

Smith College Club of Minnesota  
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\*\*\* Smith Day info—see page 2 \*\*\*

SUMMER 2011

# Smith Club of Minnesota

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

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763-377-9740  
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### Vice-President

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### Secretary

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### Alumnae Admissions

■ Anna Mikelson '06  
612-354-3507  
[annamikelson@gmail.com](mailto:annamikelson@gmail.com)  
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■ Justina Roberts '06  
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### Communications/Membership

Marty Swain '71  
952-474-2466  
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## Did you know?

*Of the 40 Smith applicants for Fulbright scholarships in fall 2010, 19 landed them. This is the most in the college's history. Smith over the past seven years holds the top position in the country in consistently producing Fulbright winners and is also top in our success rate (ratio of winners to applicants)—at 47.5%, more than 2.5 times the national average. See [www.smith.edu/fulbright/news.php](http://www.smith.edu/fulbright/news.php) for more information.*

## A Word From the President . . .

—Barbara Klaas '74

I am thrilled and honored to be the club's new president. I believe strongly in the value and benefit of Smith College clubs. I know I am not unique when I say that because of the club, I now count more non-class of '74 Smithies as friends than I do actual classmates! And recently, my husband and I moved to London for five years. As a newcomer there, I can attest to how vital that club was in helping me find my way: the connections, friendships, and interesting activities through the Smith Club there made the experience richer. I know our club plays that same role for Smith alumnae new to Minnesota.

Whether we are newcomers or Smithies who have lived here forever, the support, camaraderie, intellectual stimulation, and instant bonding that take place with Smith alumnae is unique and to be treasured. I want to foster these connections.

I hope to continue the tradition of salons and other gatherings to bring Smithies of all ages together. If you have ideas or suggestions of interesting topics, speakers, or events, please let me know. And I hope we can develop some type of web-based bulletin board/networking site for the club. If you are technically

savvy and interested, we'd love your expertise.

The club is in great shape thanks to the strong leadership of Betsey Whitbeck, our outgoing president, Maggie Vecchio-Smith, our outgoing treasurer, and others past and present. The club is a stellar example of the very best of Smith College clubs. Trust me, I know, having served on the board of the London club. Smith College staff would reference the Minnesota club when they visited us in England; our club's Oral History Project and Smith Day put us on the map in Europe!

Speaking of Smith Day, I strongly encourage you to come to Smith Day, even if for just a short while. Even better, volunteer for an hour or two the week of set up or during the event. Either way, the friendships and connections you make will last a lifetime!

Currently, the AASC website features an article entitled "In My View: Smith Is" at <http://alumnae.smith.edu/cms/?spotlight=in-my-view-smith-is>. It is an interesting article that provides a young alumna's perspective and encourages us to reflect on why we loved Smith College. In my view, Smith is its strong and supportive alumnae. The Minnesota Smith Club is the vehicle for that support!

## Oral History Update

Phase 2 of the club's Oral History Project is moving into the next stage—editing!

By the time you read this newsletter, all 16 interviews will have been conducted. Most of the alums interviewed for Phase Two graduated in the 1940s and 50s, plus a few in the 60s. Interviewers range from the class of 1950 to the class of 2010.

About half the transcripts and write-ups have already been turned in, with the rest on their way. Design work will be done this fall and winter, with publication of the book in the spring. Then, it's celebration time once again! —Laurie Kramer '69

## Minnesota Smith News/Ads

### ■ GORGEOUS GRAND PIANO LOOKING FOR NEW HOME.

As I'm timorously starting to downsize, I need to find a new owner for my wonderful 5'8" grand piano, from Mason & Hamlin's "golden age" (1915). After purchasing it in 1968, I had it refinished and restrung, and I have kept it tuned, meticulously maintained, and cherished all these years. In 2007, the piano received new Renner hammers, shanks, and flanges. (That will mean something to those who know pianos. Otherwise depend on John McKone, a registered piano technician who appraises pianos for MacPhail, who stated: "The piano plays beautifully and has a very warm tone with an amazing sustain.") The piano was appraised at \$14,000. A new Mason & Hamlin, not of this quality, would cost two or three times that amount. Mine is a mellow walnut, with its original ivory keys. I can e-mail pictures! I can answer questions! Come to my home near Lake Harriet and try it out. I would be delighted to sell this piano for \$10,000.

—Susan Allen Toth '61  
612-927-0594  
[susanatoth@gmail.com](mailto:susanatoth@gmail.com)

■ Ann Trevelyan Hacker (Trevie), class of 1947, died recently. Her daughter, Ellen Hacker, let our club know this sad news. Ann lived in the Minneapolis area from 1993 until her death. She lived in Laura Scales and listed her occupation as "seller of Indian arts."

■ Peggy Leppik '65 reports that a Smith classmate of hers, Gardi Hauck, was in Egypt on a Smith tour of 24 people, including Mary Maples Dunn and her husband, during the opening days of the uprising last winter. Gardi sent a fascinating description of events to Peggy. Among her comments: "...a huge wave of demonstrators were driven back by the dreaded police force looking like so many Darth Vaders locked arm-in-arm and then returned and knelt in prayer—a profoundly moving sight." If you'd like the message forwarded, write to Peggy at [peggyleppik@comcast.net](mailto:peggyleppik@comcast.net) or Marty Swain (see below).

If you have any **NEWS**—about yourself or another area alumna, please contact Marty Swain at 952-474-2466 or [mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto: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.



## SMITH SPA (Smith Day 2011)

Saturday, Sept 10, 9:30 am – 3 pm  
 ☞ Hopkins Center for the Arts ☞



**Smith Day** will be upon us in just over a month. And as the temperature rises and you retreat into air-conditioned comfort, it's a perfect time to prowl through closets and boxes to find those seldom-used and salable items to benefit our club's annual scholarship fund-raiser. Remember that all donations to Smith Day are tax-deductible, and receipts are available at the storage lockers and during set-up week at the Hopkins Center for the Arts.

The theme this year is **SMITH SPA**, and this year's chairs (see below) have had fun dreaming up department names and Silent Auction ideas. However, the success of the event really depends on Smith Club members *donating, volunteering, and shopping*. Bring friends too – they'll have a great time finding bargains, and Smith students will benefit! Your invitation will arrive in the mail shortly. The department chairs listed below need volunteers during set-up week (evening hours available) Sept 6-9 and/or to work a shift on Saturday.

### Donations—Here's What We Need

► **Bakery.** Anything from meringues to pies to salsa to fresh flowers. Home-made or from your favorite bakery/farm stand welcome.

► **Books.** Fiction, nonfiction, children's, coffee table books, etc (please no textbooks, encyclopedias, or old travel books).

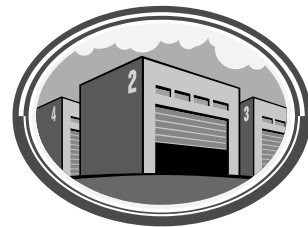
► **Clothing.** Our biggest department! Bring clean, high-quality garments, shoes, purses, scarves, children's items. Vintage clothes welcome.

► **Auction Items.** Theater, music, or sporting event tickets, gift certificates (think spa-type and healthy restaurants to go with this year's theme), gift baskets, art, jewelry, dinner parties, services, vacation homes. Use your imagination!

► **Antiques & Housewares.** Tableware, linens, frames, glassware, table and kitchen accessories in good condition. Bring small electrics only if they are in good working condition.

### Storage/Pickup

Lockers in Minnetonka/Hopkins are available to drop off donations. Call or e-mail one of the Event Chairs listed below to get directions and access information. If you are unable to drop off donations, call for pickup or bring items directly to the Hopkins Center during set-up week (Tuesday, Sept 6 – Friday, Sept 9).



#### Event Chairs

Barbara Klaas 763-377-9740 [baklaas@gmail.com](mailto:baklaas@gmail.com)  
 Peggy Leppik 763-546-3328 [peggyleppik@comcast.net](mailto:peggyleppik@comcast.net)  
 Lisa Peilen 952-920-9441 [peill@aol.com](mailto:peill@aol.com)

#### Reinvent Yourself (Clothing)

Robin Hartwell 612-374-6166 [robinhartwell@mac.com](mailto:robinhartwell@mac.com)

#### Meditation (Books)

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

#### Contemplative Shopping (Silent Auction)

Pamela Coleman 612-210-4104 [alishinwdrld@yahoo.com](mailto:alishinwdrld@yahoo.com)  
 Lisa Peilen (see above)

#### Feng Shui (Antiques/Collectibles)

Nancy Malmon 952-544-4912 [nancymalm@aol.com](mailto:nancymalm@aol.com)  
 Jody Duclos 612-926-0900  
 Shirley Kooyman 763-559-3114 [smkooyman@gmail.com](mailto:smkooyman@gmail.com)

#### Decadence (Bakery)

Emily Hagens 952-797-2161 [emily.e.hagens@gmail.com](mailto:emily.e.hagens@gmail.com)  
 Sarah Garrett [sarahg111@comcast.net](mailto:sarahg111@comcast.net)

#### Casino Spa (Silent Auction)

Jane Howard [jhoward@TNC.ORG](mailto:jhoward@TNC.ORG)  
 Holly Churchward 952-832-0388

#### Clear Your Mind (Quiz)

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

#### Spa Concierge (Bag Check)

Need Volunteers! (Contact Event Chairs)

#### Pumping Iron (Move-In/Move-Out)

Pamela Coleman (see left), Marty Swain (see page 1)

#### Spa Gear (Supplies)

Cybel Monson [cmonson13@aol.com](mailto:cmonson13@aol.com)

### Member Profile—Ann Alton '67

My favorite question to a job applicant is this: Tell me the five things that are not on your resume but are important to understanding who you are.

Who am I? I am a mother, judge, law professor, trial lawyer, widow, daughter, sister, and aunt. My life has been full of joy and sorrow, victory and defeat. My first-born child, Matthew, died in my arms from respiratory distress. My only living child, Brady M. Alton Freeman, is my most important accomplishment. My first marriage failed because we focused on our careers rather than our marriage. My second husband, Jerry Freeman, was the love of my life. He was a trial lawyer, a former detective, an alcoholic, and a charming rogue. He died of cancer in the arms of Brady and me after 25 years of marriage and 30 years of sobriety.

I grew up on the prairie in Pipestone, in southwest Minnesota, oldest of five, and attended public school.

We moved to Lake Minnetonka in 1962 just before my senior year in high school. Three things helped route the course of my life that fall.

- Our realtor arranged for me to attend a party with the Mound Seniors.
- A college counselor suggested I consider the Ivies.
- I attended a Smith Club tea for prospective students. I fell on ice in the parking lot. My Smithie greeter looked at me, then gave me bandaids and pantyhose from her purse. Her calm common sense was the best recommendation for Smith College.

My first view of Smith was the Quad. A taxi dropped me, alone, at the front door of Jordan House. I was scared and excited about the adventure ahead. I made my closest life-long women friends at Smith, especially in Jordan. At my first orientation lecture freshman year in 1963, President Mendenhall said two memorable things: "You are all used to being the Queen Bee. Look around and you will see 625 other Queen Bees" and "A Smith diploma is only a means to an end. To earn it, you must use your degree to make the world a better place."

My great grandmother Alton told me I can do anything I want to do, and Smith helped me believe it.

I graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in June 1970. I went to work for the Hennepin County Attorneys as a law clerk right after the Bar exam and set out to get into the Adult

Criminal Division to prosecute felony cases. Juries in 1970 did not like women lawyers, but colleagues in the office helped by sending me to court day after day to question witnesses and argue



motions. On Friday, Oct 16, 1970, I was sworn in to the Bar in Minnesota; on Monday, Oct 19, I selected a jury in my very first felony trial. A woman on that jury panel said, "That young woman can't possibly know what she's doing." The judge excused her, sternly inquired if anyone else had a problem (silence), and I became the

first woman to prosecute felony jury trials in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

During the next 4 years I tried more than 50 felonies, notably a lot of sex crimes and homicides. After a year off with Brady after his birth in 1984, I went into the Civil Division at the county, where I was the Senior Attorney for all of the county's labor and employment matters for 4 years. In 1989, Gov. Rudy Perpich appointed me to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court, Hennepin County bench, where I am a general jurisdiction trial court judge.

Finally, teaching law has been my avocation since 1973. I've taught at all four Minnesota law schools and other venues and have taught my father, my only brother, my brother-in-law, my husband, and my son. The pinnacle of my judicial and teaching career came in December 2010, when I presided over my son's mock jury trial in my own courtroom (see photo). The thrill is indescribable!

In conclusion, Smith taught me how to learn; law school taught me how to reason. And an aside: Smith Day was the source of most of my professional wardrobe for at least 20 years. I bought my first St. John suit and my first Ferragamo shoes, both unworn with price tags, at Smith Day. I was very well dressed without breaking the bank. I usually still find a treasure or two and do not believe I've ever missed a Smith Day.

☞

### A Fascinating June Evening

On June 14, more than 60 club members and guests gathered for our club's 2011 annual meeting at the Golden Valley Country Club. We honored outgoing president, Betsey Whitbeck, and treasurer, Maggie Vecchio-Smith, and elected our new president, Barbara Klaas, and treasurer, Tanya Cromey. VP Becky McManus made all the arrangements. The meal was delicious and was accompanied by a soundtrack—booming thunderstorms outside!

Our speaker was Deborah Haas-Wilson, Marilyn Carlson Nelson Professor of Economics at Smith. She spoke about the healthcare reform system enacted in 2006 in Massachusetts and its lessons for the forthcoming federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. A lively Q&A session followed her comments and slides.



### Admissions News

We had a great spring in the world of admissions, with 49 students from Minnesota applying to Smith and 35 accepted. After a successful accepted-students tea in April, graciously hosted by Barbara Klaas, we are pleased to welcome 14 new students who will begin in the fall. Three are Stride Scholars and one is an Ada Comstock.

We will be hosting a send-off party on August 21st at Caitlin Boley's home, giving the new and current students a chance to meet and socialize before they head off for the year.

We thank all of the alums who attended the accepted students tea as well as everyone who helped deliver roses to the accepted students. Your assistance is much appreciated!

Finally, welcome to Emily Hagens '10, our newest AAC!

—Anna Mikelson '06