



# Magnolia News

December 2023 \* VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4

[www.vanderbilt.edu/vwc](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vwc)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*



## Members of the Board

2023-2024

**Yolonda Brooks Robinson**  
*President*

**Anna Walker\***  
*Past President*

**Kelly Chambers\***  
*Vice President/Programs*

**Sharon Hels\***  
*Treasurer*

**Jeannette McNeil**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Tracy Bannantine**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

**Elisabeth Sandberg**  
*Communications*

**Susan Perdue**  
*Hospitality*

**Joy Allington-Baum\***  
*Interest Groups*

**Liz Doyle\***  
*Membership*

**TBD**  
*Newcomers*  
*Fundraising*

\*Past Presidents

## 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.



VANDERBILT WOMAN'S CLUB



## HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 30, 2023  
SHOPPING BEGINS AT 11AM  
\$40

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OLD NATCHEZ TRACE COUNTRY CLUB  
115 GARDENGATE DRIVE  
FRANKLIN, TN 37069

FOR LUNCHEON AND VENDOR INFORMATION CONTACT  
SUSAN PERDUE  
VWCHOSPITALITY2223@GMAIL.COM



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>



*A Musical Afternoon*  
and  
*Holiday Cookie Exchange Fundraiser*

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>** or you can give it to Joy at the Holiday luncheon November 30<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com)



2021



*Peggy Curci, Rachel Curci, Liliana Sandberg, Elisabeth Sandberg, Margaret Norris, Ursula King,  
Inka Odom, Joyce Gore, Joy Allington-Baum*



## **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](mailto:kellychambers420@yahoo.com)

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

# Stapleton/Weaver Scholarship

Donations may be sent to Liz Doyle, 1556 Oxford Court, Gallatin, 37066-5717

[click here](#)  
[to make](#)  
[your donation](#)  
[by credit card](#)

## 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 Nunnally, Carol Person, Sarah Plummer, Kitty Porter,  
Yolonda Brooks Robinson, Robin Sandidge, Vivian Shields, Sandy Spitz, Tracy Stadnick, Debbie Stevens, Mary Stinson  
Lorena Wilson, Faye Wyatt



Ana Key,  
Class of 2025

### Our scholars



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](mailto: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.



Katie

**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.



Grace

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 grow 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 in the Vanderbilt NICU. Contact **Lynne** at [lsiesser7@gmail.com](mailto:lsiesser7@gmail.com) or **615-856-3980**.

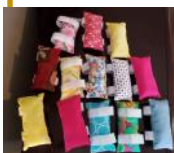
Kelly Chambers 409-771-5731  
[kellychambers420@yahoo.com](mailto:kellychambers420@yahoo.com)



# 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](http://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!

Make A Knocker



Contact **Sharon Berenfeld** for more information [sharonberenfeld@gmail.com](mailto: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

*Hosts needed.*



**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

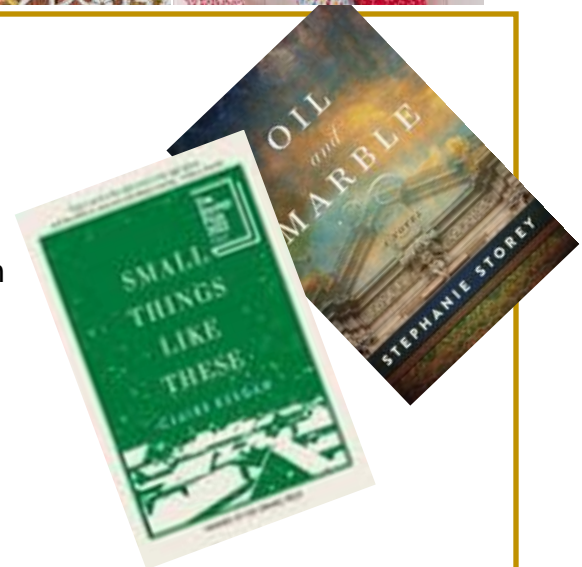
Our groups are reading these books in December.

**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 - maryhelenshort11111@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 - hrroske@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

maisie.roden@gmail.com

**LET'S COOK!:** Susie Garner and Colleen Edwards

3rd Tuesday - 3pm

615-500-4886 - gsusie481@gmail.com

407-461-9313 - colleende@aol.com

**LUNCH BUNCH:** 4th Thursday 1pm

Joy Allington-Baum - 214-755-5328

joyallingtonbaum@gmail.com

**MAH JONGG:** Cindy Slobogin Every Wednesday 1pm

615-292-2214 - slobogin@hotmail.com

**TUESDAY MAH JONGG:** Lynne Siesser Tuesdays 10am

615-856-3980 - lsiesser7@gmail.com

**MONDAY MAH JONGG** Lynne Siesser Mondays 9:30am

615-856-3980 - lsiesser7@gmail.com

**MOVIE GROUP - DAY:** Peggy Curci Fridays

314-369-4119 - 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



Look for us as  
vanderbiltwomansclub  
or search for vanderbiltwomansclub

## 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 Sunday 2:30pm

Becky Atack & 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: 617-957-2169 Ashleigh: ammaxcey@gmail.com

**GIRLS' NIGHT OUT:** Amy Smith

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

**LOOSELY BOUND (BOOK GROUP):** Elisabeth Sandberg

4th Tuesday 7pm text: 617-957-2169

**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](mailto:vanderbilt.womansclub@gmail.com)

# Happy Holidays

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						
3	4	5	6	Hannukah starts	8	9
	Mah Jongg 9:30am Book Group Two 1pm	Mah Jongg 10am Finish It 1pm <b>Deadline to RSVP for Cookie Exchange</b>	PENCIL 9:30am Cribbage 9:30am Mah Jongg 1pm	Girls Night Out 5pm <b>Deadline to RSVP for Thistle Farms</b>	Cookie Exchange 2pm	Cocktails 6pm
10	11	12	13	14	Hannukah ends	16
	Mah Jongg 9:30am	Mah Jongg 10am Bridge 1pm Finish It 1pm	Cribbage 9:30am Mah Jongg 1pm	Second Harvest 1pm French 1pm Book Swap & Puzzling Times 9:30pm	Thistle Farms 2pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Book Group One 2:30pm	Mah Jongg 9:30am	Mah Jongg 10am	Cribbage 9:30am Mah Jongg 1pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Bridge 1pm	Cribbage 9:30am Mah Jongg 1pm		Magnolia News deadline	



**RSVP deadline for the Annual Business Meeting on January 18 is 1/3/24**

