

Smith College Club of Minnesota
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WINTER NEWS FROM THE CLUB!

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*** Smith Day pictures, page 2—Oral History Project, page 3 ***

Smith Club of Minnesota

WINTER 2007-2008

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◆ 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 or 952-474-2466) for our local records.

A Word From the President . . .

—Laurie Kramer

So many Smith-related things are happening. Everything is positive, and personally rewarding too...because I'm getting to know so many alums and appreciate their talents and devotion to the College. Thank you all for being part of an incredible network. If you haven't been to a club event in a long time—or perhaps *ever*—please say hello at kramer@visi.com or 612-378-1477. I'd love to hear from you.

Smith Day 2007...

Smith Day was fabulous, generating very high attendance, lots of fun, and needed funds for scholarships and internships. Co-chairs Ann Carr and Becky McManus did an unbelievable job and deserve our heartfelt thanks. See *page 2* for more.

...and 2008

And while I'm on the subject, see the **Diamond Jubilee** story on *page 2*.

Oral History Project Update

As I mentioned in my summer column, our club is starting a new oral history project to study, document, and celebrate how women who attended Smith and their families

have positively affected Minnesota—its economy, culture, and historical development from territory to state. We want to involve as many alums as possible, from honorary club members who graduated 60+ years ago to our brand-new '07 grads.

The kickoff event November 17 at Mill City Museum was a great success (see *page 3*) and it's not too late to get involved. We're looking for alums to interview club members who graduated in 1950 or earlier (see "Training" item in box below).

We will produce a video, photo/text exhibit, or printed piece highlighting our results. Please volunteer whatever time and energy you can spare. We'll work with your schedule, skills, and interests. And we promise a meaningful, life-enhancing experience.

Good News re Club Membership

The total number of dues-paying members is approaching 140...compared with 97 last year. Can't remember if you've paid for this year? See **Star** item on *page 4*.

WISHING A HAPPY HOLIDAY
SEASON TO ALL!

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Training for Oral History Project Interviewers**—Sat, Jan 5, 10 am–1 pm, Minnesota Historical Center; trainers are Jim Fogerty, head of documentary programs for the Minnesota Historical Society, and Ellen Luepker ('66), founder of Living Portraits (livingportraits.com).
- ▶ **Piano Recital, Landmark Center**—Thurs, Jan 17, noon; Helen Bilhorn Baumgartner ('54) and her husband, both retired Gustavus Adolphus music professors, will play.
- ▶ **Socially Responsible Investing Salon**—Sat, Jan 19, 10 am
- ▶ **Fashion Fusion Event/Salon**—Thurs, Mar 27, 7 pm
- ▶ **Newcomers Brunch**—Sat, Feb 23, 9:30 am
- ▶ **2008 Annual Meeting**—Sat, Apr 12, Woman's Club brunch
- ▶ **Trip to Berlin & Prague**—May 14-23. Prof Leslie Morris ('80), Director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Jewish Studies, is leading the tour. Call 612-220-2382 for details.



Note: Contact Laurie or Stephanie (see upper left) for more info.

Minnesota Smith News

■ Congrats to Maggie Vecchio-Smith ('99) and husband James on the **arrival** of Ryan James Vecchio November 3rd!

■ Stephanie Ross ('86) and Wendy Lutter ('89) have started a new business named **empoword**. Check it out at www.thinkempoword.com.

■ Thinking about a **job change**? Call Cathy Muldoon ('88), founder of Top Talent, Inc, at cathy@toptalentinc.com for current listings.

■ Kathy ('79) and Daniel Ollivier want to adopt a **baby** and ask that you spread the word. See www.BabyToAdopt.net (Olliviers' toll-free number is 800-922-3574).

■ Best wishes and a speedy **recovery** to Jack Taylor, husband of Mary Taylor ('55) and father of Robin Hartwell ('86) after a stroke this fall. Jack is a true-blue Smith Day helper and cheerleader.

If you have any **NEWS**—about yourself or another area alumna, please contact Marty Swain at 952-474-2466 or mheiberg@umn.edu. Also contact Marty if you'd like to place a **CLASSIFIED AD** in a future newsletter (3 lines free to dues-paying members). Ads published on a space-available basis.



★ STAR on your label? ★



If there's a **STAR** on your newsletter mailing label above, it means you've *paid your dues* for the 2007-08 fiscal year. If not, it means our hard-working treasurer has not yet received your dues. 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 [2001-2007] and current grad students \$15; outside the Twin Cities metro \$10). If you've celebrated your 50th reunion year, you're an honorary member and dues are gratis! Dues support all club activities and your support is greatly appreciated.

Important Club Contacts

Smith Book Club: Patty Schmidt ('91)
pafschmidt@hotmail.com

Smith Knitting Club: Brigid Brindley ('95) 612-929-2832

Smith Running Club (now in formation): Andrea Smith ('01) 952-474-6634 or andrainraleigh@hotmail.com

Oral History Project: Betsey Whitbeck ('71) bwhitbeck@att.net or Laurie Kramer (see *page 1*)



Smithecology Brings in the Green! Green-themed Smith Day 2007 a Resounding Success

It was all about reusing and recycling—and rekindling friendships old and new. Thanks to great attendance, quality donations, a delicious lunch, and a bevy of dedicated volunteers, we all had a marvelous time—and netted an impressive \$18,000+ in the process, a 24.6% increase over last year! We are very pleased to report that we'll be sending most of that money to our Minnesota club's endowed scholarship fund to help finance the educations of outstanding Minnesota Smithies. After 74 years, that fund now stands at approximately \$2 million! Our donation to the college will also support Praxis internships next summer.

The green theme was carried throughout the event and everyone got into the eco-friendly spirit. Lunch used a minimum of packaging and featured biodegradable plates. All of the invitations were printed on recycled paper. We welcomed the "Renegade Gardener," Don Engebretson, who was on hand to help us hone our green-thumb skills. The "Eco-Quiz" challenged our ecological wits and produced a record six winners! And we offered a bounty of fresh produce in our "Local Producers" bakery & garden department.

Also of note was an exceptional Silent Auction. The tables were crowded with over 70 items, and income was up considerably. And new this year, we enjoyed the offerings of alumna Sheila Moar ('74), who presented her "Fashion Fusion" line of beautiful jewelry and accessories from around the world. A silent auction item and a portion of her sales were donated to the cause.

Many, many thanks to all who made the event possible. Some were new recruits, others faithful regulars. We had tremendous help from treasurer Liesl Hargens and department chairs Brigid Brindley, Holly Churchward, Jody Duclos, Sara Fenlason, Stephanie Frost, Sarah Garrett, Robin Hartwell, Shirley Kooyman, Laurie Kramer, Christl Larson, Nancy Malmon, Cybel Monson, Grace Norris, Peggy Smith, Mary Taylor, Betsey Whitbeck, and Janet Woodhull. We also want to thank the many other volunteers, contributors, and attendees who collectively made Smith Day such a big success.

—"Green Queen" co-chairs Ann Carr and Becky McManus

◆◆◆ Diamond Jubilee ◆◆◆ Smith Day Turns 75!

That's right—Smith Day has quite a history. Plan now to join us and celebrate the 75-year milestone of this one-of-a-kind tradition on September 6, 2008. We'll be making a party of it! And it's not too early to think about those special donations that will help mark the occasion with style — antiques, jewelry, estate items. As you reorganize those closets and cupboards, put aside quality items for this wonderful cause. The St. Louis Park depot is always open for donations.

Do you have a *business you'd like to publicize* or a *product to sell* at Smith Day? Sheila Moar was very pleased with her experience this year introducing her Fashion Fusion line. If you're interested in making similar arrangements, please be in touch with Ann Carr (anncarr@gmail.com).

Let Laurie Kramer know (see page 1) if you'd like to attend a **one-time brainstorming meeting** re Smith Day 2008. The date will be set in consultation with those who can attend.

Here's to a great **Diamond Jubilee!**



A fall day in the life of Minnesota Smithies: Smith Day 2007 (clockwise, beginning at left, 1. to r. in each photo): Janet Woodhull & Laurie Kramer; Nilgun Tuna, Peggy Smith, Grace Norris & Betsey Whitbeck; Smith Day Chairs Becky McManus & Ann Carr; Helen Leslie & Connie Donnelly, Mary Brown & Sarah Garrett, Mary Taylor & Robin Hartwell.

ADMISSIONS

A New Cadre of Women at Smith

Minnesota sent 12 new students off to Northampton this fall, including a Stride Scholar and an Ada Comstock Scholar:

- **Anna Mary Allen** (Highland Park)
- **Anneliese DuChateau Baierl** (Mahtomedi)
- **Catherine Bult** (Eden Prairie)
- **Insung Song** (Wayzata)
- **Stephanie Aldrin** (Transfer—University of Minnesota)
- **Shari Jainuddin** (Ada Comstock/Transfer—Minneapolis Community and Technical College)
- **Mariko Hanson** (Edina)
- **Gabriela Kubik** (White Bear Lake)
- **Laura Rockshwan Miller** (Southwest)
- **Astia Norton Roper-Batker** (Stride Scholar—Southwest)
- **Millicent Walsh** (Mounds View)
- **Kaidi Williams-Jankowski** (Math and Science Academy)

Winter Tea for Prospectives

The annual Smith Tea for prospective SC students will be held January 6 from 3-5 pm at the home of Brigid Brindley. The Alumnae Admissions Coordinators model this after the teas we all remember from our college days. It's a great opportunity for high school students to learn more about the college as they mingle with current students and alumnae from the Twin Cities. If you'd like to attend, contact Barbara Knott (see page 1 for contact info).

New co-chairs sought

Working with high school students to foster their interest in Smith is a highly rewarding and crucially important task. Many of our club members have worked on admissions as their premier job in the club when they're fresh out of school. If you've graduated recently, please consider getting involved in this way. We are seeking two new alums to begin next summer. Contact Laurie Kramer (see page 1).

MINNESOTA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

'Learning to Lead Just Fine...'

On November 17, we were treated to a fascinating talk by **Professor Susan Van Dyne**, who joined us from Northampton for a fitting kickoff of our Minnesota Oral History Project. Dr. Van Dyne has been at Smith since 1973 and is Chair of the Program for the Study of Women and Gender. She is recognized nationally for research on ways to integrate Women's Studies in college curricula.

"You're already famous," said Van Dyne. "When I mentioned to Nanci Young, head of the College Archives, that I was coming here, she said 'They're crazy for history in Minnesota!' The Smith archivists hope yours will be a model for other clubs to transmit knowledge across generations."

In her remarks, Van Dyne shared profiles, based on materials in the Sophia Smith Collection, of a number of pioneering Smith students from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Looking at their lives as undergraduates as well as their accomplishments after college demonstrates how their undergraduate experiences at Smith helped shape their lives and how "talented women who are gathered together for 4 years in a community may spark personal transformation."



Of students at Smith then, Van Dyne said "parents inculcated expectations of feminine submissiveness, selfless maternity, domestic piety, and rigorous self-discipline. They came from Christian homes and extended networks of female kin devoted to family and church. Before they arrived they were accomplished at fine needlework, sketching, piano playing, and expected to teach, perhaps, but certainly to marry. How did these Victorian daughters come to devote their energies as adults instead to extending the virtues of moral

family life toward those less fortunate—enlisting in causes such as temperance, education of immigrants, reform of child labor, settlement houses, establishment of kindergartens, public libraries, birth control movements, and suffrage? A premise of the exceptionally fine historical scholarship on this question is that an important catalyst for this change is that women *went to college*."

What were the specific nature and means of the transformation from Victorian ladyhood to public service, asked Van Dyne. Through a series of vignettes and photos, she showed how "social phenomena were as transformative for women attending women's colleges as anything they studied." We heard the tales of Mary Mather, who held late-night coffees in her room; Gertrude Gane, who was a "chemistry girl" and who at elaborate dance parties sans men took on the task of leading; Ada Comstock (pictured above) from Moorhead, Minn., who became Dean of Women at the University of Minnesota, Dean of the College at Smith, and President of Radcliffe; and several others. These exuberant young women, Van Dyne said, "were experimenting with doing their own gender differently."

Participating in dramatics and taking on male roles enthusiastically, knocking themselves out in sports, staging the elaborate rituals of formal dances, hosting the subversive curfew-defying spreads that bound them to housemates—all meant, in Gane's words, "learning to lead just fine."

—Ann Pflaum & Marty Swain