

Club Dinner - Vanessa O'Brien

Date and Time

Tuesday January 15, 2019

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Category

Club Event

Location

Everett Bar, Lawrence Room and Ballroom

This event allows cancellation until January 14, 2019 at 12:00 pm.



The First American or British Woman to Summit Everest and K2 in the Himalayas

Hosted by Frances G. and Harold I. Pratt

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

On July 28, 2017, Vanessa O'Brien, wife of Union Club member Jonathan O'Brien, became the first American woman to summit K2 in the Himalayas, the second highest and one of the most dangerous mountains in the world, at 28,251 feet high.

George Bell, a member of the Third American Expedition, described K2 as “a *savage mountain, that tries to kill you*” upon returning from Pakistan with frostbitten feet in 1953, still mourning the death of his climbing partner, Art Gilkey. Today, for every 20 climbers who summit Everest, only one makes it to the top of K2. For every four climbers that summit K2, one dies trying.

The pursuit of K2's summit provides a fascinating story, occurring at a time when mountaineering was used as a means of asserting one country's superiority over another. Vanessa will take us through a history of climbing K2 from its early mapping in the Karakoram by the British surveyors in 1856 up to her historic summit, which became an American and British first (as a result of her dual nationality).

Vanessa has climbed the highest peak on every continent, including Mt. Everest, and received a Guinness World Record for doing so in 295 days, setting a record for the fastest time a woman first achieved this goal. Vanessa has also skied the last degree to the North and South Pole, completing the Explorers Grand Slam in 11 months, becoming the first woman to do so in under a year and only the 8th woman in the world to accomplish this.

Please join us as we salute this intrepid explorer, and marvel at her stories of the Himalayas.

- *Reception 5:45 P.M.*
- *Presentation: 6:20 P.M.*
- *Dinner following presentation*
- *\$65.00 per person - includes wine with dinner*
- *No cancellations, without charge, within 24 hours*