

Smith College Club of Minnesota  
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Minneapolis, MN 55406

[mnsmithclub@hotmail.com](mailto:mnsmithclub@hotmail.com)

**CORRECTED VERSION**  
of *SUMMER NEWS* from the club,  
including plans for **SMITH DAY!**

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\*\*\* Smith Day preview, page 2—Oral History Project, page 5 \*\*\*

# Smith Club of Minnesota

SUMMER 2008

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Laurie Kramer ('69)  
612-378-1477  
[kramer@visi.com](mailto:kramer@visi.com)

### Vice President

Ann Carr ('70)  
952-491-2202  
[anncarr@gmail.com](mailto:anncarr@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Lara Villavicencio ('04)  
651-470-5531  
[villavicencio.lara@gmail.com](mailto:villavicencio.lara@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Liesl Hargens ('98)  
612-964-1454  
[lieslhargens@yahoo.com](mailto:lieslhargens@yahoo.com)

### Alumnae Admissions\*

Barbara Knott ('97) (outgoing)  
612-345-4939  
[barbaraeknott@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraeknott@gmail.com)

Lida Gilbertson ('05) (outgoing)  
612-229-5623  
[lida@planet-save.com](mailto:lida@planet-save.com)

\*See page 5 for new committee members

### Communications/Membership

Marty Swain ('71)  
952-474-2466  
[mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu)

## A Word From the President . . .

—Laurie Kramer

I hope everyone is enjoying the blessings of a Minnesota summer. The club's executive committee had its annual summer retreat in mid-June at Marty Swain's home in Shorewood. A dozen of us—graduates spanning almost 40 years—sat on Marty's deck overlooking beautiful gardens and adjacent wetlands and talked about how much Smith has changed through the years. And yet the core mission of the college remains constant—educating bright, talented, motivated young women to play leadership roles in their communities.

Which of course led my thoughts directly to our club's oral history project. The lives that are being recorded on tape are an inspiration in many ways—the challenges, the accomplishments, the tragedies, and the joys. We are working hard on our first book of essays and photos and will celebrate its publication with Presi-

dent Carol Christ here in Minnesota on Sunday, November 2 (see back page). More information will follow this fall.

And speaking of bright, talented, and motivated . . . Smith Day co-chairs Shirley Mah Kooyman and Hue Alexander are cooking up a special celebration for the event's 75th anniversary. Department chairs are in place, quality donations are arriving at the depots, and yes, the morning daiquiris are on order! There will be some interesting changes this year too, as we position Smith Day for the next quarter century. For more, see pages 2 and 3.

Joel and I just returned from France, where we celebrated our 60th birthdays with friends we've known for 50+ years. Nonstop to Paris gave us enough time to work on a Diamond Jubilee quiz that's not too hard, not too easy, but just right.

**See you at Smith Day!**



## November 2: Save the date!

We are very fortunate to have Smith President Carol Christ coming to the Twin Cities to help us celebrate completion of the inaugural phase of our Oral History Project (see page 5) and publication of our **stunning**



**book** recording the personal history of 16 local alumnae, which will debut that day. It will be a gala event. Put Sunday, November 2 (early evening) on your calendar now!



## ★ STAR on your label? ★

If there's a **STAR** on your newsletter mailing label above **OR** if you've celebrated your 60th reunion year (class of 1948 or before), it means you've *paid your dues* for the 2008-09 fiscal year (May '08 to April '09) or that you're an

honorary member and dues are gratis! No star and from the class of 1949 or later? Our hard-working treasurer has not yet received your dues for this new fiscal year. Please make checks payable to the Smith College Club of MN and mail to: Liesl Hargens, 3105 42nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406 (regular dues \$30; young alums [2003-08] and current grad students \$15; alums outside the Twin Cities metro \$10). There will be other chances to pay this year's dues, but sending them now will save you a step at Smith Day or other events. Dues support all club activities. **THANK YOU!**

## Important Club Contacts

**Smith Book Club:** Patty Schmidt ('91) [pafschmidt@hotmail.com](mailto:pafschmidt@hotmail.com)

Remaining books for 2008: *Jar City*, *The Thirteenth Tale*, *Will in the World*, *Mayflower*, and *The Florist's Daughter*

**Smith Knitting Club:** Brigid Brindley ('86) 612-929-2832

**Smith Running Club:** Andrea Smith ('01) 952-474-6634 [andrainraleigh@hotmail.com](mailto:andrainraleigh@hotmail.com)

**Oral History Project:** Betsey Whitbeck ('71) 952-974-8382 [bwhitbeck@att.net](mailto:bwhitbeck@att.net) or Laurie Kramer ('69) 612-378-1477 [kramer@visi.com](mailto:kramer@visi.com)



## ◆ Address changes ◆

Please notify the **Smith Alumnae Association** of address (e-mail & mail) changes, as our club lists are created through their database:

> **Phone:** 800-526-2023

> **Fax:** 413-585-2073

> **Mail:** 33 Elm St, Northampton, MA 01063

And . . .

**Also, please notify** the Minnesota club ([mnsmithclub@hotmail.com](mailto:mnsmithclub@hotmail.com) or 952-474-2466) for our local records.

## A Bunch for Brunch: Annual Meeting 2008

About 55 of us gathered the morning of April 12 at the Woman's Club for our annual meeting. We enjoyed quiche and caramel rolls—and a full plate of program.

The first course was our business meeting, including a look back at highlights of our club's year: a very green Smith Day ("Smithecolgy"), the launch and progress of our oral history project, and another strong year for admissions. We elected two new officers for 2008-10: Ann Carr '70, vice president, and Lara Villavicencio ('04), secretary. President Laurie Kramer also announced the Smith Day 2008 co-chairs (see page 3).

The big treat was our featured speaker, Sherrill Redmon, head of the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith, introduced wittily by Susan Allen Toth ('61). The collection today is an internationally recognized repository for the historical experience of women. It documents the lives of individual women and families and the work of organizations whose focus is women and women's issues through letters, diaries, scrapbooks, photographs, minutes, reports, publications, and oral histories—9,500 linear feet of material! Sherrill's presentation, "Creating Women's History: the Sophia Smith Collection" was fascinating and made us realize that here was another great resource at Smith that most of us failed to explore. (But it's not too late! The collection is open to everyone.)

This meeting marked the retirement of Stephanie Frost ('77) after two marvelous terms as vice president and of Brigid Brindley ('86) as our secretary. We thank them so very much for the imaginative and energetic job they did for all of us. —Ann Carr

## Smith Day's Diamond Jubilee: 75 Years and Still a Gem!

◆ **Date:** Saturday, September 6 ◆

◆ **Time:** 9:30 am – 3:00 pm ◆

◆ **Location:** Hopkins Center for the Arts ◆

All that glitters will indeed be gold on September 6, when we mark Smith Day's 75 birthday!

What started out in the 1930s as a small gathering in an alumna's home has grown so large that we've had to move to several different and larger facilities over its history. For many years, Smith Day was held at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts in Orono. Then we moved to the Gale Mansion near the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for 2 years. From there we found our current home at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, where we've remained since 2000. The historical name "Smith Day in the Country" has now been shortened to simply "Smith Day."

This is an exciting and fun yearly event for alumnae and their guests. Besides being our biggest social event each year, it's also our main fundraiser for the college. The majority of the funds we generate, which stand near the top of donations from all Smith Clubs in the country, goes toward our own endowed scholarship fund. The interest from the fund provides scholarships to Minnesota Smith students (see page 4).

Co-chairing the entire event this year are Hue Alexander ('98) and Shirley Mah Kooyman ('73). And we have a wonderful team of department

chairs (see next page). If you would like to volunteer in a department, it's a wonderful way to get acquainted with others in the club. We set up the week before Smith Day (Tuesday, September 2, through Friday, the 5th). Please contact a department chair listed on the next page to join the work crew—any amount of time that week or on the day itself is much appreciated. Just as important, don't forget to gather your new and gently used items for sale at the event. You can bring them to the depots listed on the next page or directly to the Art Center the week of setup. Here are items we need:

- Clothing
- Toys & Games
- Books
- Antiques, Collectibles, Art, Jewelry
- Baked Goods, Produce, & Flowers
- Items and Services for the Raffle & Silent Auction (see below)



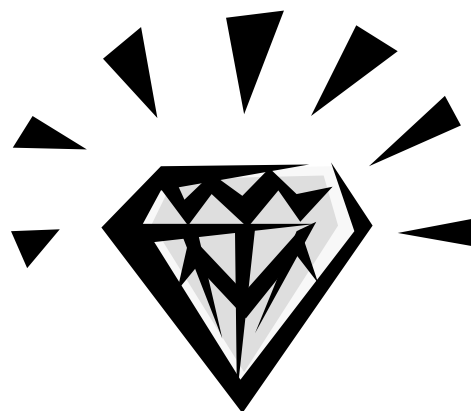
Our beloved daiquiris will return to sip on as you shop and are sure to make the event extra festive. Following a morning of shopping there will be a lovely luncheon and program.

The *Entrepreneur Showcase* (formerly the Boutique) will be bigger and better this year. It's a chance for our own alumnae to highlight their merchandise and/or services. If you would like to participate, please contact Ann Carr (see next page) to work out the arrangements. Your cost would be 33% of sales, or \$50 per table if you are promoting a business rather than selling.

The *Jubilee Celebration Team* led by

Ellen Van Iwaarden ('81) and Marty Swain ('71) promises an unforgettable event for our 75th anniversary.

Be sure to mark your calendar and join us! You can bring as many friends as you'd like. Invitations will follow later in the summer.



### Silent Auction and Raffle—a Great Way to Contribute to the Diamond Jubilee . . .

Perhaps your company makes a product that everyone uses or wants. Perhaps you have a favorite gift shop or restaurant that might donate a treasure or gift certificate (or just buy and donate it yourself—it's a win-win). Maybe you have a gift card you know you won't use. These are just a very few ideas for items you could donate. As for the Silent Auction, do you have a favorite menu you could make for 8? A lovely piece of art that just doesn't fit your home? A vacation home that has an extra weekend to spare? A leather coat you never wear? Season tickets you can't use some evening? Expertise you could share? Get creative, and contact Barbara Knott (see next page) to brainstorm what *YOU* can add to the fun.

### ADMISSIONS

#### *A Great Group for Smith*

We had 52 Minnesota applicants this year, with 26 admitted and 11 accepting! This is a great credit to the bright and eager students our state has to offer but also to the excellent work of our local Alumnae Admissions Committee (AAC). Retiring from the committee are Barbara Knott ('97) and Lida Gilbertson ('05). They have done a wonderful job. Thank you, Barbara and Lida, from all of us.

Our new AAC chairs are Caitlin Boley ('02), Kathryn Sutton ('08), and Justina Roberts ('06). Among their activities are helping the college admissions office with local college fairs, holding a send-off party for our new students in late summer, contacting prospective students, and conducting interviews in December and January. If you'd like to join this group, please be in touch.

New students entering in the fall are:

- ◆ **Hannah Lee Pepin** (Edina)
- ◆ **Mai Houa Vue** (Harding)
- ◆ **Laurel Wygant** (Avalon School)
- ◆ **Jacquelyn Rae** (Runholt Champlin Park)
- ◆ **Nawang Namdol Takza** (Lakeville South)
- ◆ **Hallie Kathryn Tolo** (Perpich Center for Arts Education)
- ◆ **Emma Catherine Krautheim** (School of Environmental Studies)
- ◆ **Alanna Katherine McFall** (St. Paul Academy and Summit School)
- ◆ **Sarah Jenner Hoops** (Blake)
- ◆ **Maren Rebecca Delap** (transfer from University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- ◆ **Emily Cook** (Ada Comstock Scholar) Dominican University

*Congratulations, all!*

### ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

#### We're listening to each other, and what fun we're having!

✂ After millennia of being property, servants, breeders—people with few or no rights at all—the past century has seen women's lives change so dramatically. The Vote brought us recognition as thinking individuals, able to participate in determining public policy and selecting our leaders. Then Betty and Gloria challenged us to value our worth in the workplace and family as being equal to men's. In the '70s we could actually apply for and receive mortgages on our own, without the previously requisite additional male signature. And mothers could go to work to support or supplement family income without guilt. We still may not earn as much as the guys, and glass ceilings yet abound in higher echelons of business, but in jobs where real work is needed we can now expect to have a somewhat equal opportunity to be hired.

We have come a long, long way, as the saying goes. But not yet far enough. Part of what's missing still is acknowledgment and recognition of the remarkable efforts women put forth to build their families, communities, the economy, and, bottom line, a better quality of life for our world.

Herein lies the reason our Minnesota Smith Club has created and is implementing an oral history program, recording the lives and accomplishments of our members. In fact, we **are** strong women building strong communities in so many ways. It's time this fact is recognized, and we've decided we may as well be the ones doing the recognizing! We want to **celebrate** women's lives and the impact of their time and talents.



L to R: Betsey Whitbeck ('71), Holly Duff Dowds ('71), and Laurie Kramer ('69) tend to myriad details at a July 3 meeting of the oral history project committee.

As our nearly 30 trained interviewers meet with members of the club to learn about and write up their histories, we are creating an important historical record—one that we hope will be duplicated in Smith clubs across the country. We do know that not only is the college interested

in our documentation, but the Minnesota Historical Society is also eager to archive our catalog of histories.

Beyond publishing a beautiful book this fall (see back page) focusing on the first group of alumnae, who knows what else could evolve from this project? At any rate, we have taken the need to record our personal histories into our own hands and now others will learn a bit more about the crucial role Smith women have played in building the state of Minnesota and its communities. ✂

—Betsey Whitbeck

## Our Scholarship Funds at Work

Our club received a letter from Audrey Smith, the college's Dean of Enrollment, earlier this summer thanking us for our generosity in supporting Smith scholarships, which we do through donation of Smith Day proceeds to our endowed fund. Listed in the letter are this year's recipients, all from

the Minneapolis area: Laura Gantenbein ('10), who is an American Studies major; Karissa Stotts ('08), who majored in the Study of Women and Gender; and Laura Miller ('11), whose letter follows.

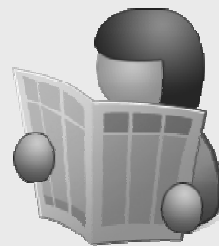
Dear Club Members:

My name is Laura Rockshawn Miller, and I was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am the eldest child in my family and the first of 21 first-cousins to attend a private 4-year institution, not to mention one outside the state of Minnesota. I decided to apply to Smith because I was attracted to the small class sizes and the sense of community it provided with the concept of houses instead of dormitories. When I visited, being a person with great interest in architecture, I fell in love with the genres of architectural designs as well as the landscape. At the end of the semester, I plan to declare as an architecture major. I would also like to have a minor in Spanish by the time of graduation. I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who have contributed to making my first-year experience treasured. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Laura Miller

## Minnesota Smith News

- Elizabeth (Betty) Thrall Foster ('35) passed away on November 4, 2007, at the age of 94. According to her eldest son, Dutton, she had a wonderful life and many fond memories of Smith, not to mention life-long friendships forged in Northampton. She died peacefully in her own home with family members at hand.
- Judith Corning Leslie ('39) died May 31 at the age of 91 after a long illness. According to her obituary (<http://www.legacy.com/startribune/obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=110994140>), which is well worth a read, she will be remembered in her role as the radio voice of WTCN in the 1940s interviewing soldiers as they came home from the war, as well as in numerous other fascinating professional and personal activities.
- Kathy Coward ('69) has a new, exciting job as Senior Vice President, Resource Development, for Public Radio International. She started last August and loves working for a national media organization.
- Jessica Petocz ('02) recently found out she won a fellowship at the University of Minnesota to join the Feminist Studies PhD program!
- Smith grad Toby Smith's play, "Standards of Care," premiered in Minneapolis this summer. Holly Duff Dowds ('71) attended with Molly Duff Woehrlin ('53) and her husband, Bill. Holly reports, "It's the best play I've ever seen! I realized it opened my eyes to transgender issues I thought I had understood but clearly didn't. It includes timeless issues like the parental role as offspring become sexual beings, the conflicts inherent in trust, the temptations of dual standards, and the boundaries of guidance. Aren't these issues we've also seen in the great Elizabethan plays? My own requirements are for a mind-stretching, educating experience presented with love and humor. All these I found in Toby's play. I, for one, hope he brings another play to Minnesota."
- Amy Collis ('93) moved here recently from Chicago. Welcome Amy! She is in marketing and would appreciate job leads. You can reach her and get a resume at 952-941-6905.



If you have any **NEWS** about yourself or another area alumna or would like to place a **CLASSIFIED AD**, please contact Marty Swain at 952-474-2466 or [mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu).

## ► Depots Depots Depots Depots Depots Depots Depots ◀ Smith Day Needs Your 'Good Stuff' Anytime!

### Minneapolis Main Depot

U Save Self-Storage  
3800 Louisiana Ave  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
(just south of Highway 7)  
For instructions on entering the gate and unlocking the locker, please contact Robin Hartwell or one of the Smith Day chairs (see info in article below).

### St. Paul Depot

Alvina O'Brien  
480 Grand Hill  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
651-227-4351 (please call ahead)



### Minneapolis Auxiliary Depot (for small amounts)

Ellen Van Iwaarden  
4726 Girard Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
612-822-5060 (please call ahead)

If you need pickup, call Ellen Van Iwaarden at 612-822-5060 to arrange. Thank you, Ellen!

## Your Smith Day Gemologists (Chairs/Department Chairs)

### The Crown Jewels (Smith Day Co-Chairs)

- ✦ Shirley Mah Kooyman ('73) [kooym001@umn.edu](mailto:kooym001@umn.edu)  
(h) 763-559-3114, (w) 952-443-1419
- ✦ Hue Alexander ('98) [timandhue@yahoo.com](mailto:timandhue@yahoo.com)  
1-917-414-0669

### The Oval Room (Adult Clothes)

- ✦ Robin Hartwell ('86) [robinhartwell@mac.com](mailto:robinhartwell@mac.com)  
612-374-6166
- ✦ Mary Taylor ('55) [pjacknmimi@earthlink.net](mailto:pjacknmimi@earthlink.net)  
952-474-3848

### Heirlooms (Antiques & Collectibles)

- ✦ Nancy Malmon ('57) [nancymalm@aol.com](mailto:nancymalm@aol.com)  
952-544-4912
- ✦ Jody Duclos ('60) 612-926-4822

### Pearls of Wisdom (Books)

- ✦ Brigid Brindley ('86) [mbrindley@comcast.net](mailto:mbrindley@comcast.net)  
612-929-2832

### Sotheby's (Silent Auction and Raffle)

- ✦ Barbara Knott ('97) [barbaraeknott@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraeknott@gmail.com)  
612-345-4939

### Literati (Quiz)

- ✦ Laurie ('69) & Joel Kramer [kramer@visi.com](mailto:kramer@visi.com)  
612-378-1477

### Breakfast at Tiffany's (Bakery & Produce)

- ✦ Grace Norris ('47) 952-473-2373
- ✦ Holly Dowds ('71) [hollydowds@gmail.com](mailto:hollydowds@gmail.com)

### Blue Chips (Entrepreneur Showcase)

- ✦ Ann Carr ('70)  
[anncarr@gmail.com](mailto:anncarr@gmail.com)  
952-491-2202  
summer: 1-807-224-2608

### Jewelry Box (Supplies)

- ✦ Cybel Monson ('91)  
[cmnson13@aol.com](mailto:cmnson13@aol.com) 612-317-0751
- ✦ Kristina Streed ('00) [kristinastreed@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinastreed@yahoo.com)  
612-789-5531

### The Silver Spoon (Lunch)

- ✦ Peggy Smith ('73) [larry6022@aol.com](mailto:larry6022@aol.com)  
952-939-6022

### The Registry (Registration)

- ✦ Shirley Mah Kooyman ('73) [kooym001@umn.edu](mailto:kooym001@umn.edu)  
(h) 763-559-3114, (w) 952-443-1419

### The Pawn Shoppe (Move-out)

- ✦ Janet Woodhull ('44) 612-922-5183
- ✦ Stephanie Frost ('77) [larkfrost@comcast.net](mailto:larkfrost@comcast.net)  
612-922-5183

### All That Glitters (Jubilee Celebration Team)

- ✦ Ellen Van Iwaarden ('81)  
[etvaniwaarden@mn.rr.com](mailto:etvaniwaarden@mn.rr.com) 612-822-5060
- ✦ Marty Swain ('71) [mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu)  
952-474-2466

