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In Memoriam...



Lottie Gibson was a voice for people who had no voice. The long-time Greenville County Council member and civil rights activist led a years-long fight to get Greenville County to approve a Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. She pushed additional resources for those struggling with addiction and substance abuse. She also worked to make college accessible for the disadvantaged. "Lottie Gibson was one of the most outstanding,

selfless community servants I've ever known," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., who worked with Gibson on the MLK Jr. holiday. "Heaven wanted a Christmas present and brought Lottie home."

Gibson died Sunday, December 2. She was 86. Her biography on the Greenville County website describes Gibson as "a one-woman crusader for Greenville's poor and disenfranchised citizens for more than 50 years."

Gibson worked at Greenville Technical College as its first director of federal outreach and student services programs. The programs were designed to assist low-income individuals, persons with disabilities and first-generation college students. She held the post for 32 years.

Prior to that, Gibson was employed by the Phillis Wheatley Association, the S.C. Department of Public Welfare and the USO. She was a teacher at Sterling High School and was a staff member at Head Start.

Bruce Cannon, a former Greenville County Sheriff's Office captain, called Gibson a true public servant, not only for the residents of District 25 that she represented on County Council, but for those who needed a voice or access to service.

"I admired her steadfast dedication and her willingness to stand up for what she thought was right even in the face of opposition," Cannon wrote on his Cannon for Sheriff Facebook page. "Her death is a loss not only for her family but for the larger Greenville community."

Continued on Page 2, see "In Memoriam"

SCDP Day of Service will be on **January 20, 2016**. The **SC Democrats Care Co-Chairs** are working to organize this effort. This year's goal is to have at least 23 County Parties organize a service project(s) in their County. mobilize their members and organize volunteer in the community. Many people struggle to get their basic needs met everyday, and there are countless organizations around the state that are in desperate need of volunteer support. These service projects will deliver valuable assistance to nonprofit organizations, schools and other service providers around the area, but also allows democrats to start the New Year by re-engaging the community at the grassroots level.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question, 'What are you doing for others?'" **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Service Project Examples: Sock/Blanket drives for the Homeless, Finance Workshop, Home Ownership Workshop, Adopt a local Shelter, School Supply Drive

In Memoriam, Continued from Page 1...

Gibson was first elected as District 25 County Council representative in 1992. Gibson suffered a stroke in January 2016 and lost a bid for re-election in June.

Gibson's efforts to get a county-wide MLK holiday passed took 19 years. "She inspired the movement — including a sleep-in protest in the County Council chambers that led to Greenville finally honoring the King holiday," Jackson said in his statement.

Gibson led protests after the lynching of Willie Earle*, thought to be the last passenger of slain cabdriver Thomas W. Brown. Earle was arrested and held in the Pickens County jail. A white mob forced the jailer to give Earle up and Earle was driven to Greenville and lynched, the last recorded lynching in South Carolina. She fought for voting rights and hosted meetings with activists in her home. She helped form the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

"She always stood on the side of freedom, equity and justice," Jackson said.

Gibson's County Council biography lists more than 65 public awards, recognitions and citations, including the prestigious Jefferson Award. In 1996, she was among a group of 21 people affiliated with Head Start to travel to Africa to provide guidance in setting up public education programs for children. In 1999, she received the Whitney B. Young Humanitarian Award from the Greenville Urban League. In 2000, she received the National Community Action Volunteer Award.

In August, the Phoenix Center named its training center, The Lottie Beal Gibson Center of Excellence. The center trains clinicians throughout South Carolina, on evidence-based practices in the education, treatment and recovery of those suffering from substance abuse disorders.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Phoenix Center, 1400 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29607, in Miss Lottie Gibson's name.

Obituary Reprinted from the GreenvilleJournal.com



State Representative Chandra Dillard and City Council Member Jil Littlejohn are inducted in Hall of Fame.



Senator Karl Allen is current year honoree.



We are proud of their accomplishments as well as their work in our communities.



Winter Chautauqua – Feb 3-5 "Eleanor Roosevelt, the Power of Words"

– Get ready to laugh, cry and flat out have a great time as you meet one of the most influential women in world history – Eleanor Roosevelt. Journey with the longest serving First Lady as she travels tirelessly as the President's legs. Sit with her at the United Nations table as she hammers out the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Stand with her as she works relentlessly for workers rights, women's rights, civil rights and world peace. Hear her give voice to the powerless.

"We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together, and if we are to live together we have to talk." – Eleanor Roosevelt to Soviet Leader Nikita Krushchev

The Eleanor Roosevelt Show can only be seen Feb 3,4, and 5. Eleanor Roosevelt will not appear at the June Festival.

February 3 – Opening Night Gala – An Evening with Eleanor Roosevelt

Fabulous desserts and a private performance for a small, intimate audience. Funds raised support Chautauqua's year-round free community shows.

7:30 pm - Dessert Reception

8:00 pm - Private Show with Susan Marie Frontczak as Eleanor Roosevelt

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Location: The Fine Arts Center, 102 Pine Knoll Dr, Greenville, SC 29609

Cost: \$30 For Tickets: call 824.244.1499 or visit

greenvilleCHAUTAUQUA.org

February 4 and 5 – "Eleanor Roosevelt, the Power of Words" – Free Shows

Nationally acclaimed historical interpreter Susan Marie Frontczak creates a compelling portrayal that reveals Eleanor Roosevelt not only as a relentless voice for the powerless, but also as a mass communications genius – press conferences, newsreels, speeches, magazine and news columns, and books. Hear her speak for herself as she transforms the role of First Lady to become one of the most revered women of her generation.

You'll laugh – you'll be challenged – you'll have lots of questions. And as always at Chautauqua, the audience is part of the show. Bring your stories. Share your experiences. Get inspired. Because it's not just history – it's personal.

Performed by: Susan Marie Frontczak

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Location: Wade Hampton HS Auditorium, 100 Pine Knoll Dr, Greenville, SC 29609

Cost: FREE - show and parking

Be a part of the Club....the Greenville County Yellow Dog Club that is.

Gold Yellow Dog - Contribution of \$1000 or more in calendar year 2017

Silver Yellow Dog - Contribution of \$500 to \$999 in calendar year 2017

Bronze Yellow Dog - Contribution of \$250 to \$499 in calendar year 2017

Yellow Dog Contributors are our hero's.....and shero's. They keep the Greenville County Democratic Party Headquarters open and running. They fund our efforts to get Democrats elected at the local, state and national level. We couldn't do it without them!

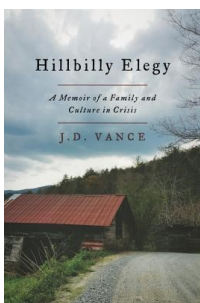
Please mail your Club Membership to GCDP Headquarters Attention: Anita LeBold/Treasurer. You can call or email her with questions at [864.325.8540](tel:864.325.8540) or anitalebold@hotmail.com

Of course, all donations of any amount are much appreciated and much needed!

Continued on Page 6, see Contributions

Books We Love

by Roxanne Cordonier



I started reading “*Hillbilly Elegy*” thinking that the book would provide some clear cut answers to the questions many of us have about the disintegration of the manufacturing “rust belt” and the erosion of the American dream for millions of poor white people especially in the rural south. Instead

J.D. Vance presents a moving memoir about deeply flawed but loving people scrapping for a living. Vance’s grandparents, especially his Mawmaw are the touchstones of this book and a reminder that one or two people who offer unconditional love and stability can often save an at risk child’s life.

Vance rises from the ashes of a tough upbringing that includes drug addiction, a rotating cast of father figures and random violence. His book is also a reminder that no matter how deeply flawed one’s parents are, a child steadfastly loves them in spite of their mistakes. With lots of encouragement and support from his loving grandparents, Vance manages to graduate from high school, serve in the U.S. Marine Corps, graduate from Ohio State University and Yale Law School. His refreshing honesty about his past and his family truly allow you to walk a mile in his shoes.

Vance links his personal story to today’s world by making the point that opportunity isn’t spread evenly across the country. The deep pockets of poverty and despair in Appalachia, the Rust Belt and the South remain resistant to improvement by outside forces. Vance makes the point that single parents and income segregation are the main factors limiting the futures of poor kids. Vance also points out that the skills that allowed him to survive his chaotic childhood often inhibited his success as an adult.

Hillbilly Elegy is a raw, emotional look at generational poverty and offers the hope that with a lot of support and luck the American Dream is still possible to achieve.

*Who Lynched Willie Earle?

The launch of Will Willimon’s latest book, “Who Lynched Willie Earle: Preaching to Confront Racism” and a conference on South Carolina’s last lynching, February 16, 1947, the subsequent trial, a courageous sermon and the continuing challenge of racism.

Wofford College,

Leonard Auditorium, Main Bldg,

Friday, February 17, 2017.

The day includes: Lectures from Willimon, retired Methodist bishop and dean of the chapel at Duke University and Will Gravely, lifelong scholar on the Willie Earle lynching and trial and professor emeritus at the University of Denver. Panel discussions with Bishop Jonathan Holston and other clergy from the Carolinas. A one act play on the lynching trial and aftermath. Lunch on-site \$10 per person

RSVP to Elizabeth Fields at fieldsem@wofford.edu.

CEUs are available

Why we are Democrats, Mike & Vera Stang

We are lifelong Democrats/Liberals as were our parents before us. We were both raised in Union households. We are members of the Democratic Party be-



cause we believe the Democratic Party represents the people, all people, be they white or be they a minority. As Democrats/Liberals, we believe that everyone should have a “seat at the table”. To offer even more insight, we will quote John F. Kennedy, “If by a ‘Liberal’ they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people-their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights and their civil liberties-someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a ‘Liberal’, then I’m proud to say I’m a ‘Liberal.’. Ditto for us as well.

Grier Mullins leaves behind a legacy of caring and service at PEP

Since 1986, Public Education Partners (PEP) has been at the forefront of making a difference for students and teachers in Greenville County Schools. For most of that time, the driving force behind the vision for greater opportunity for each student and teacher has been Grier Mullins. Grier is set to retire in January 2017 after 28 years of service to the students and teachers of Greenville. We wish her the best and thank her for her service.



Dear Friends,

We ended 2016 with the very sad news of the passing of a true icon and beloved public servant, Councilwoman Lottie Beal Gibson. The program title of Mrs. Gibson's funeral service, "Celebrating a Life Well Lived," only hinted at the breadth of her unselfish and relentless commitment to the citizens of Greenville County. She worked tirelessly to achieve a community in which equality was the norm and was not afraid to speak truth to power in that pursuit. The GCDP salutes her incredible courage, righteousness, and tenacity. We send our condolences to her loving family and pledge to heed her example in upholding her legacy.

As I write this, looming before us is Inauguration Day. It will probably rekindle, with blunt ferocity, the blinding grief and regrouping we have been working through during the past couple of months. But I hope that, as I did, you found comfort in the soaring, inspiring words of President Obama's farewell address in Chicago. Not only did he remind Americans of our many successes under his leadership, but he also challenged and encouraged us to stay engaged and hopeful: ". . .our democracy demands. . .you. . .over the full span of a lifetime. . .Show up. Dive in. Persevere. . .And more often than not, your faith in America – and in Americans – will be confirmed." Showing up, diving in, and persevering is what we are determined to do – with renewed and laser focused intensity. I've heard this in every conversation and every group session in which I've participated since November 8. I'm proud of your resolve and the commitment to solidarity and grassroots action. We will be stronger together and we will regain! The GCDP shares that resolve and commitment. We are wrapping up a strategic planning activity that will outline direction and structure with an eye toward intentional growth and expanded relevance for our local party. Stay tuned to learn about new ways to participate – you are essential to the work that must be done.

One of the prongs of the plan is Impactful Action which includes building relationships through service in the community. We'll kick off 2017 with support for Allen Temple AME Church's Festival of Life. Join us at the January 28 breakfast meeting for an overview of the 2017 legislative session by our ranking state legislator Sen. Karl Allen and bring personal supplies to donate to the cause (blankets, gloves, warm socks, paper towels, and bathroom tissue). If you have the time after our meeting, consider accompanying GCDP 3rd Vice Chair Whitney Wright to Allen Temple to help package donations for distribution. Democrats care! In addition, messaging will play a critical role as we move forward. We are working on an updated website that should provide more resources and information about the community, and we want our response to news and events to be as comprehensive and timely as possible. We need expanded teams of volunteers to provide support for these efforts (1 hour per week anticipated commitment): 1) Website maintenance/updating; 2) Email alerts; 3) Community and political activity response. Please email headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com or call 864-232-5531 if you have experience in these areas that you're willing to share with us. We'll be in touch.

Thank you and Happy New Year.

Kate

We Stand Together, A Rally for Solidarity, Roxanne Cordonier

I was pleasantly surprised when I arrived at the Peace Center on Sunday, January 8th for “We Stand Together-A Rally For Solidarity” to see several hundred people gathered in the frigid weather. The speakers were diverse and inspiring. Attendees ranged in age from 8 months to 80+ and included many cultures, religions and skin colors. The need for unity in the face of the current political climate bound us together.

From the Ground Up organized the rally and I can see that they are working to build a diverse and active coalition of like minded people. I hope that this is just the start of activism by liberals, progressives and freedom loving, fair-minded people in Greenville and across South Carolina. Former Democratic U.S. Congressional candidate Chris Fedalai summed it up in his remarks, “Now more than ever, we need to reaffirm that we are a country that values equality, that values all people.” For more information go to Facebook and search From the Ground Up.



Contributions, continued from page 3

Yellow Dog Club Contributors for Month of December. We want to express our gratitude to these donors.

Peggy Baker, Charles & Sharon Cherry, James Joseph Cloonan, Chandra Dillard, Floyd McGurk, Dr. William and Jean Schmidt, Rob Sobczak and Kathleen Kempe, Donald and Ruth Todd.

Please note that HQ is in dire need of a working vacuum cleaner

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

January 28 Greenville County Democratic Party Breakfast Meeting , Pleasant Valley Connections, 510 Old Augusta Road, Greenville, at 8:30 a.m.

February 13 Democratic Women will meet at Fried Green Tomatoes at 12:15 p.m.

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