



It's Nifty Moving Toward 50!

The best thing in life to hold on to is each other.

– Audrey Hepburn

Winter 2015

KEEP THIS LIST HANDY!

At Your Service:

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from your Class President



“Inspire! Excite! Engage!” This was the theme of the September 2014 Smith Volunteer Leadership Conference in Northampton. The first such conference held in six years, it brought together 150+ alumnae volunteers from all corners representing class and local Smith club volunteers, Smith Fund, Planned Giving, and Campaign volunteers, alumnae admissions volunteers, and various board members. Along with seven class leaders (see our wonderful team below!), **April Hoxie Foley** attended as trustee and campaign leadership volunteer. The lively meeting hosted by the Smith Fund and the Alumnae Relations Office did indeed Inspire, Excite and Engage!

In addition to talks by President McCartney and VPs for Alumnae Relations, Development, and Admissions, it was especially inspiring to hear from current US and international students about their activities (Swimming the English Channel! Writing and directing the first South Asian play ever produced at Smith! Broadcasting Smith news on our own network!). The profound significance of Smith in these students' personal growth was very clear. It was exciting to learn:

- applications to Smith are at a historic high;
- Smith ranks in the top five nationally in economic diversity as measured by the New York Times;
- over 2000 (of ~48,000) alumnae are Smith volunteers currently; and
- the College and alumnae had already raised \$283 million toward the \$450 million goal for the *Women of the World* campaign.

I speak for all seven of us in saying we were re-energized by being there and being with each other. We also especially enjoyed the chance to share with each other some of our Smith experiences from those many years ago at dinner Thursday evening. In addition to learning at workshop sessions (we will yet master Twitter!), our ideas flowed freely and with great enthusiasm at an informal class meeting amongst ourselves.

Your class team for 2014-2019 is an extraordinarily enthusiastic group! We think it's pretty nifty to move toward 50! Any of us would love to hear from you. It is a great privilege and pleasure to serve you so stay in touch!

All the best,
Janet

continued

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KUDOS!!!

Debbie Chase Franczek
and her Reunion team did a
stupendous job organizing
our terrific 45th Reunion.

***Debbie, sincere thanks
to you and your team
for all your good work
on our behalf!!***

Reunion Highlights: May 22-25, 2014 REFLECT AND ROCK ON!

We reflected, we rocked on and we had a wonderful 45th reunion! Classmates 139 strong registered and all but three attended. Our reunion numbers were superb—in fact our class won the prize for Reunion II weekend for highest percentage of class in attendance. Our fundraising numbers were also superb. Under the leadership of **Susan Bangs Munro** and **Margi Wittigschlager Nareff**, we met our goal of a 65% participation rate due to the generosity of those in attendance and those classmates unable to attend. For those of you unable to attend our 45th, do know that you were missed! Although it rained off and on during the first part of the weekend, the weather didn't stop us 69'ers from having a great time reconnecting with each other and Smith.



THURSDAY: Many of us arrived on Thursday afternoon, greeting each other at our Headquarters in Lawrence House. **Judith Vanderkay** and **Judie Feins** had Headquarters well-stocked with beverages and snacks. Also in Lawrence House were displays of art by classmates put together by **Ellyn Weiss** and the "Written Word" put together by **Jean Merrill**. Our Gallery of Creativity evidenced how talented so many of us are. Dinner was at Fitzwilly's in downtown Northampton. About 60 of us attended and our group was so large, the management had to find extra tables for all of us. The meal was a good way to start catching up with old friends and making new ones. Thanks to **Edie Dinneen** for handling the reservations.

FRIDAY: Breakfast was at Tyler. About 35 of us then went on a very informative tour of Hatfield and Florence arranged very ably by **Rosa Leader Smith** and **Debby Slavitt**. In Hatfield, we received an education about the founding of Smith by Sophia Smith. Besides visiting the Historical Museum there, we saw the two homes in which she lived and the family burial plot. From Hatfield, we took a scenic drive to Florence where we visited sites associated with the Underground Railroad and the Abolitionist movement. Who knew there was so much history in the "land beyond Northampton"?

We returned to Smith in time for a buffet lunch at Cutter-Ziskind and then had time to wander around the campus or greet other classmates who were arriving on Friday. At 3 pm, our classmate **Jane Abramson O'Connor** entertained us with her stories about her career as an editor and children's book writer and the development of her Fancy Nancy series. Tyler living room overflowed with classmates listening to her. (Note the tribute to Jane later in this newsletter!) After Jane's talk, we moved back to Lawrence where **Carolyn Coulter Gilbert** presented a wonderful Friday afternoon tea (with her silver tea set and china!) and delicious goodies. What a wonderful way to relax with classmates. Some of us also attended receptions for various affinity groups (e.g., Smith Travel).



Dinner in King/Scales was preceded by an all-reunion cocktail party at the Student Center. Thanks to **Elissa Getto** for her work as meal chair and arranging the beautiful centerpieces. The highlight of the dinner was the premier of

the “Then and Now” slide show produced by **Anita Verchinski Gebhardt** and **Debby Slavitt**. It was fun to see photos of us and of Smith back in the 60’s and more recent photos of us now and at past reunions. The 60’s music that accompanied the slides had us all smiling.

SATURDAY: Unfortunately, the possibility of morning rain moved the Alumnae Parade to the track and field facility.

Irene (Renie) Restieri DeSisto organized us (a difficult task!) for the parade and distributed our humorous signs keyed to songs of the 60’s.

After the march, we heard a very inspiring speech by a newly minted graduate followed by remarks from President Kathleen McCartney.

We then adjourned to the Browsing room where we ate “picnic” lunches during our class meeting where Sue Herick Foley turned over the presidency of our class to **Janet Williams Harrison**. After lunch, about 50 of us stayed for a discussion on Dealing with Loss led by **Susan Hall Mygatt** while others took tours and heard faculty speak on a variety of topics.



We again had our dinner in King/Scales preceded by a social hour just for our class. Professor Andrew Guswa presented a most informative talk after dinner about the new environmental station in Whately and how Smith teaches students about the environment and related engineering issues. Our class was very impressed by Professor Guswa and left the dinner confident about the caliber of teaching at Smith. As at previous reunions, the campus was illuminated as we walked back to our Green Street houses for more conversations with friends.

SUNDAY: We gathered in the morning at the class tree near the President’s House to remember deceased classmates in a ceremony led by **Janet Williams Harrison** and **Sally Winkler Kenaston**. Many of us had already read the memorial booklet prepared by Janet as Memorial Chair in which classmates had written remembrances about friends who are no longer with us. Then it was time for goodbyes as we started leaving campus, although some of us attended the all-reunion brunch.

I encourage all of you whether you attended reunion or not to visit the rest of the class website and view reunion photos, read the catalogs about the artists and writers who displayed their works at reunion, and read the Memoriam booklet.

Best regards,

Debbie Chase Franczek

2014 Reunion Chair

What did you think of Reunion? **IMPRESSIONS from CLASSMATES**

Barbara Van Iderstine Holden: As we all know, reunions are about forgetting and remembering. I had forgotten: showering in a crowd, walking down the hall to the toilet, hearing so many high-pitched voices over the breakfast table, walking so far not on a treadmill, being around so many gifted and talented women at one time. I have remembered: sophomore Push, and pitying the 25 year alums for being so old; junior ushers, and digging old prom dresses out of the Chapin attic; Friday tea, which **Carolyn Gilbert** (may her name be blessed!) recreated for us; and the value of youth’s friendships. I would hate to be eighteen again, but I love being at Smith.



Sharon Smith Burlingame: Why go to an aerobics class or climb Machu Picchu when you can stay on the fourth floor of Tyler House during Reunion?! Your reward upon reaching the summit may be to reminisce with a dear old friend or a spontaneous moment of enlightenment shared with a new friend from our class that you missed the first time around. Sharing is the keynote of the weekend, whether it is how to transition to a new life stage, how to cope with the loss of a loved one, or how to pack as many great memories into two days

as possible. Encounters with professors were inspiring. I hadn’t been to Reunion since the 10th, and found that some things delightfully never change but are good to bring to the forefront of our thoughts again. I am so grateful to all who made the Reunion fun, comfortable, and a whirlwind of good new mental snapshots for me to savor until the 50th!



Nancy Rubenstein: I confess I’m often ambivalent about coming back to Reunion but I prod myself into going and I’m always glad I did. The part I enjoy the most is spending time with a large group of smart women all my age - including my New Trier HS classmates! So I’ve renewed old ties but also met a number of “new” people who’ve become good friends. The campus is gorgeous, the planned events are entertaining and the feeling of connection to a place that played an important part in my life is very reaffirming. I urge any of you who are on the fence to come to our 50th. You won’t regret it.



Notes from YOUR CLASS TEAM

**Reunion Co-Chairs Beth Sweetow and Lisa Getto
AND House Rep Co-Chairs Joan Meltzer FitzGibbon
and Priscilla Carter Fort**

REUNION PLANS: Our 50th Reunion is in May 2019 (dates TBD) - only 50 months away! Never too early to start planning to join fellow Smithies for a wonderful weekend of sharing experiences, finding new friends and exploring future adventures. You can find us on the class website: <http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1969/>. See Reunion news and Reunion activities where we need your help.

And please do follow our Reunion events on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/109383512421960. (If you have not joined our Facebook group yet, see "What You Should Do Now" on the back page for instructions!)



FINDING CLASSMATES: Want to connect with a classmate? Go to the alumnae online directory at <http://alumnae.smith.edu/>. Click Login. If you are not already registered, you will be asked to set up a user name and password. If you have problems or need help connecting to a specific classmate, please contact either Beth (bethsweetow@yahoo.com) or Lisa (eogae@aol.com).

MINI-REUNIONS: We have many opportunities for you to help with Reunion. We hope to have a number of mini-reunions around the country over the next four years and need a small cadre of regional volunteers to come forward to host these events. You can reconnect with classmates by hosting a lunch, cocktails, book or movie discussion - any good way to get classmates in your area together and encourage all to come to the 50th. We think a great event would be to have a gathering to celebrate our 70th birthdays in 2017 (EGAD!!). We will share pictures of these events on our website and Facebook, creating momentum and publicity leading up to the 2019 festivities. And we can help you organize an event with lists of classmates in your area and ideas for events.

HOUSE REPS: Thanks to the many classmates who volunteered to be house reps leading up to the 50th! Having that contact with our classmates is so important. We are still looking for reps for Gillett, Wilson and Off-Campus. Please contact **Joan Meltzer FitzGibbon** (joanfitz@comcast.net) or **Priscilla Carter Fort** (fortmom@gmail.com) if you might be willing to fill one of those vacancies or want more information on what is involved.



OTHER HELP NEEDED: In addition, we need a dinner-planning volunteer to organize dinners over reunion weekend, someone to help organize class activities, a coordinator for spouse and significant other attendees. Or would you like to help with the parade? These are all wonderful ways to be involved while having fun making the reunion specifically geared to the personality(!) of our class.

OUR REUNION THEME: Finally, but far from least, we need your input on our reunion theme. Our 45th theme was "Reflect and Rock On" which our class enthusiastically embraced. Please, let's hear from you with suggestions for a dynamic theme for our 50th Reunion. Simply send us an email on your ideas and willingness to volunteer!

**Class Fund Co-Chairs, Susan Bangs Munro
and Margi Wittigslager Nareff**

Who remembers President Mendenhall's 3 P's: Patience, Politeness and Perseverance? They seem a little dated now, don't they?

We've got just one P and it never goes out of date - PARTICIPATION! Every gift to the Smith Fund matters. We encourage you to give this year and every year as we head towards 2019.

The 50th Reunion fund team is growing each day! We have a terrific group of women ready to roll up their sleeves and make our 50th giving another record-breaker. As of the end of November the team consisted of: **Ida Offenbach Abbott, Mary McCulloch Baker, Nancy Weathers Callender, Thea Dodge Cardamone, Jane Slocum Deland, Cynthia Greenleaf Fanton, Joan Meltzer FitzGibbon, Sue Herrick Foley, April Hoxie Foley, Deborah Chase Franczek, Mary Seibert Goldschmid, Janet Taylor Lisle, Jean Merrill, Joyce Moran, Susan Bangs Munro** (co-coordinator), **Margi Wittigslager Nareff** (co-coordinator), **Katherine Reuter, Lisa Henderson Rosenbloom, Sue Ann Levin Schiff, Marjorie Barkin Searl, Linda Sosnowitz, Marcia Schenk Steckler, Laura D'Andrea Tyson, and Virginia Pugh Wiggen.**

And an inspiring word from **Susan Hall Mygatt**: "**Debby Slavitt** and I both sit on a wonderful small board at Smith, the Smith Students' Aid Society (SSAS) which provides students grants and emergency funds to enhance the quality of their educational experience, focusing on needs not being met by financial aid. As an example, over their four years at Smith, 308 students in the Class of 2014 received over \$150,000 in grant money and emergency funds. For some, SSAS made it possible for a student to stay at Smith. You can learn more about SSAS at <http://www.smith.edu/ssas/index.php>. Debby and I contribute to SSAS by allocating a portion of our annual gift to Smith to SSAS. This allocation counts towards our class fundraising totals. If you are so inclined, please consider supporting SSAS when you support Smith. Your class team can put you in touch with us for more information."

continued

Class Treasurer, Hat McGuire



We begin preparations for our 50th Reunion in good - but not great - shape. Our bank balance post-45th (\$15,675) is slightly less than our starting point after our 40th (\$16,300). Our expenses organizing the 45th were supported by a record number of dues-paying classmates, 89! Almost half of dues-payers sent their checks to me in the final year's count-down to our 45th Reunion. Let's gather as many payments as possible in 2015 so our 50th Reunion planning team will have a more solid base to make it the best yet! If you plan a local 1969 mini-reunion, add an appeal for payment of class dues at the same time. Give me a heads-up of your plans and I'll help you organize it.

It's still only \$75 for five years. So pop your tax-deductible check payable to the "Smith Class of 1969" into an envelope today and mail to your Class Treasurer: Harriet Cooke McGuire, 3007 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305. This amount covers all five years from 2014-2019. If you prefer to send annual dues, that fee is \$20 per year. In early 2015 an updated list of all who paid their dues in 2014 will be posted on our class website. In the meantime I'll send charitable donation receipts for tax purposes to this year's dues payers and others who made generous contributions to our class. Questions? Email: harrietmcguire@earthlink.net.

Class Co-Secretaries, Pam Chamberlain and Carolyn Coulter Gilbert

We are delighted to hear from so many of you with updates on your lives for the Class Notes section of the Quarterly. Keep 'em comin'! SAQ deadlines are February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. For a more timely and interactive exchange, check out our class Facebook page. To access it, you need to be a member of Facebook. Then enter Smith College Class of 1969 in "Search for People Places and Things" space. You will be taken to the page where you can click "Join Group." Our class administrators Linda and Margie will accept you, and you're in! There have been some pretty interesting topics discussed, and we get to see pictures of some fantastic grandbabies and trips.

Memorial Chair, Sally Kenaston

On Sunday morning of our May 2014 Reunion, we honored the memory of 42 classmates who had passed away since our freshman year together. A page on our class website helps us remember these wonderful classmates whom we have lost over the years. A copy of the 45th Reunion memorial book honoring each of them is also available there.

As this newsletter went to press, we had been notified of no additional deaths of classmates since May 2014. Those whom we lose in coming years will be listed on our site. We also hope to share short tributes which can be submitted to me for posting. Finally, gifts in memory of deceased classmates recall special relationships we shared. Memorial gifts of any size can be sent directly to The Smith Fund, P.O. Box 340029, Boston, MA 02241-0429 and will be acknowledged by our class team. Many thanks for considering this.



TRUMPETS PLEASE!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

At Rally Day ceremonies in 2015, four remarkable alumnae are being honored for their professional achievements and outstanding service as 2015 Smith Medalists. And one of the four is our very own **Jane Abramson O'Connor!**

The Smith Medal was established in 1962 to recognize alumnae who exemplify in their lives and work "the true purpose" of a liberal arts education. More than 200 outstanding alumnae have received the award for their contributions to their communities and the world. Jane is a bestselling author known by millions of young readers as the creator of the popular *Fancy Nancy* children's book series. But her impact on the publishing industry goes far beyond the bestseller lists. For more than 40 years, Jane has been a highly successful editor, mentor and teacher, helping to train generations of new writers and editors in the craft of storytelling. She began her career in 1971 as an editor at Hastings House Publishers. From there, she moved to Scholastic, Inc., and then to Random House, where she eventually became editor-in-chief of children's books. She has edited the work of such classic children's book authors as Richard Scarry, Laurent de Brunhoff and Joanna Cole. During her career, Jane has written or published more than 1,100 books. She wrote her debut novel, *Yours Till Niagara Falls*, Abby, in 1979. It was the *Fancy Nancy* series, though, that took the world by storm. To date, the books have sold 22 million copies worldwide, and the precocious title character has become a cultural icon.



The Class of 1969

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WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW

- Do we have your correct email address? More and more of our class communications are by email – for simplicity, for cost savings and for speed. If we – and the College – don't have your current correct email address, we will miss being in touch with you. Sadness! Go to the Alumnae Directory at http://alumnae.smith.edu/tools/update_address.php or contact anyone on the class leadership team and we will forward your info on to Alumnae Records.
- Check out our Smith '69 website! Just click <http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1969/>. If you need a password, it is our gym suit color –and who can forget that?
- Join 110+ Smith '69ers on Facebook! Go to <http://www.facebook.com>. Fill in your full name and a valid email address. Then choose a password that's easy to remember, at least 6 characters. Add your date of birth. Continue to work your way through the pages of the signup process. Then here's how to find the Smith College Class of 1969 and request to join if you are not already a member of the group: Log into Facebook. In the space "Search for People Places and Things", write Smith College Class of 1969. In the upper right corner of the page, click "Join Group". This will automatically send a request to the group's administrators (Linda Frank Sicher and Margie Barkin Searl) to approve your request. Just contact Margie if confused.
- Support your class by sending a check for your class dues! See page 5 for details or our class website. You can pay your dues anytime during the five years but we especially encourage payments now to spur on our reunion planning.
- Join the 50th Reunion volunteer team! We need House Reps for Gillett, Wilson and Off-Campus houses. Want to plan one of our mini-reunions around the country over the next 4 years? Read more about these and other opportunities on page 4! Our 50th Reunion team is FIRED UP!
- Join the 50th Reunion team class fund team! Check out the list above. I bet you see some Smith BFFs! Just let Margi or Susan know if you are interested in joining this great group. They will be delighted to hear from you and can explain the fun in store for you in contacting classmates!