

Smith Club of Minnesota

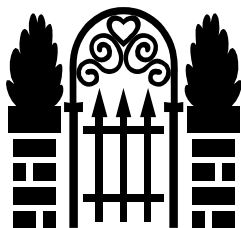
A Word From the President . . .

—Barbara Klaas '74

Hot! Hot! Hot! Yes, the summer has been hot, but I'm talking about our Smith Club activities!

The annual meeting on May 6 (see pictures on page 3) celebrated publication of the club's renowned Oral History Project, *Strong Women Building Strong Communities, Book 2*, and honored the women whose stories are told in the book (see box at lower right). A slide show narrated by Smithies who worked on the project highlighted the childhoods, Smith experiences, careers and volunteer activities, accomplishments, and challenges faced by this amazing group of women. It was a moving and motivating experience. To think we have such incredible women in Minnesota and they all went to Smith! Several of the guests and spouses there took time after the event to let me know how touched and impressed they were. Amanda Geno, Development Officer from Smith College who was there representing the college, e-mailed to say: "What an incredible, dedicated group of alumnae you have in Minnesota.... There are few other alumnae in the country who understand so well the importance of preserving women's historical materials."

Many, many club members worked to preserve these stories in published form: the interviewees, interviewers, transcribers, writers, editors, and committee members who shepherded the whole project. Their names appear in the box on page 5. In addition to acknowledging the women who so graciously agreed to share their stories, I want especially to thank Laurie Kramer '69, Betsey Whitbeck '71, Marty Swain '71, Margaret Nikoleit '84, and Holly Dowds '71; they spearheaded the project and provided excellent editorial support. And Laurie did a spectacular job creating the slideshow. We were also fortunate to have several women from Book 1 join the celebration. This project is known throughout the Smith College alumnae world, and many clubs are interested in learning from us.



During the business meeting, Smith Day Chairs Peggy Leppik '65, Elissa Mautner '77, and I unveiled this year's Smith Day theme—*Smith Day on Broadway*—in a musical skit (see page 2 for all the info.) New officers were elected: Stephanie Frost '77 as secretary (graciously agreeing to take on another term), and Justina Roberts '06 as vice president (see profile on page 5). We thanked Becky McManus '78 for her excellent service to the club as outgoing vice president. She did a great job organizing the annual meeting as her last official duty.

Good news was reported on the club's finances. We sent \$4,800 to the college to support two Praxis internships; and we sent \$15,000 for our club's endowed scholarship fund. At the end of 2011, this fund had reached more than \$2.2 million. We are approaching the fund's 50th anniversary in 2014! (To keep our club and our endowed fund strong, we need you to pay your dues, purchase Book 2, and shop at Smith Day!)

Other HOT events this late winter/spring included Valentine making, hosted by Emily Hagens '10. Participants not only brought home homemade and heartfelt valentines, but they feasted on delicious brunch fare. According to attendee Betsey Whitbeck '71, "We had such a fun time chatting and cutting, stenciling, and tying bows. And the coffee cake was simply the best I have ever eaten. The dining room table was awash in color from all the materials assembled for our creative enjoyment. Congratulations on another satisfying event organized through the Smith Club!"

Then, on March 18, about 20 Smithies and their guests toured the Hennepin Theatre Trust's State and Orpheum theaters (see picture on page 3) and adjourned for happy hour at Solera. The tour included the chance to go onstage, tour the backstage area, and learn about the architecture and decors that make these theaters such gems of the Twin Cities.

In April, the AACs (Alumnae Admissions Coordinators) organized the shipping of finals-week care packages to about 30 on-campus Minnesota Smith students (see AAC column on page 5). And on July 1, 13 Smithies and their guests enjoyed kayaking the Mississippi River gorge area (see picture on page 3). How fun to be on the river looking up at the cliffs, while getting a good workout too! Seeing the city skyline and other landmarks from the river gave us not only a unique perspective but helped us better understand how the city is laid out. We all agreed we'd like to do it again.

I look forward to seeing you all at Smith Day September 8. Working and shopping at our biggest event of the year are terrific ways to meet and reconnect with the wonderful Smith women in Minnesota. If you have never attended before, let me know and I will make sure you meet some great new friends. Have a fun summer. We will have even more HOT events in the fall. ☺

Who knew ... ?

... that Mary Taylor used to escape to Yale on Mountain Day? Or that Nadine Ide, relying on a little white lie, financed flying lessons at Smith? Or that Nancy Malmon screened some of the first Pap smears? These and many, many other stories await you in *Strong Women Building Strong Communities, Book 2*, just published by our club. Find ordering information on page 5. The **stars** of this volume are:

Elizabeth (Betty) Cowie '45
Sarah (Sally) Ross '45
Nadine Ide '48
Harriet Spencer '49
Carolyn (Connie) Donnelly '51
Cornelia (Nina) Rothchild '51
Margery (Marnie) Hensel '52
Barbara Tuttle '53
Olive (Polly) Grose '54
Mary Taylor '55
Helen Hartfield '56
Nancy Malmon '57
Susan Allen Toth '61
Margaret (Peggy) Leppik '65





Smith Day on Broadway *They Say It's Wonderful!*

*** **Saturday, September 8, 2012** ***

Whether you're a shopping star, director or producer, stagehand, props manager, or you make a cameo appearance, we need you to make **Smith Day on Broadway** a smash! The performance is September 8th; stage work and rehearsals start September 4th and run through the 7th. The final curtain goes up at **9 am** on Saturday, September 8th. Curtain call will be promptly at **2:30**. (Please make note of this **change in hours** this year. Overall time for shopping and lunch will not be affected.)

Here's How You Can Help . . .

► **DONATE!**

Now is the perfect time to comb through closets and boxes to find those seldom-used and salable items to benefit our club's annual scholarship fund-raiser. Keep in mind, too, that some of our best clothes come from Smith friends, so consider asking your friends if they have things they'd like to donate. All donations are tax-deductible, and receipts are available at the storage lockers and during set-up. Here are ideas of what we're looking for:

Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend (Antiques) & I Cain't Say No (Housewares): Do you have a wedding present, antique, or household item you've rarely used? Maybe it's just what someone else needs! We can use tableware, linens, jewelry, picture frames, glassware, table decorations, and kitchen equipment in good condition. Before donating any small electric appliances, *please be sure they are in good operating condition.* Co-chairs: **Nancy Malmon** 952-544-4912 Nancymalm@aol.com; **Jody Duclos** 612-926-4822; Shirley Kooyman 763-559-3114 smkooyman@gmail.com.

Spoonful of Sugar (Bakery): Start the day with coffee and a muffin, scone, or biscotti at the Bakery. And take home a pie for dessert and flowers for the table. Baked goods, salsa, fresh veggies—whatever you love to cook or grow, we love to sell! If you don't bake, feel free to bring a treat from your favorite bakery. Chair: **Emily Hagens** 952-797-2161 emily.e.hagens@gmail.com. **Emily needs a co-chair – please call if you can help!**

Brush Up Your Shakespeare (Books): If your bookshelves are stacked to overflowing, we have a solution! Fiction, nonfiction, cookbooks (new and old), coffee-table books, children's books—we can use just about anything *except* textbooks, encyclopedias, or old travel books. Co-chairs: **Brigid Brindley** 612-929-2832 mbrindley@comcast.net and **Polly Grose** 952-449-0976 polly61684@earthlink.net.

I Feel Pretty (Clothing): Always our biggest revenue-maker, the success of this department is based on Smith Day's reputation for

clean, high-quality garments, shoes, and accessories. Women and children's clothes and shoes as well as vintage are welcome. Chair: **Robin Hartwell** 612-374-6166 robinhartwell@mac.com.

This Nearly Was Mine (Silent Auction): We've already received some wonderful silent auction items in keeping with our Smith theme, including 4 tickets to the Guthrie Theater. (Did you know that 40% of the Guthrie's Lifetime Board Members are Smithies?!). If you or someone you know serves on the board of an arts organization, please consider requesting tickets. Restaurants and boutiques you frequent may also be happy to respond to your request. These are just a few ideas—don't feel limited! Gift baskets, jewelry, art, dinner parties, anything unique is welcome. Co-chairs: **Pamela Coleman** 612-210-4104 alisinwdrld@yahoo.com and **Lisa Peilen** 952-920-9441 peill@aol.com.

► **VOLUNTEER!**

All departments can use help **setting up** Tuesday through Friday prior to Smith Day (September 4-7) and staffing the rooms on Saturday the 8th. The department chairs will be delighted to hear from you if you can volunteer.

Carried Away (Bag Check): We need 3 or 4 volunteers to staff the checkroom. It's a great way to rest your feet and help out at the same time, and you can sign up for just one shift to leave yourself plenty of shopping time. Contact **Ellen Van Iwaarden** 612-822-5060 etvaniwaarden@comcast.net.

Take A Chance on Me (Raffle): We need 4 or 5 people to sell raffle tickets in the morning for half-hour shifts. It's a great way to meet Smithies and get to walk around and see all the merchandise. Contact **Jane Howard** 651-644-1874 jhoward@smith.alumnae.edu or **Holly Churchward** 952-832-0388.

► **SHOP!**

Shoppers determine if we have a hit! The more we have, the more likely that **Smith Day on Broadway** will be a Tony Award winner. Bring your friends. Bring your neighbors. Bring your guests. For young alums 10 or fewer years from graduation, we're again offering a voucher worth \$30 for any purchases except lunch. Ask at the registration table when you arrive.

In addition to our stock departments, we'll have a special gift shop. Sheila Moar '74 will sell her Fashion Fusion Designs jewelry, contributing a portion of proceeds to the club. Sheila has been selling her unique jewelry at Neiman Marcus stores across the country. For more info, go to www.fashionfusiondesigns.com. If you or someone in your family has a unique creation to sell at the gift shop, contact one of the co-chairs below.

*** **Your Broadway Producers (event co-chairs)** ***

► **Barbara Klaas**
763-377-9740
baklaas@gmail.com

► **Elissa Mautner**
612-823-5073
elissamautner@aol.com

► **Peggy Leppik**
763-546-3328
peggyleppik@comcast.net

Where do I take my "stuff"?

Storage lockers in Minnetonka are available all summer to receive donations. Please call or e-mail Pamela Coleman or one of the co-chairs to get directions and access information to the lockers. If you are unable to drop off your donations, contact any of us to arrange for pick-up. **PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE STORAGE LOCKERS OR BRING YOUR DONATIONS DIRECTLY TO THE HOPKINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS TUESDAY-FRIDAY PRIOR TO SMITH DAY.** Note that it is very difficult to sort and tag large quantities of donations on Smith Day itself. Thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding!



A gallery of photos from our HOT early spring/summer Smith Club of Minnesota events . . .



AT LEFT: The State and Orpheum Tour Group on stage, March 18.



AT LEFT (l to r): Mary Gover '56, Mary Vaughan '49 (whose profile appears in Book 1), Laurie Kramer '69, and Helen Hartfiel '56 (whose profile is in Book 2) at the May 6 Annual Meeting and debut of *Strong Women Building Strong Communities, Book 2*.

BELOW (l to r): Lara Villavicencio '04, Connie Donnelly '51 (whose profile is in Book 2), and Helen Leslie '75 at the book debut.



AT LEFT: Kayaking on the Mississippi, July 1 (l to r): Maggie Mautner Nolting, Elissa Mautner '77, Ann Klaas, Barbara Klaas '74, Kate Lehmann '78, Peggy Leppik '77, Justina Roberts '06, Winona Lakin, Hannah Lakin '69, Melanie Kiihn '93.

Excerpts from letters of thanks—to OUR CLUB!

Dear Minnesota Club Members:

My name is Mai Houa Vue, and I am currently a senior at Smith. I am writing this letter to express my appreciation for the Smith College Club of Minnesota Scholarship Fund. I am from Saint Paul. I chose Smith for various reasons including its great academics, environment, faculty and programs, and opportunities offered to students. My major is Biochemistry and my minor is East Asian Studies. I am also on a Pre-Health/Medical track, hoping to go to medical school in the near future to become a pediatrician.

I have lived in Tyler House for all 4 years. This is part of why I love Smith—the idea of small house communities and student groups. Some student organizations and programs I have affiliated with are Achieving Excellence in Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences, Global Medical Training, Union of Underrepresented Students of Science, and Southeast Asian Alliance. I have learned to become an effective and proficient leader, how to study in groups, how to approach professors, how to research in a lab side-by-side with a professor, how to plan for a conference, how to work on campus, how to put my interests to work, and many more skills.

Through Smith, I got the chance to study abroad at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, during spring semester of junior year. This was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I had the change to explore a culture other than my own and actually live in a community I am not familiar with.

Being at Smith has also made me realize my potential and capabilities. I made Dean's List for 2 years, was nominated as a First Group Scholar in 2010, finished my Latin Honors, and was nominated to be in the Smith College Chapter of Sigma Xi. At Smith, I learned to not limit my abilities and to work toward success.

Smith became my home for 4 years, and that would not have happened without you. Thank you very much for making my dreams successful. Not only was my financial burden lessened, but my parents' was as well. Without your help I would not be the successful and confident person I am today.

Sincerely,

Mai Houa Vue '12

Dear Minnesota Club Members:

Hi, my name is Lillian Nosow, and I wanted to thank you for making it possible for me to attend Smith. Being a Smithie is a huge privilege, and I'm extremely honored to be part of such an experience.

I am from Golden valley but was born in China. I currently live in Morrow House. Although it's only my first year, I have learned so much already. Being part of such a diverse environment is truly an eye-opening experience. The learning environment, my peers, and my teachers are all so wonderful.

I don't know what I'm going to major in yet, but I really enjoy my Chinese and Biology classes. This conflicts with my life-long aspiration to become an architect. This fall, however, I will be taking an architecture class, so hopefully I will be able to figure out my true interests. I will be going to Hangzhou, China, this summer! I'm going with a program called Amherst China Initiative, and I must say I am ridiculously excited!

I hope my note has shown you that your contributions have made a difference to somebody, and I'm so grateful. I can't thank you enough!

Best wishes,

Lillian Nosow '15

And from a summer 2011 Praxis Scholarship awardee:

Dear Minnesota Smith Club Members:

My name is Augusta Rodgers and I am starting my junior year majoring in Dance and Sociology at Smith. This summer [2011] I interned at Bluffview Montessori School in Winona. I would like to take time to thank the Minnesota Smith Club for providing me with the financial support to pursue my career aspirations. The generosity of every club member is deeply appreciated.

Education has always been a central aspect of my life. Because of this, I chose to attend a college that would provide me with many opportunities to expand my horizons and learn outside the classroom. Praxis is a perfect example of this. I learned that education is more powerful than I ever thought and that my true passion is to teach young children. I thought I would become frustrated working with this age-group; however, I have become inspired and enjoyed sharing in their many successes and achievements. These children are sponges and soak up all and any information they can get, and I find it my duty and responsibility to provide them with every opportunity to be exposed to a variety of information. After graduating from Smith I plan on obtaining my Masters in Montessori Education from St. Catherine University. I owe my thanks to the members of the Smith Club of Minnesota for allowing me to have this life-changing opportunity.

Sincerely,

Augusta Marie Martin Rodgers '13

MEMBER PROFILE

Justina Roberts '06 grew up in Edina, graduating from The Blake School in 2002. She recalls being initially attracted to Smith by its reputation for developing its students into strong and independent women. "When I visited Smith, I was impressed by the beauty of the school, the study abroad programs, and the housing system," Justina relates, adding, "I had also read articles by Randy Bartlett and was excited to take one of his classes. After my visit I knew Smith was a really special place." Word has it that she also liked the fact that she could play volleyball there!

Justina majored in economics and French studies and spent junior year in Geneva. During that time she was able to travel to more than 10 countries. She lived in Emerson House, where one of her fond memories is holding themed dinners with friends.

After working in New York as a Legal Assistant at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Justina moved back to Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota Law School. She is currently working as an attorney at Carlson Caspers, a small intellectual property law firm,

where she has been working primarily on the receivership for the Trevor Cook Ponzi scheme. She volunteers for LegalCORPS and for Minnesota Women Lawyers.

Obviously not one to shy away from work, Justina has been actively involved in our club as an AAC (Alumnae Admissions Coordinator) even during law school and has continued as she begins her law career. Along with her AAC role, she was elected VP of our club at our recent annual meeting. Smith also has asked her to be a Network Alumnae Admissions Coordinator (NAAC), wherein she will work with the AACs in the Midwest Region. "I am really excited about becoming more involved with the Smith Club both locally and regionally," she says with characteristic vigor.

As for Smith Day, Justina relates a fun story: "I remember Betsey Whitbeck telling me how excited she was when she pur-



chased her first St. John jacket at Smith Day. Knowing the possibilities for great work clothes there, I was extremely excited to attend Smith Day for the first time last year. My mom and I scoured the racks for jackets, sweaters, and pants—and, lo and behold, I found an amazing St. John jacket that I have now worn way too many times to work!"

Justina also is impressed that even non-Smithies have an appreciation for Smith Day. "I was recently at a bridal shower and heard a woman mention Laurie Kramer's name. I knew this was 'our' Laurie because the woman talked about how much Laurie loves her iPad (I know from board meetings how Laurie is attached to her iPad!). I introduced myself and told her I knew Laurie from the Minnesota Smith Club. Her face lit up and she could not stop talking about how much she loved Smith Day and that she would see me there at 9 a.m. this year!"

Justina's take on Smith? "The education and experiences I gained at Smith impacted me in ways I had never imagined. Smith made me a more dynamic, self-assured, and passionate individual. I am so thankful for the life-long friendships that I made at Smith and the amazing Smithies I continue to meet." **✂**

Oral History Book (OHP) Ordering Info

Strong Women Building Strong Communities, Book 2, is available for purchase. You can buy your copy at Smith Day in September, or contact Barbara Klaas at 763-377-9740 or baklaas@gmail.com to place an order. Price is \$30, plus \$4 for shipping. See more about the book below and on page 1, and see photos from the debut on page 3.



And OHP thanks go to . . .

Project Chairs: Betsey Whitbeck '71, Holly Duff Dowds '71, Marty Wallace Swain '71, Laurie Maloff Kramer '69, and Barbara Bockhaus Klaas '74

Interviewers and writers: Jennifer Bhalla, Smith Graduate Program MS '01, Honey Olson Blacklock '95, Christine Braun '95, Gail Brinkmeier '95, Tanya Cromey '96, Holly Duff Dowds '71, Stephanie Larkin Frost '77, Mary Ravlin Gould '50, Emily E. Hagens '10, Barbara Bockhaus Klaas '74, Peggy White Leppik '65, Barbara Lindeke '70, Laurie Maloff Kramer '69, Kate Lehmann '78, Anna Mikelson '02, Ann Mitchell Pflaum '63, Ashley Shaver '02, Marty Wallace Swain '71, Betsey Whitbeck '71, and Molly Duff Woehrlin '53

Editors: Marty Wallace Swain '71, Laurie Maloff Kramer '69, Margaret Carlson Nikoleit '84, and Betsey Whitbeck '71

Alumnae Admissions Coordinator (AAC) News

Emily Hagens '10

Of the 39 students who applied to Smith this year, 20 were accepted in this highly competitive admission cycle (the most competitive in many years!). We had a great accepted-students tea in April that several accepted students and their families attended. Nine of these Minnesota students will be arriving on campus this September! In August, the AACs will host a send-off party for current and new students.

The AACs began a new tradition this spring of hosting a care-package salon. As follow-up to Herrels Ice Cream gift certificates we sent current students to help them celebrate the end of fall semester, we invited alumnae to "adopt a student" and donate fun items (slinkys, bubbles, cookies, granola bars, etc) to include in care packages to cheer them along as during finals period. Special thanks go to Ann Simonds '85, Stephanie Frost '77, Barbara Klaas '74, Ann Carr '70, and Barbara Klaas '74 for providing food and goodies for the packages. We received several thank you notes from grateful students, and we hope to continue this new tradition next spring.

We would like to welcome Samantha Oestreicher, our newest AAC! And we want to congratulate AAC Justina Roberts on becoming the newest National AAC (NAAC) and Smith Club of Minnesota Vice President!

Finally, we want to thank all of the club members who took the time to deliver roses to accepted students this spring and who have shared their Smith experiences with prospective students. We appreciate the help very much! Please contact Emily Hagens '10 (emily.e.hagens@gmail.com) if you know a student who might be interested in attending Smith or if you would like to attend, help with, or host any of our admissions events.

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Club & College News

■ Did you read, or perhaps listen to, one of the many reports on **Jane Lynch's** graduation speech at Smith in May? She referred to Smith students as "fiercely independent, wicked smart, trailblazing, uber confident and shockingly entitled," and said, "My counsel to you is this: Don't have a plan. Plans are for wusses. You are obviously good planners or you wouldn't be here. Stop it now! Don't deprive yourself of the exciting journey your life can be when you relinquish the need to have goals and a blueprint." Wise words!



■ Club member Ann Ruhr Pifer '87, who founded and runs Saint Paul's Grand Hand Gallery, has just opened a second shop in Napa, California. It features many of the same Minnesota and Northern California artisans whose work is at the Saint Paul store.

*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.*

SMITH COLLEGE OF MINNESOTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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