



The Columbia (SC) Chapter on the Move During Covid-19

A Club Year to Remember

After a festive end to the 2019 year, the Columbia SC Chums were ready to zoom in 2020! Little did we know, zoom would have a new meaning in 2020, as the world shut down in the face of a pandemic. The chapter quickly adjusted, hosting lively themed Zoom meetings and participating in fun virtual socials. We met, we laughed, we cried, we learned, we shared, we healed, we loved; we were closer than ever!

Our 2020 club year started with a spiritually uplifting and inspirational home cooked winter brunch of savory breakfast casseroles, quiches, hot teas, mimosas and pastries; what a spread! It was certainly food for our souls as we prepared to carry out the business of the Columbia Chums!

In February, we enjoyed a "Chinese New Year," complete with sushi, seaweed salad, wok dishes, coffee and green tea mochi. At the end of the meeting, fortune cookies were read "in bed" and each Chum received a Japanese fan and a stainless-steel arrow charm bracelet.

As March approached the chapter decided to cancel all in-person meetings due to the Covid 19 pandemic. As quickly as the world shut down, a new and fun opportunity presented itself and the Columbia Chums found a safe and fun way to meet and check on each other! We really were zooming in 2020!

April's virtual meeting was a challenge as we all painstakingly learned about Zoom and the features on our phones, tablets and computers but, every Chum was in attendance at the May virtual meeting, "Accessorized!" From exotic scarves, ridiculous hats, incognito couture, fancy fascinators and of course, fashion forward masks, the virtual meeting was fun and a huge success! After we virtually toasted our blushing bride, we participated in a spirited game of virtual bingo, with lots of prizes! The club also focused on the "Sisters in Our Circle," surprising Emeritus members with cards, flowers and phone calls during the pandemic to make sure they knew they were loved. Our mantra for the day became, "make up your bed, make up your face and make up your mind to make safety measures part of your routine and, it's time for a mocktini!" The Columbia Chums found a way to stay connected and to see each other's beautiful, smiling faces. What a blessing.

The September "Vote Early" virtual meeting was a hit, as Chums showed off their appetizers and red, white and blue attire. All present were quizzed on voting facts in preparation for the upcoming election. After a very lively exchange, it was obvious our sisters knew their stuff and were ready to vote - and compete for Baskin Robbins gift cards!

October was a special month as we virtually welcomed our new Chum and Hum into the Columbia family. All wore white, yellow chapter scarves and of course, yellow roses. The beautiful virtual ceremony and toast were followed by a virtual presentation highlighting our new members then our new Chum and Hum were presented with gifts and a fabulous boxed lunch and bottle of wine to share.

At the regular October "Yes, I Did" virtual meeting, Chums participated in a fun activity by singing popular songs to answer questions. It was obvious that the Columbia Chums were creative thinkers and could sing! We wore blue to represent strength, steadfastness and our religious devotion, and we wore white to represent new beginnings for our new officers. A good time was had by all!

In the spirit of thanksgiving, we enjoyed a virtual "Chumsgiving" for November. Each Chum received a Chumsgiving goody bag of sangria, a Hickory Farms summer sausage and cheese gift box and an engraved bamboo trivet. The Columbia Chums were definitely feeling the Chumsgiving love!

To celebrate the holidays, the Columbia Chums got creative! Chums and Hums in casual holiday sweaters enjoyed a socially distanced, holiday masked and sanitized backyard Christmas celebration. We enjoyed the hospitality of our Charter Chum and her beautifully decorated home, complete with themed Christmas trees, a beautifully lit backyard and deck and a warm and inviting crackling bonfire. We brought individually wrapped or accessible appetizers and

homemade treats to share and we sipped hot cider while we reflected on the year and how much we missed human interaction. We even figured out how to host a socially distanced white elephant gift exchange! It felt and smelled like Christmas, even thru our masks!

Our Hums made us proud by hosting their very own “Humming for the Holidays” sock and towel drive. They donated over three dozen sets of towels and wash cloths and over 70 pairs of women’s and men’s socks to 35 residents at a local residential care assisted living home. The Chums followed suit by donating Christmas decorations and a tree to the home for the holidays.

The election results were in and the Columbia Chums started 2021 with a renewed spirit! Our January “Pancakes, Pajamas and Pearls” virtual meeting was one of the happiest. Everyone was a fashionista, commenting on the shades of purple inaugural attire and we knew we would always remember that we shared this day - with pancakes, in our pajamas, wearing pearls! We ended the meeting with a mind tickling inaugural word scramble and of course prizes!

February was a month of national and local recognition. We participated in the beautiful 75th national founders’ day celebration before hosting our own recognition ceremony. We reflected on national and local history and participated in a history quiz with prizes. We recognized our charter Chum with a crystal plaque, our Yellow Rose Council with Waterford crystal bowls and each member received a rhinestone initial pin in honor of the organization’s 75th anniversary. Our Yellow Rose Council surprised each member with a Valentine’s Day bag full of treats and other goodies. It was a special day to be a Chum!

The “Le Chic Chapeaux une Thé” event was an afternoon delight! Decked out in pretty frocks, chic chapeaus and dainty gloves, we enjoyed an afternoon of sweet and savory finger foods and of course, scones. Each Victorian themed gift bag included an adorable teacup and matching saucer, a napkin, a box of teas, our afternoon treats and a handout of tea tips. The Columbia Chums were ready for National’s Spring Tea!

The club year ended with our May salute to “Honoring Our Veterans.” We wore red, white and blue as we learned little known or forgotten facts about Memorial Day. Each member received a traditional southern wicker basket with checkered lining, full of cheeses, crackers, pepperoni, candies and wine. The Columbia Chums were ready for a summer picnic in the park!

In the midst of the pandemic, the Columbia Chums were able to remain focused on the mission of the organization. Through a local foreign mission project, we were able to provide a full semester of education for our 4th grade Kenyan adopted daughter. The mission’s project was the only form of education for the children in the Kenyan village and one Chum was able to secure enough books from a local elementary school to establish a library for the village.

Aware of the needs of Benedict College’s foreign students, members decided to contribute “Blessing Bags” full of clothing, bedding, linen, composition books, paper, writing utensils, book bags and school supplies to the students. Answering the call for supplies in the face of a shortage, members also donated boxes full of peanut butter to the local Harvest Hope pantry.

We participated in National’s partnership with the Children’s Defense Fund, Freedom Schools @ Home Distribution Program and our books arrived just in time for delivery for the spring semester. Members also volunteered to read to the Freedom School classes, donated hand sanitizer and over 500 masks for the school’s summer program. Students were also given school supplies and treated to cupcakes. Chums found individual ways to promote Covid testing and to get the word out on testing locations. We constantly shared information and updates on Covid and one Chum drove several members of the community to local vaccine sites after she received her second dose.

The club year may have been riddled with loss, pain and unrest but we endured, and we continued to carry out the business of Chums. We stayed inside, informed and protected. Agendas became theme-filled shared screens and we showed off our Zoom skills with changing backgrounds and backdrops of our quarantine cribs. We are Chums, sisters, friends, bound by faith and born of women who endured, protected and rose up before us. We’ll never forget this time in our lives and we’ll never forget the phenomenal women of the Chums who cried, laughed and loved through it all!



1st Vice President of the United States
Kamala Harris

Columbia Chums January 11, 2021 Virtual Meeting

All women of color, we will always remember we stand for diversity
with grace, dignity, and respect!
and meeting needs!

MEETING NIGHTS ALL AT 10:00 - MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY - 10:00 AM AND 10:00 PM



**Columbia CHUMS
Inaugural Word Scramble
2021**



Can you figure these out?
The **first** one to get all **20 pearls**,
wins a prize!



VETERANS



Columbia Chums Meeting
Piper's
2000 Forest Drive, B
Columbia, SC
Saturday, February 03, 2020
11:00 am

Peoplets Only
Chum Chats
1001.200.0799 on columbiachums.com

