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## Introducing our new Hispanic Caucus Co-Chair



Laura Cahue, Ph.D.

Raised in Mexico, Laura was born in Chicago, IL to two immigrant parents. When she tried to enroll in the university she was classified as an undocumented foreign student and was administratively deported to the U.S. In the United States, she completed

undergraduate and postgraduate studies, and received a Ph.D. in anthropology (2002) from Michigan State University. Laura is serving as the Co-Chair of the SC Democratic Party’s Hispanic Caucus. She is the co-chair of Simple Justice #Black Lives Matter. As a community advocate and organizer, Cahue is utilizing her anthropological training and practical experience to help build a Black/Brown Alliance in South Carolina, that works to document and eliminate racial profiling in our state. She is an advisor to the Young Immigrants in Action organization and a member of the Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN) and a member of the SC NETWORK Lobby Team. She works as an interpreter in Legal and medical settings.

### Why I am a Democrat by Laura Cahue

“I am a Democrat because it is the only political party that reflects my values. My values are who I am and the Democratic Party’s values closely align with my own. I value strong and healthy families who have equal economic opportunities and access to affordable health care available to them. I value access to a quality education for all and the freedom to control reproductive health based on medically sound information. I value livable, fair wages for all workers. I value the freedom to choose where, when and how to participate in religion without government intervention. I value the civil rights that

protect all of us in our democratic government. I value the power of one voice, of one vote, to bring about social change for justice and democracy.”

### Soy demócrata porque...

“Yo soy demócrata porque es el único partido político que refleja mis valores. Mis valores son quien soy y los valores del partido demócrata se alinean estrechamente con los míos. Valoro las familias fuertes y saludables que tienen igualdad de oportunidades económicas y el acceso a cuidado de salud asequible a su

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*Democrat, Continued from Page 1*

disposición. Valoro el acceso a una educación de calidad para todos y la libertad de controlar la salud reproductiva basada en información médicamente correcta. Valor un salario justa para todos los trabajadores que les permita vivir libres de deudas. Valoro la libertad de elegir dónde, cuándo y cómo participo en la religión sin la intervención del gobierno. Valoro los derechos civiles que nos protegen a todos en nuestro gobierno democrático. Valoro el poder de una voz, un voto, para lograr el cambio social para la justicia y la democracia."

## Day in Blue

Linda Hardman-President, Greenville County Democratic Women

"Day in Blue," sponsored by the SC Democratic Women's Caucus and the SC Democratic Women's Council, on Wednesday, May 27, in Columbia, was well attended by over a hundred loyal Democratic Women from around the state who assembled at the Statehouse to be recognized by our state legislators. With our own Representatives Chandra Dillard and Leola Robinson, as well as a Representative Gilda Cobb Hunter and other Democratic legislators taking the lead, the South Carolina House of Representatives welcomed the ladies who had traveled from near and far from across the state for the "Day in Blue."

Shortly after, the group convened to the Sol Blatt Building for two presentations: "Campaign Ethics" and "Learning Strategies for Self



**Hillary Clinton and Linda Hardman;  
Scarlett Jones, rear left**

Preservation." By 12:30, all Democratic Women Council members relocated to the Downtown Marriott to await the arrival of Democratic Presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton. Security was very tight, and the check-in process long and tedious. Finally, around 2:00pm, Hillary Clinton entered the crowded room amidst loud cheering from her supporters. She exuded a commanding presence of confidence and a sincere delivery, peppered with bits

of self-deprecating humor and anecdotal examples that underscored her impassioned message of hope for rescuing and restoring the middle class in America. Clinton was also finely attuned to the pulse of her audience, staunchly affirming her support for equal pay for equal work, health and abortion rights, minimum wage increases, and paid sick and family leave, pausing to emphasize each point amid the approving cheers of the crowd.

Following her speech, Clinton eagerly pressed forward into the room of adoring fans, lingering and talking with each person, warmly hugging shoulders and grasping hands, exchanging pleasantries, and taking photos with any and all. If she's working on becoming the "people's" candidate, her down-to-earth, folksy demeanor coupled with her razor-sharp intellect and grasp of the issues is going to win over her audience every time.

## *Thanks to Our Contributors!*

The Greenville County Democratic Party wishes to express its gratitude to its recent donors.

Charles and Sharon Cherry

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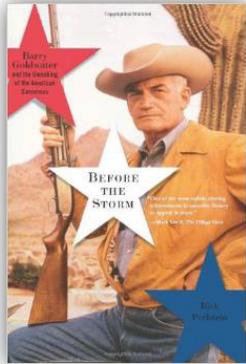
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Linda and Bill Hardman

# Books We Love

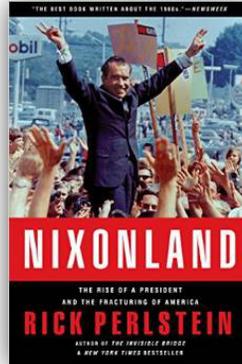
Edwina Snyder

After a Republican candidate's visit to Tommy's Country Ham House, a local man stated, " I am looking for

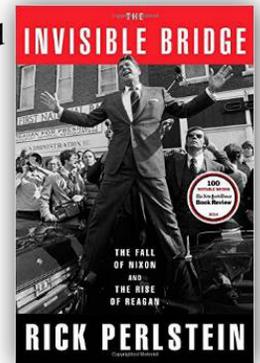


a candidate who is a statesman like Ronald Reagan." If I knew this man, I would recommend he read Rick Perlstein's classic series of books about the rise of conservatism in America: *Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of American Consensus*, continuing with *Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of*

*America*, and now *The Invisible Bridge: The Fall of Nixon and the Rise of Reagan* which came out late last year. *The Invisible Bridge* takes its title from a bit of cynical political advice bestowed on Nixon by Nikita Khrushchev: "If the people believe there's an imaginary river out there, you don't tell them there's no river there. You build an imaginary bridge over the imaginary river." According to Frank Rich in the NY Times, "the key to Reagan's political success, in Perlstein's telling, was that he recognized what many Republicans did not — that



Americans craved "a liturgy of absolution" and "an almost official cult of optimism" postulating "the belief that America could do no wrong" or "that if America did it, it was by definition not wrong." Maybe the gentleman at Tommy's might want to take a second look at Reagan.



If you've read a book recently that enlightened and informed you, please feel free to share a short review with The Bray. We welcome your contributions.

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

-- Coffee with a Cop --

**Saturday, June 20**

9:00am - 11:00am

Chic-Fil-A

700 Haywood Road - Greenville

**Saturday, June 27**

9:00am - 11:00am

Juanita Butler Community Center

2 Burns Street - Greenville

**Monday, July 13**

GC Democratic Women Monthly Meeting

5:30pm

Runway Cafe (inside restaurant)

21 Airport Road - Greenville

--Furman's Riley Institute Lecture Series--

(Straight Talk South Carolina: Crime and Punishment-Thinking Outside the Cell)

Younts Conference Center, Shaw Hall

All from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Tuesday, July 24**

"Does the Punishment Fit the Crime?"

**Tuesday, July 28**

"Police, Prisons, and Public Safety"

**Tuesday, August 4**

"Creative Justice in the Courts"

**Tuesday, August 11**

"Building Communities of Justice"

For more information, visit:

<http://riley.furman.edu>

# YDSC Convention



Young Democrats of South Carolina hosted their annual convention on May 29th and 30th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Greenville. An alumni reception on Friday night opened the event. YDSC's Alumni Reception included Greenville Democratic Party legends Carlyle Steele and Kate Franch as well as former YDA President William Bilton, father to Lauren Bilton, YDSC's national committee-

woman.

Greenville Democrats were featured prominently throughout the convention, Greenville City Councilwoman Jil Littlejohn and Greenville County Democratic Party Chairman Eric Graben, Senator Karl Allen, and Rep. Chandra Dillard all addressed the convention.

For full coverage and photos, go to: <http://ydsc.cghgroup.org/a-winning-weekend-in-greenville/>

## Things were left undone

### Surprise Surplus Stalls Dedicated Funding for SC Roads

South Carolina state lawmakers adjourned with plenty of work left undone. Road funding, ethics reform and even the state budget didn't make it across the Thursday, June 4 5:00pm deadline. Legislators will return to the Statehouse June 16.

The late in session discovery of \$415 million in surplus cash has complicated budget talks and killed hopes for an infrastructure improvement bill. Rather than pass a dedicated roads bill, the House Ways and Means committee recommended spending \$150 million of the surplus on secondary roads and the rest on other items. Meanwhile the Senate has proposed spending about \$100 million in surplus cash on roads.

The Greenville County Democratic Party hosted a community forum at Hughes Library on Monday, May the 18th on state funding for South Carolina's roads and bridges. Panelists included State Senator Karl Allen, State Representative Chandra Dillard, 4th Congressional SC DOT Commissioner Woodrow "Woody" Willard, and Bill Ross, the executive director of the non-profit organization, SC Alliance to Fix Our Roads.

<http://www.fixscroads.com/>

The South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads estimates that 1.5 billion dollars a year for the next 20 years will be needed to bring our roads up to a level of service considered good, an additional \$31 million is needed

annually for bridge replacement.

In January, Governor Haley proposed a plan in which the gas tax would increase by 10 cents over 3 years (from 16.75 to 26.75 cents) provided the top tax bracket for state income taxes were reduced from 7 percent to 5 percent over 10 years. The Governor's plan was projected to increase roads funding by \$300 million or more a year but would eventually reduce revenues from income taxes for the general fund by more than \$1.7 billion per year.

Representative Chandra Dillard, who serves on the House ad hoc Committee on Transportation Infrastructure, described the funding plan passed by the House, which would provide in excess of \$400 million per year of additional funds for roads primarily through an increase in the gas tax accompanied by income tax cuts that on average would offset most of the burden on taxpayers of the increased gas taxes. Senator Allen discussed proposals pending but not adopted in the Senate, including a proposal by Senate Republicans that would provide in excess of \$800 million per year of additional funds for roads, primarily through an increase in the gas tax, drivers' licenses and vehicle registration fees, the creation of a fee on alternative-fuel cars and hybrids and an increase in the cap on sales tax on cars from \$300 to \$600 accompanied by a 1% cut in each state income tax bracket. As of this writing, the Senate has not adopted any roads funding plan, and it is not known if the state legislature will take any action at all on roads funding this year.

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