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Join Democratic Women of Greenville County in their Facebook group!

2017 Local Elections Begin to Heat up

With so much media coverage discussing the 2017 Special Elections and the potential implications those elections will have on the 2018 Midterm Elections, it's easy to forget that we have important Local Elections in November.

Greenville City Council races are heating up and candidates are beginning to campaign across the city. The GCDP is excited to be working alongside two visionary leaders to re-elect Lillian Brock Flemming and elect Russell Stall.

City Council races give us the first opportunity to effect change since November 2016 - one that we hope every Democrat takes advantage of. City Officials play a key role in many of the issues our local party has prioritized - gentrification, responsible growth, and environmental issues to name a few.

Now is the time to get active and to RESIST from the ballot box to ensure we elect local leaders who will fight for our causes, our rights, and the City.

Learn more about Lillian and Russell on page 4.

Chair Message: There are Rays of Light Breaking Through the Storm Clouds



Fellow Democrats,

Perhaps, in your most frustrated moments, you fantasize, as I do, that the rains that have drenched our June wash away the mud, muck, and miasma that have enveloped the White House, and that the nation gets a redo (with the benefit of hindsight) to Election Day 2016. Sometimes I allow myself to revel for a bit in that fantasy. It's a welcome distraction from the maddening reality that we will not benefit from the total reboot we so desperately need at the national level for several years.

The future isn't completely dark and foreboding, however; there are rays of light breaking through the storm clouds. Your active resistance to the policies emanating from Washington and insistent demands for justice, fairness, and equality for all continue to pierce the murk. Kudos for keeping your energetic defiance focused and consistent – you are making a difference. The Congressional races in South Carolina's 5th and Georgia's 6th Districts offer hope as well. As I write this, the outcomes are days away, but your willingness to extend a hand across county and state lines could result in a stronger wall of legislative resistance. Victory in either one of those races will electrify progressives and provide a beacon for the uncertain road ahead.

Looking closer to home, our Greenville Young Democrats held a successful car wash and fish fry fundraiser for the Phillis Wheatley Center and Legacy Charter School this month. Their commitment to the "Democrats Care" mantra is one reason the organization was selected as the 2017 Chapter of the Year by the Young Democrats of South Carolina! Their lively meetings pack Headquarters and the group regularly attends Greenville City and Greenville County Council meetings to stay abreast of local issues. In addition, two dozen High School Democrats interns are devoting some of their summer downtime to Lillian Brock Flemming's and Russell Stall's campaigns and to supporting GCDP initiatives. Two interns from Furman University have also joined us for the summer. Headquarters is abuzz!

As June got rolling, former governor of Maryland and presidential candidate Martin O'Malley chased away rain clouds with a song and helped us shine light on the new strategic plan that will serve as a guide to a sustainable winning future. With the unveiling of our new logo at the Block Party on Tuesday, the GCDP reboot is in full swing. You'll have opportunities to learn more about the plan and how you can participate in its implementation at the June breakfast meeting on the 24th and the evening meeting of Democratic Women of Greenville County on July 10. When you see them, please thank the following team for their diligent work to construct the plan: Rep. Chandra Dillard, Dexter Reaves, Grady Patterson, Whitney Wright, Ingrid Erwin, Chris Shipman, Jake Erwin, Jalen Elrod, Stella Dominguez, Lydia Brandt, and Phil Chambers.

Working together, we can create a resilient, influential, effective party; elect our Greenville City Council candidates in 2017; and start 2018 fully capable of turning Greenville County blue within a few short years. Your GCDP leadership firmly believes that a brighter, sunnier tomorrow lies ahead and invites you to move forward with us to it.

Kate Franch
GCDP Chair



Greenville Democrats Night at the Peace Center

Use the promo code 'GCDP' when ordering online or via the box office for the discount!

The Peace Center is offering discounted tickets for GVL Dems

to "Finding Neverland" for the July 26 performance, with the opportunity to attend a "Peace Talk" with members of the company. Come enjoy an evening socializing with other GVL Dems! A drop-in happy hour will be coordinated - check the GCDP events calendar in coming days.

Visit the Peace Center website for additional show information and ticket sales.
www.peacecenter.org



GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

GCDP Unveils New Logo

After more than 8 weeks of voting via financial contributions, the GCDP has unveiled its new logo. The new logo contains an image of the Liberty Bridge, a visually striking connection to Greenville County. The logo was unveiled by Party Chair, Kate Franch, and 2016 Volunteer of the Year recipient, Anita LeBold, at the GCDP Block Party on June 13. Through online contributions and collection jars at events, the logo fundraising drive brought in over \$500 to the party.

Merchandise featuring the new logo is available at the GCDP Headquarters and at party-hosted events. Currently, koozies are available for a contribution to the party for \$5 and car magnets for a contribution of \$8. T-shirts will be available shortly. Keep up-to-date with merchandise available via the website or social media!

The winning design beat out other design finalists that included a Palmetto Tree and Upstate Mountains. Thank you to Eliza Hardman for the winning design!



Russell Stall: Candidate for Greenville City Council, At-Large Seat

Russell Stall is running for an At-Large seat on Greenville City Council.

Russell grew up in Greenville before living and working in Washington D.C. and Atlanta. He returned to Greenville 18 years ago. He has degrees from Washington and Lee University and Emory University Goizuetta School.

In 2005, Russell created Greenville Forward, a nonprofit inspired to facilitate a comprehensive vision for Greenville. For ten years, Greenville Forward created space for creative conversations in order to build connections between different constituencies throughout the community. It helped organizations and volunteers talk about parks and green spaces, the arts, education, health, inclusion, workforce development and innovation, housing, and transportation.

Russell has been married to his wife Susan for 26 years and they have two sons, Hampton and Harrison.

Lillian Brock Flemming: Candidate for City Council, District 2

Lillian Brock Fleming is running for re-election in Greenville City Council District 2. She has represented District 2 since 1981.

Lillian Brock Flemming is a graduate of Furman University, receiving both bachelor's and master's degrees. In September 2014, Furman University awarded Councilwoman Flemming with an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities.



She is retiring this month from her role as Professional Employment Recruiter for Greenville County School District where she was formerly a high school mathematics teacher for 23 years. Lillian is married to Reverend J.M. Flemming and a proud mother to 10 marvelous young men and women. She is also a member of Mountain View Baptist Church.

To learn more or volunteer with Lillian's campaign visit www.voteforlillian.com or contact Lillian via email at lillian@voteforlillian.com.

Martin O'Malley Assists GCDP in Fundraising Efforts



2016 Presidential Candidate and former Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley visited Greenville on June 3 to headline a fundraiser for the GCDP. Many at the event were able to take pictures with Gov. O'Malley and ask him questions; all enjoyed the Governor playing his guitar and serenading the guests.

Local party leadership also unveiled the GCDP Strategic Plan that evening and shared the vision for the party as it moves towards the 2018 Midterm Election and 2020 Presidential Election cycles. The evening raised over \$2,500 for the local party. These funds allow the party to initiate its work on the strategic plan and assist 2017 Local Election campaigns.

The event was held at the home of Ed and Camille Buck and featured Gov. O'Malley, SCDP Chair Trav Robertson, and SC-5 Congressional District Candidate Archie Parnell. Thank you to Ed and Camille and all who assisted in making this event happen!

Greenville Mayor Knox White to Uphold Paris Climate Agreement Goals

Greenville Mayor Knox White has joined 313 US Mayors from across the country in signing to uphold the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. President Trump pulled the US out of the agreement last month. Below is the statement Mayor White signed alongside his colleagues nationwide. You can contact Mayor White at kwhite@greenvillesc.gov to thank him for standing up to President Trump and fighting for our environment.

STATEMENT FROM THE CLIMATE MAYORS IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Thursday, June 1st 2017

As 313 US Mayors representing 62 million Americans, we will adopt, honor, and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement. We will intensify efforts to meet each of our cities' current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st century clean energy economy.

We will continue to lead. We are increasing investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. We will buy and create more demand for electric cars and trucks. We will increase our efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, create a clean energy economy, and stand for environmental justice. And if the President wants to break the promises made to our allies enshrined in the historic Paris Agreement, we'll build and strengthen relationships around the world to protect the planet from devastating climate risks.

The world cannot wait—and neither will we.

South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee Update

The South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council met on June 7, 2017. This was the group's first meeting with new state party chair Trav Robertson.

Since the Party Convention in April, Trav and the other state party officers have traveled to party events throughout the state. First Vice Chair Lessie Price has a special interest in candidate recruitment and training. Second Vice Chair Anthony Thompson, Jr. has focused on reaching out to caucuses. Third Vice Chair Scott Thorpe is preparing a plan to increase the involvement of young Democrats.

Executive Director Christale Spain had the responsibility of preparing for the Democratic Weekend in April, including recruiting volunteers, arranging committee meetings, and handling the logistics of electing new state party officers. The inaugural Blue Palmetto Dinner was very successful; attendance far exceeded the initial plans.

Trav established a Transition Committee "to take a deep and thorough look at the structure, functioning, and operation of the Party." Philip Chambers (who spent a good bit of time in the GCDP office as chair of Chris Fedalei's campaign) serves as chair of the committee and reported to the Council on the group's progress. The committee is divided into work groups in three areas - Budget and Finance, Campaigns and Programs, and Organization and Staffing. The goal is to have a report from this group sometime during the summer.

The group briefly discussed the recent race to fill South Carolina House Seat 84 (Aiken County), a seat left vacant when Republican Chris Corley resigned after being indicted on criminal domestic violence and weapons charges. The Democratic candidate, Jennifer Lariscey, was not successful, but fared well in a conservative district. The group also discussed the need to support Archie Parnell, the Congressional candidate for South Carolina's Fifth District who seeks to replace Mick Mulvaney, now the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The council discussed the budget for the party, as well as a possible requirement to have each Council member responsible for raising a certain amount of money for the state party. In the wake of last year's elections, the party has attracted a considerable amount of attention from people who have not previously been active. Larger events, however, require more funds.

Ingrid Erwin
SCDP Executive Committee Delegate

Thank you to May's GCDP Donors!

Ann Elliot, Ann Funderburk, Philip R. Gehman, Kinard Johnson, Laura Lowery, Xanthene Norris, Gaye Sprague, & many more who donated via the collection jars at various events!

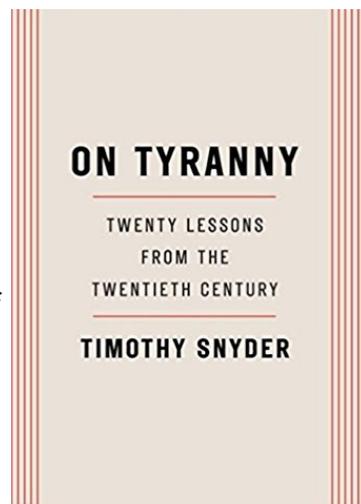
Your contributions are appreciated and valued in our quest to elect more Democratic leaders.

Thank you to all who volunteered at our May & June Events!

Lindsay Ackerman
Rund Abdelnabi
Sulaiman Ahmed
Lydia Brandt
Anne Lee Buck
Phil Chambers
Jalen Elrod
Jake Erwin (& band)
Chris Fedalei
Linda Hardman
Gaybriel Gibson
Nadia Land-Greene
Karen Hahn
Greg Lawrick
Sue Lawrick
Henry Lear
Anita LeBold
Katy Lentz
Sarah Locke
Val Magin
Jessica Ni
Rita Ni
Grady Patterson
Ben Ragan
Ben Saul
Chris Shipman
Carlyle Steele
Courtney Thomas
Camilla Torres
Jarrod Wiggins
Whitney Wright

Books We Love: On Tyranny

On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century by Timothy Snyder is a fast and frightening read. Holocaust historian Timothy Snyder offers up a guide for resisting and surviving America's turn towards authoritarianism in the age of Trump. Good Reads calls On Tyranny "a call to arms and a guide to resistance." For lovers of history this book reads like a current day account of national politics.



"As observers of totalitarianism such as Victor Klemperer noticed, truth dies in four modes, all of which we have just witnessed. The first mode is the open hostility to verifiable reality, which takes the form of presenting inventions and lies as if they were facts. The president does this at a high rate and at a fast pace. One attempt during the 2016 campaign to track his utterances found that 78% of his factual claims were false. This proportion is so high that it makes the correct assertions seem like unintended oversights on the path toward total fiction."

Timothy Snyder skillfully weaves historical facts with current day events and organizes the book into a personal plan of action. He defines patriotism, encourages political engagement, and provides helpful hints for protecting your mental health in these challenging times.

On Tyranny led to a spirited discussion among my liberal book club members and it helped me contextualize the current craziness with rough patches throughout world history. The rise of authoritarianism is nothing new, but it's still very frightening.
Review by Roxanne Cordonier.

Democrats Care: Greenville County

The GCDP Huddle will collect nonperishable canned food items for St. Anthony's Catholic Church Food Bank and feminine hygiene products for the Homeless Period Project (www.homelessperiodproject.org) at every GCDP meeting or event. These are simple and easy ways to translate our beliefs into action.

Upcoming Events

SC 5th Congressional District Special Election

June 20

GA 6th Congressional District Special Election

June 20

GCDP Monthly Meeting & Breakfast

June 24, 8:30am

Upstate Circle of Friends

29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, 29605

Topics: WREN Advocacy Training &
GCDP Strategic Plan

Democratic Women of GVL County Monthly Meeting & Luncheon

July 10, 5:30pm

West End Community Development
Center

404 Vardry Street, Greenville, 29601

Speakers: Kate Franch & Lydia Brandt,
GCDP Strategic Plan

Young Democrats of GVL County

July 12, 5:30pm

GCDP Headquarters

1300-J Washington Street, Greenville,
29607

Peace Center: Greenville Democrats Night

July 26, 7:30pm

300 S. Main St, Greenville, 29601

www.peacecenter.org

Discount Code: GCDP

Lifetime Legacy Award Celebration for Lillian Brock Flemming, hosted by the Committee for the Celebration of John Gamble

August 19, 6:00 pm

West End Community Development
Center

Contact 864-498-9019 or admin@thelegacycommittee.com for
additional information.

SAVE THE DATE

Democratic Women of GVL County 50th Anniversary Event

October 5, 2017

Greenville, South Carolina

South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP 2017 Convention, hosted by the Greenville Branch of the NAACP

October 12-15, 2017

Greenville, South Carolina

*Additional events & event information
can be found on the GCDP website.
Please submit events to [gcdpcomms@
greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:gcdpcomms@greenvilledemocrats.com) for inclusion
in The Bray (space permitting).

Party Leadership

Kate Franch
Greenville County Chair

Roxanne Cordonier
State Executive Committee Alternate

Dexter L. Reeves
1st Vice Chair

Michael McCord
State Executive Committee Alternate

Grady Patterson
2nd Vice Chair

Jake Erwin
Voter Protection Chair

Whitney Wright
3rd Vice Chair

Jarrod Wiggins
Communications Coordinator

Gaybriel Gibson
Secretary

Katy Lentz
Political Action Coordinator

Anita LeBold
Treasurer

Nadia Land-Greene
Volunteer Coordinator

Christopher Shipman
State Executive Committee Delegate

Linda Hardman
President, Democratic Women

Ingrid Erwin
State Executive Committee Delegate

Jalen Elrod
President, Young Democrats

Democratic Trivia!

1. How many Presidents have been Democrats?
2. When was the last year a Democratic Presidential Candidate won South Carolina?
3. True or False- The Democratic Party is older than the Republican Party?
4. How many SC Senate seats are held by Democrats?

May Answers!

1. Whigs
2. Baltimore, Maryland
3. Rooster
4. Tom Perez
5. 1948

Answers in the July edition of *The Bray*!

Receiving *The Bray* via email saves the GCDP money in printing and postage - all valuable resources. If you are currently receiving a mailed copy and are willing to change to the email version, please email the GCDP at headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com with your name and contact information. We appreciate the help!

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