout the year.

Please don't wait for an invitation to visit our [WEB-SITE](#), which is filled with helpful information from the steering committee, members (member to member postings) and other activities our members are currently engaged in such as media group, book group, and tennis. New members, check out the current and past issues of our newsletter for a recap on our guest speakers and organizations of the month.

Don't miss out on important news and events. Please take a moment to check that your member profile is current. Your profile contains your name, your email address, cell phone number, home number, home address, and password. If you do not wish to change your password, leave that part of the form blank. "Username" is displayed for your information only. It cannot be changed.

### Updating Your Membership Profile:

- Login with your username and password.
- Click Membership/Your Profile from the menu. Modify your profile with the updated information.
- Click "Save Changes" button at the bottom of the page. Remember, do not use your browser arrows or navigate away from the page without saving your changes.

Minerva Castro-Hernandez

**December 2018 Recap  
Ahmed Ward  
Daddy, What is a Racist?**

In December, a full house of over 170 members welcomed our speaker Ahmad Ward who spoke on the topic of "Daddy, What is a Racist?" Ward is currently director of the Mitchelville Preservation Program and previously served as Vice President of Education and Exhibits at the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum. He has also appeared on PBS, MSNBC, and has spoken to numerous organizations.

Ward gave an entertaining and enlightening presentation on a complex and difficult topic. The topic of his presentation arose when his eight-year-old daughter asked him "Daddy, what is a racist?", and he decided he needed to "be real" and tell her about what it is like to be black in America. Ward stated that we all have prejudices and biases which we need to acknowledge and grow, but we are not all racists. He has been fortunate and acknowledges that his education and dress give him 'privilege', but he still can not be completely free. Unfortunately, this country continues to have policies that keep the poor out of power.

He recommended that we not try to change the world, but start with our own circle. Unfortunately, "when racism enters the room, logic leaves." Ward has hopes that once people know better, they will do better.

Mr. Ward presented a TedTalk in 2016 on the same topic which can be accessed on [Youtube](#).

Linda Sheets

**Organizations of the Month**

**December 2018:**

The Litter Box and Hilton Head Humane Society. All proceeds from the Litter Box benefit the HH Humane Association and go to benefit animals in need. You are encouraged to help by donating, shopping at the store, and volunteering at the Humane Society. For more information, visit their [website](#).

**January 2019:**

Mary Green's musical accomplishments are well known throughout the area. Her latest venture is the Mary Green Chorale. Their next performance, Sacred Songs and Spirituals, is Feb. 19 at Holy Family Church. For details of this event and others, check their [website](#).

**January 2019 Recap  
Billy Wooten  
Director of LGBTQ Center  
Savannah**

At our January meeting, we were honored to hear Billy Wooten, Director of the Savannah LGBTQ Center, a newly opened facility to serve the LGBTQ needs of the area. The center is a long-time dream of the First City Network (FCN), Georgia's oldest LGBTQ organization, formed more than 30 years ago. From living rooms, to church spaces, to a small office, the group has now grown to a dedicated center to serve its clientele.

Mr. Wooten described the hardships of the LGBTQ community, some of which include homelessness, bullying, mental and physical health care, even proper burial services. He related several stories of situations various people have gone through and how the center helped. The south still remains an unsafe area for those in this community and it was disappointing to learn that many homeless shelters are not friendly to the LGBTQ community, even some who claim to be non-discriminatory.

The LGBTQ Center focuses on three areas:

- Community support – provides support groups, mentorship, crisis outreach, addiction counseling, and more.
- Health services - ensures access to HIV/STI testing and treatment, as well as resources for primary and secondary care unique to the needs of the LGBTQ community
- Advocacy – promotes fairness, safety, and opportunities for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual community. They press for pro-equality legislation, the election of fair-minded officials, voter registration, and educational opportunities, as well as organizing the LGBTQ community and its allies to advance equality throughout the state.

At this point, the Savannah LGBTQ Center is run 100% by volunteers and welcomes volunteer help and donations. While the center is located in Savannah, it has many connections to and serves the Lowcountry. We thank Mr. Wooten for informing us of an often-overlooked segment of our community and broadening our awareness. For more information, visit their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

Donna Morris

## Programs

We are looking forward to some great programs for our upcoming monthly luncheons.

### February 8, 2019

“From the Heart” Program

Six Local Non-Profit Organizations will be presenting information about their organizations and will be with us to answer questions.

Bluffton Self Help	CAPA
Backpack Buddies	NAMI
Meals on Wheels	Habitat for Humanity

### March 8, 2019

Dr. Geoffrey I. Scott, Clinical Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina and Director of the NIH funded Center of Excellence in Oceans and Human Health and Climate Change.

He will be speaking on “Oceans and Human Health Issues in the Lowcountry of South Carolina: Harmful Algal Blooms and Microplastics in our Waterways and Seafood”

Randie Wolfe & Myla Lerner

## Member to Member

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### You Oughta Be In Pictures



At our January meeting, Liberal Ladies were fortunate to be invited to participate in a movie being filmed in Savannah. Fittingly, “The Glorias” is about Gloria Steinem, with Julianne Moore playing Steinem and Bette Midler as Bella Abzug. Extras are needed for a reenactment of the 1977 International Women’s Conference in Houston. Don’t miss this unique opportunity. If enough women from LLL respond, we may even be mentioned in the credits. Full details, including how to apply, may be found on the Member to Member page of our [WEBSITE](#).



## A Get Together for Newer Members

Our first **special event** will be a meet and greet to be held at Giuseppe’s Pizza & Pasta House at The Plaza of Shelter Cove on Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 5 to 7 pm. Come out and get to know women who share your point of view!

A follow up email will be sent with registration details later this month to **members who have joined in the last six months**. **Steering Committee members will be available to answer your questions and get to know you.**

This is our first special event of the year and we will try other activities throughout the year. Check your email and our website for upcoming dates.

Linda Moniuszko & Judy Pizzuti

### We’re younger than we think!

At the December luncheon, it was incorrectly announced that Liberal Ladies would celebrate its 10th anniversary this year. Thank you to founding member Jeri Greenfield who set the record straight by sharing emails from November 2010 which document the ladies gathering for lunch and conversation. The emails trace the growth through 2013 when bylaws were necessary to guide the organization. So, happy eighth anniversary to us!

# Special Interest Groups

## Book Group

The Book Group meets once a month on the last Wednesday of the month. The group chooses books on subjects that are of current interest to the "liberal lady."

This month we will be discussing the book Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder and One Man's Fight for Justice, by Bill Browder. We will meet on January 30th at 7:00 pm at the Fire Station on Whooping Crane Way just outside of the gate to Hilton Head Plantation. On February 27th, we will be discussing the book My Beloved World, by Sonia Sotomayor.

Please come and join us for an evening of lively and insightful discussion. You can register for the meeting on the LLLC website. If you have any questions you can email them to Nancy Nienstedt at [nnienstedt@gmail.com](mailto:nnienstedt@gmail.com) or Suzanne Knight at [sbknight66@gmail.com](mailto:sbknight66@gmail.com).

Members may read a summary of our previous book discussions by clicking [HERE](#).

Nancy Nienstedt & Suzanne Knight

## Media Group

The media discussion group meets at Hickory Tavern in Shelter Cove on the third Monday of each month at 5:15 pm. Reservations can be

made online or directly with Anita Loeser at [dalelady11@gmail.com](mailto:dalelady11@gmail.com) or 843-342-6688.

February's meeting will focus on the new movie about RBG, "On the basis of SEX"

In March we will discuss the Oscar winners and losers. How do these acclaimed movies characterize liberal women? Are they portraying women accurately? How many women directors and producers were involved in Oscar-nominated films?

We welcome all liberal ladies to attend. Please make advance reservations.

Anita Loeser

## Tennis Group

A Ladies Doubles Round Robin will be held at Spring Lake Tennis Club on January 23 at 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., It will be followed by a potluck/BYOB party. Host this month Carol Tucker at 25 Spanish Pointe Dr.

To sign up for this event, register on the Calendar page of our [WEBSITE](#)

Megan Sisson

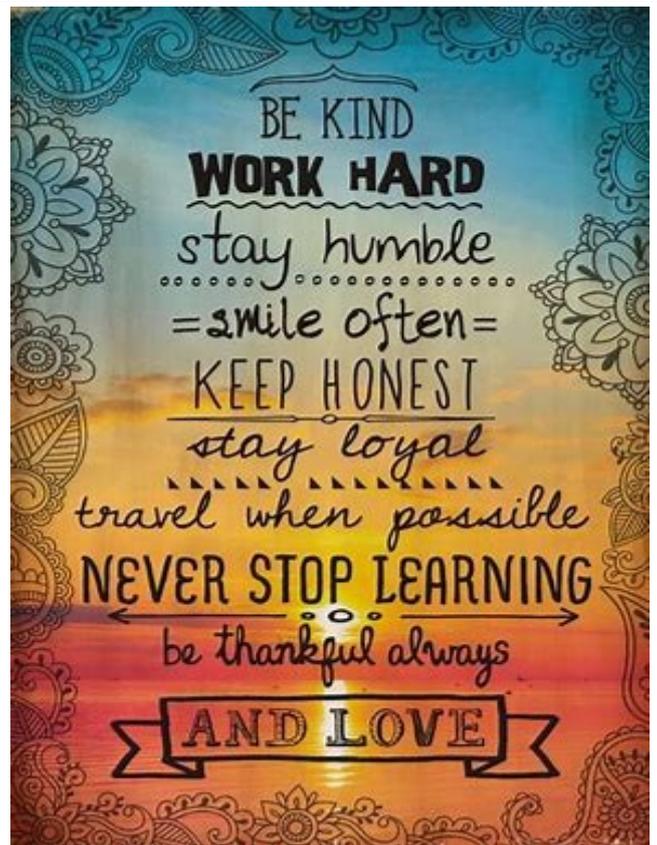
## From the By-Laws:

The purpose of this organization is to:

- Extend the principles of a liberal perspective by discussion and by identifying opportunities for individual action
- Gather and disseminate information regarding current and political issues of local, state, and national interests
- Provide a networking forum for like-minded women to share and discuss issues of common interest

We are neither a political or service organization, although we have interest in both and draw from these groups for some of our speakers.

The Liberal Ladies of the Lowcountry is not party-affiliated.



# Member to Member

## January 16 - HHI Drinking Liberally Forming

Good news! An effort is underway to create a new **Drinking Liberally** group on Hilton Head Island. The inaugural meeting to talk about this possibility will be on January 16th at 6:30 pm at Mangiamos on Main Street. It looks like we have a substantial number of enthusiastic folks at this point. We will keep you posted as plans and dates are finalized. Mangiamos will be able to host us going forward in their private dining room that seats about 40 people. Good food and good fellowship with like-minded folks can be in your future!

Sarah "Tippy" Amick

## January 23: LWV Forum

Hear from the four candidates who have filed to run for the Hilton Head Island Town Council seat vacated by John McCann on Wednesday, January 23 from 5:30–7 p.m. The forum will be held at the Hilton Head Island Town Council Chambers, One Town Center Court. Seating is limited to 160; however, the forum will be televised live on The Beaufort County Channel (Comcast 2, Hargray 9 and 113, Spectrum 1304) and archived on The Beaufort County Channel website under "Community Events."

Ward 6 comprises portions of the north end of the island, including Port Royal Plantation, Palmetto Hall, portions of Hilton Head Plantation, plus the Folly Field area and Mitchellville. The candidates vying to represent Ward 6 on HHI Town Council are Kent Berry, Jim Collett, Cathy McClellan, and Glenn Stanford. The special election will be held on February 19.

The League will prepare questions; however, written questions from the audience will also be considered.

Sandy Stern

## Jan. 24-Feb. 3

### Lean Ensemble Theater

Want to witness the ultimate Liberal Lady? In 1879, Ibsen set off a minor earthquake when he wrote *A Doll's House*, the controversial drama about a woman who walks out of her marriage. Playwright Lucas Hnath has now moved the conversation forward several years and Nora is back!

Lean Ensemble Theater opens 2019 with the regional premiere of *A Doll's House, Part 2*, January 24-February 3 at our usual venue, the HHPS Main Street Theater. Tickets available online at [www.leanensemble.org](http://www.leanensemble.org)

Myla Lerner

## March 13 - Charitable Golf Outing

- For Mental Health America/Island House
- Location: Colleton River Nicklaus Course
- Shotgun start at 9 AM
- Field limited to 100 players; teams can be men/women/mixed.
- Costs \$200pp or \$800/team
- Contact Joyce Braude, 843-290-9717

## Indivisible 2019 Calendar

The Beaufort Indivisible Board has released its 2019 calendar for the Hilton Head/Bluffton group. The currently approved meeting calendar follows:

February 9	August 10
March 9	September 14
April 13	October 12
May 11	November 9
June 15	December 14

In February they are hoping to have a presentation on the need for and lack of action on the development of affordable (aka workforce) housing in this portion of the county. We hope you will join us.

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

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**Treasurer:** Gail Bottoms

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**Programs:** Myla Lerner & Randie Wolfe

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

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**Newsletter:** Donna Morris & Linda Sheets

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**Website Coordinator:** Suzi Huisman

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

She felt like doing her part to change the world, so she started by giving thanks for all the blessings in her life, rather than bemoaning all that was missing from it. Then she complimented her reflection in the mirror, instead of criticizing it as she usually did. Next she walked into her neighborhood and offered her smile to everyone she passed, whether or not they offered theirs to her. Each day she did these things, and soon they became habit. Each day she lived with more gratitude, more acceptance, more kindness. And sure enough, the world around her began to change. Because she had decided so, she was single-handedly doing her part to change it.