



**January 2018**

**Chapter Officers:  
2017-2018**

**Regent**

Susan Harvin  
srharvin@msn.com

**Vice Regent**

Alicia Hillmer  
alicia7183@msn.com

**Chaplain**

Amy Stromberg  
Amystromberg@rocketmail.com

**Secretary**

Peggy Neel  
peg.neel@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Donna Sayre  
DSayreDAR@gmail.com

**Registrar**

Myra Wiggins  
myrawigDAR@gmail.com

**Historian**

Sonja Johnson  
sonja.k.johnson@gmail.com

**Librarian**

Anne Kline  
Annekline143@gmail.com

# *Falls of the Rappahannock*

## *Chapter NSDAR*



### **January Meeting**

Gold Star Mother: Speaker Anita Faye

Hostesses: Elisa Pritchard and Myra Wiggins

7:00pm

Austin Ridge Clubhouse, 31 Boulder Dr,  
Stafford, VA 22554

Take I-95 to Courthouse Road, head west. 1st traffic light is Austin Ridge Dr., take a right (HOV parking lot is on the left) go approx. 2 miles and turn left on [Scotland Circle, 2](#) blocks and left on Gunston, Pool and Clubhouse are straight ahead.

# CHAPTER CHAT

Please give a warm welcome to our new members

**Deborah Henning and Karla Bass**

**It's a pleasure to have you in our Chapter.**

From the District V Director Wanda English:

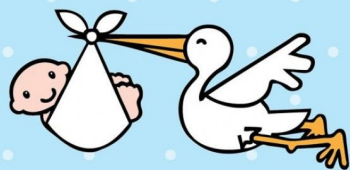
Dear District V Daughters,

I wish to thank you for all the warm thoughts and prayers extended to me at the death of my dear Mother. It has been a difficult time and your cards and messages have provided me comfort.

I want to wish you and your families a Happy New Year.

Wanda

Congratulations to Allison Gatrone on the birth of a baby girl on November 13. From her FB page - Rose Catherine Gatrone was born Monday, November 13, at 6:46 pm. We named her in honor of her paternal grandfather, Ralph Carl Gatrone, by using the same initials. She weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Vice Regent Alicia Hillmer on graduating in December with a Master of Arts in Teaching middle school social studies.



Members have until **January 31** before the new tally starts. Reminder that if you read to their children, grandchildren, kids at church or wherever, that counts too.

## SERVICE to AMERICA!

Our Chapter hours donated total as of  
January 4, 2017

**2631**

**Please remember to log your hours!**

**<http://services.dar.org/members/committees/ServiceToAmerica/>**

The Service to America! Committee encourages community service by **all** members on **all** levels as a means of honoring our heritage. You may now count your DAR hours!

## Resolution (suggestion) for a New Year.

### Take the New Member's Course.

#### WHAT IS THE NEW MEMBERS COURSE?

The New Members Course is a structured learning opportunity for new members to learn about DAR and how they can become active members at all levels: chapter, state and national. The core of the course consists of self-paced online webinars, so that new members can fit the New Members Course into their busy schedule of work, family, and play.

#### REGISTERING & GETTING INVOLVED

If you are a new member, newly active member, or a new-member-at-heart and are interested in signing up for the New Members Course, please contact the Virginia New Members Course coordinator. She will be happy to help you begin the course.

#### READY TO START? CONTACT:

Laurie Parker Nesbitt

Virginia DAR New Members Course Coordinator

571-366-0359

Please remember to bring the following to our meetings:

- Box tops
- Ink Cartridges
- Coupons

## 1914 1918 FIRST WORLD WAR

In WWI, messenger pigeons carried crucial messages during battle as part of the signal corps. One special pigeon, CHER AMI, despite being shot and blinded in one eye helped save 200 soldiers of the LOST BATTALION. (National Defender, 2018)

#### January

Susan Harvin	3rd
Miranda Callard	7th
Shirley Wheet	13th
Elizabeth Ernst	14th
Mary Lou Stewart	17th
Theresa Davis	28th
Heidi Broton	28th

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

#### January Dates to Remember

January 8 – Battle of New Orleans (1815)

January 14 – Continental Congress ratifies Treaty of Paris (1784)

January 28 – Congress establishes U.S. Coast Guard

## President General's Message January 2018

Dear Daughters,

It was wonderful to welcome hundreds of guests to our [Christmas Open House](#) in December, and I wish each of you a very happy and healthy New Year! May you have every success in this new reporting year, and I look forward to hearing about your many accomplishments during the [127th Continental Congress](#).

2017 was quite a busy year for DAR. The [Constitution Hall stage](#) received much needed restoration work, and the [Connecticut Board Room](#) underwent restoration as well. We also began work on the DAR Museum gallery, which will continue into 2018. Outside of Headquarters the organization saw great participation in the membership training programs that are available online. DAR made a gift to the nation in the form of [76 trees at Independence National Historical Park](#) in Philadelphia to begin the celebration of the nation's 250th Anniversary. The first tree was planted in November with much promotion and media coverage. Members participated in meaningful community service projects for the third annual National DAR Day of Service. We also commemorated World War I with a tour of France. It was a very busy but productive year!



Turning the calendar over to January 1 of a new year always feels like a new beginning. What will we be able to achieve as we set goals and make resolutions? This is an excellent time to consider the health of your chapter and plan for future success. Often people will choose one word to inspire them throughout the year. Here are some words you might use for thoughtful evaluation in relation to your chapter:

**FUN**—Are your chapter meetings enjoyable? If your meetings and gatherings don't have a sense of fun, you may have dwindling attendance.

**ENGAGED**—Are the members engaged in your work as well as your meetings?

**CONNECTION**—Are members connected to other members and is your chapter connected to them?

**VISION**—Does everyone know your goals and your chapter's focus?

**GROWTH**—Do your members have an opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge?

**TEAMWORK**—Do you work well together and do you promote member participation in activities?

**COMMUNICATION**—Are your communication methods most likely to reach your members?

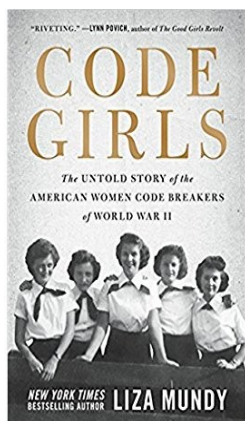
**LEADERSHIP**—Do you repeat officers or is everyone given an opportunity to serve?

All of these are essential to your chapter's growth and vitality over the coming years as we grow our membership in celebration of the U.S. **Semiquincentennial**. Now is the time to prepare your chapters and your chapter's future growth. Plan your work and work your plan!

*Moving Forward in Service to America,*

Ann Turner Dillon  
President General

## Upcoming Events Around Fredericksburg



In 1941, following the devastating surprise attack at Pearl Harbor, a group of female college students received secret letters from the U.S. Navy, inviting them to join America's intelligence forces and train to become code breakers. Over the next two years more than 10,000 women would answer that call. Their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives and gave them access to careers previously denied to them, but a strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history.

Recently, through exhaustive research and interviews with surviving code girls, best-selling author Liza Mundy has brought to life this riveting story of American courage, service and scientific accomplishment. In her Great Lives talk, she will share this story that, in the tradition of *Hidden Figures*, is the account of an early cohort of women adept in science and math, whose efforts helped the Allies win the biggest and costliest war in human history.

The program is sponsored, in part, by UMW's Common Read and Honors Program. It will be held in George Washington Hall's Dodd Auditorium on the Fredericksburg campus of the University of Mary Washington, January 25, 2018 @ 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm and is open to the public free of charge.



You are invited to join us Saturday, January 13, 2018 for our annual birthday celebration for the Lees at Stratford Hall!

This family-fun event includes self-guided tours of Stratford's historic Great House, the "Civil War Civilians of Spotsylvania Historical Interpreters," a scavenger hunt for kids, Wrights Delight BBQ, and the live 19th Century music of Doug Marshall and Company. In keeping with tradition, guests can top off the celebration with a slice of birthday cake!

### Schedule of Activities:

**9:30 am – 5:00 pm** Preservation Gallery in the Visitor Center: "Civil War Civilians of Spotsylvania Historical Interpreters"

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm** Free Great House tours

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm** Wrights Delight BBQ Visitor Center picnic area

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm** Kids Scavenger Hunt (*Gift Shop prize!*)

**10:00 am – 5:00 pm** Birthday cake and refreshments in Visitor Center

**11:00 am – 4:00 pm** Marshall and Company (*Live 19th Century music*)

**5:00 pm** Visitor Center closes

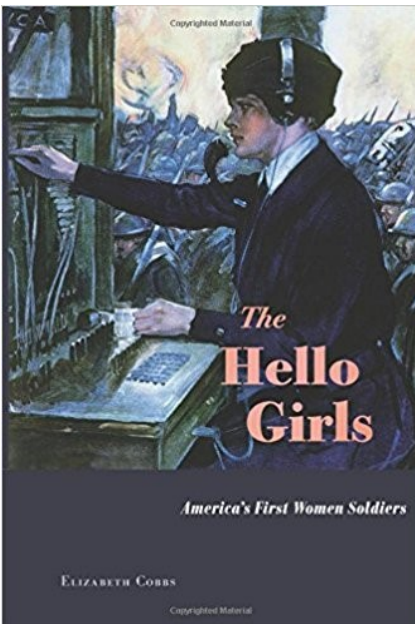
## Upcoming Events Around Fredericksburg, cont.

Friday, February 2, 6:00-8:00 PM

*First Friday – Threads of History: Elizabeth Monroe’s Wedding Dress*

Location: James Monroe Museum

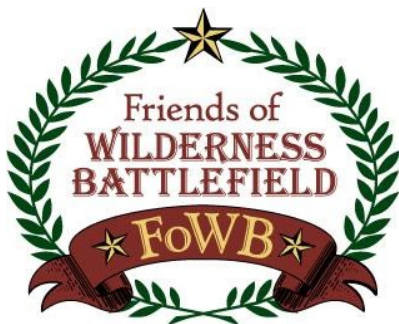
Elizabeth Kortright married James Monroe on February 16, 1786. Textile historian Colleen Callahan discusses what we know of the dress Elizabeth Kortright wore on the day she married a future president.



In 1918, the U.S. Army Signal Corps sent 223 young women to France. They were masters of the latest technology: the telephone switchboard. Gen. John Pershing demanded female “wire experts” when he discovered that inexperienced doughboys were unable to keep him connected with troops under fire. So, while suffragettes protested for the right to vote, these courageous soldiers enlisted in the Army.

Speaker Elizabeth Cobbs, author of *The Hello Girls*, reveals the challenges they faced in a war zone where men welcomed, resented, wooed, mocked, saluted and ultimately celebrated them. When the last operators sailed home, the Army unexpectedly dismissed them without veterans’ benefits, beginning a 60-year battle. With the help of the National Organization for Women and Sen. Barry Goldwater, America’s first women soldiers finally received belated recognition in 1979.

The lecture will be held in UMW’s Dodd Auditorium on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. It is sponsored in part by Hirschler Fleisher Law Firm, and is open to the public free of charge.



### Untold Stories of a Search for Freedom

**"Secret Codes, A Chatham Slave, and the Reverend Turner - Moments in Black History"**

Friday, February 9, 2018, 6:00 P.M.. - 9:00 P.M.

Downtown Historic Fredericksburg, VA

**“Witness” three untold stories of African Americans during and after the Civil War as they searched for freedom and civil rights. Join in commemorating Black History Month by participating in a living history event presenting three different vignettes at three historic churches in downtown Fredericksburg. These scenes from the lives of enslaved persons as well as new freedmen during the Civil War era will take place on Friday, February 9, from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.**

For more information, contact Kim Harmon, at [kimrharmon@excite.com](mailto:kimrharmon@excite.com) or 217-299-1102.

# DAR Museum Events



## Museum Lecture - A Special Inheritance of Patriotic Desire: The DAR in World War I

Free, drop-in

The U.S. entry into World War I in 1917 elicited an extraordinary response from women across the country and DAR members were no exception. The National Society formed the War Relief Service Committee within 30 days after war was declared and members refused to rest until even their post-war aid and rebuilding promises were fulfilled. Come see how these resilient women rose to the challenge, dedicating themselves to war relief activities that stretched from their living rooms to the battlefields of France, rendering service to their country worthy of their patriot ancestors.

Speaker: Tracy Robinson, Director of Archives and History, NSDAR



### AMERICAN SPIRIT MAGAZINE

At just \$18 for six issues per year, *American Spirit* and *Daughters* newsletter are affordable, enjoyable resources that help you celebrate our heritage and keep up with the latest news from executive Officers, National chairmen, states and chapters.

Anyone can subscribe to the magazine (It also makes a wonderful gift). Subscribing to our wonderful magazine and newsletter is easier than ever

before: To subscribe online visit [www.dar.org/americanspirit](http://www.dar.org/americanspirit), or call 1-866-327-6242.

It's that easy! And best of all, our chapter will receive Chapter Achievement Award credit for your paid subscription.

## Daring Detective

Saturday, January 13, 2018

11:00-2:00

Free, drop-in

A crime has been committed in the museum! Find clues throughout the building and see if you can solve the mystery.





## **Committee Spotlight**

### **American History**

**Alicia Hillmer, Chairman**

The purpose of the American History Committee is to promote American history throughout the year by honoring significant historical people, places, dates, and events. It does this by sponsoring the American History Essay Contest and the Christopher Columbus Essay Contest. In many instances, the two essay contests provide an additional opportunity for teachers to reach out beyond the existing curriculum. The committee also encourages chapters to promote American history in other ways; for example, by recognizing women in American history.

### **American Indians**

**Sonja Johnson, Chairman**

As the indigenous people of our country, it is only fitting that NSDAR respect and value the American Indian. These first Americans are worthy of our understanding and appreciation. The DAR American Indians Committee is entrusted to the continuing education of the history and culture of this community as well as the support of the educational and cultural pursuits of its citizens.

DAR chapter members can further those objectives by educating ourselves and the general public, promoting cultural activities, and providing financial and material assistance to the DAR supported schools, American Indian Youth Summer Camps, and through the DAR Office of Development. Grants to qualifying Native American projects will be considered if sufficient funds are available.



# December Meeting Highlights

The Chapter Meeting was held on December 14 and brought much holiday cheer to our members.

Thank you Maggie and Ginny Dunning for hosting us.

Photos by Donna Courtney

