

**AT YOUR SERVICE: Class of 1969
2014-19 Leadership Team**

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**SMITH CLASS OF 1969 NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2018**



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

ODYSSEYS: OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE STORIES

My mother at 94 is still sharp -- and full of suggestions. And I'm thankful for that. She regularly tells me that I should write down my life story. My reaction: Are you kidding? Three sons, two husbands, many grandchildren, a few dogs, several careers, and a lot of cooking and laundry spring to mind. It seems there is little so earthshaking about my 70-year odyssey to merit spending those many hours to record it. Who might read it except my children and perhaps grandchildren? But maybe I'm wrong. Perhaps it does merit recording.

The "Our Odysseys" theme for our 50th reunion speaks to the merits of any one of us recording our individual life stories. In President McCartney's Ivy Day remarks last May, "The Stories We Live and Tell," she quoted diarist and activist Anais Nin: "There is not one big cosmic meaning for all, there is only the meaning we each give to our life, an individual meaning, an individual plot, like an individual novel, a book for each person." My book, like yours, would include a chapter on Smith, rich with stories of my odyssey there -- and how those years shaped me later.

May 16-19, 2019 is our fiftieth reunion. Write down that date and plan to come. We are a remarkable group of women who merit coming together to tell our stories to each other. If I close my eyes, I can imagine hundreds of you sitting with old and new friends among our classmates recounting your lives -- the good times and hard times. Each conversation, each story, would have meaning for the rest of us -- because of shared chapters in our books.

Please don't miss this very special chance to share the Smith stories you have carried with you and how you have built on them in your individual odysseys. Maybe my mother is right. Perhaps my odyssey is worth recording. Where shall I begin?

Janet

**MAY 16-19, 2019 – THE CLASS OF 1969 50th REUNION
See the exciting details inside!**

How we reach you: As we move closer to Reunion, most of our communications will be by email rather than snail mail. We don't want you to miss anything! As our House Reps are critical links to each of you, please make 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 sidebar).

How to reach the rest of us:

1) Join our private group on Facebook. Once you log in to Facebook, search for Smith College Class of 1969 and 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 (which is new and more exciting than ever!) Just click <http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1969/>. The password is our gym suit color.

SMITH CLASS OF '69 RECONNECTS

We have had three very successful “reconnects” bringing local classmates together to hear about Smith today, to ask questions, exchange ideas and promote reunion attendance.

MAINE RECONNECT

Margi Nareff hosted the first reconnect at a luncheon in Yarmouth, Maine in September 2016 with 10 of our 17 Mainers attending. Although some of our classmates have lived in Maine for more than 30 years, it was the first get-together for many of them. In hours of chatting (avoiding that phrase “you haven’t changed a bit”), sharing yearbook photos and enjoying a brief Smith trivia quiz, the Mainers forged stronger ties. Margi has kept in touch with the group and hopes for a 2018 Reconnect as we head to reunion.

NYC AREA RECONNECT

On June 26, a New York City reconnect organized by Linda Sosnowitz was held at the home of Linda Sicher. With 23 classmates in attendance, it was a wonderful evening. They called the event “69’s 70th” and plan a follow-up event in 2018 entitled “69’s Second Annual 70th Birthday.”

SAN FRANCISCO AREA RECONNECT



L to R: Pearl Yau Toy '69, Elizabeth Zimmerman Tuckwell '69, Paula Hendricks '69, Ida Offenbach Abbott '69, Bev Johnson Farrell '69, Joan Lenzner (Smith SSW), Beth Swoope Sweetow '69, Roz Zakheim '69, Sue Ann Levin Schiff '69, Debbie Duncan '77 (Chair, Smith Trustees), Karen Camp '69

Eleven San Francisco Bay Area Smith alumnae gathered on Saturday, September 16, to reconnect with classmates and hear about current happenings on campus. Beth Sweetow hosted the event, which included a delicious luncheon and a surprise dessert – cupcakes celebrating all of our 70th birthdays, either past or future. Beth used a “Smith Quiz” and we were fortunate to have Debbie Duncan, President of the Board of Trustees, as our special guest to update us on Smith and answer such quiz questions as:

- What is the current faculty-student ratio? 1 to 9
- What is the fee for tuition, room, and board for one year? \$66,490
- How much money to cover costs per student is drawn from the endowment and annual gifts? \$14,000
- What is the Smith Praxis Program? Paid internship offered to every student

Bev Johnson Farrell added, “Most interesting to me was the discussion of construction of the New Neilson Library, (that's what they're calling it!). I was assured that the plans incorporate the 1909 structure, so familiar to all of us. Although the project will not be finished until after our 50th reunion, I'm looking forward to seeing the progress on it when I attend. Beth gave us an idea of some of the activities already planned for the reunion and asked for some feedback and suggestions. Her description of reunion events sparked memories of the 45th, my last reunion. Even though May 2019 seems far away, I'm already anticipating our 50th with pleasure. We hope to have an East Bay reconnect in 2019.”

We hope to have several more reconnects in 2018. They are fun and easy to organize. We can get you contact information on local classmates, send you the quiz and help you with whatever you need. Please consider hosting a reconnect in your city. Contact Beth (see page one) with questions.



50th REUNION GIVING: A MESSAGE FROM THE FUND TEAM

Smith shaped the stories of our lives – our odysseys – in so many ways. We made lifelong friends, discovered intellectual passions, and tried on all kinds of new ideas and behaviors. Now, as alumnae, we are supporting the next generation of Smith women.

We are happy to report that we met and even exceeded our class fundraising goals during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017:

- We contributed over \$386,000 to the Smith Fund, which goes directly to student financial aid and current programs.
- We made gifts to other Smith funds and purposes, for a total of \$2,734,000. This total included over \$1.7 million in planned giving.
- All of these gifts will count toward our five-year 50th reunion gift, which will be announced at our reunion in May 2019. Taking into account all sources, our class has already accumulated over \$12 million toward that gift.

We have started off fiscal 2018 with a surge of gifts and bequest intentions in response to the fall appeal letter. By early October our comprehensive giving for just three months was over \$1.5 million. Thanks to all of you who responded to the appeal!

Just over half of our classmates gave to Smith last year. The Fund Team is determined to engage more women in giving to Smith. We are aiming to reach 60% participation in 2018 and 75% in 2019.

The Fund Team is now 32 strong. We are charged up and on track to make an impressive gift at our 50th reunion. It will be very hard to beat the class of '67's gift of over \$26 million or the class of '68's impressive 71% participation rate. But we can do it if YOU give to Smith.

Start with a stretch gift to The Smith Fund. That allows the College the flexibility to use funds where they are most needed to support today's students.

Next, consider making a planned gift to Smith.

This can be as simple as joining The Greccourt Society by designating Smith as a primary or contingent beneficiary in your will, IRA, or life insurance policy, and notifying Smith that you have done so; there is no required documentation or disclosure of the amount. When the gift is documented as worth \$10,000 or more and you make a gift of at least \$500 to The Smith Fund in the year it is documented, 50% of that planned gift counts toward our class reunion gift. If you choose certain irrevocable planned gifts, such as a charitable trust, 100% of the value counts toward our reunion gift. For more information, you can contact Sam Samuels at Smith: ssamuels@smith.edu.

This new bequest recognition policy is a game-changer for our class. It all starts with your generosity to the next generation of Smith students. Like us, they will be meeting the world head-on, using stories to make meaning in their lives. Let's make sure they have a solid foundation for their odysseys.

Thank you for giving!

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!

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

1969 Fund Team Leaders

Read on! Here's an intriguing snippet of things to come in the next pages!

Does anyone else remember that we created a time capsule in 1969? The source of this information is our new Class Treasurer, Carolyn White, who remembers putting her Jordan Jocks T-shirt in it and that it was placed in Alumnae House. Other recollections, anyone? Alumnae House has eyes peeled for it. Contact Lisa Getto (see page one) if you have clues about its mysterious contents or whereabouts.

IMPORTANT REUNION HIGHLIGHTS: MARK THESE DATES: THURSDAY, MAY 16 – SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019!

THURSDAY: We hope that many of you will arrive on Thursday of Reunion weekend. Houses will open on Thursday afternoon and there will be a class dinner on Thursday evening and a first rehearsal of the Alumnae Choir.

FRIDAY: A full day of events will feature several panel discussions (including a student panel) as well as open houses at various campus locations. The Alumnae Choir will have a rehearsal and President McCartney will welcome us to her home that evening for a reception. A class dinner will follow.

SATURDAY: We begin with Alumnae Parade where we wear our “whites.” As the 50th Reunion class, we lead the parade and will be proudly carrying our signs reflecting our theme of Our Odysseys. Immediately following the Parade, we will attend the Ivy Day Awards convocation in the Quadrangle and a Service of Remembrance will follow at Helen Hills Chapel, followed by a gathering at our Class Memorial Tree to remember classmates no longer with us. At a picnic lunch we will hold our class meeting to elect officers to lead our class for the following five years. That afternoon we will hear the results of the class survey (watch for this to be deployed to your emails soon!) and share comments on the results as well as other issues and interests. There will be various open houses and receptions on Saturday afternoon and an address by President McCarthy. Another class dinner is followed by the Illumination of Campus with live music in the evening.

SUNDAY: From our brunch at the Convention Center, we can remotely share in the excitement of the commencement ceremony and activities. Houses close at 1 p.m.

ARTS EXHIBITION / PERFORMING ARTS: THE CLASS OF '69 CREATES AGAIN!

Calling All Visual Artists! As you know, we organized exhibits of the artwork of our classmates at our 40th and 45th reunions. It was a revelation to see the diversity and quality of our work and how many of us have the pleasure of making art. Of course, we're back for the 50th and this time we will have a venue that allows us to exhibit your work on actual walls!

This note is just to inspire you to start thinking about being a part of the 50th Reunion Exhibition. Once we know exactly what our exhibition space will be, we'll develop a process for submitting your work, so watch for details in the next newsletter, on our web page and Facebook page.

--Ellynn Weiss EWeiss@ucsusa.org

Calling All Performing Artists! Musicians, conductors, composers, arrangers, dancers, actors, filmmakers, videographers, animators, puppeteers, ventriloquists, mimes, impersonators, comics, game designers and other performing artists not mentioned!

In addition to a visual art exhibit, we are providing an opportunity to showcase the performing arts at our 50th Reunion in May 2019. Please plan to submit a digital video file of your performances to be assembled on a DVD loop that will be shown on a monitor in the same space as the visual arts exhibit, place to be determined. Since time and space constraints limit the class to a performing arts exhibition of this kind, Ellynn will put the call out at the beginning of 2019 for submissions through the newsletter, our web page and Facebook.

What can you submit?

- Slide shows of any performing art forms including head shots, scenes, programs, performances
- Excerpt or trailer for a film or video shoot
- Recording of music with or without images
- Video of dance, music, theatre or any other performing arts forms including animation.

Since this is a new enhancement to reunion, and we need to anticipate demand and encourage participation, **we would appreciate your emailing a DESCRIPTION of your work no later than April 30, 2018 to me, Amy Finley Scott.** The actual submission of digital video files for showcasing will occur in early winter 2019. We look forward to seeing and hearing YOU and YOUR WORK!

--Amy Finley Scott amy@amyfinleyscott.com

CALLING ALL GLEE CLUB AND CHAMBER SINGERS!

As part of the Memorial Service, members of Iva Dee Hiatt's Glee Club and Chamber Singers will reunite to sing two selections. One option is “Dominator” which would provide us the opportunity to remember again some of the outstanding soloists on this stunning piece. A second selection recommended might be “Liebe”. You may remember this beautiful and somewhat complex round of Love which seems very suited to our inclusive service. Jonathan Hirsh, Director of Orchestral and Choral Activities, may also help with selection of one piece. Barbara Lister Sink, singer and pianist/professor extraordinaire, will also be involved musically.

This is your opportunity not only to suggest music but let me know (if at all possible by April 30, 2018) of your willingness to participate vocally. We have limited but sufficient rehearsal time and music will be sent in advance as well as any Youtube recordings for reference. In addition, at one of the dinners I sense a rowdy rendition of “Vive Tutti!” may occur. At our graduation concert in John M. Greene, we performed both “Vive Tutti!” and “Dominator” and I am positive you remember both!

--Lisa Getto eogae@aol.com

MEMORIAL SERVICE

"In the second half of our lives, we experience more losses," says Alan Wolfelt, author, grief counselor and founder of the Center for Loss and Life Transition. "With aging come the inevitable deaths of those we love. It's hard, yes," he adds, "but it's also a time of opportunity to live, love and mourn as fully as we can." Our class Memorial Service will be one of those opportunities. It is our intent to plan a time of reflection upon friendship and the power of memory. We hope to offer readings and music and invite you to make suggestions of such and also offer to participate as a reader. The Service is not just non-denominational but also meant to be inclusive of other religions and spirituality.

There will be a reading of the names of our class members who have died and a symbolic remembrance of each. Some classes have used a flower as a symbol. It has been suggested that these be taken to our class memorial tree at the end of the service. Other suggestions are welcome. In other words, this is meant to be *your* service. Through losses of dear Smith friends we have learned how deep the grief can go and how meaningful it is to be with others who recognize the significance of these losses. In this way we look forward to being in community with classmates at Reunion. *Suggestions are welcome so, please contact one of us.*

--Jane Caldwell Rose janecrose@embarqmail.com

--Harriet H. McConnochie hmccconnochie@gmail.com

--Louise N. Armstrong larmstr2@rochester.rr.com

50th CLASS BOOK: YOUR ODYSSEYS, MEMORIES, LEGACIES, AND REFLECTIONS

In 2018 we will begin collecting data with your help for an all-member Class Book, a collection of your submissions documenting what amazing women you are and the difference you have each made. This reunion will also incorporate memorials to classmates no longer with us. You are embedded in Smith's 142-year history but how does your story begin? You will be able to share your experience in 250 words which will be augmented by a '69 yearbook photo and photos you are invited to submit. Start thinking creatively and visit the class website to see the basic Reunion Press book format used by Smith, Yale, Harvard, Princeton, and a host of other colleges. This process will be painless, fun, and you will be in control of your own submission. Details will be forthcoming in a few months so stay tuned to our class website, Facebook page and newsletters!

--Kathy Martin kmartin@stjamesplace.org

TIME MARCHES ON AND SO DO WE!

The Alumnae Parade says it all: hundreds of Smithies dressed in white, arrayed by reunion class, carrying signs that reflect both a class theme and the years spent together at Smith. The Parade is a chance to watch life coming and going, and for many of us, it is the most meaningful event of reunion weekend. And in 2019, the Class of 1969 will lead the parade! Yes, it is our chance to warm up the crowd with some snazzy signs and period dress. Anyone still have a pair of bell bottom pants or go-go boots?

Mary Seibert Goldschmid and Edie Dinneen, our co-parade marshals, are eagerly soliciting ideas for memorable signs that relate to our class reunion theme, "Our Odysseys." This could be your comment about how the world has changed since you set out on your odyssey from Northampton almost 50 years ago. Or it might be a reflection on how being molded at Smith influenced the course of your odyssey. Signs are limited to four lines with no more than about five words (or 30 characters) in each line. Extra credit for rhymes, wit, and "tearable" puns. Let your Odyssey be your guide and hit a Homer. **Contact us!**

--Mary Seibert Goldschmid MaryGoldschmid@gmail.com)

--Edie Dinneen ediedinneen@aol.com

FROM YOUR HOUSE REP CO-CHAIRS

If you have changes in name, address, phone or email, please inform either your House Rep through Joan or Priscilla – or Margi Nareff – at the contacts below. There will be a lot of important communication until the 50th and we want to be sure it gets to you. Future newsletters and class updates about reunion may only be sent by email in the last six months leading up to reunion. You can provide your email ONLY for class communications – it does not have to be provided to the Smith database.

Want to connect with a classmate? Go to the online alumnae 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. Contact Beth or Lisa if you need help.

Also the house designations that we use are generally those from your senior year at Smith, and the House Rep who keeps in touch with you is from that house. But the choice is yours! You can decide which house is your preferred affiliation. If you would like to be affiliated with a different house, or perhaps add an additional house, please contact any of us. That way you can keep up with all your friends as we lead up to our big 50th!

--Joan Meltzer FitzGibbon joanfitz@comcast.net

--Priscilla Carter Fort fortmom@gmail.com

--Margi Nareff mwnareff@gmail.com

Smith College Class of 1969
Alumnae House
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage PAID
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Permit No. 13

NAME
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

A FEW EARLY THOUGHTS ABOUT REUNION

Your support through class dues is critical as most reunion funds from Smith are made available to us just nine months ahead of our big weekend! Until then, we must rely on generous classmates who make a tax deductible contribution to our class treasury of \$75. Please mail your check today, made out to "Smith Class of 1969" (plus the email or return address where your receipt should be sent) to the Class Treasurer: Carolyn White Wallis, P.O. Box 724, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568. Email Carolyn (see page one) with any questions.

Smith makes every effort to accommodate **alumnae with disabilities** at Reunions. Please be sure to identify any special needs when you send in your reunion registration form due out early 2019.

If you plan on **bringing a guest to Reunion weekend** and you choose to stay off campus, please reserve early. Check the list of accommodations at www.explorenorthampton.com. Guests can be accommodated in the student houses at the standard Reunion cost. Please remember that bathrooms are co-ed and the single beds are narrow.

If you think you may need **financial aid to attend Reunion**, please contact Janet (see page one). We want as many classmates as possible to attend. Your inquiry will be kept confidential.

Slide Show help needed! Debby Slavitt will once again highlight in a "Then and Now" slide show our time together through the years. Debby says, "The next version can be even better knowing what we do now." Here's what she needs:

- **Brainstorming** soon and hands on work winter of 2019. We will have already asked for and received more memorabilia from classmates by then so start digging!
- **Research help:** Someone to gather more mementos and photos from our classmates, scan them in, and keep track of them as we use them and then return them to the owner;
- **Creative and tech help** with the nuts and bolts of putting together a slide show/visual presentation plus video and music components;

To offer help, please contact Beth (see page one).

We need your input as we plan our time together! We want to leave time for strolls around campus with friends but also allow time if possible for a group discussion on a topic of your choosing. At the 45th Reunion, a discussion about issues related to aging parents was very well-received. Please send your suggestions of possible topics to Beth (see page one).