

KEEP THIS LIST HANDY!

At Your Service: Class of 1969
2014-19 Leadership Team

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SMITH CLASS OF 1969 NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017



OUR ODYSSEYS CLASS of '69 / 50th REUNION SMITH COLLEGE

CELEBRATE OUR CIRCLES OF LIFE!

Reunion 2019 is only two years away! Our theme for the 50th reunion of the class of 1969 is "Our Odysseys." What do we all have in common besides our education and experiences at Smith College? Although vastly different, we each have experiences – Odysseys – that have defined and enriched our lives. And that is what we want to celebrate at our reunion. We are united by Smith, yet each of us has an individual story to share.

The logo is based on the original logo created by our own Amy Finley Scott incorporating 69 in a circle. Our reunion logo features a symbolic representation of interlocking circles within one – Our Odysseys – the Class of '69. The intent is not to blur our differences, even though we were all "molded" by our Smith years, but to highlight our uniqueness. *Strong independent women* – a goal we embraced in our Smith years.

Since Smith programs much of the 50th reunion, the class officers are focusing on personalizing the traditional reunion weekend, wherever possible, to keep a very clear and concise emphasis on the reason we are gathering – to spend time with each other and share our experiences. You may have had a great experience at Smith or not – and "success" is not our defining characteristic. Reunion is simply about our circles of life made up of hundreds of our unique contributing Odysseys. Mark your calendars now! May 2019, Northampton, MA.

Elissa Getto, Reunion Co-Chair

With only two years to go, we are forming a committee to work on the Memorial Service during reunion weekend. We will have a great deal of input on the service, including participants and music. It certainly is our hope that we will have sufficient Glee Club and Chamber Singer alums to provide the core of the music, even if it is only a thoughtful rendition of "Liebe." There is also nothing to prevent a rousing rendition of "Vive Tutti" at dinner. A very fine singer and composer has written a beautiful retrospective in tribute to Iva Dee Hiatt, "the lady behind the music stand," and in tribute to reunion participants, past and present. This is only one of many options. Please let us know if you are planning to come and if you would like to be part of this endeavor!

Amy Finley Scott and Elissa Getto



RECONNECTING

Ten of seventeen Maine-rs from the Class of '69 got together for the first official "RECONNECT" in September at a local restaurant in Falmouth! We had a ball getting to know each other since most had never met despite living in Maine, some for as long as forty years.

Pictured are (clockwise bottom left) **Priscilla Carter Fort, Ann Hubbell Monkhern, Gee Preston Wakelin, Meg Little Warren, Margi Wittigschlager Nareff and Lisa Lewis Small (standing), Susan Deland Livesay, Joy Balloch Ahrens, Pam Knowles Lawrason, and Laurie Brown Kennedy.**

Margi organized the luncheon and we kept busy for 3 hours catching up, and in many cases getting acquainted for the first time. We are artists (Ann), musicians (Laurie, principal violist with Portland Symphony Orchestra), attorneys (Pam), teachers (Meg), school and community volunteers and more. Most are empty-nesters now and at least one of us boasts a Smith daughter (Priscilla, mother of Victoria, Class of 2007). Joy has the distinction of recruiting one of the newest members of the Class of 2020 – a first-generation Muslim woman whose mother Joy previously taught in ESOL classes. Everyone agreed that this should be the first of more Maine get-togethers.

Our class RECONNECTS have begun! Your Reunion team believes that the RECONNECTS are a very important part of the lead-up to our 50th reunion in May 2019 and encourage you to hold one in your region. RECONNECTS are already being planned in the New York City and San Francisco areas.

NY/NJ/CT RECONNECT – JUNE 27, 2017

*We are planning a RECONNECT for the NY/NJ/CT area for Thursday, June 27 (the half-way mark for 1947 70th birthdays). If you would like to attend, have a suggested venue, can offer a venue, or would like to help plan and organize the event, please let Beth or **Linda Sosnowitz** [sosnowitz@gmail.com] know as soon as possible.*

SAN FRANCISCO RECONNECT – SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

*Bay Area classmates, save the date for a RECONNECT event in San Francisco. **Beth Sweetow, Reunion Co-Chair**, will host a luncheon at noon at her retirement community, 1661 Pine Street (at Van Ness). Parking is available.*

Special guest Debbie Duncan, President of the Board of Trustees, will join us and update us on events at Smith.

More details to follow Spring 2017.

Would you like to organize a RECONNECT? We will give you names and contact information of classmates in your geographical area and turnkey support for invitations and ideas for topics. The format is very flexible – a potluck lunch or dinner, a gathering at a restaurant with Dutch treat option, an afternoon tea at someone's house or a more structured outing to a museum or other venue. Whatever you think would be of interest to your classmates is fine.

Themes or topics can be centered on a book discussion, a Smith quiz, a discussion of best (or worst) times at Smith, a sharing of biographical information, or whatever you think would engage the group. You can incorporate the Odyssey theme into your RECONNECT by asking classmates to share a story from their life.

Yes, there are logistics. You will need to contact classmates, probably two to four months in advance of the gathering, by sending a simple save-the-date with information on time and location with follow-up later to confirm attendance. Hopefully, expenses can be kept to a minimum with a modest subsidy from attendees to help pay for food and wine at most events. Perhaps a couple of your local classmates would enjoy helping with the logistics.

Mostly it will be a fun event with lots of Smithies talking – as we are wont to do. I will be sharing the stories of these events as they occur to motivate you to host your own RECONNECT. And please let us know the feedback and ideas you glean from these gatherings. That will help us make our 50th the best Reunion ever.

Please email me at bethsweetow@yahoo.com with your ideas, comments and feedback.

Beth Sweetow, Reunion Co-Chair



SUPPORTING SMITH

Every gift matters. That's our fundraising team mantra. We know that the many ways to give can be confusing, and that you receive lots of information from the College and from us. With that in mind, we five fund team leaders have put together a primer to help you decide the type and manner of your tax deductible gift to the College.

Our 50th reunion fund team is an active and diverse group of almost 30 women across the country. During the year fund team members contact you to remind you to give and – most importantly – to thank you when you make your commitment. Our terrific team is led by:

Susan Bangs Munro and **Margi Wittigschlager Nareff**, Co-Fund Team Coordinators: We had such fun working on our 45th that we “re-upped” to grow ‘69’s annual giving as we head to our 50th reunion.

Debbie Chase Franczek chaired our spectacular 45th reunion and returns as Special Gifts Chair to make the 50th even more memorable and record-breaking.

Mary Seibert Goldschmid and **Edie Dinneen** are serving as Planned Giving Co-Chairs to help classmates decide on the right kind of sustained legacy for your philanthropic investment.

What are the differences in what we do and the kinds of gifts you may choose to make?

Annual gifts to the Smith Fund support the operating budget and are a direct investment each year in the life of Smith students. Susan and Margi are responsible for these. Gifts to Friends societies such as the Library, Botanical Gardens, and Museum count toward annual giving, but are directed to operations of these individual programs. Annual gifts must be paid within the fiscal year of the pledge.

Special gifts are just that – special, stretch gifts for reunion that represent a higher commitment to the Smith Fund. Debbie is reaching out to classmates who may wish to make a more substantial reunion gift. Special gifts can be made as multi-year pledges so that you can make a significant commitment over time.

Planned gifts are made by naming the college in your will or as a beneficiary of your retirement account or insurance policy, or through the creation of various kinds of charitable gift annuities or charitable trusts. Charitable gift annuities yield current income to the donor while still providing tax deductions; charitable lead trusts provide current income to Smith while preserving capital and paring estate taxes for the donor. Smith’s very knowledgeable Office of Planned Giving is available to discuss what options might be right for you.

In addition to credit towards our 50th reunion gift, planned gifts may also help us win the prize for adding the most new Grécourt Society members since the last reunion. Joining Grécourt is remarkably easy. For example, without lawyers or changing a will, one can simply contact a retirement fund custodian and add “The Trustees of Smith College” as a beneficiary, whether primary or contingent. When notifying Smith of this, no documentation or disclosure of amount is required to qualify for Grécourt membership. With that minimal effort, you’ll move our class closer to the prize and earn a “mystic blue” ribbon to wear at reunion.

This year one classmate made a \$250,000 gift to the Promise to the Future scholarship fund (part of the Women for the World Campaign), matched by an anonymous member of Class of ‘89, resulting in a new \$500,000 scholarship fund helping today’s Smith students succeed. Another classmate has arranged to make her annual fund gift with a monthly debit of \$15 done securely and automatically to make her giving simple and easy. Whether your gift is six figures or two, it matters.

In joining your classmates to support Smith, you honor the legacy of women who paved the way for us to succeed as Smithies, sustain the memory of our classmates who have passed on, and ensure that future generations of Smith women like us will continue to make a difference in their world.

Give to the Smith Fund!

Smith is a vibrant institution where women are finding their voices and writing their stories. Though they seem so much more sophisticated than we did at 18, they probably suffer some of the same insecurities. They need our support.

An important way to support Smith women today is by giving to the Smith Fund.

Your contribution supports the College’s current operating expenses, as well as financial aid for Smith students. Alumnae participation in Smith Fund giving is also one factor in determining college rankings in national media.

Your gift will increase the value of a Smith education!

Giving is easy: Go to www.smith.edu/future/giving/giftform.php

*Or send a check to:
The Smith Fund
33 Elm Street,
Northampton, MA 01063.*

*For info on planned gifts:
gift_planning@smith.edu*

Thank you!

*Margi Wittigschlager
Nareff
Susan Bangs Munro
Debbie Chase Franczek
Mary Seibert Goldschmid
Edie Dinneen*

1969 Fund Team Leaders

TWO CLASSMATE ODYSSEYS

Sharon Smith Burlingame (Lamont House Rep for Class of '69)



Far from the joys of Mountain Day in Massachusetts here in the North Carolina mountains, we celebrated the arrival of fall with our famous Hendersonville Apple Festival. I had the pleasure of registering voters with our local League of Women Voters. Nonpartisan political work was nothing I ever dreamed I'd be doing when I was at Smith, but our state faces many challenges, and it is wonderful to have a strong liberal arts background to equip me for this stage in my life. Perhaps planning for Father-Daughter Weekend and Glee Club concerts was the precursor to hosting Candidate Forums?!

Mediation was my first foray into retirement. It was a comfortable transition from special education work with students and their parents to Dispute Resolution among adults (Psych 101 and Religion useful here). Travel with Wes to Thailand each winter is another pleasure. It reinforces that I am no longer tethered to a school calendar (whoopee!), and can still put my Art History learning to use.

Our son has completed his National Health Service in Toppenish, WA, and is moving to Seattle. We visited this summer, and enjoyed our first glimpse of the Olympic Peninsula. (I'll catch you on our next visit, Sandy Bernstein Clarren and Julia Bent!) To my husband, who is a retired native plant grower, the old growth trees were even more amazing than the vast, irrigated agricultural fields of Yakima, near Mt. Rainier. Our daughter, who has lived in Boulder, CO for a decade now, was missing the beach trips of her youth. She borrowed her brother's kids, and we went to Edisto, SC, for a crab-catching week of fun (even for the eight-year-old in a full leg cast!) on a lazy inlet.

I'd love to hear what some of you have been doing, but whatever you have been up to, Classmates of '69, I hope that you have been carefully laying out plans for our 50th! Reconnecting with housemates, volunteering for some of the Reunion Committees, or just pulling together your own memories and stories, will help you prepare for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Whatever you may anticipate, your expectations will be exceeded, I assure you!

Louise N. Armstrong



I think the most direct connection with the experience of turning 69 as a member of the class of '69 can be found in a comment made by the Smith College Alumnae Chorus (SCAC) conductor as we finished up our concert tour in Sicily in 2011. He said something like: "I was a little concerned when I saw how many of [the chorus] had graduated in the 1960s but I have to say that the quality of your sound does not belie your age." (Thank you, Iva Dee.) Singing with the SCAC in 2011, 2013 (concerts in Tallinn, Estonia and St. Petersburg, Russia) and 2016 (concerts in Matanzas and Havana, Cuba) has been a high point experience for me. Being with Smithies whose graduation years ranged from the 1950s to 2016 reinforces the wit, intelligence, talent and dedication I came to know as an undergrad.

These past several years since my early – unplanned but welcomed – retirement in 2009 have been a time of reflection. I entered the Presbyterian ministry when women clergy were rare. We instinctively looked for and looked out for one another. I found significant support and I believe I was able to give it because of my very positive experience of living and learning in the challenging environment that was Smith.

As the numbers of women clergy have increased significantly, women like me who have greater than 40 years of ministry experience are no longer so special. Women do not feel the same need to form clusters of support on the basis of gender even though many of the same problems and prejudices continue to exist. Concurrently I became exhausted by the pressures put upon pastors to singlehandedly reverse the downward trend of membership numbers and financial support. These factors, and an ongoing battle with clinical depression, led me to resign and, within two months and a meeting with a financial advisor, to retire.

Without the intensity of pastoral work which, no matter how good your boundaries are, is 24/7, I have struggled to feel that my days have enough value or purpose both for myself and for others. Recently, in a purge of basement "stuff", I came across a photo taken as I handed a newly married couple their marriage certificate. They were clearly happy and my face was illuminated by the effect of my joyous laughter. Instead of filing the photo, I left it in its frame and put it out where I can see it in order to remind myself of the contributions I have made in lives where there has been joy or sorrow or there has been an unseen, unheard effect of a caring, compassionate ministry.

Just recently a friend of mine "discovered" a young Smithie newly relocated to Rochester and excited to learn of the existence of our little book group. I look forward to connecting with her, experiencing once again the mystical power of the larger Smith community.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I am embarrassed to admit that even after my four years at Smith I knew almost nothing about the life of Sophia Smith. Fortunately at our 45th reunion, I was enlightened – along with some of you – when we spent a delightful morning in Hatfield where Sophia lived for many years. I learned that Sophia's brother Austin left her a considerable fortune 150 years ago and that she agonized about how to make good use of it. With counsel from her close friend John M. Greene, Sophia considered many options, including bequests to Amherst College and Mount Holyoke "Female Seminary."

In March 1870, three months before she died at age 75, here was the vision Sophia recorded in her will: "It is my opinion that by the higher and more thorough... education of women, what are called their 'wrongs' will be redressed, their wages adjusted, their weight of influence in reforming the evils of society will be greatly increased, as teachers, as writers, as mothers, as members of society and their power for good will be incalculably enlarged." Wow. What a prescient woman and vision. I wish I had known Sophia but instead the opportunity has happily been mine to know many of you who so well reflect individually her remarkable legacy.



As evidence of how remarkable indeed is the great Class of 1969, yet another classmate, Laura d'Andrea Tyson, joins in February 2017 the growing list of Class of 1969 recipients of the Smith Medal. The Medal is given annually to those alumnae who, in the judgment of the trustees, exemplify in their lives and work the true purpose of a liberal arts education.

Congratulations to all our Medal winners: **Sarah Chasis (2007), Betsy Humphreys (2012), Catherine MacKinnon (1991), Jane Abramson O'Connor (2015), Pearl Yau Toy (1991), and Laura d'Andrea Tyson (2017)**! We are so proud of your accomplishments – and Sophia would have been as well. Thanks for all that each of you contributes to the strength of our class and to Smith.

Janet Williams Harrison

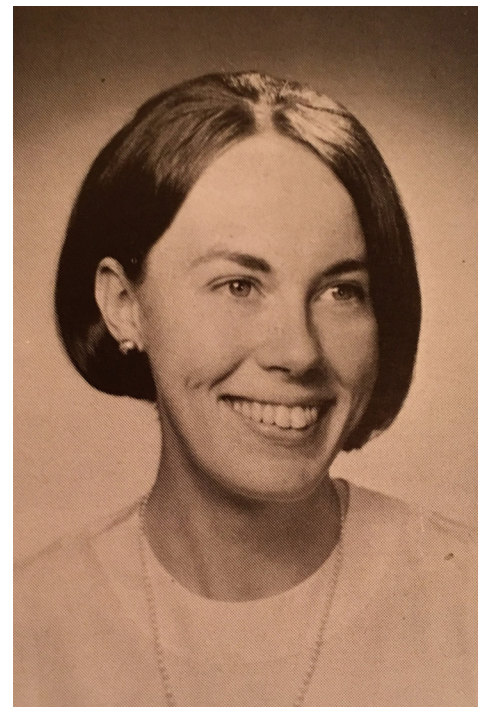
A FINAL CHAPTER: AT THE END OF A CLASSMATE'S ODYSSEY

Mary B. Wilson, who died June 2013 in Charleston, SC, named Smith as a major beneficiary of her estate, something that we did not know until after her death in 2013. The class leadership team would like to acknowledge her amazing generosity and honor her memory. Mary B's bequest to the Smith Fund was almost \$3.5 million. Thanks to **Corbin Crews Harwood** for these memories:

"Southerners at Smith in the mid-late 1960's were "scarce as hen's teeth" but Mary B. Wilson's charm, intelligence, generosity, and fierce loyalty to family, friends and place surely convinced the college it needed to welcome more young women like her into its ranks. "You like snow? Don't speak with a drawl? Never tasted grits???" No problem. Mary B. befriended and was befriended by everyone she met. When she wasn't busy inviting everyone she knew to visit her beloved home Villa Margherita in Charleston, Mary B. could be found studying art history slides, serving as a class officer, or relaxing at Lamont House.

After Smith, Mary B. graduated from the Winterthur decorative arts program and pursued a PhD in art history and worked in that field in Philadelphia. But eventually family ties and traditions lured Mary B. back to Charleston to become a physician—her father had been a revered OB-GYN there. She obtained her MD in 1985 from the Medical University of Charleston, SC (MUSC), pursued further study at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and joined the Pathology Department at MUSC, heading the Cytology section until 1999. Fearless and imbued with a strong sense of place, Mary B., along with her aging mother, rode out Hurricane Hugo in their home on the Charleston waterfront, something Mary B. allowed she might not do a second time! After retirement, Mary B. devoted herself to Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston where she served on the vestry and volunteered at the Crisis Ministry Center. She also volunteered at the Charleston County Library.

Giving back was second nature to Mary B. Her generous gift to Smith reflects both the importance of the college in shaping her adult life as well as her unstinting loyalty to the institution and the many friends she made during her four years at Smith."





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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

Thank you to our wonderful House Reps for being the conduit between this team and all of you! **GARDINER AND GILLET** – we need House Reps to serve from now to Reunion. Delicious handmade-from-Maine prize for the first person from each of those houses to contact Priscilla or Joan! The job isn't that hard and it's fun to contact housemates. As we get closer to Reunion, House Reps are even more important. Most of our communication will be by email; we don't want you to miss anything. Please be sure your House Rep has your correct email, address and phone, and notify her if any information changes. That is for the class records. To update Smith, go to alumnaerecords@smith.edu. Also be sure your Smith '69 emails are not going to your spam folder. If you don't know how to reach your House Rep, contact Joan or Priscilla (see page one).

Other ways to get class news:

1) **Join our private group on Facebook.** Once you log in to Facebook, search for Smith College Class of 1969. In the upper right corner of the page, click "Join Group." This will automatically send a request to our class administrators, Linda Frank Sicher and Margie Barkin Searl, who will approve your request. Margie peppers the page with enticing conversation starters, to which you can add your own spin. Check it out!

2) **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?

Do you know what happens in July 2018? That is when most reunion funds from the College are made available to us, just nine months ahead of our big weekend! So how is our 50th Reunion planning team dealing with expenses along the way? We rely on those classmates who generously make a tax deductible contribution to our class treasury of \$75. Please mail your check today, made out to "Smith Class of 1969" (adding the email or return address where your receipt should be sent) to the Class Treasurer: Harriet Cooke McGuire, 3007 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305-1719. Email Hat with any questions: harrietmcguire@earthlink.net.