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



Greetings Greenville Democrats,

The momentum of resistance and political awareness and engagement continues to be high. Multiple meetings, rallies, and trainings take place daily; in fact it's often difficult to choose where to be at any given time. I applaud each of you for participating as you can in the responsibility inherent in being a member of a democracy: communicating with elected officials and holding your representatives accountable for the decisions they are making. We know that these efforts must be persistent and sustained and, in order to be successful in curbing the Republican agenda, we will have to devote a significant amount of time and, at times, morally and spiritually uplift one another.

I know all of us are looking forward to the time when we can again exercise another of our responsibilities – voting! The seats open in 2017 are in the City of Greenville: City Council Districts 2 (currently held by Lillian Brock Flemming –D) and District 4 (currently David Sudduth – R) and one Member At-Large (currently Gaye Sprague – D), as well as one Commissioner of Public Works [*filing for these seats opens at noon on March 16 and closes at noon on March 30]. This means that many of us will not be able to vote in November; however, each of us can work to elect the Democrats who will be running for these seats. Watch for information about their campaigns and plan to play a part in ensuring their success. Change starts at the local level.

Another election will take place at the 2017 South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention on Saturday, April 29 at the Medallion Center in Columbia. Democrats from across the state will convene to conduct statewide party business that includes electing party leadership. From the SCDP Rules, IV. State Party Organization, 1. Officers:

“In each odd- numbered year, at the annual State Convention, a Chair and three Vice Chairs shall be elected for a two- year period. The First Vice Chair shall be of a gender different from the Chair, the Second Vice Chair shall be of a race different from the Chair, and the Third Vice Chair shall be between the ages of 18 and 36 years of age. At the first meeting of the State Party Executive Committee, the remaining two officers, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be elected. The officers shall be residents and voters in the state of South Carolina. No person who has been convicted of a state or federal crime related to voting or the conduct of an election shall hold office at any level of the South Carolina Democratic Party.”

If you are interested in running for an officer position, filing is open until March 29. You can read the SCDP Rules here: scdp.org/resources and find the link to the SCDP Officer Nominating Statement here: scdp.org/2017-scdp-convention.

Continued on page 3...

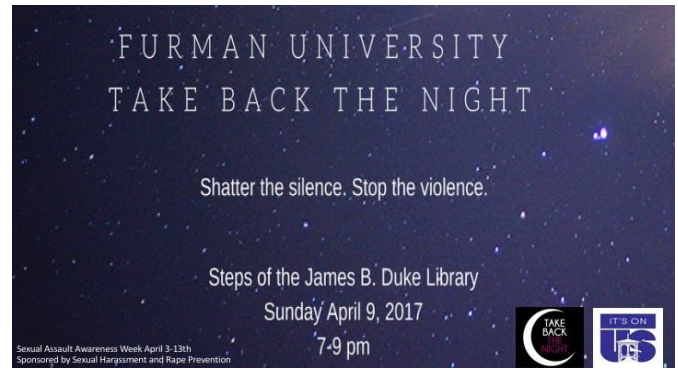
Caucus on March 11 by Tangee Jacobs

The Rural and Education Caucus will host a Summit in Cola at the Blue Marlin on Saturday, March 11th.

We will have a panel to share information; for example, Senator Fanning will speak on running a successful campaign in rural areas... County Supervisor Frank Hart will speak on the successful funding for education programs implemented in Union County.

The objective is to hear information, share concerns, issues, and education in rural areas while hearing the voice of the people.

The Rural Caucus hosted a similar event last year "Crisis in HealthCare". We will submit a report to our State Chair for their review and then provide this information to our elected officials.



A public call for: Stories, Art, Performance, and Anonymous statements relating to sexual assault, domestic violence, advocacy, and healing to be shared at the event on Sunday, April 9th 7pm-9pm. Contact Emilee O'Brien emilee.obrien@furman.edu

SOUTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

BLUE PALMETTO
DINNER

South Carolina Democrats:

We are happy to announce that the first Blue Palmetto Dinner will take place Friday, April 28, 2017. Further details will be forthcoming. Watch this space!

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Blue Palmetto Dinner!

Greenville Young Democrats Invitation to a Forum by Jalen Elrod

We would like to invite you to the Greenville Young Democrats Youth and Law Enforcement Forum with Sheriff Will Lewis of the Greenville County Sheriff's Department and Police Chief Ken Miller of the Greenville City Police Department. This forum will be held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church on March 23rd from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. It will be moderated by Ms. Eryn Rogers of WSPA Channel 7 News. We have invited many youth organizations to participate in this event and provide a myriad of perspectives representing our diverse community in Greenville. The organizations that will be fielding questions in this forum are: **1)** Greenville BlackLivesMatter; **2)** Rehinge, a mental health advocacy and lobbying group; **3)** Gender-Benders; **4)** The Hispanic Alliance and **5)** The Islamic Society. Each of the organizations mentioned will be given five (5) questions to ask the LEO heads which will comprise the first half of the event. The second half will be comprised of questions from the community. This will be a great event that we know will benefit the community. The Greenville Young Democrats want this forum between Greenville law enforcement and the youth of Greenville to create dialogue and understanding and promotes coming together to better our community.



invites you to a banquet celebrating
The Strength in Unity Award

Honoring Councilwoman Lottie Gibson

6-8 PM on Sunday, April 2, 2017



Phillis Wheatley Community Center
40 John McCarroll Way, Greenville, SC 29607



We welcome you to join the Greenville County Democratic Party on April 2, 2017 as it presents its Strength in Unity Award posthumously to Greenville County Councilwoman Lottie Beal Gibson, who died in December at age 86.

This award honors a Democrat who unselfishly contributed to the community, improving it by promoting civil and human rights and encouraging participation in the democratic process regardless of race, gender, or national origin.

Tickets are \$35 per person and include BBQ supper, beer and wine.

Register on Eventbrite: <https://strengthenunitygreenville.eventbrite.com> or call (864) 232-5531

Chair Message, continued from Page 1...

The 2017 SCDP State Convention is open to everyone, but only delegates elected at county conventions in 2016 are eligible to vote. County delegates and alternates serve for two years so, **if you were elected at last year's GCDP County Convention, please contact Headquarters at 232-5531 or headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com to let us know if you will be able to attend the state convention (April 29 in Columbia) by Monday, March 20 at 10 a.m.** If we have not heard from you by the deadline, you will be replaced on the GCDP delegate and alternate roster. This is a very important election for the state party as we chart the course for capitalizing on the rampant discontent that should result in more Democratic candidates and more Democratic victories across South Carolina. I hope that you will make every effort to be a part of the decision making process.

In solidarity, Kate

Make America Read Again, Roxanne Cordonnier

One of my favorite jokes is "The only thing Donald Trump made great again is Saturday Night Live." That old show still has a lot of life left in it and they do have the orange man to thank for it.

Some classic books are surfacing to the top of the pile again after the election of Donald J. Trump as president. The NY Times recently detailed the resurgence of the author Margaret Atwood (*The Handmaid's Tale*) in the post election period.

Go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/business/media/dystopian-classics-1984-animal-farm-thehandmaids-tale.html?emc=eta1> Other novels that today's readers may not have picked up since high school but have landed on the list this week are Aldous Huxley's 1932 novel, "Brave New World," a futuristic dystopian story set in England in 2540; and Sinclair Lewis's 1935 novel "It Can't Happen Here," a satire about a bellicose presidential candidate who runs on a populist platform in the United States but turns out to be a fascist demagogue. On Friday, "It Can't Happen Here" was No. 9 on Amazon; "Brave New World" was No. 15." If you are already a serious reader, may I recommend websites like www.goodreads.com as a means of cataloging your books and finding authors and books you'll find appealing. I have trouble remembering what I've read and the website helps me keep an accurate record. Good Reads also allows you to connect with friends and share recommendations. If you aren't in a book club, start your own! I'm a member of two groups and find sharing your thoughts on current and classic books to be thoroughly enjoyable. If you're on a tight budget, the public library is your best friend. You can reserve books that are on the bestseller list, you can find old classics, and you can borrow movies, books on CD's, and so much more.

Appropriate Poetry and Prose,

Roxanne Cordonier

The World Needs by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

So many gods, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind,
While just the art of being kind
Is all the sad world needs.

Small February Miracles by Glen Sorestad

We turn east at a corner, heading home from our
walk at our free daily morning gym, the shopping
mall.

A mundane winter turn, but today, the eastern
sky blinds me so much I have to reach for the sun
visor.

Sunrise has shaken the horizon with a tsunami of
light; "Look!" I say, as if I needed someone to
confirm it.

8:10 a.m. and we are awash in bright dazzle and
delight. We have turned a corner, away from
winter's dark.

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Glen Sorestad is a Canadian poet, fiction writer,
editor, publisher, anthologist, and public speaker.
Author of more than twenty books of poetry and
many short stories, his work has appeared in more
than sixty anthologies and textbooks. His latest
book of poems is *Hazards of Eden: Poems of the
Southwest* (Lamar University Press, 2015). Glen
served from 2000-2004 as Saskatchewan's first
Poet Laureate and has given public readings of his
poetry in every province of Canada, as well as in
the U.S. and many parts of Europe. In November
of 2010, he was inducted into the esteemed Order
of Canada for his lifetime of outstanding literary
achievement, dedication to his community, and
service to his nation.

Tell Them Tuesday, Deb Morrow

@ Sen. Graham's office, 130 South Main Street
7th Floor, Greenville, SC 29601

Main: (864) 250-1417, 12 - 1 pm on the street

May visit office before or after



Though it was a victory to have
Lindsey Graham hold a town
hall, which he admitted was
partly in response to our deluge
of visits to his offices, his com-
ments made clear that **we can't
let up now!!!!**

This isn't everybody's choice of
activism, but if you're on the fence it's fun (good com-
pany!) pretty easy (nice little courtyard and bookstore/
cafe!) and it produces results & news coverage ... mo-
mentum for more trump opposition.

AAUW Annual Meeting,

Doris McLallen

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Green-
ville Branch AAUW (American Association of Uni-
versity Women) will be held Wednesday, April 12,
prior to the regular monthly meeting of The Book
Group.

Members and interested women and men will gather at
the Runway Cafe at the Downtown Airport, Green-
ville, at noon. Lunch is available for purchase.

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who
hold an associate or higher degree from a qualified
educational institution. Our mission: Empower women
and girls by connecting members with the people, pro-
grams and resources needed to make a difference in
their lives.

The Greenville Branch was established in 1919 and
looks forward to an amazing Centennial Celebration in
2019!

For further information, please call Branch President
Doris McLallen at (315) 778-1329 or e-mail at
mclallen0649@outlook.com



March 1, 2017

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Connection is to connect community residents, families, churches, businesses and other organizations in a coordinated effort to improve the education, employment, health, well-being and community involvement of Greater Pleasant Valley residents and surrounding communities.

Grady Patterson, President

David C. Mitchell, Vice President

Karl Earl, Treasurer

Avis Canty-Duck, Secretary

Zach Weaver

Gaybriel Gibson

Jimmy Martin

Derrick Quarles

Laura McCullough

Shirley Thompson

Kenneth Baxter

Seldon Peden

Dear Supporter,

We invite you to join our efforts at Pleasant Valley Connection, Inc. in making a lasting difference in the lives of families living in Pleasant Valley and surrounding communities in Greenville County. The Greater Pleasant Valley Community, located off of Old Augusta Road, is recognized by the City of Greenville as a ***Special Emphasis Neighborhood*** because of the large number of residents living in poverty and the alarmingly low literacy rate in the area. In addition, many of the children in the community live in single-parent homes.

As a result of the hardworking efforts of a multi-agency planning committee, the Pleasant Valley Connection, Inc. opened its doors in 2003 to serve the community. Since its inception, the center's programs have been designed to combat social and educational issues hindering the progress of residents. These programs include an Early Childhood Development Preschool, an After-School Tutorial Center, a Summer Enrichment Day Camp, a Teen Center, and a Senior Citizen Program.

On Friday, April 21, 2017 Pleasant Valley Connection, Incorporated will host the “**Pleasant Valley Connection, Incorporated Scholarship Golf Tournament.**” This event will be held at the Bonnie Brae Golf Club located at 1116 Ashmore Bridge Road, Greenville, South Carolina. The Golf tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. The cost is **\$75.00 per person**. Also, \$100 sponsorship opportunities are available for all holes. This event will be a 2 Man Captain's Choice, with a hole in one prize of **\$7,500**. April 15, 2017 is the deadline for sponsorship opportunities.

We are excited about this venture and look forward to a successful event! The funds raised from this event will be used to supplement program costs to ensure our participants have a better future, thus making our community stronger and healthier.

We sincerely thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Cordially,

Dexter L. Reaves

Executive director



Thank you, Yellow Dog Contributors! Be a part of the Club...the Greenville County Yellow Dog Club, that is. Gold Yellow Dog is a Contribution of \$1,000 or more in year 2017; Silver Yellow Dog is a Contribution of \$500 to \$999; Bronze Yellow Dog is a Contribution of \$250 to \$499.

Listed below are contributors for 2016 in their category:

Gold: Peggy Baxter, Harry Chapman, Ingrid Erwin, Joe Erwin, Ann Funderburk, Eric & Helen Graben, Dr. Bruce & Edwina Snyder, Michael & Susan Riordan, Frank & Ann Holleman, Surendra & Neelima Jain, Democratic Women of Greenville County, Ray Lattimore, Susanne Coe

Bronze: Richard Riley, Roxanne Cordonier, Chandra Dillard, Bill Byars, Leah Garrett, Gwen Kennedy, Edith Chou.

Yellow Dog Contributors are our heroes...and sheroes. 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, 1300-J Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29607. You can call or email with questions at 864-325-8540 or anitalebold@hotmail.com.

Thank you to the list below that have contributed since the publication of the January Bray:

Linda Kristen Brown, Steve Evered (Silver Yellow Dog), Natalina Ferlauto, Kim Fitzgerald, Eric and Helen Graben (Gold Yellow Dog), Lucille Herwald (Bronze Yellow Dog), Woodrow Jarvis Hill

Furman University Offers: How is democracy faring in 21st century America?

What about the long accepted standards of civil behavior and ethical conduct? Do Americans still believe in the power of scientific discovery?

A group of Furman University professors will address those issues and more when they participate in a series of panel discussions that will take place on and off campus during March and April. All of the six events for "Our Republic ... For Which It Stands," are free and open to the public. Right click on the link and select "Open Hyperlink"

news.furman.edu/2017/03/01/our-republic-for-which-it-stands/

Save the Date! Saturday, April 8, 2017

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Columbia-Ft. Jackson, 7329 Garners Ferry Rd, Columbia SC

Keynote Speaker: A'Sahanti Gholar, Political Director, Emerge America

**Susan Y. Smith, Southern Regional Director,
National Federation of Democratic Women
President, South Carolina Democratic Women's Council**

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