



**NOW BOARDING TO**  
**FRIENDSHIPS, FUN AND CONNECTIONS!!!**  
 Fostering Friendships at the Crossroads of the Corps

# President's Travel Brief

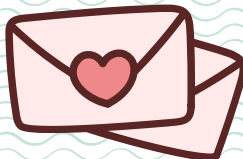


Will the groundhog see his shadow...six more weeks of winter or spring right around the corner?!?! To be honest, I love winter because I enjoy the beauty of all the different seasons and what each brings. January ended with our Spouse Super "Bowl." Did you know that one of our spouses took home the Golden Bowling Pin trophy?!?! You can see pictures from this "rolling" good time in this newsletter.

February brings us a month celebrated with love and amazing history. We have four events scheduled for our members this month. We will begin with our International Spouses; as they paint us beautiful pictures of their countries. Each country will teach us about their customs and culture along with some of their amazing food. This is way for all of us to travel, while still being at home. We also want to celebrate all of our spouses for Valentine's. If you are like me, you have spent many Valentines separated from your spouse, so this year it is all about the "Galentines!!!" Our new sub club had a very successful launch in January, so I encourage you to "Live, Laugh, and Lunch" in February. As always, our "Bookworms Book Club" does not disappoint. The books they have chosen this year have been beyond wonderful to read and I really do think they keep getting better. If you think you might not have time to read, download the "Libby" or "Audible" app and try an audio book. Have I sparked your interest in any of our February events??? If so, take a peek at the flyers and make sure to sign up. Our advertising pages are ready to go, if you have a business you would like to advertise, please contact our marketing and newsletter chairs. Finally, we are looking for a "Few Good Spouses" to take the reins and lead QSSC next year. Please email me if you are interested in a board position for next year.

Love and blessings,  
Sonserae

XOXO



## MARK IT UP

*Here is your  
Travel Itinerary!*

**NEW**

[Advertising! p.10!](#)

[Freebie Printable! p.7](#)

[Sipping w/ Friends](#)

[Feb 8 Pg. 2](#)

[QSSC Galentine's Party](#)

[Feb 13 Pg.3](#)

[Live Laugh Lunch](#)

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[Bookclub Pg. 5](#)

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[Call for 2024-25 Board  
Members Pg 11](#)

[What's Cookin' Pg. 12](#)

[Around town Pg. 13](#)

[Shop with us!](#)

[2024 Logo available! Pg 14](#)

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# The Crossroads of the Corps



**Save the Date!**

*YOUR Next Stop is Sipping with Friends*

*February 8th @ 10:30 am*

Book your passage on the

## WHIRLWIND WORLD TOUR

Join us and our International spouse community to learn about their countries and cultures

Thursday, February 8th, 10:30am - 12:30pm

McHugh Woods Community Center,  
18005 Cutts Ave., Quantico, VA 22134

This is a members only event

Register on our [Events Page](#)



**New Member?  
Returning Member?  
Join with a friend!**  
**Click here to register for your membership today!**



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# The Crossroads of the Corps



**Bring a friend,  
everything is  
better with  
friends!**

**Tuesday,  
February 13th  
Galentines Day!**

**Register today!**



## JOIN US FOR A GALENTINE'S DAY SELF CARE CELEBRATION!

Tuesday, February 13th, 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Quantico Housing Community Center  
13201 Perkins Street  
Quantico, VA 22134



Bring one favorite self care item between \$15 - \$20 to our Galentine's Celebration for a fun gift exchange!

Uniform of the Day: Valentine PJs and Heels encouraged for maximum self care benefits.

Members Only event, please register through the EVENTS PAGE.

Light fare and beverages provided.



[www.quanticossc.org](http://www.quanticossc.org)



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# The Crossroads of the Corps

## LIVE LAUGH Lunch

Join us for friendship and fun with the QSSC lunch club!

Tuesday 20 February

11:30 AM

FOODE

900 Princess Anne St,  
Fredericksburg

Enjoy Lunch in the historic "vault" of the bank.

Limit 12 members

Pay on your own event.



# LUNCH



JOIN US FOR FRIENDSHIP & FUN!

Tuesday, February 20th  
**LUNCH BUNCH!**

Register today!



[www.quanticossc.org](http://www.quanticossc.org)



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## BOOKWORMS BOOK CLUB

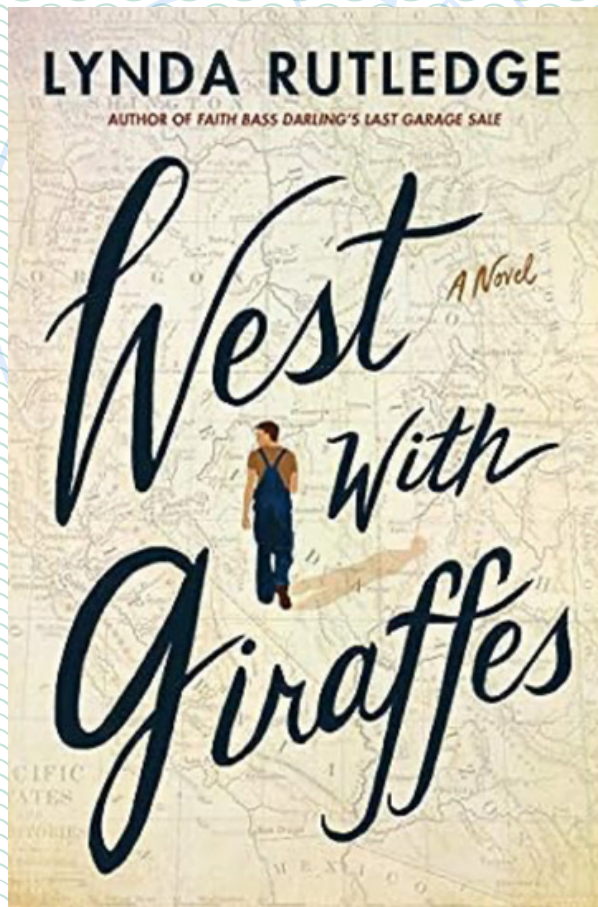
HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE BOOKWORMS BOOK CLUB YET NOT A PROBLEM... MAKE THIS YOUR FIRST STOP ON THIS YEARS JOURNEY OF TRYING NEW THINGS!

Please join us for another page turning event on Wednesday, February 28th : 7:00 - 8:30pm.

To register for this QSSC Bookworm event please go to our Events Page [HERE](#)

THERE ARE LIMITED SPOTS FOR THIS EVENT, SO REGISTER EARLY!

(Address is given upon registration)

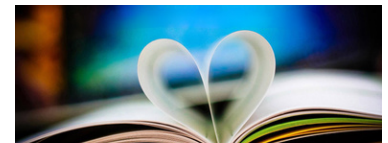


Save the Date!

YOUR

*Next Stop is Book Club!*

### March's Read



**New Member?**

**Returning Member?**

**Join with a friend!**

**Click here to register for**

**your**

**membership today!**



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## MEMBERSHIP'S MESSAGE

Friends!

As we ring in the New Year, we ring in new goals!!

If you are a member reading this and you haven't made it out to an activity yet, consider making it a goal to come out and join us! AND if you are up for a fun challenge and new opportunities, contact us to volunteer as a board member!

YOU are the reason for this club! Thank you for being here!

XO, Becca Carver

# HAPPY *Birthday* FEBRUARY!

Andreea Farcas	2/05
Amanda Riley	2/08
Casey Lutz	2/10
Claudy Morris	2/10
Kathy Frieze	2/12
Charity Cash	2/14
Leigh-Ann Lowery	2/15
Kerri Skaggs	2/15
Sydney White	2/15
Luz Martinez	2/16
Sophie Pedot	2/16
Trish Smith	2/17
Joanna Hazlett	2/20
MJ Hall	2/22
Abigail Fletcher	2/27



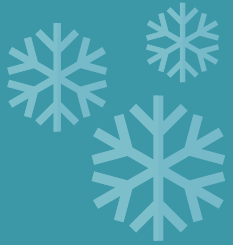
The background of the entire image is a dense pattern of pink hearts of various sizes and shades, ranging from light pink to a deeper magenta. The hearts are scattered across the white background, creating a soft, romantic, and affectionate atmosphere.

I have decided to stick  
with

♥ *love* ♥

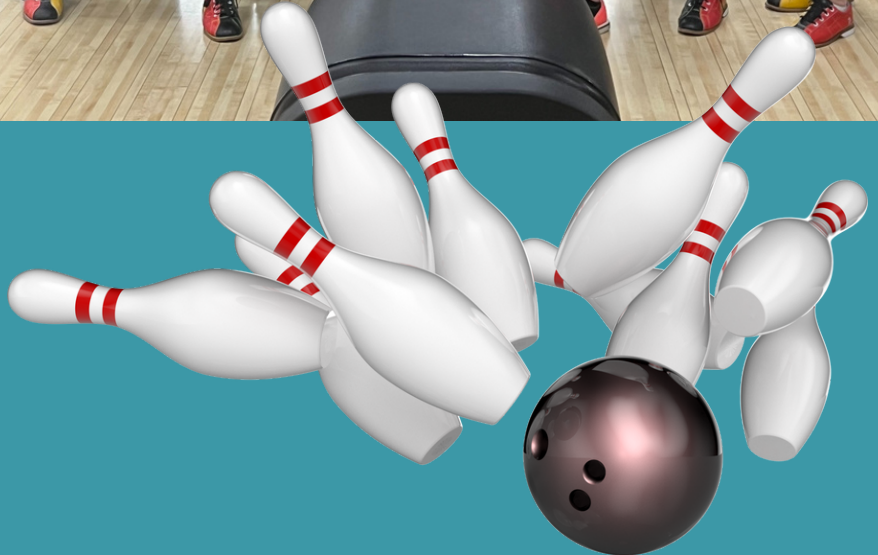
hate is too great  
a burden to bear

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

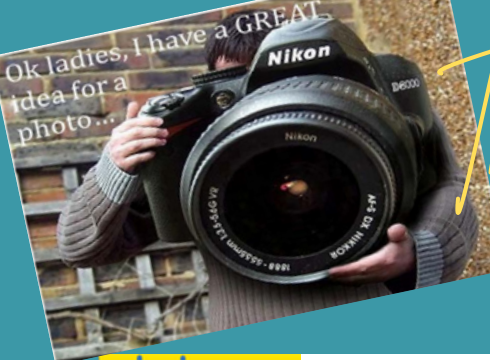


# January Activities Recap!

It was a chilly month with some activities cancelled due to the weather but we still had a fun evening the end of the month at the QSSC SUPER BOWL!! Congrats to this year's winner!







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**BOARDING PASSES**

## What's New - Historian

Dearest Friends,

Not only are we making connections; we really are making history together! We can all start looking back over the past months at all the fun we have had together, amazing experiences and the friends that are becoming family. We are all here at the same time for a reason. Let's embrace that and each other.

Please help us create a "time capsule" of photographs of all the events you attend with QSSC. Help me document our time together. To think that some day Spouses will look back at the fun we had, just like I like to look back at all the Spouses that came before us to see what they did 'way back when' is a warm and delightful feeling! As you attend events and take pictures, please send a few to me at: [HISTORIAN@QuanticoSSC.org](mailto:HISTORIAN@QuanticoSSC.org)  
Please include your name and who is in the picture. Each year, we produce a scrap book, and we submit that to the archives. Like I said, we are making history together!!  
Merry New Year and blessings to all,

Ruthie Ruppert  
QSSC Historian 2023

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# Advertising Opportunity!

Greetings from the Quantico Spouses' Social Club (QSSC)!

We are thrilled to announce we will now offer advertisement spots in our monthly newsletter!

These spots are open to the local businesses and nonprofit organizations. With distribution to over 100 emails, advertising with QSSC is an excellent way for your organization to reach Military Spouses and Families, letting them know your service is available nearby.

## QSSC Newsletter Advertising

Our monthly newsletter is distributed to all our members and to the representatives from local sister clubs. If you are interested in advertising in the Newsletter, please submit your ad, signed contract, and payment by the 5th of the month.

## Coupon or Discount

Would you like to offer a discount on your product or service for our QSSC members when they have your advertisement in hand during a visit to your business?

We appreciate your support of the Service Member Spouse community and thank you for the role you take in helping military families to thrive.

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact our Marketing Chair, Amy Webb.

Amy will be happy to provide you with the package which needs to be completed.

Any further questions regarding QSSC or advertising please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sonserae Martinez,

QSSC President [president@quanticossc.org](mailto:president@quanticossc.org)

Becca Carver,

QSSC Newsletter Chair [newsletter@quanticossc.org](mailto:newsletter@quanticossc.org)

Amy Webb,

QSSC Marketing Chair [marketing@quanticossc.org](mailto:marketing@quanticossc.org)

THE APPEARANCE OF ADVERTISING IN THIS PUBLICATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, OR MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION-MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO Quantico Spouses' Social Club Advertising Contract/Rate Card for Monthly Newsletter 2023-2024



**FIND US:**





# NEW YEAR - NEW BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE VOLUNTEER AND CONNECT

QSSC relies on our membership to grow, connect, and create community for all military spouses in the area.

Are you ready for your next adventure?!

Do you have the gift of organization? Throw the best parties? The one with the best local finds? Just want to hang out with great people?

The Quantico Spouses' Social Club is looking for NEW Board Members for next year!  
Without our volunteers we can't thrive.

## Available positions include:

PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT SECRETARY  
TREASURER PARLIAMENTARIAN SOCIAL MEDIA  
HISTORIAN PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER  
MARKETING RESERVATIONS HOSPITALITY  
WEB ADMIN MEMBERSHIP INTERNATIONAL REP

Feel free to reach out to any boardmember for more information about positions that may be a great fit for YOU!

If you're interested in being a part of our fantastic team, send an email to QSSC President:

[president@quanticossc.org](mailto:president@quanticossc.org) for more information about the positions available.

Take a look at our Facebook page and website:

[2023-2024 Your Next Connection Is Here](#)

SOCIAL - FUN - CONNECT-TOGETHER

Membership is open to spouses of active-duty, reserve, and retired servicemembers of all ranks in the U.S. Armed Forces who reside in the National Capital Region to include Spouses of International Service Members attached to U.S. Marine Corps Units/Schools.



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BOARDING PASSES

## WHAT'S COOKIN'

### White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake

Here's a fun dessert to try out for your family Valentine's Dinner!

#### INGREDIENTS

Raspberry Sauce  
12 ounces frozen (or fresh) raspberries  
(note: you may want a few extra fresh, for garnish)  
1/2 cup sugar  
3 Tablespoons water, divided  
1 Tablespoon cornstarch  
Crust  
2 1/2 cups chocolate sandwich cookie crumbs  
(about 25-ish oreos)  
6 tablespoons butter, melted  
Cheesecake  
1 Cup white chocolate chips  
3 8-oz packages cream cheese, softened  
1 cup sugar  
3 large eggs, at room temperature  
1 teaspoon almond extract  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 tablespoons flour  
3/4 cup sour cream  
Fresh raspberries, for garnish  
White chocolate curls, for garnish (see note for a tip)



#### INSTRUCTIONS

- For the sauce: Place frozen berries, sugar, and 2 tablespoons water in a medium sauce pan on medium heat. Stir occasionally, mashing berries with your spoon until the mixture comes to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer and cook about 5 minutes. Combine remaining 1 tablespoon water with cornstarch in a small bowl and then add mixture to sauce. Stirring consistently, allow to simmer for about 1 minute until slightly thickened. Pour sauce through a fine-mesh strainer to remove seeds. Set aside. This sauce can be made several days ahead of time and stored in the fridge.
- For the Crust: Combine the cookie crumbs and melted butter. Press the mixture onto the bottom and about 1 inch the sides of a 10-inch springform pan. (Different sized cheesecake pans, from 8-12 inches are fine, it will just change the thickness of your cheesecake and you may need to adjust baking time accordingly.)  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- For the Cheesecake: (\*If your eggs aren't at room temperature already, simply place in a bowl of warm water for about 5 minutes right now). Place the white chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl and heat in 30-second intervals, stirring after each, until the chocolate is melted and smooth.
- Beat cream cheese and sugar in a separate mixing bowl until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition. Add extracts and sour cream, mixing just until combined, and then add flour and mix until combined. With mixer running at low speed, slowly drizzle in melted chocolate.
- Pour half the cream cheese mixture over the cookie crust and spread evenly. Drizzle 2 tablespoons raspberry sauce over the top and use a knife to gently swirl into the filling. Pour remaining filling on top and drizzle another 2 tablespoons raspberry sauce over the top. Use a knife to swirl into batter.
- Place the springform pan on top of 2 layers of heavy-duty foil. Wrap the foil up the sides of the pan to prevent water from leaking into the pan. Place the foil-wrapped pan into a larger shallow pan, such as a large roasting pan, and place in the oven. Pour enough hot water into the larger pan to reach about 2/3 way up the sides of your cheesecake pan. Bake 70-80 minutes or until the cheesecake is set on top and very lightly golden around the edges. Cheesecake should have a slight jiggle when gently shaken.
- Remove both pans from the oven and let cheesecake sit in the water bath for 30 minutes. Gently remove pan from the foil. Place the pan on a cooling rack until cooled to room temperature. Cool and refrigerate for 6-8 hours, or overnight.
- When ready to serve, gently remove the sides from the springform pan and cut cake into 10-12 slices. Serve with remaining raspberry sauce drizzled on top and garnish with fresh berries and white chocolate curls, if desired.

#### NOTES

Tip: the secret for good white chocolate curls is temperature! A cold bar of chocolate will simply crumble and break. I like to place my chocolate bar somewhere slightly warm, such as the top of a fridge for 5-10 minutes to just slightly raise the temperature without melting. Then use a vegetable peeler and peel down the long side of the chocolate bar.



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**BOARDING PASSES**

## THE HAPPENINGS - AROUND TOWN



Wednesday, February 14

Valentine's Day 4-Course Dinner and Wine Pairing

Aromantic, delicious 4-course dinner with wine pairing from RNDC at The Clubs at Quanticos

Check out the MCCS Quantico  
Calendar of Events

to see more activities happening on base!



Sunday, February 11  
6:00pm - 9:30pm

The Big Game at The Clubs  
at Quantico

Join us for some good food  
and game day fun!

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## The QSSC Apparel Store - A.K.A - GRAB SOME GEAR!

**24 HRS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

## GET YOUR GEAR

Remembering your time here with the Quantico Spouses' Social Club is great, but you can make it last a lifetime! Make QSSC gear your favorite most comfy "Go-To" weekend wear! All profits from all orders come back to help the club. Items are fully customizable!

BE COOL LIKE THE COOL KIDS,  
GRAB YOUR GEAR FOR THE  
NEW YEAR!

Grab some Gear today by clicking below to purchase:  
[Official QSSC Apparel Store](#)

**Share your wear**  
Take a pic of you or someone you know in your new QSSC gear and post it to one of our SM accounts! We want to see what you are creating! We would also love to see how far and wide our gear travels! Sort of like where's Waldo!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in their QSSC Gear!  
(We would love for you to send a pic of yourself in your gear. You can post them on our private FB site yourself or send the images right to our [Historian!](#))



**New Member?**  
**Returning Member?**  
**Join with a friend!**  
**[Click here to register for your membership today!](#)**



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## QSSC BOARD MEMBERS

**Honorary President** Mrs. Susan Iiams  
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** Mrs. Kate Griffin

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President**  
Sonserae Martinez

**Vice President**  
Rachel Barry

**Treasurer**  
Amanda Kilfoil

**Secretary**  
Ryan Mangrum

**Parliamentarian**  
Musu Tyler

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

**Historian**  
Ruthie Ruppert

**Hospitality Chair**  
Lara Eastman

**Marketing Chair**  
Amy Webb

**Membership**  
Heather Garcia

**Newsletter Chair**  
Becca Carver

**International Rep**  
Claudy Morris

**Programs**  
Board Team

**Reservations**  
Lara Eastman

**Ways & Means**  
Board Member

**Social Media**  
Christina Carter

**WebAdmin**  
MJ Hall

**Quantico Spouses' Garden Club Rep**  
Adi Peter

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