MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello VWC Members.

It is hard to believe that we are entering another holiday season! Over the next month, our lives will be busy with holiday decorations, food, and gatherings with family and friends. This is always such a special time as we prepare to close the year with reflection of the 12 months past and anticipation of the 12 months to come.

Like the rest of the world, the VWC will be busy with excitement and upcoming events to get you into the holiday spirit including our highly anticipated Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon on November 30 at the beautiful and historic Old Natchez Trace Country Club. There is still time to join us for lunch by making your reservation by this Monday, November 27. You will not want to miss this time of sensational food and shopping. Also, we will have our annual Holiday Cookie Exchange on Friday, December 8, and Holiday Tea at the Café at Thistle Farms on December 15. Please add these dates to your calendar and look for full details on how to register for these festive events in this issue of the Magnolia newsletter.

Need a Ride to our upcoming events? If you need to arrange transportation to any of our club-wide events, please utilize the services of our new group, “Friends Helping Friends” by contacting Roxanne Roske, Chair at hrroske@yahoo.com or (323) 371-2478.

Lastly, during this season, please consider helping others by referring to our list of “Community Service” activities. In particular, please feel free to bring children’s diapers of any size to any of our club-wide events as we continue to support The Nashville Diaper Connection this year. Our VP, Kelly Chambers will be sure the diapers are delivered to the appropriate location for distribution. If you have questions or need additional information, please reach out to kellychambers420@yahoo.com or (409) 771-5731.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming December events and interest group activities as we come together in friendship, fellowship, and scholarship! On behalf of the entire VWC Board, we want to wish you and your families a very merry and safe holiday season. We feel so fortunate that you have chosen to spend your time, talent, and treasury as a member of our club community. It is because of you that we are celebrating 130 years of existence and are poised to continue to remain relevant for years to come.

In service,

Yolonda Brooks Robinson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 30: Holiday Luncheon and Bazaar - Old Natchez Country Club, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Annual business Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2024

Spring Luncheon: Thursday, May 2, 2024

The mission of the Vanderbilt Woman’s Club is to bring together the women of Vanderbilt University, provide an opportunity for intellectual, cultural and social activities within the community and the University, support and assist the mission of the University, and sponsor the Vanderbilt Woman’s Club Stapleton/Weaver Endowed Scholarship through fundraising. The late Margaret Branscomb, wife of Chancellor Harvie Branscomb, was responsible for the major plantings of the magnolia trees on campus. The naming of the newsletter honors her.
The deadline for reservations is **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

Please use this link to make your registration:

[https://vanderbilt.alumniq.com/index.cfm/events:register/home/eventId/4523](https://vanderbilt.alumniq.com/index.cfm/events:register/home/eventId/4523)
A Musical Afternoon
and
Holiday Cookie Exchange Fundraiser
December 8th, 2-4 p.m.
at the home of Ursula King
3816 Central Avenue, Nashville

Please bring 2-4 dozen cookies or your favorite sweet treat.
We will provide the boxes to go home with your treats and the entertainment.
(Students of VWC member, Valerie Middleton.)
Tips at the event for the students are appreciated.

This is a fundraiser for the Stapleton/Weaver Endowed Scholarship so a check for $20 made payable to the “Vanderbilt Woman’s Club” or cash can be sent by December 5th or you can give it to Joy at the Holiday luncheon November 30th

Send to: Joy Allington-Baum 5724 Stoneway Trail, Nashville, TN 37209
If you would like a ride or have questions please call Joy Allington-Baum at 214-755-5328 or at joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com

We will be collecting diapers for the VWC diaper drive at this event.
It’s Time For Our Annual Holiday Tea

Where: Thistle Farms
When: December 15th, from 2-4 p.m.
Cost: $30 per person,
Payment by check only, limited to first 40 members

Send a check made out to:
Vanderbilt Woman’s Club
Attn: Joy Allington-Baum
5724 Stoneway Trail,
Nashville, TN 37209

Last day for reservations is December 7th or when the slots run out.
Tips welcome for the staff.
We will be collecting diapers for the VWC diaper drive.

Questions: contact Joy Allington-Baum 214-755-5328 or joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com

Peggy Curri, Rachel Curri, Liliana Sandberg, Elisabeth Sandberg, Margaret Norris, Ursula King,
Inka Odom, Joyce Gorr, Joy Allington-Baum

2021
SAVE THE DATE

VWC Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Vanderbilt Historic Old Gymnasium
2301 West End Avenue, Nashville
Thursday, January 18, 2024
10:30 a.m.

Responses will be due Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Further details will follow via email. Questions & responses to Kelly at kellychambers420@yahoo.com

This event is graciously sponsored by Dr. Doug Christiansen, Vice Provost for University Enrollment Affairs & Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
DONATIONS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Janet Crowson, Dot Galloway, Nancy Gentry, Michaelene Gnau, Inka Odom, Jessica Rickman, Nancy Simerly, Penny TeSelle,

YEAR TO DATE:

Evadne Awh, Melinda Balser, Mary Baysinger, Merle Born, Audrey Brown, Sarah Calvani, Kelly Chambers, Kelly Christie, Susie Cohan, Peggy Curci, Katrina Dickerson, Colleen Edwards, Kathleen Garthwaite, Catherine Griffith, Betsy Fleetwood, Cherie Hamilton, Pat Holdridge, Joan Hornberger, Helen Kornblum, Ann Krimm, Lindsay Lawrence, Lynn Maddox, Anne Manner, Elaine McKenna, Jeannette McNeil, Rosann Nunnelly, Carol Person, Sarah Plummer, Kitty Porter, Yolanda Brooks Robinson, Robin Sandidge, Vivian Shields, Sandy Spitz, Tracy Stadnick, Debbie Stevens, Mary Stinson, Lorena Wilson, Faye Wyatt

Our scholars

Ana Key, Class of 2025
Sophia Pieri, Class of 2026

We sincerely thank everyone who has made a gift to the Stapleton/Weaver Scholarship Endowment.

If your name is missing, contact Lynne Siesser lsiesser7@gmail.com to be added to the list.

New Members Corner

Welcome new members

Suzanne Alexander
Lynna Carlton
Pam Cowley

Katie Gifford, PsyD, MS, assistant professor of Neurology VUMC, was awarded a five-year, $4.3 million research grant in 2020 from the National Institute on Aging to study what subjective cognitive decline can reveal about underlying pathology. She was our Speaker at the Fall Lecture.

Grace Janho: In 2018, Grace relocated from Northern California to Middle Tennessee and is presently working as a Realtor with Parks Real Estate. Her entrepreneurial spirit has led her to establish several businesses throughout her adult life, such as a catering business, a Montessori school, and a holistic wellness clinic, among others. Her love for baking sparked a fresh entrepreneurial endeavor in 2022, this time in partnership with her youngest daughter, Natalie. They co-founded "Say Grace for Cookies," an online cookie boutique that specializes in a wide array of international cookies available for purchase and nationwide delivery.

Adair Mitchell
Laurie Nebel

To join or pay belated dues click here.
**Member Spotlight**

**Sandy Spitz**

Sandy has a very “Vandy family”. Her father was a 1943 graduate of the Medical School. Both Sandy and her husband, Bill, have Vanderbilt undergraduate degrees as does one of her three daughters. All of her girls have advanced Vandy degrees, a JD, an APN and a Masters in Teaching. One son in law received his PhD from the Vanderbilt Sociology Department where he now teaches.

The Vanderbilt legal department in 2003-2004 sought to bring all Vanderbilt affiliated clubs into compliance with IRS laws regarding not-for-profits. All of our assets both financial and physical were to be controlled by the University. We could no longer choose our own scholarship recipients as we had in the prior years. The IRS requires that once a gift is made, the donor loses any control over that contribution. By a 2004 membership vote, The Vanderbilt Woman’s Club was included under the umbrella of the university.

Coincidentally, in 2007, the Club received two large contributions from members **Virginia Wolf** and **Ava Sellers**. To capitalize on these two gifts, and with Board approval and support, an Endowment was established to sustain our scholarships into the future. (**Bill Spitz** was the Vice Chancellor for Investments from late 1985 until 2007 and oversaw a tenfold increase in fund assets. Sandy was, therefore, very knowledgeable about the power of an endowment to build a legacy for the future.) Rather than have the Club’s physical assets added to and “warehoused with” those of the University, the Board, with the support of then President, **Elizabeth Doyle**, decided to “sell” them at appraised value for proceeds to add to the new Endowment. These assets included two silver services, flatware, dishes, Club Cookbooks, and notecards which were graciously housed (and insured after their removal from Branscomb) in the basement of former Club President, **Dot Galloway**. Subsequent successful ScholarSips events and smaller fund raisers gave our Endowment the momentum to grown into the Endowment our scholarship recipients benefit from today.

Sandy is a former board member of the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee, Nashville Public Radio and University School of Nashville. She helped manage a small home-based business until retiring to be a Nana to her four grandchildren. She was a competitive ballroom dancer until the Covid lockdown and is currently a board member of her HOA and an avid, frustrated gardener.

**Friends helping Friends**

will provide the following services:

1) **Ride Share Drivers**
Provide transportation for VWC members to VWC events by another member willing to carpool.

2) **Support Team**
Outreach to VWC members that need some extra support during difficult times. Perhaps a phone call, a meal delivered or a get-well card.

3) **Phone a friend**
Winter is Coming! Do you like to chat on the phone? A group of VWC members for regular phone calls to other VWC members to create a community outside of scheduled activities that provides socialization within the club.

Would you like to volunteer to perform these services? Are you in need of help or support yourself or have another member to refer for services -- please reach out to Roxanne Roske via email at hrroske@yahoo.com or via text/call to 323-371-2478. We are here to help and provide support to our members.
**Community Service**

1. **Pencil, (DG Pencil Box)**  
   Where: 7199 Cockrill Bend Blvd., Nashville, TN. 37209  
   What: Sorting/organizing school supplies that are then made available to Metro teachers  
   When: Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. (generally the first Wed. of the month at this time.)  
   December 6  
   R.S.V.P. to Kelly at kellychambers420@yahoo.com

2. **Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee**  
   Where: 331 Great Circle Rd., Nashville, TN. 37228  
   What: Sorting donated food or packing boxes of weekend meals, etc. — Room for 10 volunteers  
   When: 1:00-3:00 p.m., Thursdays  
   December 14  
   R.S.V.P. Second Harvest needs all adults to be registered for this shift before coming in, so please click on this link to go to our VWC group’s landing page to create an account and sign up. Please let me know if you plan to go and if you need any help signing up online.

3. **VWC Diaper Drive**  
   For a second year the VWC Board has voted to support the Nashville Diaper Connection as our community outreach project. Feel free to donate disposable children’s diapers of any size at any club-wide event or contact me about picking up diapers or dropping them off.  
   Nashville Diaper Connection  
   VWC collected 4,252 diapers during the 2022-23 year. Let’s surpass that number this year!

4. **If you knit, crochet and/or sew,** there are a few projects that will benefit patients at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC). These will be placed in the VICC Patient and Family Resource Center, available for anyone in need.  
   Contact Sharon at sharonberenfeld@gmail.com for more details. She will collect completed projects and bring them to VICC. These items are in high demand.

5. **Quilters** needed for covers for the Giraffe Pods in the Vanderbilt NICU. Contact Lynne at lsiesser7@gmail.com or 615-856-3980.

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**Kelly Chambers**  
409-771-5731  
kellychambers420@yahoo.com

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**VWC Stitches with Love**

Do you knit, crochet or sew? The Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC) Patient Resource Center would love to have your handcrafted Hats, Portacath Pillows and Knitted Knockers (knittedknockers.org) to distribute to patients.  
I want to thank our New VWC Member Lora Stevenson Obrohta for helping start this project. Welcome Lora!  

Thank you Joan Hornberger for your Portacath Pillows!

Contact Sharon Berenfeld for more information sharonberenfeld@gmail.com
Girls Night Out

Come Party with us!
Holiday Light Tour in a Limo!
Thursday, December 7
5-8 pm

Amy Smith
720-939-0135
amyjsmith.rn@gmail.com

Cocktail Club

Share a bottle of wine and your favorite hors d'oeuvres. Bring your spouse, bring a friend or come on your own to meet new friends from other departments.

Saturday, December 9 at 6 p.m.
at the Siessers

Lynne Siesser
615-856-3980
lsiesser7@gmail.com

For your calendar
April: Diehl
Spring: Chambers/Sherwood
October: Kiesling

No meetings for these groups in December

Community Explorers
Save the date: January 12
Antiques & Gardens Show

Puzzling Times & Book Swap
January 4th 9:30-11 am weather permitting

Let's Cook!
January 30 Chili Cook Off - Spouses welcome

Finish It

Tuesdays, December 5th and 12th only. 1 p.m.
Bring a project to work on or to begin one.
at 5724 Stoneway Trail, Nashville, 37209

RSVP
joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com
or text at 214-755-5328

Book Nook

Our groups are reading these books in December.

Book Group One: Oil & Marble by Stephanie Storey

Book Group Two: Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

Loosely Bound: No book in December

BooKish No book in December

Contact information and meeting dates and times are on page ten.
Communications  Thank you for keeping us all informed.

Please send all photos (with names) or items you want to share to Elisabeth Sandberg
Text: 617-957-2169
The Team
Elisabeth Sandberg - Coordinator
Lisa LeMaster - Website
Lynne Siesser - Magnolia News

Interest Groups
Do you have another interest not listed? Contact
Joy Allington-Baum 214-755-5328
joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com

DAYTIME
ANTIQUEs: Mary Helen Short 3rd Tuesday at 10am
615-269-0538 - maryhelenshort111111@gmail.com
BOOK GROUP TWO: Nancy Fruetel 1st Monday 1pm
615-297-5075 - nnfruetel@msn.com
BOOK SWAP: Joy Allington-Baum 214-755-5328
joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com
BRIDGE TUESDAY: Lindsay Lawrence 2nd & 4th Tuesday 1pm
720-785-4075 - lindsaylawrencelong@gmail.com
CHOCOLATE: Tracy Stadnick 615-604-4513
tracy.tn.stadnick@gmail.com
COMMUNITY EXPLORERS: Tracy Stadnick 615-604-4513
tracy.tn.stadnick@gmail.com
Roxanne Roske 323-371-2478 - hroske@yahoo.com
COMMUNITY SERVICE: Kelly Chambers 1st Wednesday
9:30am and 2nd Thursday 1pm
409-771-5731 - kellychambers420@yahoo.com
CRIBBAGE: Grace Wernke Wednesdays 9:30am
815-222-5986 - gcwernke@msn.com
EXPLORE VANDERBILT: Tracy Stadnick & Sharon Hels
615-604-4513 tracy.tn.stadnick@gmail.com
615-715-3739 - shels53@gmail.com
FINISH IT: Joy Allington-Baum Tuesdays 1pm
214-755-5328 joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com
FRENCH: Maisie Roden 2nd Thursday 1pm
maiJes.rodens@gmail.com
LET’S COOkiE: Susie Garner and Colleen Edwards
3rd Tuesday - 3pm
615-500-4886 - gusieq81@gmail.com
407-461-9313 - colleenede@aol.com
LUNCH BUNCH: 4th Thursday 1pm
Joy Allington-Baum - 214-755-5328
joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com
MAH JONG: Cindy Slobogin Every Wednesday 1pm
615-292-2214 - slobogin@hotmail.com
TUESDAY MAH JONG: Lynne Siesser Tuesdays 10am
615-856-3980 - lsiesser7@gmail.com
MONDAY MAH JONG: Lynne Siesser Mondays 9:30am
615-856-3980 - lsiesser7@gmail.com
MOVIE GROUP - DAY: Peggy Curci Fridays
314-389-4119 - peggy@theCurcis.com
POP-UP GROUP: Kelly Chambers
409-771-5731 - kellychambers420@yahoo.com
PUZZLING TIMES: Joy Allington-Baum 214-755-5328
joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com
QUILTING: Lynne Siesser
615-856-3980 - lsiesser7@gmail.com
VWC STITCHES WITH LOVE: Sharon Berenfeld
704-936-7479 SharonBerenfeld@gmail.com

Pop-Up Group
is a loosely formed group of VWC members with diverse interests and sometimes flexible schedules who want to meet up with other members for fun outside of regularly scheduled club events. Movies, hikes, lectures, theater, festivals, music events, whatever – they are all game for!
PUG click on https://groupme.com/en-US/

Stay Connected
Join our VWC Facebook group to keep up with happenings in the club throughout the year. It’s a closed group so only VWC members may post information or see posts. You do need a Facebook account to join.
https://m.facebook.com/groups/VanderbiltWomansClub/?ref=bookmarks

EVENING/WEEKEND
ARMCHAIR TRAVEL: Lynne Siesser - 615-856-3980
lsiesser7@gmail.com One Friday per semester 7pm
BOLLYWOOD MOVIES: Joyce Gore - 914-954-1019
joycegore0681@gmail.com Weekends
BOOK GROUP ONE: 3rd Tuesday
Becky Attak & Eileen Crawford
615-406-3711 - atackrW@comcast.net
615-306-1211 - eileenCrawford5@gmail.com
BOOKish: Debby Stevens 4th Tuesday at 6pm
615-545-4545 - debbyhstevens@gmail.com
COCKTAIL CLUB: Lynne Siesser Saturdays 6pm
615-856-3980 - lsiesser7@gmail.com
GAME NIGHT: Elisabeth Sandberg & Ashleigh Maxcey
Text Elisabeth: 617-957-216g Ashleigh: ammaxcey@gmail.com
GIRLS’ NIGHT OUT: Amy Smith
720-939-0135 - amyjsmith.mn@gmail.com
LOOSELY BOUND (BOOK GROUP): Elisabeth Sandberg
4th Tuesday 7pm text: 617-957-216g
MOVIE GROUP - EVENING: Cindy Slobogin
615-292-2214 - slobogin@hotmail.com
POP-UP GROUP: Kelly Chambers

To avoid conflicts, check the Google Calendar. vanderbilt.womansclub@gmail.com
### December Calendar

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Cribbage 9:30am</td>
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<td>Girls Night Out 5pm</td>
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<td>Cocktails 6pm</td>
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<td>Finish It 1pm</td>
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<td>French 1pm</td>
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