

Class of 1969

# 1969 REFLECTS AND ROCKS ON

Fall 2012

## The President's Corner

Dear Classmates,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer—a time, hopefully, to relax a bit, take a few deep breaths and appreciate all around you.

I am excited to tell you that the dates have been set for our 45th Reunion: May 23-25, 2014 (please note that the dates in a previous SAQ request for news were incorrect). So, put these dates on your calendar and plan to join in the comradery and fun.

Your Class Officer Team has already been hard at work on plans for our 45th, meeting in the Washington, DC area on Oct. 26/27. We have picked a Reunion theme in response to input from a lot of classmates: "1969 Reflects and Rocks On". As many of us turn 65 this year, reflection on our lives and what we've learned is a natural and good thing. At the same time, we remain children of the 60's and, as such, we still spend more time looking forward than backward, anticipating ways in which we can help our families, friends and community—and have fun doing it. In so many ways, we continue to "Rock On".

As we begin to think more seriously about our next Reunion, this year's annual newsletter contains a very interesting article by **Rosa Leader Smith** and **Debby Slavitt** about how the town of Northampton has changed since 1969. Northampton is no longer a sleepy commercial village but a thriving art and culture-centered mecca. We've also chosen to profile 3 classmates who live in or near Northampton - to get their take on Northampton changes. As we get closer to Reunion we plan to provide you with a compendium of things to do and see in Northampton and surrounding areas that will make a trip back to Reunion worth a few extra days.

There are many classmates we could site as examples of "reflecting and rocking on". But there are two who this year merit special mention here. Congratulations to **Betsy Humphries** who joins **Catherine Mackinnon** (1991), **Pearl Yau Toy** (1991) and **Sarah Chasis** (2007) as a Smith Medalist. Smith Medalists are chosen from submissions to the Board of Trustees. Recipients of this honor are alumnae who exemplify in their lives and work the true purpose of a liberal arts education. They are women of outstanding achievement, who have made a significant difference in their vocations and/or communities and are role models for today's undergraduates and young alums. Betsy serves as deputy director of the world's largest medical library, the National Library of Health (see more of Betsy's story on our Class web site).

We would also like to congratulate **Betty Mugar Eveillard** who has served on the Smith Board of Trustees for 9 years and who was elected in May to serve a 3 year term as Board President. Betty, a retired investment banker with years of experience at Lehman Brothers and PaineWebber, has been a tireless supporter of Smith College. (See more of Betty's story on our Class web site.)

Sue Foley  
President, Class of 1969



## How To Contact Your Class Team

### President

Sue Herrick Foley  
[suzannejac@aol.com](mailto:suzannejac@aol.com)

### Vice President/Reunion Chair

Debbie Chase Franczek  
[dfranzcek@hotmail.com](mailto:dfranzcek@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Harriet Cooke McGuire  
[harrietmcguire@earthlink.net](mailto:harrietmcguire@earthlink.net)

### Co-Secretaries

Barbara Lauren  
[blauren123@aol.com](mailto:blauren123@aol.com)  
Roz Zakheim  
[rszesq@aol.com](mailto:rszesq@aol.com)

### Social Media Chair

Linda Frank Sicher  
[lsicher@aol.com](mailto:lsicher@aol.com)

### Memorial Chair

Janet Williams Harrison  
[twcmac@gmail.com](mailto:twcmac@gmail.com)

### Planned Giving Chair

Edie Dinneen  
[ediedinneen@aol.com](mailto:ediedinneen@aol.com)

### Nominating Chair

Thea Dodge Cardamone  
[theacardamone@comcast.net](mailto:theacardamone@comcast.net)

### House Rep Co-Chairs

Joyce Moran  
[Jmoran0852@aol.com](mailto:Jmoran0852@aol.com)  
Lisa Henderson Rosenbloom  
[lpassavant@gmail.com](mailto:lpassavant@gmail.com)

### Class Website

<http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1969>

### Class Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/109383512421960/>

### Smith Alumnae Website

<http://alumnae.smith.edu>

## Notes From Your Class Team

### **VP/Reunion Chair, Debbie Franczek**

Our 45th Reunion is starting to become a reality...I will attend a Reunion Planning Workshop on Campus in October. But our team has already taken steps to make our Reunion—the weekend of May 23-25, 2014—a success. We have a great theme, “1969 Reflects and Rocks On” and have our House Reps in place. Our class traditionally has short programs after the Friday and Saturday night dinners as well as panel and/or discussion groups on Saturday afternoon. I would love to hear any program ideas you may have for these occasions as well as any other ideas you may have about things you would like to see or do during our Reunion weekend together. Contact me at [dfranczek@hotmail.com](mailto:dfranczek@hotmail.com). Also, please let me know if you would like to help with an aspect of Reunion. We will need volunteers to help with HQ, Meals, Parade Signs, Programs and so on. None of the jobs is too onerous so please consider joining in!

### **Treasurer, Harriet McGuire**

Our class treasury had a total of \$13,316 as of 6/30/12. Upcoming expenses include costs to send our officers to required planning meetings and newsletters in preparation for our May 2014 Reunion. To date 43 classmates have paid their class dues for the current 5-year term. Please note:

- (1) Class Dues are \$75 for the 5 year period. Those who prefer to pay annually can pay \$20 per year.
- (2) Our class has 501(c)(3) status so receipts will be sent for all dues payments.
- (3) Please send your checks made out to “Smith Class of 1969” to Harriet McGuire/ 3007 Russell Rd./ Alexandria, Va. 22305 and include your email address for a receipt reply.

### **Co-Secretaries, Roz Zakheim and Barbara Lauren**

Reading about the lives and life changes of our classmates has been inspirational and moving. We’re looking forward to seeing everyone at Reunion in 2014. In the meantime, keep your news coming for the SAQ.

### **Social Media Chair, Linda Sicher**

Stay connected by checking classmate postings on our class Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/10938351242119601> or Smith College Class of 1969). Lots of news and pictures! And be sure to check our class website as we get closer to Reunion for details you’ll want to have.

### **Nominating Chair, Thea Cardamone**

Although our 45th is still 18 months away, we already have volunteers to serve in various officer positions for the 5 year term leading up to our BIG 50th Reunion in 2019. Want to get involved? Contact me by email or at 800-869-0790. As our social media efforts expand we’re particularly looking for someone to co-chair with Linda Sicher.

## Get To Know Your Classmates

**NAME:** Elizabeth (Libby) Keitel

**SENIOR HOUSE/MAJOR:** Wilder/Classics

**HOME:** I live in Greenfield, (about 18 miles north of Northampton). I came back to the Pioneer Valley in 1980 after stints in NYC, Chapel Hill (grad school), Charleston and Santa Barbara.

**FAMILY STATUS:** Single

**OCCUPATION:** I teach Classics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. As I still enjoy teaching and research, I plan to continue a few more years. One great pleasure is the number of Smithies who have graduated from our MAT program in Latin and Classical Humanities. They are well prepared and totally on the ball (no surprise there).

**ACTIVITIES:** I love to read, travel and hang out with friends and family. I am active in my church. After serving on innumerable committees (a classic Smith trait), I take pleasure in tasks such as preparing hot meals for local folks who need one.

**THOUGHTS ON NORTHAMPTON:** I had never seen a depressed mill town before I came to Smith.

Today Noho is a lively, diverse and progressive community. It’s a lot more fun than in our day with shops and restaurants of all sorts. It all began in the mid 1970’s when the old McCallum’s department store became Thornes Marketplace, a funky indoor mall with food and interesting shops. There is also live music at the Iron Horse Music Hall and the old Calvin Theater (long since renovated). The Academy of Music is open occasionally for live shows. As a student, I never appreciated the handsome old brick buildings that make up the town center. Now I see its beauty. One worry, though, is the



probable demise of the Green Street shops. Smith has already taken over half of the block, and the rest may not be far behind. For eating, I would recommend Paul and Elizabeth's natural food in Thornes and Bistro Les Gras, which is just around the corner from Green Street on West Street. Remember our choices? Wiggins Tavern (still there), Friendly's and Joe's (ditto), Jack August and Carlo of Naples. Did I forget any? Oh, the Mary Marguerite Tea Room!

NAME: Margaret Tomasko

SENIOR HOUSE/MAJOR: Sessions/ Microbiology

HOME: Northampton, Mass.

FAMILY STATUS: Widowed, currently in a committed relationship. Two daughters and two grandchildren. For the past dozen years my older daughter and her husband and two children have lived in the upstairs of our two-family house. My second daughter, who also graduated from Smith, is a professor at Kansas University.

OCCUPATION: I had my first child a month before graduation. Her father took what would have been his last semester off to work to support us. When I graduated I worked for a year for Jeanne Powell, my former biology professor and he finished his degree. The following year I entered a master of science program at UMass in public health and my husband, I and my daughter moved into a Northampton halfway house working to help men who had been institutionalized develop independent lives. I continued to alternate social service work with more science-oriented jobs until I settled on psychotherapy as a profession that fascinated me. A week after I graduated from the School for Social Work at Smith, I married my second husband and we moved with my two daughters to the house in Northampton that I still live in. The next 8 years were an idyllic time, ending with his sudden death from a heart attack. Since then I have continued to find social work a wonderful fit (although definitely not lucrative).

THOUGHTS ON NORTHAMPTON: I live on a dead-end street that is a 5 minute walk from a downtown that is a mix of interesting shops, music venues and restaurants of all sorts. I routinely use the gym and library at Smith. I have worked as a therapist in my community for the last thirty years. I sing in the Hampshire Choral Society, participate in a monthly family therapy seminar and enjoy hiking with my significant other (who is also very attached to Northampton). As I write this, I am kind of misty-eyed at what appears to be such good fortune in being so entrenched in a small-town, on-the-edge-of-rural New England America. It informs me and soothes me when I get too heated about the state of the nation and the world.



NAME: Deborah (Debby) Jane Slavitt

SENIOR HOUSE/MAJOR: Emerson/ Developmental Psychology and Studio Art

HOME: Northampton, Mass.

FAMILY STATUS: Divorced, one son, Henry Joost who is a filmmaker.

OCCUPATION: Over the years since Smith, 15 of which I spent living in South America, Europe and Asia, I have worked as a writer and photographer specializing in family travel, cultural tourism and fiber arts and crafts people. I taught early ed in Boston, Chile, Taiwan and France and worked as an art therapist in Ma., Taiwan and NY. Reuse and the arts has been a lifelong interest, and I am now on the ReUse Committee of the Northampton DPW where I organized an Arts ReUse Rally that took place on Oct. 13, 2012. Having been a teaching artist at Materials for the Arts in NYC, I am aiming to set up a permanent re-use center here in the Valley for use by artists, organizations and individuals.

ACTIVITIES: My work is my life and vice versa. I spend a lot of time in the arts—not only on the projects noted above but also on my personal work as a fiber artist and photographer. I am looking forward to relaunching Memory Lane Singers, a sing-along program for the elderly, and to working further with children. Although travel abroad may still be in my future, I have chosen to put down some roots here in Northampton for now. I must really like it here! I'm getting more involved with Smith through the Smith Students' Aid Society and the local book group and Club—and taking the classes I missed 40 years ago.

THOUGHTS ABOUT NORTHAMPTON: I came to a turning point in my life in 2011 after my mother's death and realized that I could again choose where I wanted to live. My choices were Northampton, NYC (1/2 the space for 2x the cost), Shelter Island where we have a family home (possibly too isolated), and the life of a gypsy. I decided to give Northampton the first try and rented an apartment across from Smith a year ago. Now, when asked about returning to the Valley, I sound like the Chamber of Commerce—I don't see why everyone doesn't live here. People are friendly, creative, lively, open and interesting, the towns and countryside are charming and beautiful and there is more to do here in the arts (and otherwise) than anyone would ever have time to do. I'm taking my time deciding if I want to settle down more permanently in town or countryside, each has its attractions. But for now, I often wonder what I would have said if someone had told me then that I'd be walking past the Smith College President's house on my way to class 40+ years later!



# Northampton “Then and Now”

Text by **Rosa Leader Smith**

Photographs Taken or Compiled by **Debby Slavitt**

Honestly, I was not that excited the day I got my letter of acceptance. Maybe I should have been proud but this really threw a wrench into my plans! I wanted to get out of town for college but my father insisted I apply to Smith. I was destined, it seemed, to four more years at home in boring ol’ “Hamp”.



Over forty five years later I live in New York. And these days Northampton has a lot to offer. Even if you haven’t been back lately you have probably followed some of the changes on campus from afar.

But you might not know that the town, now commonly known as “Noho,” has become a popular year-round tourist destination, overflowing with restaurants, shops and galleries and worth perhaps an extra day or two of your time when you make your way to the Pioneer Valley for our next reunion. Touted as “one of the more culturally interesting towns in Massachusetts” and perhaps “one of the most gay-friendly cities in the country” by Julie Hatfield, free-lance travel writer with the Boston Globe, it has also been named one of the “Top 23 Arts Destinations” by American Style Magazine.



*Signs of the times!*

Back to the summer of '65. I had accepted Smith and now there was a pre-college picnic at Look Park where us local girls got to meet each other. I decided this was the occasion to wear my first ever tampax and was scared the whole time it would fall out. I met my “big sister” who was to shepherd me through the first throes of college life. I found out that our new home on campus known as Hampshire House was actually just a room in the basement of Albright. Laura Lord Scales, class of 1901, former Dean of Smith College, was credited with promoting the house system after her own less than happy experience living off campus. Perhaps she had not fully succeeded in integrating local students into college house life after all.



*Some things never change.*

Hampshire House has long since been moved to another out of the way corner of campus, and I am no longer wearing Tampax, but Look Park and Albright still stand. So does the State Street Fruit Store, just down the hill. Its ice cream counter, where you could then get cones for a nickel or two is long gone. For the best ice cream in town you now have to go all the way over to Herrell’s on Old South Street. It’s in the basement of McCallums—oops—I mean Thornes Marketplace, as it is now known—a bustling boutique mall. Newbury’s and Ann August have vanished, but try the specialty stores and galleries all along Main Street. In our day the only fine art on display was at the Smith College Art Museum. Now, for just one example, you can see an extensive collection of Leonard Baskin’s work at the wonderful R Michelson Gallery.



*Ann August 1969 - check the prices!  
Sweater \$9; Kilt \$14*

I am a frequent visitor to Northampton because my 93 year old mother still lives in her house near Smith College—the house where I was destined to live another three years until I self-financed a move into our new senior house, Mary Ellen Chase. On a recent visit I took a walk down memory lane. Julie Nixon and David Eisenhower have long-since moved out of their ground floor apartment just down the street from Baldwin, but the building is still there. Secret service men no longer follow Julie around campus at a discrete distance. The “new” campus center begins to seem like it has always been there.



*New Campus Center --- built in 2003.*

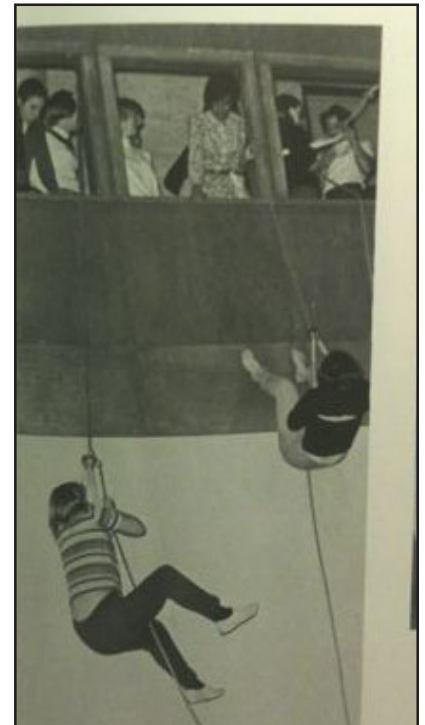
The top level of old Alumnae Gym has been transformed into a state-of-the-art archives collection. The history of Smith College and its students—our history—is at one’s fingertips! When Debby went over to look for photos for this article she found a copy of our Freshman Handbook! Can you guess what Tom Wicker, Jane Lynch, Judy Chicago and Rachel Maddow have in common? Scott Gymnasium, where we climbed ropes and sweated in our yellow gym clothes is now expanded and updated as the Ainsworth Scott Gymnasium Complex.



Bicycles were and still are a major form of transportation on campus. In Noho the Rail to Trail movement has given rise to many more cycling opportunities. Rent a bike at Northampton Bicycle, 319 Pleasant Street, and take a ride over the Connecticut River towards Amherst, or past Look Park to Leeds, or sneak behind the Smith College Riding Stables to catch the rail trail to Easthampton. While you are down that way, below the Paradise Pond dam, and beyond the dike, you might want to attempt the Route 66 hill to inspect the prime residential development that once was Northampton State Hospital.

For old times sake take the Five College Bus (it’s now operated by Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority or PVTa) over to Amherst to visit the new (created in 2003) Emily Dickinson Museum or the Yiddish Book Center, founded in 1980. If like me, Americana is your cup of tea, don’t miss Historic Deerfield village, just a few miles north on I 91.

Are you hungry yet? Remember that quasi abandoned “squat ivy-covered brick building” at the bottom of the Bedford Terrace hill? It’s purpose was somewhat mysterious in our time. In 2004 it began a new life as the Hungry Ghost Bakery whose delicious goodies you simply cannot leave town without sampling. Especially after that bike ride! It has become a village meeting place and it’s baker-owners were 2011 semi finalists for the James Beard Foundation Award.



*PE then climbing the ropes.*

Noho has a vibrant cafe culture. The old fire station on Masonic Street has been transformed into the Woodstar Cafe and is always humming with activity, or try Haymarket Cafe on Main. Green Street has changed to accommodate the new engineering building and the Quill is long gone, but I recommend 40 Green Street for a wonderful french cafe experience. If you’d prefer a leisurely dinner in downtown Noho before or after our reunion, there are many ethnic restaurants and contemporary New England and vegan/vegetarian options. And Wiggins Tavern at the Hotel Northampton is still there! For the added nostalgia factor try India House Restaurant at 45 State Street—it used to be our old standby Carlos. Or for a quick and delicious lunch of local and organic foods try the String Bean on Main Street. It is a new favorite of mine. We hope this will give you a sample of the new Northampton and help entice you back to Smith for our forty fifth reunion and even perhaps to extend your stay. And for a “proper cappuccino” on the way out of town heading towards I 91 and points south be sure to stop in at Northampton Coffee, 269 Pleasant Street, to get one for the road.



*Green Street then --- the Quill Bookstore.*

(See more “Then and Now” photos on our class website.)



## Smith College Class of 1969

Alumnae House  
33 Elm Street  
Northampton, MA 01063

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW

1.) We need your email address. More and more of our class communications are taking place by email. So, if we don't have a current email address for you in our database you will miss out. Please check the AASC directory for your information and update it if necessary by going to:

[http://alumnae.smith.edu/tools/update\\_address.php](http://alumnae.smith.edu/tools/update_address.php) or contact Roz or Barbara.

Also, check your spam filter to make sure important Smith or Class communications are not getting dumped there.

2.) Check out our class website and our class Facebook page

Please note that on our website we have posted a list of 1969 classmates the college has lost contact with. If you know how to contact any of these women please let us know so we can reach out to reconnect them.

3.) Pay your class dues. (See page 2 for details.) Remember you can pay your dues anytime during the 5 year term (2009-2014).

4.) Volunteer. If you had a good time at Reunion, or if you're just a good sport, consider volunteering for a class job. Contact Debbie Franczek if you want to know more

5.) Send us pictures. If you have a get together with other Smithies take some pictures and send them to us for our website, SAQ or newsletter - be sure to indicate the names and class years of those in the photo. This year or next year most of us turn 65 - how about organizing a local mini reunion in your area to celebrate?! We'd love to see the pictures (send all photos to Roz Zakheim).