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Change does not come easily

Roxanne Cordonier

It's been an eventful couple of weeks in South Carolina. While the growing support for removing the Confederate flag from the grounds of the state capitol is heartening, the inevitable backlash over this divisive symbol of the South has begun. Tea Party darling, Senator Lee Bright is leading the charge and even making money on bumper stickers opposing the flag's removal. This is far from a done deal especially considering the two thirds majority vote needed to affect this change. In a recent interview with The State newspaper, Governor Haley was asked "You won praise for addressing an issue of concern for African Americans. Can you do more?" Governor Haley dodged the question, responding in part, "I have always worked really hard to put myself in the other person's shoes...I



will continue to do that...Because I think that if people took the time to put themselves in others' shoes, they would realize that flag waving maybe is not that important as they think it is."

My hope is that the Governor will do as she says and put herself in the shoes of the estimated 300,000 low

*Continued on Page 3, See **Change***

Why I am a Democrat

By Andy Arnold

I believe income inequality is one of the most pressing issues confronting our nation and much of it is a result of public policy decisions bought and paid for by big business. As we debate the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we are confronted with the latest attempt by corporate America and Wall Street to send jobs and business overseas.

During the past couple of years, we have also witnessed a renewed attack on the right of workers to collectively bargain, which erodes employee bargaining power and reduces wages for breadwinners. As a trial lawyer, every day I witness how corporate America has lobbied for laws that limit remedies for the harm big business inflicts onto others, including workers and consumers. All in all, there is all out war on the working class. Workers and consumers need a political party who will fight for them. This is why I am a Democrat.



City of Greenville 2015 City Council Elections - Primaries are Tuesday, August 11

Eric Graben, GCDP Chair

City of Greenville municipal elections are this year, and it looks like all of the action will be in the Republican primaries. Mayor Knox White (R), Council member Jil Littlejohn (D-Dist 3) and Commissioner of Public Works, Jim Bannister (R) all have no primary opponents and no opponents in the other party and will automatically be re-elected unless a petition candidate submits a petition to be on the ballot with sufficient signatures by August 20.

Incumbent at-large Council member Susan Reynolds (R) has two primary opponents - George Fletcher and Gilbert "Gil" Crouse. George Fletcher is a long-time Greenvillian who has been a practicing engineer for 29 years. He started the Fletcher Group in 1993 and Piedmont Industrial Waste Services in 1997. He has a lengthy list of community involvement including service as the Chair of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce in 2000. He has a website at www.votegeorgefletcher.com and a campaign facebook page. Gil Crouse is retired from a career in plant management and property management, having most recently worked with Management Recruiters of Greenville, Inc.

Incumbent District 1 Council member Amy Doyle is being challenged by E. Montclair resident Robert "Bob" Beam. Bob Beam has degrees from both Clemson and USC and has been the Chief Financial Officer of JWS Distributing for 18 years. Bob is very concerned with inappropriate in-fill development in Greenville's classic residential neighborhoods - North Main, Nicholtown and Augusta Road.

We encourage you to find out more about the various candidates. Of particular interest to many Greenville Democrats, both Councilwoman Reynolds and Councilwoman Doyle



North Main Community Association

Invites you to the
Greenville City Council Candidate Forum
Presented by

The Greenville News
greenvilleonline.com

Wednesday, July 22, 2015
Stone Academy
115 Randall Street, Greenville 20609

6:00pm: Meet and Greet the Candidates Reception
7:00pm: At-Large City Council Candidates
7:50pm: District 1 City Council Candidates
8:30pm: Adjourn

Moderator: Eric Connor, Greenville News

Confirmed Candidates

Hon. Amy Ryberg Doyle (incumbent), District 1 Candidate
Mr. Robert Beam, District 1 Candidate
Hon. Susan Reynolds, (incumbent), At-Large Candidate
Mr. Gilbert Crouse, At-Large Candidate
Mr. George Fletcher, At-Large Candidate

Refreshments provided by
SC Beverage Association

RSVP and direct questions to
John DeWorken, NMCA Board Member at
JDeWorken@gmail.com

were strong proponents of changing City elections to non-partisan elections.

The primaries are on Tuesday, August 11. If a run-off is needed for the at-large seat, the run-off will be held on Tuesday, August 25.

Change, Continued from Page 1

income residents who need health care and would be covered if she chose to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

She should also consider making it easier for working people to vote by supporting motor voter registration. She might also think about corrections reform, which would keep non-violent first offenders out of prison. Our governor should also consider people working multiple minimum wage jobs that are unable to afford decent housing and support a living wage. We need more than cosmetic changes in our state, we need policies that uplift

ALL South Carolinians not just the wealthy white ones.

Last but not least in the flurry of excitement over Supreme Court decisions that upheld the ACA and legalized gay marriage, you may have overlooked another crucial win for progressives. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Congressional districts drawn by independent redistricting commissions -- as an alternative to districts drawn by partisan legislatures.

After winning the 2010 elections, Republicans in state legislatures across America abused the redistricting process to favor themselves -- a practice known as gerrymandering. They drew maps that gave

Republicans an unfair advantage, allowing them to retain control of the U.S. House in 2012 despite the fact that House Democrats received a million more votes than House Republicans.

The good news is there are two ways to beat Republicans at this game and restore a fair vote at the same time. The first is to flip as many state legislatures as possible before the next census in 2020. The other is through citizen-led initiatives and propositions putting redistricting into the hands of state level independent commissions -- exactly like the commission the Supreme Court just upheld.

“Take Down the Flag” Rally in Greenville

A “Take Down the Flag” rally was held at Greenville City Hall on Monday, June 29 to petition our legislators to bring the Confederate flag down.

The event was a peaceful demonstration and an opportunity for voices to be heard on the issue. The rally was well attended and was organized by both Young Democrats and Young Republicans.



On either side of S.C. Senator Allen are Ben Saul and Matt Foster. GCDP Chairman, Eric Graben is at far left.



S.C. Senator Carl Allen address attendees during peaceful demonstration at Greenville City Hall

Report from South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council and Executive Committee Meetings

Ingrid Erwin

June 11, 2015

The Executive Council and Executive Committee of the state party met on June 11. Jaime Harrison led the meetings and reported that over 500 delegates and guests attended the state convention in May and heard from representatives of six presidential campaigns. Later that month, the Democratic Women's Council sponsored its Day in Blue. Hillary Clinton spoke to the group in the afternoon. The budget numbers look good, but Jaime cautioned that these numbers should be favorable in a non-election year. The February Issues Conference raised almost \$40,000 and the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner raised just over \$200,000.

Jaime reported that Jason Perkey, our new party Executive Director, is working hard. Through a partnership with the DNC, the party hired Olivia Logan as a Tracker; she is responsible for finding and tracking events where Republican candidates for national office are speaking. Jessica Church has been hired as Political and Public Policy Director.

The party is searching for a communications director, data director, and field director, and the budget includes funding these positions. Jaime reminded the group of the fellowship modeled after the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellowship. One person aged 21-45 from each county will be chosen for the first class of this endeavor, which will begin in the fall. Participants will learn campaign and leadership skills and funding commitments have been secured.

South Carolina will be the site of one of the Democratic Party primary debates in 2016. The South Carolina debate could possibly take place during the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. The Jefferson-Jackson dinner will likely be moved to the debate weekend.

The Democratic Senate Campaign Committee has identified three states in which it believes that, with some hard work, Senate races could become competitive. These states are South Carolina, Georgia, and Arizona.

Jaime wants to contest every national race in South Carolina with



Ingrid Erwin
State Executive Committee Delegate

a viable Democratic candidate. Inez Tenenbaum has been asked to lead the candidate recruitment effort.

Party staff members are compiling a "county book" for each county. This book will provide all kinds of information about a county (in a format that Jaime likened to a Wikipedia article) and will be very useful for potential candidates. The group is also putting together "course of action" memos to identify steps that each county needs to take to strengthen the Democratic Party in that county.

Kendra Dove was elected as new party treasurer and Sh'Kur Francis as party secretary. In other voting during the meeting, the committee approved the Delegate Selection Plan prepared by the Delegate Selection Committee, chaired by Kaye Koonce. The next meeting will be July 28.

Thanks to Our Contributors!

The Greenville County Democratic Party wishes to express its gratitude to its recent donors. These include *Yellow Dog* pledges.

Natalina Ferlauto

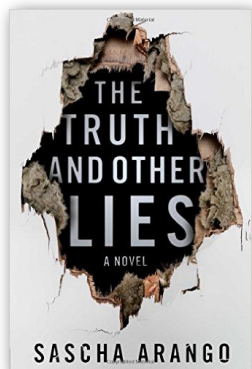
Kate Franch
Bill & Linda Hardman

Ingrid Erwin

Books We Love

Roxanne Cordonier

It's summer and the perfect time for a fun read. If you loved "Gone Girl" check out "*The Truth and other*



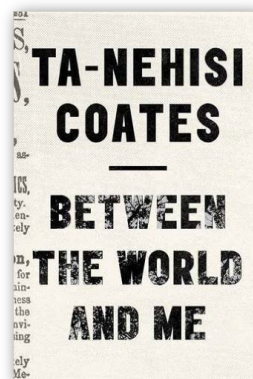
Lies" by Sascha Arango. I just started it and can't put it down.

On the political front, Ta-Nehisi Coates new book

"*Between the World and Me*" will be available in mid-July. Coates is the national correspondent for The Atlantic and the author of the

memoir "*The Beautiful Struggle*." This book tackles the question of race in American history and what it means to be black in America today, an especially important work in light of recent events in Charleston.

Here's what Toni Morrison said about Coates' new work; "I've been wondering who might fill the intellectual void that plagued me after James Baldwin died. Clearly it is Ta-Nehisi Coates. The language of *Between the World and Me*, like Coates's journey, is visceral,



eloquent, and beautifully redemptive. And its examination of the hazards and hopes of black male life is as profound as it is revelatory. This is required reading."-Toni Morrison

For a current sample of Coates' writing check out his recent piece about the history of the confederate flag in The Atlantic .
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/06/take--down-the-confederate-flag-now/396290/>

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

July 13, 2015 5:30pm
Democratic Women Membership Meeting
Runway Cafe (Inside Restaurant)
21 Airport Road - Greenville

July 22, 2015 6:00pm
Greenville City Council Candidate Forum
6:00pm
Stone Academy (See notice.)

July 23, 2015 5:30pm
GCDP Meeting at Headquarters
(Usually)Every 4th Thursday; open to anyone interested in attending

July 25, 2015 8:30am
NAACP Annual Breakfast
Long Branch Baptist Church - Greenville
Contact Jessie Wofford at 864.269.6547

--Furman's Riley Institute Lecture Series--
(Straight Talk South Carolina: Crime and Punishment-Thinking Outside the Cell)
Younts Conference Center, Shaw Hall
All are 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:
<https://riley.furman.edu>

August 10, 2015 12:15pm
Democratic Women Monthly Meeting
Fried Green Tomato
1175 Woods Crossing Road
Greenville, SC

August 15, 2015 9:00am - 11:00am
League of Women Voters; Coffee & Muffins
Laurel Lakes Clubhouse (See article.)

August 29, 2015 (Saturday) 2:00pm
Voter Registration and Battle of the Bands
Sirrime Stadium
Contact: Jasmine Twitty - 864.787.1029 or
jastwitty@gmail.com
Also see:
<http://www.battleforthecrown.org/home.html>

“The Latino Power - The Vote”

**Hispanic Caucus
Register to Vote Events**

July 11, 2015

BEREA

4601 White Horse Road

Matt Pickens Office

Esperanza Gomez officiating

MAULDIN

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Butler Road

Los Arcos Store

Ilia Rivera officiating

GREER / TAYLORS

1:00pm - 3:00pm

803 Poinsett Street

Clearance Center Office

Gladys Alvarez, officiating

JULY 13, 2015

SIMPSONVILLE / FOUNTAIN INN

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Fairview Road

Mad Cuban Cafe

Ilia Rivera & Jose Nieves, officiating

(Pending owner confirmation)

GREENVILLE FLEA MARKET

White Horse Road

10:00am - noon

Esperanza Gomez, officiating

If these dates have past by the time of publishing and distribution of the *Bray*, please see Ilia Rivera for future planned events.

Presidential Campaigns - 2016

If you are interested in working on any campaign efforts by the declared Democratic presidential candidates, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, or former Rhode Island Governor, Lincoln Chaffee, please contact Deb Morrow, District 4 Director SC Democratic Women's Council at (864)764-0364 or Debmorrow14@gmail.com.

You're Invited

The Greenville County Democratic Party meets on the fourth Thursday each month at 5:30pm at the headquarters building at 1300-J E. Washington Street. We welcome all interested parties to attend the meetings as your schedule permits. We are interesting in hearing your thoughts on the party, events, or whatever you want to offer.

Muffins & More

Please join the **League of Women Voters** on August 15, from 9:00-11:00 for coffee and muffins at the Laurel Lakes Clubhouse where the Honorable Rita Allison will discuss the lawsuit regarding the failure of SC to provide minimally adequate education for all of its children. She will also address the work her task force is doing to resolve this issue.

Representative Allison is the Chair for the SC House of Representatives Committee of Education and Public Works and is also the Chair of Education Policy Review and Reform Task Force. If you wish to attend please R.S.V.P. to Kathleen Kempe at (864)213-9504 or lwvgreenville@yahoo.com

The Laurel Lake Subdivision Clubhouse is located at 100 Goldenstar Lane in Greer, SC 29651. At the corner of Bennett Bridge (it's Reidville until it crosses the county line) and Anderson Ridge.

The Bray is published by the Greenville County Democratic Party, 1300-J Washington St., Greenville, SC 29607/232-5531, Eric Graben, chairman; Roxanne Cordonier, Editor; Linda Neely, formatting & printing; Ann Funderburk, distribution. Know someone who would like to receive *The Bray*? It is available by email or traditional mail. Call HQ or contact headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com. Please mail contributions to party headquarters. If your financial contribution to the GCDP is over \$100, please indicate profession or retired (required by SC Ethics Commission). Thank you.