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*** Smith Day wrap-up & pictures—see pages 2 & 3

JANUARY 2012

Smith Club of Minnesota

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Oral History Volume 2

As you probably know, a committee of club members is hard at work on the second phase of our very successful oral history project. Our first book, published in 2008, featured the fascinating stories of 16 alums. The next volume will debut at our **Annual Meeting** this spring and includes the stories of 16 more of our distinguished Minnesota Smith women. Watch for details, and join the excitement of anticipation!

A Word From the President . . .

—Barbara Klaas '74

Our club has been busy! Smith Day, in early September, was a wonderful success.

In October, club members participated in two theatrical salons. Polly Grose '54 hosted a gathering where several Smithies demonstrated their talents reading Polly's play, "A London Concerto," based on her life in London with British husband David Grose. According to Polly, not only did the Smithies outperform professional readers, but the audience of critics, who gave the play a "thumbs up," also provided valuable insights.

Our next event was a preview performance of "The Birth of Venus," by Lisa Meyer '11 and directed by 20% Theatre Company founder Claire Avitabile '08. The play, which explores the depths of love and friendship, was performed at Smith in May 2011. The Minneapolis performance was its first professional production. The acting and directing were excellent, and we enjoyed a lively discussion with the playwright, director, and actors.

In November, club members created fascinator hairpieces that easily could have been worn by guests at the Royal Wedding! Upcoming events include another creative opportunity—Make Your Own Valentines (see pg 3).

On Sunday afternoon, March 18, we'll have the opportunity to take a tour of the historic State and Pantages Theaters on Hennepin. We'll adjourn for drinks and appetizers after the tour. Watch your e-mail inbox for details about this and other upcoming salons.

The club's Annual Meeting will follow in late April or May.

Some of you, I know, have watched your e-mail inbox and mailbox in vain for mailings from our club. I am really sorry (and

perplexed) by the communication troubles some have had. Our club relies for addresses on the college's Alumnae Directory. We use regular mail for newsletters, Annual Meeting invitations, and Smith Day invitations; we use e-mail for announcements of salons and other club or college events. E-mail is timely, and it certainly helps keep costs down.

To make sure we have your correct addresses, or if you know of a Smithie who is not getting mailings or e-mails, please go to www.smith.edu. Choose "For Alumnae" on the right side of the page. If you have

an account, log in and make sure both your mail and e-mail addresses are listed; also see that you are signed up for broadcast e-mails. If there is anything incorrect or missing, please update your profile. If you or someone you know is not signed up on the Alumnae Directory, please

click "login" on the left side of the AASC page and you will be sent to the Alumnae Directory page. You will see "Not yet registered for the community," where you can register. If you have any trouble, please call me (763-458-3080) or send a message (baklaas@gmail.com) and I'll be happy to help! We want all Minnesota Smithies to be connected to our club and events.

There is now another reason to make sure you receive club e-mails: The Twin Cities Alumni Network (TCAN). TCAN, an association of select alumni clubs including Ivy League colleges, facilitates interclub events—social, business, educational, and community-service activities. When appropriate, participating alumni clubs will include other clubs in their activities. Robin Hartwell '86 has been instrumental in the creation of this network, and our

continued on page 2

Club & College News

■ **Anne Stavney '85**, a leader in the Seattle school system, will be taking over the reigns at The Blake School this summer as Head of School, succeeding John Gulla. She was chosen from a field of impressive candidates, and is considered by the Blake search committee as "an ideal fit." She will be moving here in the summer with her husband, Dan, and 3-year-old daughter, Grace. She reported in an e-mail to Jane Howard '73, who wrote to congratulate her, "It's terrific to know there's an active Smith Alumnae group in the MSP area and I would love to get involved." Lucky us!

■ **Mary Knoblauch Dalrymple Morrison '36**, of Wayzata, died on August 22, 2011. She was active in myriad activities in the Twin Cities. Memorials were directed to a number of causes, including Smith College. One of her children, Judy Dalrymple Wood, graduated from Smith in 1966 and lives in Wayzata.

■ Smith alumna **Ann W. H. Simonds '85**, president of the General Mills Pillsbury USA Division, was recently elected to the board of directors for the Hennepin Theatre Trust.

■ **Kirsten Fisher '85**, professor of early American history at the University of Minnesota, received the Horace T.

Morse Award for outstanding contributions to undergraduate teaching. An enthusiastic and popular teacher at the U of M, she says she is still inspired by the amazing professors she had at Smith. She is currently a Fulbright scholar in Heidelberg, Germany.

■ In a story in the fall 2011 issue of *Landscape Architecture*, Smith's landscape is cited as "perhaps the purest marriage of botanic garden and campus when both pedagogy and aesthetics are taken into account."

■ Smith alumna and former U.S. Congresswoman **Jane Harman '66** says her college education was influential to her career success. "Smith College was a major contributing factor to the empowerment of a generation of women like me. Smith offered a nurturing environment in which I began to develop confidence as a leader, and it gave me the tools to think critically and reach higher."

■ Did you know that the University of Minnesota has an annual Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture and Award, established to honor scholarly accomplishments and leadership of women faculty at the U of M?

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



Smith Day Spa Recap

There was positive energy in the air as Smithies and their guests practiced contemplative shopping along the Silent Auction walk; reinvented themselves (and in some cases got a good workout too as they madly gathered up and tried on clothes); meditated among a well-organized selection of books and personally autographed copies of Robyn Dean McHattie's '96 newest book, *Oxford Vindaloo*; had a decadent moment snacking on (and stocking up on) a pastry or two while keeping well hydrated with spa water (a big hit!); and embraced feng shui by selecting the perfect antique or household item to bring balance to their lives and homes. Thanks to all of our wonderful members and guests for making our **Smith Day Spa** a grand success! Our department chairs did a terrific job, we had an incredible number of exciting items and services in Silent Auction, we had high-quality donations, and a cadre of dedicated club members pulled the event together.

The Smith Day Spa not only offered great bargains but it also invigorated our connections with fellow Smithies, young and old, well known and new to the club. Just to name a few: Mariko (Marley) Hanson '11 jumped right into Smith Day, taking a shift in the Bak-

ery and selling raffle tickets. And Emily Hagens '10 has embraced Smith Day, taking a leadership role in Bakery for the last two years. Of course, Mary Taylor '55 with daughter Robin Hartwell '86 were the mainstays in Adult Clothes. We missed Grace Norris '47, who was convalescing at Minnesota Masonic Homes, but were happy to see her daughters there as usual, enjoying their spa experience. These are just a few of our many spa participants. Catching up with Smith friends while we shopped, stood in the check-out line, or mingled at lunch offered the best restorative benefit of the day!

Save Saturday, Sept 8,
for Smith Day 2012!

Smith Day Spa was also a success financially. We made over \$17,000, a significant increase from recent years. These profits will be added to our endowed scholarship fund and will cover club expenses, such as this newsletter!

And finally, we are pleased to report that the chairs for **Smith Day 2012** are already in place: Elissa Mautner '77 will join two of us 2011 chairs (Barbara & Peggy), and Lisa, always active with Silent Auction donations, will this year co-chair that department with Pamela Coleman '74 to see if they can outdo themselves! Many depart-

ment chairs have stepped up again.

As all will attest, working on Smith Day is a terrific way to get to know some incredible women and have fun. So whether you are a lover of Antiques Roadshow and would be willing to help in antiques & collectibles, you love Project Runway and want to try your hand at pulling together new looks from used clothes, or you just want to show your support for Smith and our club, we want you!

Start collecting donations for this year (the Depot is open, just call us), and ask friends—especially those who enjoy coming to Smith Day—if they will start collecting quality items to donate too. And be sure to think about your connections with businesses or organizations plus other ideas for Silent Auction items. Many businesses allot a limited amount for donations, so the earlier in the year we approach them the better.

Thanks again to all volunteers and shoppers for making **Smith Day Spa** a HUGE success.

Barbara Klaas '74
Peggy Leppik '65
Lisa Peilen '69

See pictures
of the marvelous day
to the right ▶

A Slight Club Dues Change

In the past, our dues collection has run on a yearly cycle that starts at our Annual Meeting in the spring. While this is easy for people to remember, it causes headaches when it comes time to file our yearly taxes (where we count mem-



bers on the regular calendar year) and our annual report to the college (where we count members by fiscal year). As such, starting now, we will record dues on the fiscal year calendar, **July 1–June 30**. You can continue to pay dues at the Annual Meeting, through the form sent out with the summer newsletter, or at Smith Day. Contact treasurer Tanya Cromey with questions (see pg 1 for contact info).

President's column, continued

club's executive committee has agreed to try it out. You should have received an e-mail message on January 4 listing a couple of TCAN events. Let me know if you didn't get it.

I also have very good news to report about the **Smith Club of Minnesota Scholarship Fund**. The college's 2010-11 endowment return of over 19% increased the market value of the college's portfolio to pre-recession levels. Our Scholarship Fund now has a mar-

ket value of over \$2.2 million!

Finally, I had the good fortune of visiting Northampton right before New Year's Day (see picture on pg 1). Although the college buildings were locked up for break, the campus and the grounds looked spectacular. No snow and unseasonably warm weather meant green grass and open water on Paradise Pond. Baskin's "The Owl" near Wright Hall looked ready to hoot and lay an egg; Elliot Offner's "Great Blue Heron" by Lyman Plant House

looked ready to take flight. Walking around Smith brought back many memories and a sense of gratitude for the wonderful educational experience it provides. Our club's fundraising allows young women to experience Smith College, and our club's activities allow us all to share the wisdom, experience, and talent of Smith graduates.

See you at our salons and Annual Meeting!



Smith Day 2011 in Pictures

Top row, l to r: Peggy Leppik, Sarah Garrett, Peggy Smith & Marley Hanson in Bakery; Mary Gould, Bobby Brown & Helen Anderson in Books; Barbara Klaas & Connie Donnelly in Auction. Row 2: Paula Vesely, Kathy, Andre & Danielle Ollivier; Ellen Leupker & Patty Schmidt at lunch; Marnie Hensel (right) & granddaughter, Lucy Kearney, 14. Row 3: Jane Howard, Holly Churchward & future-Smithie helper at raffle. Bottom row: Housewares ready to go; Robyn Dean McHattie, Stephanie Frost & Tanya Cromey at registration.

ALUMNAE ADMISSIONS NOTES

The AACs (Justina Roberts '06, Anna Mikelson '02, and Emily Hagens '10) have been busy interviewing prospective students all fall. On January 7th they held a tea for prospective students at the home of Randy Lebedoff '71, and had a great turnout: 17 high school students and parents, along with 6 current students and 5 local alums. It's always marvelous to see the energy and excitement of current students as they describe our alma mater. Spring-time brings rose delivery to our accepted students. Contact Anna at annamikelson@gmail.com to help.

Emily ('10) and Jean Hagens are hosting a **Valentine Making Party** on February 4. They'll provide decorative papers, stickers, glitter, lace, stamps, and cardstock for you to make valentines for your loved ones! The event is open to 10 people and costs \$10 for supplies and snacks. You can expect to bring home between 5 and 10 greeting cards. Please **RSVP** Emily at emily.e.hagens@gmail.com or 952-797-2161 by **January 28**.

