
VIRGINIA TECH WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

Friendship

Education



Scholarship

Service

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Winter 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT (Deb Call)

debracalldvm@gmail.com (540-552-5768)



Dear VTWC friends,

Happy New Year to each of you! I am sitting by the fireplace this evening, my computer in my lap, thinking once again about what might be helpful for our membership to hear and consider. Lately I have been thinking about the dichotomy between fear and hope and how this appears to be affecting our social discourse. In my career as a veterinarian, my communication tools were simple. A softly spoken word and a gentle touch along with the absence of a sense of fear were my working repertoire. There is no doubt that many pets present as fearful patients. They have every right to be afraid of the unknown, however they usually respond well if treated with respect and gentleness. The trick is to “listen” to their body language. They do not want to be fearful. Their trust can be earned. I think we can learn a lot from animals about how to live with one another.

As I write this, we are still in the twelve days of Christmas, so I think it is okay to share a Christmas story with you that has a message about fear and hope that you might enjoy. The story is about a little black and white kitten who was born in the springtime in Pulaski County along Route 11. I first spotted this little ball of fur when he was quite young as I was driving to work. He became a “loner” at an early age – a feral kitten. The unusual thing about this kitten was that he chose to live right at the edge of the highway. No houses were in his visual sight. He spent hours each day just watching the passing cars and trucks. Many kind-hearted people worried about his well-being as the road was heavily traveled. There were many efforts made to “catch” the little vagabond, but the kitten always ran like the wind when approached. He had a heightened sense of fear and trusted no one. As the kitten grew in size so did the community’s interest in him. He became a common topic of conversation. Everywhere you went, folks were comparing notes about recent failed attempts to capture this little traffic watcher. Months passed by and the kitten was now a full-grown cat – still intent on watching traffic from his favorite spot.

It was just a few days before Christmas. My staff was busy with their Christmas party, and I was rushing to finish up with cases so that I could join them at a local restaurant. I was in a hurry when I jumped in my car travelling along Rt. 11 on my way to Blacksburg. It was snowing that evening and visualization was not the best. I was watching the road intently. Out of the corner of my eye, something at the side of the road caught my attention, but I was unable to see clearly so drove on past. Then a sudden urge to turn around seized me. As I approached the spot in the road, I caught sight of him in my headlights. It was the “cat.” He was sitting just a little too close to the road. A semi-truck passed dangerously close to him, and he did not budge. I parked the car, got out and walked toward him. So often he had evaded me, but he did not run this night. Something was obviously wrong. It was too dark to see well, but I took off my heavy winter coat and threw it over his little body. I gently scooped him up and placed him in the front seat. In the light, his injuries were obvious and appeared to be quite serious. The “wild” Rt. 11 cat looked at me and spoke loudly with his “eyes.” In a moment, he let go of his fears and decided to trust me. Back to the clinic we went. There was no help at the practice, but the cat and I made a bargain to work together to address his injuries. He made a choice to live in hope. We named him “Routie.” His story went viral. He appeared in the newspaper and on TV. He is still, after all these years, alive and well and beloved. A few days ago, his forever owner sent me a Christmas picture of him relaxing on a satin pillow, his favorite spot. “Routie” was a true Christmas miracle. He chose hope over fear. Yes, we can learn a lot from animals. This New Year let’s give hope a chance.

Deb Call, Pres. VTWC 2017-18

Join the Virginia Tech Women's Club Facebook Group

FROM THE PRESIDENT (Deb Call)

debracalldvm@gmail.com (540-552-5768)

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We still have a full slate of things to do this year; yet, believe it or not, it is time to start our preparations for next year. Being your President has been a terrific experience, and our year is going well. I am having fun and hope that you are as well. Now we must make sure that our momentum continues. In March, we will have a CALL for NOMINATIONS!

Why not consider offering your skills and talents and take the leap into a leadership role with the VTWC? Cross my heart, serving on the Board is lots of fun! We form fast and lasting friendships and always eat more snacks than we should at Board meetings! Between now and March, practice saying “yes” out loud at least five times a week. You can take the weekends off. The time commitment is small, but the rewards are large. We need you!

FROM FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (TERRY ARTHUR)

arthurt@vt.edu (540-552-2686)

SCHOLARSHIP TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Scholarship Task Force Committee has met twice to discuss ways to improve our scholarship process. In October, the committee had a very informative meeting with Laura Pynn from the Community Foundation of the New River Valley to get more information about how the donations are processed, scholarship publicity, and application review. As an outcome of our meeting with Laura, the committee recommended to the Board, and the Board approved, that future donations to the scholarship fund go into our Pass-Through Account with the CFNRV rather than to the Endowment Fund. This will allow the flexibility of more funds available to apply directly to scholarships. The Board approved this change with the understanding that the process can be revisited at any time. We are also reviewing new avenues of publicity and broadening the applicant pool. We will continue to meet to explore other ways to optimize this important VTWC project. Many thanks to the committee members Deb Call, Pat Ceperley, Gretchen Flynn, Jean Hahn, Diane Hoover, Jean Smoot, June Stubbs, and Nancy Warren.

FROM VP OF MEMBERSHIP (Elva Miller)

elva.miller@comcast.net (540-951-8407)

Planned and led by Executive Director at Large Janet Rakes and Directors at Large Terri Lynn Howard and Debbie Leon, the Board of Directors hosted a Christmas Coffee for the new members who joined in the fall. It was a festive occasion, providing a special occasion of meeting and greeting. The fellowship abounded. New members who attended were often even new to Blacksburg.

Please look for and greet these new members at future functions of the VTWC: **Kimberle Badinelli, Trisha Ball, Joan Bellis, Isabel Berney, Lindsay Call, Terry Carly, Virginia Cox, Connie Cummings, Martha Daley, Anne Deaton, Winnie Drummond, Caryl Gray, Toni Hansen, Irmtraut Hartenstein, Lorraine Hodge, Mary**

Jones, Lisa Lloyd, Susie Marion, Susan Meacham, Ellen Miele, Jean Mills, Heather Nicholson, Terri Pecora, Adrienne Pinkney, Nancy Pontier, Margaret Ray, Suzanne Reisinger, Dianna Richardson, Graciela Santopietro, Ann Smets, Debbie Snyder, Rukmini Sriranganathan, Debbie Sturm, Liz Swinfen, Lois Voss, Diane Wilson, Melinda Winslow, and Laura Yambrick. Wow—38 new members! Let’s show them some Virginia Tech hospitality. Join us for the Winter Luncheon on February 6 and reach out to our newcomers and touch base with our renewing members.

Martha Daley is a new member who joined after the directory was printed. She lives at 1060 Showalter Drive. Her email address is daleymartha@aol.com and her phone number is 252-375-5185.

Kimberle Badinelli is also a new member who joined after the directory was printed. She lives at 3385 Laurel Drive. Her email address is kbadinelli@yahoo.com and her phone number is 540-230-1738.

Myriam Suchicital is a past member who renewed her membership since the directory was printed. She lives at 7303 Old Cloyd Road, Dublin, VA 24084. Her email address is myriam.suchicital@gmail.com and her phone number is 540-818-3847.

As of this week, our newest member is **Terry Carly**. She lives at 4340 Preston Forest Drive. Her email address is terry.carly@gmail.com and her phone number is 540-239-9447.

The Membership Committee has touched base with returning members and new members, the grand total of which numbers 278 members. DO continue to share with your friends our wonderfully focused group with emphases on service and scholarship, as well as the travel and tour trips and special interest groups. The membership form can be found on the website. Questions? Call me at the number listed above or contact me at the email address above.

FROM WAYS AND MEANS (Co-Chairs: Diane Hoover and June Stubbs)

cehdeh@aol.com (540-951-4360)

jnstubbs@vt.edu (540-552-6146)

The Ways and Means Committee is pleased to announce that almost half of our members have generously contributed to our Scholarship Fund. For those of you who have not contributed so far, you could make a big difference this year. We are at another crossroads, and your help would make it possible for us to make a larger commitment to the young women at Virginia Tech who have applied for scholarships. Our fiscal year for your contribution to the Scholarship Fund ends April 30.

The Ways and Means Committee will recognize five levels of giving based on “historical firsts” associated with women at Virginia Tech. The five levels offer different amounts of giving:

The 1925 Graduates Society	\$200+
The 1921 Society	\$150 to \$199
The Turkey Hen Society	\$100 to \$149
The Tin Horn Society	\$50 to \$99
The Hillcrest Society	Up to \$49



Gifts to the VTWC Scholarship and Endowment Fund are tax deductible. When you make a donation by check, please make the check payable to:

Community Foundation of the New River Valley (CFNRV)

To ensure the money goes to the right fund, please put
VTWC Scholarship in the memo line.

Mail check to:

Virginia Tech Women's Club
Post Office Box 10252
Blacksburg, VA 24062-0252

Gifts may also be made online at www.cfnrv.org. At the website, find the "Donate Now" button and follow the links. A direct link to the club's donation page can be found on our website:
<http://www.vtwomensclub.org>.

Please consider contributing to the financial support of these deserving women at Virginia Tech. It is a worthwhile investment in the future.

FROM SUNSHINE (Jan McGilliard)

janmcgilli@gmail.com (540-953-1366)



REACHING OUT

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Donna Stalcup, who passed away on November 26, 2017. Donna was a beloved member of VTWC and will be greatly missed.

We also hold in our hearts member Judi Schneck, whose husband passed away in November, and new member Debbie Sturm, who lost both of her parents in November.

Please keep member Marshall Marchman in your prayers as she battles ALS. Marshall is a profile in courage. She continues to honor us with her grace and sense of dignity. We can learn a lot from her about handling adversity. Words of encouragement are welcomed.

If you are aware of a VTWC member who has reached a milestone, suffered a loss, is ill or recovering from surgery, has received an award, or otherwise should be remembered, please contact Jan McGilliard.

FROM FRIDAY FORUMS (Julie Earthman)

jgearthman@aol.com (540-951-2051)

Friday Forum events continue to be held in the Fellowship Hall at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 600 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg. **Please note the new meeting place.** All events begin with coffee and conversation at 10 a.m. and will be held on the first Friday of the remaining scheduled months: February and April. Events, times and dates are subject to change. Watch for announcements in the newsletter and on-line. **Forums are open to the public. Invite a friend!**

February 2, 2018

Robert Kulp, co-owner, Black Dog Salvage, Roanoke

Topic: One-man's trash . . .

Robert Kulp (Building Construction '85), co-owner and *Salvage Dawgs* co-host, will discuss the process of saving architectural salvage from the landfill and the unique opportunity to showcase the work on a national television series. By the way, *Salvage Dawgs* airs nationally on the DIY and Great American Country Networks.

April 6, 2018

Dr. Richard Masters, concert pianist and instructor, VT Department of Music

Topic: The sound of music fills the air . . .

Students from the VT music department will present a spring musicale featuring delightful songs and sonatas, accompanied and introduced by Dr. Masters.

FROM TRAVEL AND TOURS (Co-Chairs: Suzi Austin and Laura Hewitt)

suziaustin@comcast.net (540-505-2198)

lhewitt1@me.com (302-354-0781)



Tours of WSLN Channel 10 and Museum of Transportation - Roanoke

Our morning starts with an interesting and informative tour of our local NBC television station. Get a firsthand look at how your news and weather are delivered to you each morning. Afterwards, we'll enjoy an early lunch at one of Roanoke's favorite restaurants, *The Roanoker*. We will then continue with a guided tour of the Virginia Museum of Transportation.



When: Thursday, January 18

Itinerary: Depart Community Center at 8:30 a.m. (Please arrive no later than 8:20 a.m. for check in. Return to the center is estimated by 3:30 p.m.)

Cost: \$18 for Blacksburg residents and \$28 for non-residents (Fee includes transportation and both guided tours. Lunch is extra.)

Registration begins Monday, December 11, and requires payment. Please call Joy at 443-1142 to register. Payment may be made by phone with credit card (MasterCard or Visa).

The trip is limited to 20 people, so don't delay in registering.

You may cancel without penalty one week prior to departure. After that date, there are no refunds unless a substitute is found. Tour may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

SOUL FOOD SAMPLER ODD FELLOWS HALL



Saturday, February 10, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Email Suzi Austin for reservations at suziaustin@comcast.net from January 8 to February 3

Cost: \$22

Limited to 18 Reservations

Come and taste three delicious Soul Food Samplings
Including desserts!

Learn about the history of
Soul Food and the Odd Fellows Hall

View the exhibits and enjoy the experience!

FROM VP OF INTEREST GROUPS (Phyllis Eschenmann)

eschp@vt.edu (540-951-2880 or 540-239-2526)

Beginning Kayaking Phyllis Eschenmann (eschp@vt.edu 951-2880 or 239-2526)

We will be starting this group in April, or as soon as the water is warm enough to get in! Details will follow from Phyllis Eschenmann, Chair of this group.

Book Club Marge Davis (margebt62@gmail.com 951-4037)/Nancy Warren (cnwarren@aol.com 951-1660)

The VTWC Book Club continues to enjoy a wide range of interesting books, good snacks, and great company. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 23, at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 Church Street, N.E. at 2 p.m. We will be discussing our latest selection, *The Heart of Everything That Is (The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend)* by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin. Please join us!

Canasta Winnie Myers (winniemyers@msn.com 953-1138)

The Canasta Groups meets once a month at Warm Hearth Village Center, from 10:00 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month. If you are a beginner or experienced at canasta, come; there is a place for you. We have between 2 or 3 tables of 4 players. The Warm Hearth representative is Marian Kelso and she lives at Hawthorne Ridge at Warm Hearth. She has boundless energy and enjoys her 90+ years of

living. Winnie Myers has lived in Blacksburg for the past 25 years and has been active in VTWC for many years in various areas of the club. Come and meet the other members of the group and have fun.

Needlework Barbara Bauer (babauer36@gmail.com 951-2107)



This group will be meeting on the 10th of January 10 a.m until 11:30 a.m. at the home of Thais Beams, 501 Airport Road. Her phone is 552-0177. Hope to see more of you then. We had to cancel the December meeting as it was a very cold and icy day.

Serving our Community & University Deb Call (debracalldvm@gmail.com 230-5448)/Phyllis Eschenmann (eschp@vt.edu 951-2880)

The VTWC Service Interest Group is up and running! Recently the group hosted representatives of VT Engage. Time was well spent learning about certain areas of need in the community and on the campus. These compassionate ladies are anxious to get their hands dirty and make a difference. Careful exploration and planning will spell success! Join us as we learn to serve and identify needs that we can address. Two ideas were brought to us by VT Engage. We may look more closely at these. One is hunger or food insecurity on campus. Another is the lack of affordable childcare that makes the youngest among us more vulnerable. We are still in a foundational mode so suggestions and energy are needed! You can lead or follow. We will welcome you with open arms!

Walking for Fun Phyllis Eschenmann (eschp@vt.edu 951-2880 or 239-2526)

Let's start the New Year off with a Walking for Fun resolution! So sorry this Interest Group has been slow taking off; however, Phyllis Eschenmann is ready to take the reins and go for it! Based on input from a number of you, we will be trying several options and venues. Emails will be sent weekly with the walking locations. In general, the walks will be on Mondays at 1:30 p.m., Wednesdays at noon, and Fridays at 10 a.m. (with the exception of the Friday Forum Fridays!). The thought is to start the week with an hour and a half walk and gradually increase the time throughout the week to a two and a half hour walk on Friday to end the week. Hopefully this schedule will work into everyone's timeframe at some point in the week/month! Please let me know if you have locations of preference to walk. Contact me at the above email or phone numbers. See You Soon!

HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE 2017-2018 VTWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND INTEREST GROUP LEADERS

Watch for more brief leadership highlights in future newsletters.

Board of Directors:

Kathy Fullhart, Chair, Directory, moved to Blacksburg the summer of 2011 when her husband was hired by Virginia Tech to be the Commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Kathy has a degree in Elementary Education from Ball State University. Thirty-two years (in twenty-two houses) as the wife of an active duty Air Force officer honed her volunteer and family support skills. In addition to volunteering with the VTWC, since arriving in Blacksburg, Kathy has served on the board of the Blacksburg Newcomers' Club. Supporting the cadets, staff, and families of the Corps of Cadets is currently the main focus of Kathy's volunteer time. Major General Fullhart and Kathy have one son, Steve, a journalist who lives and works in Texas.

Suzi Austin, Co-Chair, Travel and Tours, lived about 50 years in Arlington and Old Town Alexandria where she taught Primary Montessori for 23 years and operated a school for about a decade in Arlington. After completing a Masters of Special Education, she was a resource teacher for five and a half years in a south Arlington school. In 2000, she became an instructor of English for Other Language Speakers (EOSL) for the City of Alexandria and retired in 2009. In 2010, she and her husband, John, moved to Blacksburg after he retired as a senior banking law expert from the International Monetary Fund to live and be near their daughter, Elisabeth and her family. She soon became a member of VTWC first through Mah Jong then Bridge and Mediterranean Cooking. She has served on the Board on the Ways and Means Committee and currently serves on Travel and Tours with Laura Hewitt. Other activities that she is involved in are Blacksburg Newcomers, Southside Garden Club, St. Mary's Justice and Peace Committee, To Our House, Blacksburg Refugee Partnership, and the VT Lifelong Learning Institute as an instructor of Ikebana, Japanese flower arranging, along with two other instructors.

Laura Cook-Lemon Hewitt, Co-Chair, Travel and Tours, is an Arlington, VA, native and worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist with the Arlington Public Schools for 28 years. She initiated and co-owned a children's clothing company, "Tiny T's," while working full-time being a wife, mother, future room mother, PTA President, Cub Scout leader, Swim Team Rep, Booster Officer, and All-Night Grad Party Chair. Community and Civic volunteerism has continued in her retirement within her church and her involvement with her newly found occupation on the golf course. Favorite past-times are spent traveling with her husband, Michael, and visiting her son, Jon-Michael (VT '01) and stepchildren, Megan & Trevor. Special time is also centered on spoiling her four grandchildren: Walker 8, Avery 6, Everett 3, and Elliott 1. Hobbies other than travel and golf are Virginia Tech Athletics, antiques, and spreading lots of cuddles with her two loving Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, "Baxter & Duffy."

Terri Lynn Howard, Director at Large, is a new member of the Board of Directors. Because the VTWC is a service organization and open to all women, she feels it is a joy to be a part of the group. She says it has been a pleasure working with Janet Rakes and Debra Leon and planning the Welcome Reception at the Grove, the Fall Luncheon, and the New Member Christmas Coffee. She looks forward to being a part of the new Service Interest Group and giving back to the community in a meaningful way. Terri Lynn is a retired teacher and involved in the community in many different volunteer opportunities. She is enjoying getting to know many women in the community she had not met before and being part of such a vibrant group of women.

Debra Leon, Director at Large, has lived in Blacksburg for 5 years. She previously lived in Atlanta, GA, for 17 years where her two children grew up and where she enjoyed playing tennis at least 2 times a week. Before that she lived in and survived Minnesota—since birth. She attends Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) weekly; loves volunteering, serving others, and traveling; has a dry Minnesota sense of humor; and anxiously wants grandchildren. In the meantime, she "loves on" her three-year-old "Kitty." She also very much enjoys being a part of the wonderful, diverse group of women of the VTWC.

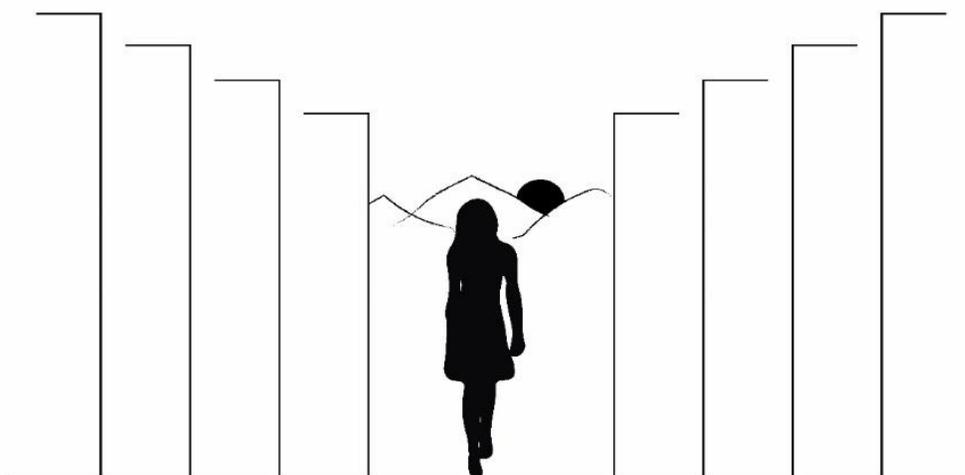
Sue Bentley, Chaplain, has lived in Montgomery County for nearly 40 years. She is happily retired from her previous work as a Social Worker and administrator. She loves to travel internationally, enjoys knitting, and is learning to weave. She also loves spending time with her grandchildren whenever possible.

Interest Group Leaders:

Valerie Dymond, Canoeing/Whitewater Interest Group Leader, has lived in Blacksburg for almost 20 years, and joined the canoe group her first Fall here, 1998. At that time, Liz Ritchey, the founder of the group, was still doing the week-to-week organizing. Val took that job over from Liz some years ago (6? 8? more?). For the past 16+ years, Val has worked as an advisor/staff person in the Civil Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. However, she does not work on Wednesdays so that she can go canoeing! Her husband is a faculty member in the Civil Engineering Department and they have 3 grown children and 4 granddaughters.

NOW THAT WE HAVE A LOGO, WHAT ABOUT A VTWC MOTTO?

Some of you have asked about a motto to go along with our new logo (see below). Give us your suggestions for a motto (in about three or four words) and **e-mail your proposals to Deb Call at debracalldvm@gmail.com**. The Board will take all submissions into consideration.



Virginia Tech Women's Club



VTWC WINTER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

11:30 a.m.

Warm Hearth Village Center

Raffle



**Program: Portrayal of the Life and Times of a Refined, Resourceful, and Resilient Woman of the Victorian/Civil War Era
Debra Sifford, Esq., Attorney and “Living Historian”**

**Village Gourmet Presents a Winter Comfort Food Buffet Luncheon
(with produce available during the Civil War)**

Salad: Mixed Greens with Choice of Ranch or Balsamic Vinegar Dressing

Entrée: Pumpkin Soup
Chicken with Grape Sauce
Rice with Parsley
Zucchini Fries

Dessert: Cherry Brown Betty with Whipped Cream
(sweet potato biscuits, coffee, iced tea, and water)

\$17.00 per person (tax and gratuity included)

Gluten Friendly and Vegetarian alternatives are available upon prior request.

For Reservations, return the form below with payment.

Deadline: Friday, January 26, 2018

VTWC Winter Luncheon/Feb. 6/11:30 a.m./Warm Hearth Village Center

Make check payable to VTWC and mail to:

Treasurer VTWC, P. O. Box 10252, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0252

Name _____ Phone or e-mail _____

BRING A FRIEND! Guest(s) _____

If a special diet is required, name of person and type of food _____

Number Attending @ \$17 per person* _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

***If paying by PayPal, the cost is \$18 per person.**