

Smith Club of Minnesota

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A Word From the President . . .

—Betsey Whitbeck

Summer is in full swing, and so is the Smith Club. A May 18th Authors Evening at Eastcliff, the residence of the University of Minnesota's president, was quite a rewarding event for us). Following a tour of the lovely home and gardens we settled in for some literary treats in the form of readings by two club authors from their recent works.

Polly Grose '54 (middle in photo below) read a moving passage from *A London Scrapbook*, her memoir of falling in love, marrying, and living for 20 years in London with her dear husband, David. In her rich alto voice she told us about their life together, his death, and her move back home to Minnesota. Robyn Dean McHattie, Ada '96 (left), gave a spirited reading from her mystery novel, "Returning to Denver." Her protagonist, a graduate in art from Smith, leads a most interesting life, the plot twisting and revealing more than one mystery.



Ann Pflaum '63 (right) started off the Eastcliff Authors Evening with an historical over-

view of connections between Smith and the University of Minnesota, describing the accomplishments and significance of these various women's careers. Mary Ellen Chase, for instance, was an assistant professor of English at the U of M's professor of English at Smith, writing some 50 articles, biographies, essays, and novels over her career.

Another great event happened in April when we met at the Guthrie Theatre for our Annual Meeting, and a theatrical event it was. Daniel Kramer, a theater professor at Smith who teaches play adaptation, keynoted the meeting with comments about the Guthrie's *M Butterfly*, which he had attended the prior evening. He explained, among other things, what makes a work a "classic" and thus worthy of adaptation. Afterward, a group of us went for a behind-the-scenes tour. Its highlight for me was seeing the remarkable backstage and costume design areas and materials. The sets are constructed on-site now, unlike the old Guthrie where they were produced in St. Paul and trucked over to the theater. Also, all work spaces at the new Guthrie have natural light, so even the people at sewing machines can see the outdoors!

Huge thanks to our outgoing officers, *Ann Carr '69* and *Lara Villavicencio '04* for all their wonderful work over the past 2 years, and **welcome** VP Becky McManus and secretary Stephanie Frost! Becky (see below), will be overseeing salons and events—she's imaginative both professionally and personally, and it will be fun to see what she plans for us.

See you at **Smith Day** September 11!

MEMBER PROFILE

Becky McManus '78

Our new club VP, Becky McManus, grew up and attended school in Mahtomedi, on the border of town and country, surrounded by beautiful fields and woods. She was an active student leader. Her cousin had gone to Mount Holyoke, which lead her to want to attend a challenging East Coast school. Says Becky, "I just went through the huge American Colleges tome and decided Smith was where I wanted to go—frankly that was in spite of the fact that it was a women's college. The only other Smithie I knew was Nina Rothchild, a very impressive Mahtomedi school board member." Becky's first exposure to the Minnesota Smith Club was at the 1974 accepted students welcoming reception at the Woodhull's.

Becky was a psychology major at Smith, with an emphasis on the psychology of environ-

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Smith Day 2010—Great Escapes

★ September 11, 9 AM—3 PM, HOPKINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS★

No vaccinations needed for these travels!

Bargains and Fun Galore

Join your event chairs (*sherpas*), Cybel Monson and Pamela Coleman, to discover bargains and exotic mementos to commemorate your travel to **Smith Day 2010!** We hope to see all the familiar faces and many **new travelers** in our Smith Day “tour group.”

For those of you not familiar with Smith Day, it is our biggest event of the year and has been going strong for an unbelievable 78 years. It's a giant, high-quality sale with lunch, the proceeds from which go to our Minnesota endowed scholarship fund (see page 4 for this year's supported students). The sale and the days leading up to it provide a chance to work with, shop with, and visit with Smith friends and their guests. It's always a great time.

New this Year

There will be NO FEE for shopping-only travelers! We hope this encourages increased attendance. To help grow our numbers, your invitation will include a set of “tickets” that you can hand out to friends, acquaintances, family, neighbors, and maybe your dentist, lawyer, hairdresser?— anyone you think would enjoy this day-trip. If you'd like some tickets immediately, e-mail mnsmithclub@hotmail.com. Also new this year, you can pay for lunch using PayPal.



**Watch for your invitation
in August!**

Your Travel Destinations

**Donate . . . and don't forget
about Silent Auction!**

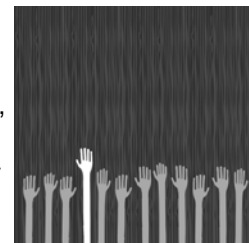
Smith Day Sherpas (Event Chairs) – Cybel Monson (612-317-0751/cmonson13@aol.com) & Pamela Coleman (952-929-8578/alishninwdrld@yahoo.com)

- ▶ **Paris & Milan (Clothing)** – Robin Hartwell (612-374-6166/robinhartwell@mac.com)
- ▶ **Blackwell's Bookstore, Oxford (Books)** – Brigid Brindley (612-929-2832/mbbrindley@comcast.net)
- ▶ **A Hillside in Tuscany (Lunch)** – Peggy Smith (952-939-6022/larry6022@aol.com)
- ▶ **A Market in Tahiti (Antiques/Collectibles)** – Nancy Malmon (952-544-4912/nancymalmon@aol.com) & Shirley Mah Kooyman (763-559-3114/smkooyman@gmail.com)
- ▶ **Orient Express (Move-in/Move-out)** – Pamela Coleman & Cybel Monson (see above)
- ▶ **Damascus (Supplies)** – Cybel Monson (see above)
- ▶ **French Quarter (Bakery) - HELP WANTED***
- ▶ **Silk Road (Silent Auction) - HELP WANTED***
- ▶ **Monaco (Raffle) - HELP WANTED***
- ▶ **United Nations (Registration)** – Stephanie Frost
- ▶ **Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Italy (Treasurer)** – Maggie Vecchio-Smith
- ▶ **Knossos (Quiz)** – Laurie & Joel Kramer
- ▶ **Concierge (Bag Check)** – **sign up for a 1-hour shift!***

*Please contact Pamela or Cybel to sign up—we NEED your help!

Many Hands Make Light Work

The week before the event, and especially during the event, there are many tasks to complete to guarantee success, as well as to ensure our dedicated department chairs are not run ragged. By volunteering for **as little as a 1-hour**, YOU can support this unique fundraising event and provide safe and happy travels for our Great Escape guests. Many opportunities to be a “day guide” are available – please contact Cybel or a department chair below to offer help before the sale or for a shift during the sale.



Donate Now—pack light and save room for your treasures!

We are happily accepting donations for Smith Day at our storage depot in Minnetonka, and will even send a *bellhop* to your abode to pick up! We are seeking quality clothes, books, *objects d'art*, and antiques/collectibles to sell as well as gift cards, tickets, services, and your special items for the silent auction. And don't forget hand-crafted gustatory delights for the bakery.

Contact chief *sherpa* Pamela to get instructions on finding and entering the storage unit or to arrange a pickup. And contact any of the department chairs below with questions/ideas and to offer a bit of time.



PROFILE continued from page 1

ment and aesthetics. She graduated cum laude and was in National Psychology Honor Society. Emerson was her house all four years, where she served as social chair sophomore year and house president junior year.

"I adored the beauty of Smith," Becky reminisced. "I'd often study in solitude on the bank of the Mill River or take off on my bike to discover new places. I took a year of horticulture so I could be in the greenhouse tending my plants and smelling the heavenly scents of sweet olive, gardenia, and jasmine. I also loved the 5-college system and took quite a few Amherst classes and a couple of UMass classes."



She met her husband-to-be, Charlie, a UMass student, the day of her last final. She reports that they had a week to get to know each other before she headed back home to Minnesota. He came out to visit, though, and they've been together for the 31 years since.

Becky took lots of studio art classes at Smith, a prelude to

her 30-year (so far) career in advertising and marketing. She was a pioneer in bringing computer graphic technology to commercial use. She recently left Blue Cross as head of advertising and communications to venture out on her own doing marketing consulting, specializing in interactive and brand marketing.

She's happy to say that she's a new grandmother! Son Ian and his English wife, Victoria, have a 9-month old, Aurielle Rose, but alas, they live across the pond in Cheltenham. Daughter Aria just finished her third year in a 5-year dual-degree program at New School University in Manhattan—pursuing her Product Design BFA from Parsons School of Design and a liberal arts BA from Eugene Lang College.

"My Smith experience was transformational," says Becky. "What I originally saw as its flaw—being women only—I've come to appreciate as a blessing. I'm sure I emerged from Smith a much more confident and capable person."

When asked her thoughts on Smith Day, Becky said emphatically, "Oh my God—practically all my clothes! People regularly compliment me on my professional wardrobe—they are incredulous when I share my secret. And bundles of great stuff for the kids as they grew up." She has been a regular Smith Day volunteer, co-chairing the now-defunct Phase 2 several times and co-chairing Smith Day itself with Ann Carr in 2007. She's also the creator of several of our invitations over recent years. Clearly a loyalist, she has "maybe missed one or two Smith Days in 31 years!"

Oral History Project News

—Laurie Kramer '69

Phase 2 of our club's Oral History Project is in full swing.

Eight interview teams have been trained, and the following alums have been interviewed to date: Sally Ross '45, Harriet Spencer '49, Marnie Hensel '52, Polly Grose '54, and Ella Slade '55. Those awaiting interviews are Connie Donnelly '51, Helen Hartfiel '56, Susan Allen Toth '61, and Peggy Lepik '65.

An additional group will be contacted as soon as the first set of interviews is complete. We hope to profile 16 women in the second oral history book—same as our first.

We're hearing reports that interviews are going very well and people on both sides of the microphone are having a "great experience."

Betsey Whitbeck '71, Barbara Klaas '74, Marty Swain '71, and Holly Dowds '71 are part of the steering committee for Phase 2. Please contact any of us if you are interested in being involved in any stage of the project.

And here's an example of the wonderful ties that our oral history project is creating: Emily Hagens, a brand new '10 Smith graduate, contacted me saying she had discovered the project while browsing our Web site and wondered if she could get involved. She is an incoming PhD student in the History of Medicine program at the University of Minnesota. She did a special studies project at Smith on the 1918 flu pandemic and its effects on the college as well as on female participation in the medical community.

I was able to gladly welcome Emily and hook her up as an interviewer of Minnesota alum Nadine Ide '48, who was the first woman dermatologist to graduate from the U of M. Perfect—a 62-year age difference yet a perfect Smith pairing!

Admissions News from the AACs*

—Justina Roberts & Caitlin Boley

We have had a busy spring. More than 10 alumnae helped with our spring tradition of delivering roses to admitted students, and the AACs were thrilled to have so much enthusiastic help!

We are delighted to announce that nine students from Minnesota are new Smithies:

- ★ Katie Paulson-Smith, Apple Valley
- ★ Lindy Jensen, Buffalo
- ★ Jaimeson Rossow, Dundas
- ★ Ellen Jirik, Edina
- ★ Mary Gossard-Hoffman, Minneapolis (South High)
- ★ Christina Fisher Nelson, Minneapolis (Southwest High)
- ★ Hattie Ryan, Northfield (who is returning from a Rotary Exchange year in Brazil)
- ★ Marisa Kubik, White Bear Lake (who is headed off on a Rotary Exchange year but will attend Smith in 2011)
- ★ Marissa Buie '12, Edina (who is transferring to Smith this fall)

The AACs will holding a send-off party for new and current students on Saturday, August 14th. For details please contact Caitlin at cboley@alumnae.smith.edu.

And on a happy note for the AAC committee, **Anna Mikelson '02** has recently joined our recruiting efforts, coming to us as a seasoned veteran from New York City where she served as an AAC. Welcome Anna!

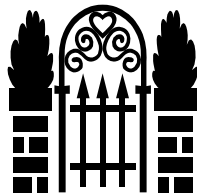
*Alumnae Admissions Coordinators

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SUMMER 2010

All About Smith Day,
your GREAT ESCAPE!

Minnesota Smith News

■ James Stageberg, husband of club member Susan Toth '61, died July 7. He was a well-known and much-admired leader in the architecture community. His obituary can be found at www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?n=james-edgar-stageberg&pid=143972947, and a July 11 news story at *Star Tribune* www.startribune.com/obituaries/98173654.html?elr=KArks:DCiUg4PaOEyPDiUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aULPQL7PQLan chO7DiUr.

■ Deborah Newhall '37 died June 9. As stated in her obituary (www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?n=deborah-anson-newhall&pid=143568519), she was “a skilled artist and sculptor, an active volunteer, a good duplicate bridge player, and an accomplished tennis player who played with gusto and determination until she was 85 years old.”

■ Philip Von Blon, husband of Joanne Von Blon '45 and father of Margaret Wurtele '67, died February 3. Described in a February 5 article in the *Star Tribune* as “a philanthropic visionary whose influence in Twin Cities cultural life spanned more than 50 years,” he co-founded the Guthrie Theater, helped build the Walker Art Center, and chaired the State Arts Council. His obituary can be found at www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?n=philip-von-blon&pid=139385021, and the article at www.startribune.com/obituaries/83607552.html?elr=KArksUUUoDEy3LGDio7aiU.

■ Lida Gilbertson '05 has launched a public health consulting business with a partner. They specialize in providing program evaluation, research, and capacity-building assistance to non-profit organizations. New to the game of consulting, they welcome advice from experienced Smithies as well as potential projects (eg, focus groups, survey development, data analysis, interviews). No project is too small! To get in touch, contact Lida at lida.gilbertson@gmail.com or 612-229-5623.

■ The college notified our club recently that our endowed Minnesota Scholarship Fund supported three students this past academic year: **Mai Houa Vue '12**, who is from Saint Paul and is a biochemistry major planning on becoming a pediatric oncologist; **Tenzing Khendu '13**, who is from Minneapolis and whose major is undeclared; and **Laura Miller '11**, from Apple Valley, who is majoring in architecture & urbanism and spent last summer as a Praxis intern at a Minneapolis architectural firm. Lovely thank you notes from the students were received by club president Betsey Whitbeck. Our dollars truly do good work.

*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 are published on a space-available basis.*

