20 YEARS

LibertyFellowship

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April 25 - 27, 2025

Greenville, SC

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Meet the Co-Chairs



John Simpkins

Class of 2009
President and CEO, MDC

John leads MDC's strategic vision and partnerships, working to eliminate disparities and build a thriving South. Previously, as Vice President of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, he mobilized 3,000+ Fellows worldwide to address the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts.

A constitutional scholar and attorney, John has held various leadership roles at the state, national and international level. He is a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Moderator Corps.



Laura Ullrich

Class of 2023

Regional Economist and Senior Manager
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Laura is a regional economist and senior manager at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Charlotte branch, where she leads the Regional and Community Analysis team and oversees the Richmond Fed Survey of Community College Outcomes.

Active in her community, Laura serves on the boards of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, Catawba Regional Council of Governments, Family Promise of York County and Carolina Immigrant Alliance.

Agenda

Thursday April 24

3 p.m. - 5 p.m. | Check-in and packet pick up
Westin Poinsett, 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601

Pick up your name badge, swag and printed materials when you check in to the hotel.

Friday April 25

7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Westin Poinsett, 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601

Check-In | Lobby
Pick up your name badge, swag, and printed materials.
Breakfast | Gold Ballroom
Join attendees for a buffet style breakfast.

9 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Fellow-Led Tours
Transportation provided from The Westin Poinsett. Meet in the lobby at 9 a.m.

Feed & Seed Food Hub. Join Mary Hipp ('12) for a tour of her Liberty Fellowship venture - a nonprofit food hub serving local farmers and families in Upstate, South Carolina. Location: 701 Easley Bridge Rd Suite 6010, Greenville, SC 29611.

The largest collection by American painter Benjamin West commissioned by King George III. Join Erin Jones ('10) for a private tour of the Benjamin West collection at the War Memorial Chapel on the campus of Bob Jones University. Location: 1700 Wade Hampton Blvd, Greenville, SC 29614.

South Carolina Empowerment and History Museum. Join James Jordon ('23) for a tour of his Liberty Fellowship venture currently under construction! Location: 700 Arlington St, Greenville, SC 29601.

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Lunch and Keynote Panel
Westin Poinsett, Gold Ballroom, 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601

State of the State
Since Liberty Fellowship was founded two decades ago, 350 Fellows have created positive generational impact in the Palmetto State. Today, South Carolina ranks as one of the fastest growing state economies in the country. We'll begin with an informative keynote from **Tom Barkin, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond** who will share his thoughts on the broader economy before joining a panel to discuss regional and statewide trends.

Barkin will be joined by distinguished Liberty Fellows who are driving economic success while creating positive conditions for employees, customers, and community stakeholders. The panel discussion will be moderated by **Betsy Fleming ('06)**, Liberty Fellowship Board Member, Aspen Institute Trustee, and Founder of Cressence. Panelists joining the conversation include: **Barbara Melvin ('14)**, president and CEO, SC Ports; **Will Huss, Jr. ('11)**, CEO, Trehel; and **Tommy Preston, Jr. ('23)** Global Chief Talent Officer, Boeing.

Quick Tip

Visit the Liberty Lounge!
Thursday 3pm - 11 pm
Friday and Saturday 8am - 11pm
Card Room at The Westin Poinsett

The Liberty Lounge is a place for attendees to gather for continued conversation and networking.

Agenda

Friday April 25 (continued)

Quick Tip

Concurrent and optional sessions

You have pre-selected your optional and concurrent sessions, and staff will confirm your assignments at check-in.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. | Concurrent Sessions
Roam Greenville ONE, 2 W Washington St Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601

Arts and Society: Building Community through Creativity
Assembly Room
Art has the power to bring people together, bridge divides, and foster understanding. From the Gullah traditions of the Lowcountry to South Carolina's dynamic contemporary arts scene, creativity is a force for connection and community.

This keynote and panel brings together leaders to consider how the arts honor our heritage, amplify voices and differing perspectives, create shared experiences, and inspire change. We'll examine how creativity in its many forms—from the visual arts and music to literature and performance—strengthens our sense of belonging and helps us navigate difference.

Dr. Tonya Matthews, CEO of the International African American Museum, will deliver keynote remarks before joining a panel discussion moderated by Bill Medich ('17), group president at SouthState Bank and Chair Emeritus of Spoleto Festival USA. Panelists joining the conversation are: **Orville Vernon Burton,** professor and historian at Clemson University; **Sharon Graci ('11),** co-founder and artistic director, Pure Theatre; and **David Smalls ('06),** executive director of the South Carolina Artisans Center.

Seminar Sessions
Gather, Cafe, Overlook and Forum Rooms
Readings and moderated dialogue with an esteemed group of moderators from The Aspen Institute. Liberty Fellows will join other Fellows around the seminar table, and guests will join other guests.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Optional photos
Roam Greenville ONE, 2 W Washington St Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601
Email communications@libertyfellowshipsc.org to sign up for a complimentary profile photo from Amy Randall Photography! Limited number of spots available.

4 p.m. - 5 p.m. | Class Connections
Various Locations
Join members of your Class for a check-in. See your Class Connectors for more information.

6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. | Dinner & Keynote
The Avenue, 110 E Court St Suite 600, Greenville, SC 29601

Kevin Sack is a Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and author with over four decades of experience covering national affairs. He spent 30 years at The New York Times as a senior writer, specializing in longform narrative and investigative reporting, particularly on issues of race and politics. Sack has also worked for the Los Angeles Times and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He currently resides in Charleston, South Carolina, and is the author of upcoming book: Mother Emanuel: Two Centuries of Race, Resistance, and Forgiveness in One Charleston Church, a comprehensive history of Emanuel AME Church, the site of the tragic 2015 mass shooting.

Agenda

Saturday April 26

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Health and Wellness Activity
Roam Greenville ONE, Gather Room, 2 W Washington St Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601

Mat Class led by Gillian Zettler ('25)
As co-founder of Charleston's The Drop In, Gillian will lead exclusive Mat Classes designed just for us—a powerful, accessible, and community-driven practice. Expect fluid movement, bursts of cardio, sculpting work, and cathartic release, all set to energizing music. Grounded in somatic principles, this class is about balance, inclusivity, and connection—not yoga, Pilates, or HIIT, but something uniquely its own.

8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Westin Poinsett, 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601

Check-In | Lobby
Pick up your name badge, swag, and printed materials.
Breakfast | Gold Ballroom
Join attendees for a buffet style, self-serve breakfast.

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions

Considering the Future of Liberty Fellowship and "The Danger of a Single Story."
Roam Greenville ONE, Assembly Room, 2 W Washington St Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601
In this participatory session for Liberty Fellows, we will engage in a discussion regarding the values and power of Liberty Fellowship for ourselves and the state of South Carolina. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk, The Danger of a Single Story will serve as a foundation for the discussion regarding how we ensure that the Fellowship and Fellows operate in a way that allows us to move beyond single stories and lean into our best selves — individually and collectively. This session will inform the Fellowship's strategic planning work currently underway and help to shape our values and our priorities for our next 20 years.

Volunteer Service Activity at Annie's House hosted by Sustaining Way
Transportation departs from The Westin Poinsett at 9:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to wear clothing suitable for gardening and bring a water bottle. Transportation returns to The Westin Poinsett at 11:30 a.m.
For Fellows and Guests, this activity offers a hands-on opportunity to support local food security and environmental stewardship. Volunteers at Annie's House assist with general landscaping and garden upkeep to promote produce growth which is used to fight food insecurity in the local Nicholtown area. These activities not only help cultivate fresh produce for the community but also serve as a platform for learning about sustainable practices. All necessary tools are provided.

12 p.m. - 2 p.m. | Lunch & Keynote
Westin Poinsett, Gold Ballroom, 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601

Remarks from Liberty Fellowship CEO Tycely Williams

Keynote: Simple is the New Smart
Tracey Abbott is a Henry Crown Fellow and executive leadership coach who helps successful leaders use values-based leadership to create lasting impact. A former Senior Operating Partner at private equity funds with over $450B AUM, Tracey has served as a 5x PE Board Director, led global portfolio company talent, and operated P&Ls at PepsiCo, Foot Locker, and Chick-fil-A. Her career spans boardrooms, startups, and strategy roles at Bain & Company with a global lens shaped by a decade abroad and an M.B.A. from H.E.C. Paris. In this keynote, she invites leaders to move beyond complexity, trust what matters most, and discover why simple is the new smart.

Agenda

Saturday April 26 (continued)

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Concurrent Sessions
Roam Greenville ONE, 2 W Washington St Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601

Panel Discussion: The Power and Potential of Philanthropy in SC
Assembly Room
As we reflect on the past 20 years of Liberty Fellowship, we recognize that South Carolina is thriving in many ways—yet we do face challenges that require leadership, collaboration, and innovation. Philanthropy plays a unique role in that equation, filling gaps, taking risks, and catalyzing change in ways that neither government nor business can do alone.

This panel brings together distinguished leaders from local and regional community foundations, each offering deep insights to the unique challenges in their communities, successful partnerships that drive lasting impact, and the future of philanthropy: **Darrin Goss ('18)**, president and CEO, Coastal Community Foundation; **Troy Hanna**, president and CEO, Spartanburg County Foundation; and **Georgia Mjartan**, president and CEO, Central Carolina Community Foundation. The discussion will be moderated by **Rochelle Williams ('23)**, chief strategy officer at The Mary Black Foundation.

Seminar Sessions
Gather, Cafe, Overlook, and Forum
Readings and moderated dialogue with an esteemed group of moderators from The Aspen Institute. Liberty Fellows will join other Fellows around the seminar table, and guests will join other guests.

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | Free Time

6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. | Celebration Dinner
Judson Mill, 701 Easley Bridge Rd, Greenville, SC 29611
Shuttles provided from The Westin Poinsett beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Join us for the closing celebration! Toast to Liberty Fellowship, enjoy brief remarks from Liberty Fellowship Board Chair **Kerri Forrest ('18)** and **CEO Tycely Wiliams** to honor those who have made the past two decades possible, and dancing music from the band Finesse!

Sunday April 27

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Health and Wellness Activity
Roam Greenville ONE, Gather Room, 2 W Washington St Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601

Mat Class led by Gillian Zettler ('25)
As co-founder of Charleston's The Drop In, Gillian will lead exclusive Mat Classes designed just for us—a powerful, accessible, and community-driven practice. Expect fluid movement, bursts of cardio, sculpting work, and cathartic release, all set to energizing music. Grounded in somatic principles, this class is about balance, inclusivity, and connection—not yoga, Pilates, or HIIT, but something uniquely its own.

Agenda

Sunday April 27 (continued)

8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Breakfast
Westin Poinsett, Gold Ballroom, 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601
Join attendees for a buffet style, self-serve breakfast.

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Option to attend religious services led by local Fellows

Sean Dogan ('17) Long Branch Baptist Church
28 Bolt St, Greenville, SC 29605

Gary Eichelberger ('19) St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1002 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601

FAQ

- **Where is the event?**
  - There are four main venues. See parking information on the following page.
    - **Westin Poinsett**, 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601. Breakfast and lunch sessions will be held at the Westin every day, and this is our host hotel for the weekend.
    - **Roam Greenville ONE**, 2 W Washington St Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29601. Health and Wellness sessions, seminars, and afternoon panel discussions will be held at Roam.
    - **The Avenue**, 110 E Court St Suite 600, Greenville, SC 29601. This rooftop venue is our setting for the dinner and keynote on Friday evening, April 25.
    - **Judson Mill Annex and Smokestack**, 701 Easley Bridge Rd, Greenville, SC 29611. This former textile mill is our venue for the closing Celebration Dinner on Saturday, April 26.
- **Is transportation provided?**
  - Transportation will be provided from the The Westin Poinsett to the tours on Friday morning April 25, to the volunteer service activity on Saturday morning April 26, and to the Celebration Saturday evening April 26. The remaining sessions are walkable within a three-block radius of The Westin Poinsett.
- **What is the attire?**
  - Business casual for the daily sessions.
  - Business for the Dinner and Keynote at The Avenue on Friday, April 25.
  - Cocktail attire for the Celebration Dinner on Saturday, April 26.
  - Dress according to the activity for the Health and Wellness sessions (Mat Class - sneakers required) and the volunteer service activity (gardening).
- **What do I need to bring for the Health and Wellness session (Mat Class)?**
  - Nothing! Your instructor Gillian Zettler ('25) is providing mats for class. Just make sure to wear sneakers and something you are comfortable to sweat in.
- **What if I want to change the concurrent or optional session I selected?**
  - This may be possible depending on the session and activity. See a staff member during check-in if you would like to request a change.
  - If you opted into a moderated seminar session, you have been assigned to a cohort in advance. We request that you make your best effort to participate.

Venues and Parking

Westin Poinsett

Hotel Address: 120 S Main St, Greenville, SC 29601

On-site parking is available in the Poinsett Garage:
25 W McBee Avenue, Greenville, SC 29601
Daily: $7
Valet Daily: $25
Electric Car Charging Station



Roam Greenville ONE

2 West Washington Street, Suite 200,
Greenville, SC 29601

Parking is available in the following nearby parking decks:
ONE City Plaza Garage, 103 N Main St, Greenville, SC 29601
Richardson Street Garage, 66 Richardson St, Greenville, SC 29601
W Washington Street Deck, 101 W Washington St, Greenville, SC 29601



The Avenue

110 E. Court Street, Suite 600, Greenville, SC 29601

Parking is available in the **Broad Street Garage**, 135 E Broad Street, Greenville, SC 29601.

Daily: $7



Judson Mill

701 Easley Bridge Rd., Suite 4010, Greenville, SC. 29611

Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the venue. The Celebration Dinner will be in The Annex and The Smokestack.



Liberty Fellowship is a network of values-based leaders committed to the betterment of life and opportunity for all citizens of South Carolina. Liberty Fellowship activates individual leaders through a deeper understanding of a just, free and equitable society; serves as a convener for bringing together diverse perspectives to advance civil discourse; and provides infrastructure for taking action.

Liberty Fellowship is a nonpartisan, nonsectarian, non-dogmatic organization which operates independently of the positions and views of its funders.

For more information, visit libertyfellowshipsc.org.