

Smith Club of Minnesota

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A Word From the President . . .

—Betsey Whitbeck

The Smith College Club of Minnesota is *busy, busy!*

We held an evening reception for “newcomers” January 21st at Cecily Hines’ condo in the renovated Northstar Blankets building above the Stone Arch Bridge on the Mississippi. Our vice president, Ann Carr ’70, organized the event, which you can read about on page 3.

Our January 10th tea for prospective students was a major success! Peggy Leppik hosted the reception, organized by Justina Roberts and Caitlin Boley. A panel comprising six current Smith students, home on winter break, answered questions for about an hour (and were remarkably articulate and centered, I thought). Ten candidates attended, most with one or both parents. One young woman commented that she really liked “the feeling” she got from the event—that it was fun and friendly and made her excited about the prospect of attending Smith. Why are we not surprised?

The kickoff training session for the second phase of the Oral History Program is now scheduled for April 10. We can look forward to seeing fruits of this labor of love next winter. See page 3.

In December, twelve of us enjoyed a free concert by the fairly recently formed St.

Paul Vocal Forum. Club member Siri Caltvedt ’93 sang a solo, to our delight. The thought-provoking concert was entitled “Creation versus Evolution.” Among other pieces, a new composition was premiered, written by the forum’s conductor, David Ryan Moberg, using passages from Darwin’s Galapagos notebook. Afterward we had a memorably good dinner at the new Rinata’s cafe. What an enjoyable evening!

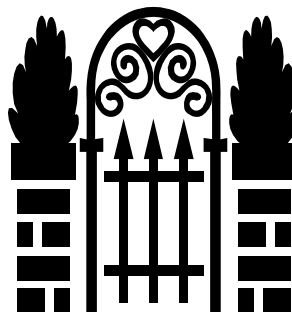
Smith Day 2009 was quite successful, yielding more than \$12,000 in net profits. Learn more about the event on page 2,

and start looking forward to Smith Day 2010. I’ll simply say that it was and is always loads of fun to see old friends and meet new ones.

The Book and Knitting Clubs are on siesta but looking for more members, and word has it that a good time is promised the evenings they meet (see contact info at left).

Now we’re looking forward to the **Green Architecture Forum** February 9. We’ll learn about new technology for not only commercial but also residential applications. An e-mail was sent with the details and RSVP request, but if you receive this newsletter before the 9th and would like to attend, please contact Melanie Kiihn (see below).

Stay warm, be well, and stay in touch!



Smith Club Salon on Sustainable Design

A panel discussion on sustainable design will be held **Tuesday, February 9**, at 7:30 pm. Location is the **Nature Conservancy**, 1101 W River Pkwy, Suite 200, Minneapolis (across Gold Medal Park from the Guthrie). Melanie Kiihn ’93, a residential architect, is moderator, and panelists are interior designer Traci Lesneski, architect Todd Grover, and contractor Mel Salmi. Guests are welcome, and there is no cost to attend. RSVP Melanie at mkiihn@netscape.net or 612-408-1293. An optional dinner precedes the event at 6 pm at the **Red Stag Supper Club**, 509 1st Ave NE, Minneapolis. It’s “cheap-date night,” with a \$32 per-couple dinner that includes a bottle of wine. Thanks to Jane Howard ’75, who works at the Nature Conservancy, for hosting the event.

Smith Day 2009—Success Once Again!

Last year’s annual Smith Day sale, the “Smith Stimulus Package,” indeed *stimulated* much activity to support the Minnesota “Smith economy.” We raised \$12,000 to add to our endowed scholarship fund and support Praxis scholarships for Minnesota students.

Shoppers found bargains galore in the clothes, books, antiques, and other departments. One young alum apparently made *very good* use of her \$30 shopping voucher, exclaiming to all onlookers: “I got two pairs of brand-new shoes, a bathrobe, two books, a plant in a beautiful pot, and home-baked goodies!” In the bakery-gardening department, hundreds of beautiful flowers were donated for a “make your own bouquet” table. But the star merchandise of the day just might have been the Silent Auction’s pair of 50-yard-line Vikings vs Green Bay tickets!

We had so much wonderful merchandise this year and too many gorgeous leftovers at the end of the sale, so we hope to see even **more of you** and your friends at Smith Day 2010.

**** Save the date ****

**Saturday, September 11, 2010
for Smith Day 2010!**



Clockwise from above: Brigid Brindley in the book department; shoppers in the casual adult clothes department; an example of our gorgeous flowers; Kathy Ollivier checks out with Nancy Malmom in antiques/collectibles; Judy Neiswander shows off fresh cinnamon rolls in bakery/produce.



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We need your help **NOW** for Silent Auction 2010!

To my esteemed colleagues in the most illustrious Smith College Club of Minnesota:

Once again it’s time to remember and celebrate the greatness of our annual fundraising event, Smith Day! I, your humble servant, have agreed to undertake the mission of finding various and splendid treasures for the time-honored event’s Silent Auction. To that end, I come to you on bended knee requesting your help in enticing our attendees to bid heartily and support talented young academics during their time at Smith.

Surely you have housewarming gifts or bridal/baby shower items you’ve

never used but that may be of great interest to others? A bauble or other hidden treasure that has lain forgotten? A painting that doesn’t enhance your current décor?

Perhaps there’s a cultural institution you are closely associated with that might be persuaded to donate a pair of event tickets (or that you want to support by purchasing tickets)? Or do you frequent an excellent restaurant or boutique where everyone knows your name and you could ask for a gift certificate, item, or service (or support by purchasing one)?

And what about your *own* talents? Smith women have great knowledge and skills that can be shared with others! Gardening? Cooking? Dog-sitting? Interior design?

I’m open to suggestions and will gladly accept them—the sooner the better. Many vendors and merchants make donations early in the year, so act quickly!

Please contact me—this is always so much fun. Reach me at 952-929-8578 (h), 612-210-4104 (c), or alisninwdrld@yahoo.com. Looking forward to hearing from you!

—Pam Coleman '74

*P.S. If you have **gently used clothing** or **housewares** to donate for the sale, we are gladly accepting donations **NOW!** Contact Cybel Monson for pickup or drop-off: 612-317-0715 or cmonson13@aol.com.*

MEMBER PROFILE

Sarah Caruso '81

If you feel like you've read about Minnesota Smith Club member Sarah Caruso in the news lately, you're right. She was recently named president and CEO of the Greater Twin Cities United Way (UW), the largest nonprofit social service agency in Minnesota and the second-largest UW in the country, which puts her as the highest ranking woman in the worldwide UW system. In her new role, Sarah oversees the organization's progress against 10 measurable goals outlined in the *Agenda for Lasting Change*, developed to create pathways out of poverty for the region's most vulnerable citizens.

Sarah, daughter of Sally Baker Ross '45, grew up in St. Paul and attended St. Paul Academy & Summit School. At Smith, she lived in Baldwin House and says the friends she made there the first week of school "remain my dearest friends and we see each other regularly....We laughed, ate M & Ms, and drank beer—often wearing our Lanz nightgowns!" Sarah double-majored in economics and government and worked actively with student government.

After graduating from Smith with high honors and receiving her MBA from Stanford, Sarah worked in New York and then moved back to Minneapolis to work for General Mills, where she managed large consumer brands including Cheerios and Wheaties. She has received numerous national industry awards and citations for her marketing skills. She also served as president of the Minnesota Children's Museum for six years and in 2005 was appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty to chair the governor's Early Care and Education Council. She has served on several nonprofit boards, including ARC Greater Twin Cities, Children's Theater Company, Minnesota State Arts, and PACER Center.

She is married and has three "wonderful" children, who, she says, consider her "a bit of a nerd."

Sarah notes that Smith "gave me the opportunity to stretch myself intellectually and practice these skills in a supportive environment. I am an effective communicator because Walter Morris-Hale (government professor) required that I speak and write fluidly. Confidence is based on optimism and experience. Smith College gave me both."

Newcomers Event a Winner

The Newcomers reception January 21 was a huge success, with mingling and cheery exchange between newcomers and club officers. Said VP Ann Carr '70, who organized the event, "What an interesting bunch of people, and so appealing—I wanted to take them home!" In all, 21 attended and enjoyed rollicking discussion. Cecily Hines '73 was the perfect host in her downtown loft overlooking the river.



Oral History Project News

—Laurie Kramer '69

Phase 2 of our Oral History Project kicks off this spring with a training session for all interested club members on **April 10**. Newcomers to Minnesota are especially invited to participate. The time commitment is limited, and it is a great way to get to know other alums. Interviews are conducted by two-person teams.

Phase 1 of the project was a great experience for interviewees and interviewers alike. And the resulting book—*Strong Women Building Strong Communities*—is almost sold out.

Smith President Carol Christ sent copies of our first book to the entire Board of Trustees of the college as her holiday gift in 2008, and we've heard she takes a copy whenever she travels, to show other clubs.

The training is open to experienced and prospective interviewers and other club members—including alums who were interviewed for Phase 1 and want to be on the other side of the microphone this time. If you are thinking about doing an oral history of your own family, you will find the training to be invaluable.

Please e-mail me at kramer@visi.com for more information or to reserve your spot at the training.

Great Admissions News from the AACs*

—Justina Roberts & Caitlin Boley

We're happy to report that 55 young women from Minnesota have applied to Smith for the fall! Even better, Ellen Jirik of Edina has already received early acceptance. Others wait anxiously for their spring letters to arrive. We're looking for club volunteers to deliver roses to admitted students in early April; please contact Caitlin Boley at cboley@alumnae.smith.edu if you're able to help with this unique Minnesota tradition.

Peggy Leppik '65 graciously hosted the traditional Smith Winter Tea at her Golden Valley home in early January, attended by 10 prospective students and their parents as well as six current students and several alumnae. The current students did a marvelous job of answering a variety of questions about Smith, and there were no shoe mix-ups this year! As always, let us know if you'd like to help with

admissions work or offer your home for one of our events during the year.

L to R: Peggy Leppik, Caitlin Boley, and Justina Roberts at the winter tea.

*Alumnae admissions coordinators



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[http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/
minnesota/](http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/minnesota/)

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YOUR WINTER 2010 ISSUE!

Minnesota Smith News

- **Shirley Mah Kooyman '73** received the Bruce Beresford Horticulture Educators Award from the MN State Horticultural Society on Feb. 7, 2009. The award is given to honor a person who has been an educator in the gardening world for 15 years or more. Shirley has been at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for 25 years and has been teaching for just as long. Currently she is the Adult Education Manager and Plant Specialist at the Arboretum. She was nominated for the award by the Hennepin County Master Gardener Program, where she has been a member since 1984.
- **Helen Baumgartner '54** and her husband, Paul, have been playing (piano, that is) up a storm. In addition to Minnesota performances, they presented an all-Mendelssohn program of original four-hand piano pieces last fall in Northampton and on January 16 played at Smith's own Sage Hall!
- **Robyn Dean McHattie '96** announces publication of her debut "fine arts world novel" about a young Smith grad returning home to find her footing in an art career, society, and marriage. Billed as "part coming of age, part mystery," it's titled *Returning to Denver* and is available at www.amazon.com. Robyn describes it as "good, clean company and many laughs for winter!"
- Club member **Pat Jaffray '53** died January 23, 2010. As stated in her obituary at www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?n=patricia-dorn-jaffray&pid=138905757, her philanthropic and leadership contributions to Minneapolis spanned almost 60 years. An additional article about Pat, a "volunteer extraordinaire," is at www.startribune.com/obituaries/83088777.html?elr=KARksUUUoDEy3LGDio7aiU.

- Club member **Helen Woodhull Kramer '34** died October 2, 2009. She was one of the featured subjects of our club's first oral history book, *Strong Women Building Strong Communities*, and was there with great excitement at its debut in November 2008. Her obituary is at www.legacy.com/obituaries/twincities/obituary.aspx?n=helen-woodhull-kramer&pid=134060435.

- Richard Noland, husband of club member **Jane Noland '43**, died December 18, 2009, leaving her "after 54 years of laughter and mutual devotion." A long-time mover and shaker in the Twin Cities advertising world, his obituary can be read at www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?n=richard-fewell-noland&pid=137736085.

PLEASE, 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.

Annual Meeting—Save the Date!

On Saturday, **April 24**, Daniel Kramer, who teaches acting and directing at Smith, with a focus on play adaptation and contemporary production of Shakespeare, will be our speaker. We'll meet at the **Guthrie Theater** for brunch, discussion, and a backstage tour. Invitations will be mailed. Please plan on coming and spending a stimulating spring morning with friends!