SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1967:
REFLECTIONS ON OUR 45TH REUNION

Sue Neil

Reflections

Just why do I go to Reunion? During the winter of 2012, I wrote a piece for our newsletter encouraging people to register for our 45th Reunion and giving my reasons for going. I said I went because I enjoyed seeing my classmates, being back when the campus is at its most beautiful, and taking advantage of campus offerings, such as the art museum and botanical garden. I also had come to value Smith as a community, even beyond its role in the education of young women.

Did our 45th live up to my hopes? First, I certainly enjoyed my classmates and seeing how we all have grown in so many ways. Rich or poor, fat or thin, fancy or plain, every person I talked with had become deeply involved in something where she came alive – gardening, handling small town legal questions, parenting, sculpting, teaching, writing, dancing, saving whales, watching birds….the list goes on. I also think we have as a group become nicer – more tolerant, open, less certain that we are “right,” more willing to listen, and more aware of the fragility of life, including our own.

Second, the college looked spectacular. I am always aware these days of how much I took the campus for granted and how clueless I was about the work it took to create and care for the environment in which we lived and learned and grew. That point came to me forcefully when we were in the student center, new since our days. The building itself has a feeling of spaciousness and ease, and there are architectural details that provided interest and depth – a curve to a wall, warm wood, huge glass walls looking out on the campus. The greenhouse and botanical gardens and the art museum are now first rate, and offer truly amazing resources for study and research as well as enjoyment.

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(Reflections, cont’d)

Third, the breadth and depth of the Smith community showed itself in many ways. Our green silk bags – brilliant and useful – were thanks to the work of Sarah Khan, class of ’87 (TastingCultures.org). Sarah arranged for a women’s cooperative in India to create them for us out of a patchwork of green silk saris, providing us both with beautiful bags and with an opportunity to support women half a world away.

Another face of the larger Smith community was that my half-century connection with the college has highlighted the arc of a woman’s life. This past Reunion was, of course, our last before our 50th, with all that implies about our own aging. The year we graduated, I remember looking at the members of the class of 1917 and thinking how “sweet” they were and how good that they were able to come to campus. (How certain, and how wrong, one can be at 21!) This Reunion I saw women in the class of 1962 full of energy and vitality and interest, and mostly in good shape physically. They were models of how one can live fully into old age or, to paraphrase Gloria Steinem, this is what 72 looks like.

See you in May 2017!

SOS
(SAVE OUR STUFF)

Paula Barker Duffy
and Ellen Kipnis Kanner

Before you downsize, move, or just generally clean house, please keep your Smith memorabilia for our 50th Reunion. Our class would like to host an exhibit in May 2017 about our history at Smith – such a formative time and a period of great transition. This exhibit will be developed in cooperation with the Smith College Archives which is interested in collecting a wide range of items that will document our activities. Save Our Stuff (SOS) and STAY TUNED for more information on how to contribute to the Class Exhibit.
50TH REUNION OPPORTUNITY

Bonnie Bottenus Clendenning

The combination of our 50th Reunion and the current Campaign for Women for the World offers a unique opportunity to make a significant gift to Smith College, over and above our faithful gifts to the annual giving program. There are many gift options to support the priorities identified by the college through its strategic planning for the future, ranging from memorial gifts to the purchase of a tree or bench for the Botanic Garden for $5,000, to named endowed fund gifts ranging from $100,000 for library materials, to $5 million to name a center or program, with a variety of gift options in between. To find out more about giving opportunities, visit the home page for Women for the World: The Campaign for Smith at http://www.smith.edu/giving/campaign.php. Click on Smith’s priorities for information about the types of support needed, and on Giving Opportunities, Ways to Give, and Gift Planning for additional information. An online estate planning tool also is provided.

If this is the right time for you to make a significant gift to Smith, it will count as both a Capital Campaign gift and a Reunion gift. You can arrange gift payments over a period of years, but you must make your commitment during the Campaign time frame, currently scheduled to end in mid-2016.

For more information on outright contributions please contact the Smith Fund at http://www.smith.edu/giving/fund.php. If you are not already a member of the Grecourt Society whose members have committed to estate gifts to Smith, please consider signing up between now and our 50th - what a great way to ensure the future of the college to which we owe so much! Sam Samuels (ssamuels@smith.edu), director of gift planning for Smith, and I are eager to help you think through your options to make a gift through your estate planning (e.g., annuities, life insurance, gifts from retirement accounts, or trusts).

REPORT ON THE 45TH REUNION

Dates
May 24 - 27, 2012

Location
Tyler (Headquarters), Tyler Annex, Washburn

Registrants
78 plus spouses, partners, and friends

Roundtable Discussion Topics
What Is Next? Leaders: Betsy Woodman, author; Patty Hershey Beutler, journalist; Susan Snively, poet and writer; Vanessa Allen Henneke, activist

Are America’s Institutions Failing Us? Leader: Linda Fowler, Professor of Government, Dartmouth

Speakers at meals
Kalle Gerritz Weeks: report on the class survey
Diana Eck, Saturday dinner speaker: “Our Sixties”

AASC awards
For sustained service to the college: Bonnie Clendenning & Judy Brown Kleinman

Tour
Lyman Plant House and Conservatory, Madelaine Zadnik, Director

Souvenir gift
Green silk bags made from Indian saris

More Details
Visit Class of ’67 web site at http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1967/

Carol Andrea, Edie Gengras, Karen Kniffen, Sharonjean Moser Leeds, Terrie Gale, Margie Flanders
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Joey Boise Budell and Carlyn Koch Steiner

Life is full of surprises and changes. Keep your friends and classmates up to date on your activities. Tell us about the CHANGES you have experienced since graduation - whether meaningful, pleasing, disturbing- or other information and insights you want to share.

Create your update as tweet, in haiku, or basic 140 alpha numeric; send it by email, snail mail or carrier pigeon. “Whatever the form or the means, sooner is better; tomorrow is best.” Send your news for the Alumnae Quarterly to Carlyn Koch Steiner at Carlyn@esteiner.com or to Joey Boise Budell at jboise67@earthlink.net.

We love photos, too, but these should be sent directly to Jane Falla at the Alumnae Office for inclusion in the Quarterly (jfalla@smith.edu). Please also copy one of us for possible use in future class communications or the class web site.

OUR GIFTS TO SMITH

Judy Brown Kleinman

For our 45th Reunion we raised a total of $601,812. Of this total $244,801 were donated as unrestricted gifts to the Smith Fund (41%), a major source of support for student scholarships. By the end of the reunion year in June 2012, 59.9% of the class had donated to Smith.

By the end of June 2013, 235 members of our class (48%) had donated a total of $6,244,687. Of this total, $172,302 was targeted to the Smith Fund. There were 62 fewer donors than in our Reunion year. This decline reflects the normal post-reunion decline as well as economic conditions.

Please continue to donate to the Smith Fund. All annual gifts between our 45th and 50th Reunions will be counted annually while also counting toward our 50th Reunion class gift. Therefore, we encourage you to donate as much as you can each year between now and June 30, 2017. For information about relatively large gifts and estate gifts, please read Bonnie Clendenning’s article.

We are hoping for a 100% participation rate (i.e., everyone in the class donates some amount to indicate their support for Smith). We would like to raise over $10,000,000 as a Reunion gift; we are over halfway there.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at judykleinman1@aol.com or 626-577-2130. Thank you in advance for your support of Smith College and its outstanding students!
MEMORIES AND MEMORIALS

Paula Gardiner Roberts

The recent Alumnae Quarterly reported the death of our classmate Susan Schofield Bailey. "Schof" was a fiery red head and my housemate at Tenney House. She was a fierce person - the first woman I ever met who had no problem standing up for herself and "telling it like it is." She greatly changed my idea of how women can speak out in the world – and be admired for it.

Is there someone like that in your memory bank? Not necessarily your closest friend or housemate; not necessarily the smartest person you met or the most vocal. Just someone whose attitudes, observations, or style made you think or act differently. Of course, the someone to whom you feel indebted also might be a former roommate or housemate or a mother, father or other family member who encouraged you along the way.

If there is, one way to honor those people is through a gift to Smith’s In Memoriam program. In the last five years, 124 members of our class have contributed to this fund. Some make yearly gifts, for others it is a one-time thing. Some honor multiple people, while others name a single honoree. Gifts can be small or large. The important thing is to honor the memory of someone who enhanced your Smith experience. The wonderful thing is that the money goes to help provide a Smith experience to a bright and talented young woman who will be able to build her own Smith memories.

In addition, the Class of ’67 web site also provides an opportunity to tell others about the honoree and the impact that person had on your life. Send your memories to Sandy Gleason or Terrie Gale for posting.

THE NEW CLASS OF ’67 WEBSITE

http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1967/
USERNAME: CLASS1967
(Please be sure to use capital letters)
PASSWORD: Smithies
(please be sure to use capital letters)

To view the Class of ’67 website:
• Go to the Smith College home page (http://www.smith.edu/)
• Click on “For Alumnae,” and then select “Classes” from the drop-down menu.
• Click on “Class websites” and select “1967.” This will take you to the home page. The rest of the website is password protected so it cannot be viewed by the general public.
• To enter the website: Username: CLASS1967; Password: Smithies.

All of the class officers have this information in case you misplace this newsletter.

Sharonjean Moser Leeds,
Marti Stoneback, Margie Flanders,
Dee Hopkin Lundberg,
Elaine Sussman Belvin,
Debbie Takiff Smith,
Kathy Stoneback Christy
MINI-REUNIONS

Sandy Gleason

The first mini-reunion of this five-year period was held on April 7, 2013 at the home of Susie Bernat Rosenbaum for the Washington, D.C. region. It was a glorious Sunday spring afternoon filled with talk, laughter and brain-storming about our 50th Reunion. The class officers met on the same weekend so they could attend the mini-reunion. Classmates in attendance included Rebecca Snyder Bromley (visiting the DC area from Colorado), Nancy Chasen, Polly Barker Duffy, Debbie Buchanan Fickenscher, Sylvia Fubini, Terrie Gale, Sandy Gleason, Ellen Kipnis Kanner, Judy Brown Kleinman, Paula Gardiner Roberts, Alison Podell Rosenberg, Carolyn Killea Rutledge, Deborah Takiff Smith, Carlyn Koch Steiner, Nancy Twist, Alison Lyon Weintraub, and Margaret Von Blon Wurtele. (Photos are on the class web site.)

We are planning two mini-reunions in the coming year. Each will be targeted at a specific region, but open to classmates from any part of the U.S.A. The details will be distributed by email and posted on the class web site several months before each event. Officers also expect to attend all mini-reunions.

April 26, 2014 in Chicago for the Midwest and Great Lakes regions: Invitations to 54 classmates who live in America’s heartland (defined by Smith College as the Midwest and Great Lakes regions) will be sent early next year. However, classmates from everywhere are welcome. Be sure to mark this date for that long-awaited trip to Chicago. Martha Wagner Weinberg and Paula Barker Duffy (pauladuffy55@gmail.com) will co-host the mini-reunion at Polly’s apartment near the University of Chicago campus, just a ten-minute drive from the Loop. Let us know if you’d like to attend the Chicago mini-reunion but do not live in the region.

Fall 2014 or Spring 2015 San Francisco: Hosted by Sharon Jean Moser Leeds.

If you would like to host a mini-reunion for your region, please contact me. A planning checklist and related materials for hostesses are available on the Class of ’67 web site. Also, if you get together with Smith friends on other occasions, please send me a description of the event, the names of those who were there, and digital photos to post on the web site.

PLANNING OUR 50TH

Paula Barker Duffy and Ellen Kipnis Kanner

The years leading up to our May 2017 Reunion represent a great opportunity for members of our class to connect, to reconnect, to discover what we shared at Smith, and to honor the women we have become.

Your Reunion co-chairs, Polly and Ellen, along with the entire class officer team, are in the initial planning phase. Programs and festivities will be designed to capture - and stimulate! - your memories and to reflect the many dimensions of our personal and professional lives.

Over the next two years we will ask you to join the largest possible crew of people to stage and execute a truly memorable 50th. Ideas generated at our 45th Reunion will serve as catalysts for discussion at a series of regional mini-reunions. This series of discussions began with our gathering at Susie Bernat Rosenbaum’s home in Bethesda, Maryland last April, which generated many ideas for communications, entertainment, class survey, exhibits, and panel discussions at our 50th. Wherever you live, we hope to involve YOU in the discussion of our Reunion program at a subsequent gathering. Future dates for mini-reunions are provided in a separate article.

We will be making extra efforts to encourage all our classmates to come to the 50th Reunion. As our class approaches age 70, we want to involve classmates who in past years were too busy, too ill, too poor, too disabled, too depressed, or maybe just too far away to enjoy the coming together of extraordinary women in houses we once called “home.” Funds from the class treasury will be available to help pay for travel if assistance is needed. If you have comments or suggestions or want to be part of an active turnout team, please write to Ellen at ekanner@verizon.net.

Plan to join us in Northampton in May 2017 for the celebration of a lifetime!
Terrie Gale and Sandy Gleason

Our biggest communications news is that we have a new Class of ’67 website. View it at http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1967 and keep checking it. More information, pictures, ideas, plans, and everything else related to our class and our Reunion will be added to this website over the months and years to come.

The new class web site has been created by Elaine Sussman Belvin, our Class Web Chair. One section of the website provides information about our 45th Reunion, including photos. We want to expand the photo collection to include as many classmates who attended as possible, and would like to have pictures of varied activities in addition to the Alumnae Parade. For example, if you have photos of conversations in Headquarters or in rooms, informal gatherings around campus, or other activities, please send them to us with the names of the classmates included in each photo to post on the web site. Also, we would like your thoughts about what this reunion meant to you, memories of classmates no longer with us, reactions to Kalle Gerritz Weeks’ survey and profile of our class, retrospective insights about why Smith has been important in your life, or any other ideas you would like to share. Finally, we welcome your suggestions of topics to expand the web site. Written thoughts (please use Microsoft WORD) and digital photos (jpg or CD) to be posted can be sent to either of us.

In addition, we plan to send occasional email messages to the entire class to provide updates on mini-reunions and other activities of interest, or to request input as we plan the next – and very special – Reunion. For this information to reach all of our classmates, we need your current email address. Carlyn Koch Steiner is attempting to verify the email addresses we have, and to solicit addresses from classmates whose addresses we don’t have. If your address is one of the missing, please send your current email address as soon as possible (as well as future address changes as they occur) to the college at alumnaerecords@smith.edu and to Carlyn at carlyn@e-steiner.com. One option if you wish to protect your email address is to obtain a Smith email address and route all messages through the Smith address. Instructions for the Smith College email system are provided in this newsletter. Needless to say, email addresses will be used for class or college business only.

Finally, we are planning a survey in 2014 to collect your ideas about Reunion planning and solicit volunteers for a variety of activities. We welcome ideas for activities, such as a book that everyone can read before Reunion, a program or activity, a program for spouses/partners/significant others who attend, or anything you think will enrich our Reunion experience. Your responses will be collected using the free online Survey Monkey software. Survey details will be provided in the Spring 2014 newsletter.
HOLD THIS DATE:
50TH REUNION
MAY 2017