

Smith College Club of Minnesota  
9280 55th St N  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

mnsmithclub@hotmail.com

<http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/minnesota>

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit 90258

\*\*\* Smith Day 2013 wrap-up and pictures—see pages 2 & 3\*\*\*

FEBRUARY 2014

# Smith Club of Minnesota

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Paula Prah! '84  
[paulaj.prah!@gmail.com](mailto:paulaj.prah!@gmail.com)  
763-476-5809

### Vice-President

Justina Roberts '06  
612-819-1732  
[justina.a.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:justina.a.roberts@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Stephanie Frost '77  
651-773-5376  
[larkfrost@gmail.com](mailto:larkfrost@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Kate Lehmann '78  
612-306-4778  
[katelehmann@comcast.net](mailto:katelehmann@comcast.net)

### Alumnae Admissions

- Emily Hagens '10  
952-797-2161  
[emily.e.hagens@gmail.com](mailto:emily.e.hagens@gmail.com)
- Samantha Oestreicher '05  
[oestr042@umn.edu](mailto:oestr042@umn.edu)
- Anna Allen '11  
651-699-1792  
[aallen00@gmail.com](mailto:aallen00@gmail.com)
- Maggie McCaffrey '10  
[mnmccaffrey@gmail.com](mailto:mnmccaffrey@gmail.com)

### Communications/Membership

Marty Swain '71  
952-474-2466  
[mheiberg@umn.edu](mailto:mheiberg@umn.edu)

## New Smith President Comin' to Town!

Newly inaugurated **President Kathleen McCartney** will be in Minneapolis for an event at the Downtown Radisson on **Tuesday, April 8**. The gathering will start at 6 p.m. with a reception, followed by a program, at 7. The college is excited to introduce Kathy to alumnae who live in Minnesota. Stay tuned for more information.

## A Word from Our New Club President . . .

—Paula Prah! '84

What a treat to reconnect with Smith women of all ages through the Smith Club! I've been "out of the loop" for a while. I was quite active in the Smith Club of Boston in the 80s, the Smith Club of Minnesota in the 90s, and then life took over. Now I'm back connected with the club and its wonderful members... and I am thrilled. I am especially happy to serve as your new president.

The ability to meet new women and retain old friends makes these clubs wonderful resources. I recently interviewed for a job that would have required a move. I had done all my homework and prepared for every conceivable question I might encounter from the CEO...except this one: "How will you create a new set of friends and a network here?" No need to worry—Smith provided the answer, which I blurted out immediately: "I'll join the Smith Club." The CEO thought it was a good answer; apparently the strength of Smith Clubs is widely known.

Our ongoing events continue. We had an incredibly strong Smith Day in the Country chaired by the wonderful mother-daughter team of Mary Taylor and Robin Hartwell, plus a cadre of the most dedicated volunteers around. For those of you who have never experienced a Smith Day, you are truly missing something. The fun and camaraderie during both setup and the event itself is special. I guarantee the treasure of good friendship, and you never know what other treasures you might find as well.

October brought the inauguration of the new President of Smith, Kathleen McCartney. We celebrated with a gathering, complete with the new President's favorite brownies and official balloons, and watched the festivities in real time. I'm pleased that Kathleen will travel to Minnesota in April (see box, below left). She is intent on meeting this Smith Club!

And I know why...I just received a statement regarding our scholarship endowment. WOW! We have almost \$2.4 million dollars working to support important scholarships at Smith. Currently, this fund provides over \$100,000 a year to Smith students. This is such an impressive legacy, and I know it is the envy of many other clubs. As many of you know, the College is in a fund-raising campaign, and the largest priority is to strengthen the financial aid programs through endowed scholarships, just like our fund. We should be very proud.

Watch for more gatherings this spring, along with the gatherings of the Twin Cities Alumni Network, with which we are affiliated. All of these events provide a great way to explore new opportunities, meet new people, and enjoy the richness of a wonderful education. As our new treasurer just wrote to me: "I always marvel that Smith women always seem to mesh somehow—even when our paths have been very different." Please join us.

I look forward to seeing many of you this year. If you have ideas for events, please send them my way. ☺



## Minnesota Smith News

- Don't forget that copies of both **Oral History Books** are still available. E-mail the club at the address above for more information.
- If you have an address (mail or e-mail) change, **PLEASE** notify the Alumnae Association, as we obtain all our address lists for mailings and broadcast e-mails through their system. If you need help, e-mail the club or call one of the officers on page 1.

*We are very sorry to report the following recent deaths that affect our Smith community:*

- **Jean Congdon Adams '48**, who was from Minnesota, lived in the Wayzata area for many years after her Smith graduation, and later lived in Jackson, WY, died October 25, 2013. Among her survivors is sister Elizabeth Congdon Mason '54 of Duluth, who was profiled in our second oral history book, *Strong Women Building Strong Communities*. An article about Jean in the Jackson newspaper can be found at [www.jhnewsandguide.com/valley/obituaries/adams-spurred-community-foundation/article\\_51424d7e-6724-5fa3-aa24-c6c31b016baf.html](http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/valley/obituaries/adams-spurred-community-foundation/article_51424d7e-6724-5fa3-aa24-c6c31b016baf.html).

■ As noted on page 2 in the article about our 2013 Smith Day, our club has lost a very loyal and hard-working young member, **Cybel Monsen '91**. A group of friends from our club have spent time this winter helping Cybel's relatives clear her downtown apartment, with many of Cybel's things donated to Smith Day 2014, as she had wished. Her obituary is at <http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/13964701/?fullname=cybel-anne-monson>.

■ **Harriet Stuart Spencer '49** died December 23, 2013. She had a long and distinguished civic career in education and the arts, and was profiled in our club's second oral history book. Her obituary can be found at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?pid=162051004](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?pid=162051004)

■ **Janet Spain Spoor '48**, who lived in Minnesota during much of her adult life and then moved to Salt Lake City with her husband, Bill, in retirement, died January 18, 2014. She was a strong Smith Club supporter and prominent in her respective communities. Her obituary can be found at [www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/13995312/?fullname=janet-s-spoor](http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/13995312/?fullname=janet-s-spoor).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## Smith Day 2013 harvested fun and profit!

With great energy and enthusiasm, faithful Smith Day shoppers browsed through many well-tended rows of donated goods and, when it was all over, helped our club raise nearly \$16,000 for its endowed scholarship fund and Praxis internships. Master Gardeners (co-chairs) and mother-daughter team Mary MacPhail Taylor '55 and Robin Taylor Hartwell '86 send congratulations and thanks to all who participated in this signature event!

The shopping was exceptional this year. Women's Clothing, ably chaired by Barbara Klaas '74, was awash with fantastic clothes, much of it branded and in great condition. While lighter on donations, the Housewear's department, chaired by Nancy Malmon '57 and Johanna Duclos '60 and organized by Elissa Mautner '77 and Shirley Mah Kooyman '73, still delivered a bountiful crop and thrilled the bargain-seeking crowd.

Silent Auction was filled with planters, flowers, and gift certificates to some of the city's best shops and restaurants. There was original art (a beautiful charcoal drawing of the Greycourt Gates) as well as framed pieces from artists in our own club. With a mix of one-of-a-kind pieces and unique events and services, our auction offered something special for all kinds of shoppers. Our thanks go to each of our donors and, especially, to Kathy Ollivier '79, who was instrumental in securing a significant number of items for the event.

Lunch, organized by Peggy Smith '73, was a big success with a trio of salads prepared by Blanchard Catering. Our numbers for lunch were bigger than ever and the crowd was entertained by Raffle chair Millie Walsh '11 who pulled

tickets for winners. Always a nice break from the shopping, the lunch was also a time for introductions (mainly our new President, Paula Prah) and thank you's to our volunteers and event attendees.

On the "things to consider for next year" front, we were not as successful on the "community" aspect of the sale as we would have liked and continue to struggle with getting shoppers to the sale. Our goal is to balance the Smith Club/Smith Day experience for members with our desire for profit for the scholarship fund, so please continue to support this event and *bring your friends!*

As we turn our thoughts to 2014, we'd like to pay tribute to our fellow Smith Day volunteer **Cybel Monson '91** who passed away unexpectedly over Thanksgiving. A long-time Smith Day stalwart and master logistics and supplies coordinator, Cybel was the glue that held Smith Day together year after year. She rented the tables, arranged and set them up, purchased our supplies, packed the locker, prepared the bid sheets, priced and hung the artwork, and often worked late into the night during the week of the event on the club's behalf. She started an eBay account for Smith, which in 2013 alone raised \$2,600 for the club, and was always looking for ways to maximize our

returns from the sale. To say we will miss her does not say nearly enough. Rest in peace, Cybel.

Please keep Smith Day in mind as you consider your plans for next year. The date is **Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**, and we are looking for event chairs, department chairs, and volunteers, as well as donors for adult clothing, household items, and the silent auction. Our depot in Minnetonka is already open; for locker access info, please contact Robin Hartwell ([robinhartwell@mac.com](mailto:robinhartwell@mac.com)).



### Treasurer's Report

—Kate Lehmann '78

Following our 2013-14 contributions to the **Praxis Scholarship** (\$4,800) and the **MN Smith Club scholarship** (\$13,000) funds, we have cash on hand of \$21,971. This balance covers operating expenses and permits us to advance funds to cover expenses for the annual meeting and Smith Day with room to spare.

The Club has transitioned to a July through June fiscal year in order to be on the same cycle as the college, making it easier to report to the Alumnae Association. We also hope this will help alleviate some of the confusion around dues collection. We encourage members to pay dues at the annual meeting or at Smith Day. If you're not sure whether you've paid for this fiscal year, please contact Kate Lehmann (see page 1 for contact info).



### A call to serve!

Interested in getting more involved with the Smith Club of MN? The club has three great opportunities for Smithies interested in serving in leadership roles. The nominating committee is seeking candidates to fill the club **vice president** and **secretary** roles. Both of these positions involve serving on the club's executive committee. That committee meets 3 to 5 times per year and makes decisions about the activities of the club.

The other position is a spot on the club's 3-person nominating committee. This person assists in finding candidates to fill executive and nominating committee positions. The committee brings a slate of candidates for election to the club's annual meeting.

If you are interested in one of these positions, want more information about what the position involves, or have a recommendation for any of these positions, please contact Barbara Klaas, [baklaas@gmail.com](mailto:baklaas@gmail.com) or 763 377 9740 by March 1.



Millie Walsh (*far left*) sells raffle tickets; Paula Prah (*near left*) addresses us as new club President. *At right:* Samantha Oestriecher, Nilgun Tuna '71, and Brigid Brindley '86 enjoy lunch.



*Below left to right:* The "Norris girls" (daughters of Grace Norris's '47, who didn't go to Smith but are always *great* shoppers) with their stash; Pat West and Peggy Leppik '65 model holiday finds in women's clothes; new grad Linnea Yeazel '13 and Ellen Van Iwaarden '81 count the take from the bag-check room.

### Smith Day in Pictures!



### Recruiting Efforts—that's what it's all about!

Wonderful news: We sent **seven new students** to the college from the Twin Cities area last September:

- ▶ Phyllis Chen—Lakeville North
- ▶ Marie Koury—Orono
- ▶ Natalie Larson—International School
- ▶ Aliya Nesser—Edina
- ▶ Christen Saul—Mounds Park Academy
- ▶ Bailey Smith-Dewey—Lakeville North
- ▶ Anna Zhou—Edina



Over the past few months, the Minnesota AACs (Alumnae Admissions Coordinators) have been busy interviewing prospective students from many local high schools and working to make sure our current students know that the Minnesota Smith Club is thinking of them. At the end of

the fall semester, we mailed a **gift card** to each student so she could have a relaxing, pre-exams coffee or ice cream. Several students have expressed their thanks and happiness at feeling so supported by the club.

In January we had a successful **prospective student tea** at new AAC Maggie McCaffrey's ('10) home, where seven prospective students and their parents chatted with several club members and 10 current students. As always, our current students did a great job of making life at Smith College *come alive* for prospective students and their parents with their stories about classes, clubs, and living at Smith. They're pretty inspiring to alums too!

As prospective students eagerly await their admissions decisions, the AACs are planning the annual **accepted-student tea** in the spring. Two other events are coming up, where we'd like some extra alumnae hands: **hand-delivering a rose** to each accepted student and **assembling spring-semester care packages** for current students. Please let Emily know if you can help out (see p 1).