

Smith College Club of Minnesota
19835 Sweetwater Curve
Excelsior, MN 55331

mnsmithclub@hotmail.com

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

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*** Smith Day 2014 pictures—see page 3 ***

JANUARY 2015

Smith Club of Minnesota

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Paula Prahl '84
763-476-5809
paulaj.prahl@gmail.com

Vice-President

Emily Hagens '10
952-797-2161
emily.e.hagens@gmail.com

Secretary

Kathryn Sutton '08
kathrynsutton@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kate Lehmann '78
612-306-4778
katelehmann@comcast.net

Alumnae Admissions

- Samantha Oestreicher '05
ostr042@umn.edu
- Maggie McCaffrey '10
mnmccaffrey@gmail.com
- Hayden Howland '06
hhowland@gmail.com

Communications/Membership

Marty Swain '71
952-474-2466
mheiberg@umn.edu

Address Changes

It's **very important** that if you have an address change (snail mail or e-mail), that you **PLEASE** notify the **Alumnae Association** (33 Elm St, Northampton, MA 01063; www.alumnae.smith.edu; 800-526-2023), because we obtain our address lists for mailings and broadcast e-mails through their system. If you need help, e-mail the club (see back page) or call one of the officers above and we'll be glad to help.

A Word from Our Club President . . .

—Paula Prahl '84

Congratulations to all Smith Club members! As you'll read in this newsletter (page 2), we held a terrific 80th birthday celebration for Smith Day last fall. Close to 100 gathered for lunch, and even more shopped our sale. Most important, we raised significant funds to support scholarships at Smith. To have such a continuously running—and successful—event is an amazing feat.

Of course this kind of undertaking doesn't happen by chance. It occurs and succeeds only because of the dedicated volunteers who selflessly offer their time and energy. This year was no exception. Our chairwomen deserve special recognition. Peggy Leppik, Barbara Klass, and Lisa Peilen worked "all angles" of this event and dug deep into their networks to ensure great donations and sufficient volunteers to support each department. Of course they each brought experience to the process, as they have chaired multiple Smith Days in the past! I can't thank them and all the volunteers enough. Great work.

Smith Day has taken multiple forms over its 80 years. Once an event held in private homes, this perennial favorite has morphed over time, bending to the interests and capabilities of the club members. For most of the 25 years I've been involved, it has been a single-day event, held the first Saturday after Labor Day. We've changed up the location, moved from 2 days to 1 day, altered the departments, offered various lunch options, and added professional help with certain aspects such as moving the merchandise. I'm committed to making sure we continue to make the *right kind* of changes needed to keep this amazing tradition going. I'm certain we'll make it to 100!

We solicited feedback in the form of a survey at the event this year and got great comments from 76 of you. Many respondents were regular Smith Day attendees,

either alumnae or guests/family. The number one reason for attendance is "shopping," followed closely by "seeing friends." The Hopkins Center for the Arts got high reviews as a venue, especially because of the parking, sunlight, and supportive staff. A couple of attendees suggested a more central location. Respondents had mixed views on timing, with a large group liking the traditional timing but many noting the difficulty of participating during the

busy first week of school. This was a consistent theme in why people did not volunteer to work at Smith Day. We got a few ideas on improving the event, like "always sell the winning raffle ticket to me" and "bring back the booze." We've always been a spirited group!

It's terrific to have this interest and set of suggestions. But I'm mindful we've only heard from a portion of those who attended this year. We need to hear from **all of you**. I've included the same survey in this newsletter and would really appreciate receiving comments back. **Please** return it to me by mail (address on survey) or send a scan or ideas my way at paulaj.prahl@gmail.com. We're only as strong as our ideas!

To round out the Smith Day conversation, it is important to note that it's not too early to think about Smith Day 2015. We've secured the Hopkins Center for the Arts for **Saturday, September 12**. Our donation depots are open for business and awaiting your items. Co-Chairs are in place, so now is the time to think about volunteering and donating. A Smith education has been so special for us. Let's make it is possible for more young women.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the next few months. Watch for Smith Club events in our email updates. Until then, I wish you all a Happy New Year and a safe winter, perhaps with a warm escape at some point. ☺

Minnesota Smith News

■ **Heather Stefanski, MD, PhD** ('93) was elected to the Society for Pediatric Research at the University of Minnesota, a pre-eminent international society devoted to young investigators in basic science and translational research. See www.news.med.umn.edu/content/four-inducted-society-pediatric-research

■ University of Minnesota Professor **Ann Masten** ('73) was featured in a *MinnPost* article last fall on the resilience of children, one of her main professional interests, and taught a MOOC (massive open online course) on the subject. See the story at www.minnpost.com/mental-health-addiction/2014/09/ann-masten-children-s-natural-resilience-nurtured-through-ordinary-m

■ **Paula Prahl** ('84) is 1 of 10 finalists for 5 open seats on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. The Joint Legislative Committee will select someone for each of the open seats and forward the names to the full Legislature for confirmation. See www.startribune.com/politics/stateocal/287974751.html

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

We are sorry to report that we have lost some beloved club members since our last newsletter:

■ **Patty** (Helen Patricia) Conary Williams ('48) died Nov 2, 2014. She led quite a life, from social work to driving a truck in support of WWII efforts to raising her five children to sailing with her late husband, David. Read her obituary at www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/47586/?fullname=helen-patricia-%28conary%29-williams

■ **Jane Thomas Noland** ('49) died Oct 12, 2014. Jane, who was one of the featured alumnae in our club's first oral history project (OHP) book, was an author and general "funster." Hers was the featured obituary in the *Star Tribune* Nov 1, 2014, available at www.startribune.com/local/281187321.html. Many club members were at her memorial reception at Woodhill Country Club, including Mary Vaughan, Joanne Von Blon, Lucy Hartwell, Holly Dowds, Marnie Hensel, and Marty Swain. The OHP book was on display, and many poured over it. Numerous photos of Jane at Smith reunions, including the her 65th in 2014, were on display, demonstrating the importance of the college in her life.

Smith Day 2014 a big success!

Smith Day 2014: 80 Years and Going Strong proved to be just that. We had record attendance at our 80th Smith Day and luncheon (over 100 strong, the most in several years), and we were blessed to have at least 11 of our club members there who are in their 80s (see picture below). Each of them was honored with a corsage and a round of applause. We had overwhelming amounts of quality merchandise in Antiques/Household and Adult Clothes, and quite an array of options in Bakery, Silent Auction, and Books. We had a stalwart group that finished the infamous quiz, written by Laurie and Joel Kramer; quiz aficionados reported this was one of the hardest ever. Thanks to all who donated items and solicited donations from friends and contacts.



Smith Day 2014 would not have happened without the energy and enthusiasm of our department chairs of all ages: Robin Hartwell, Brigid Brindley, Siri Caltvedt, Peggy Smith, Ellen Van Iwaarden, Hayden Howland, Stephanie Frost, Marty Swain, Martha Phelps, Melanie Kiihn, Marian Kramer, Justina Roberts, Shirley Mah Kooyman, Laurie Kramer, Elissa Mautner, Johanna Duclos, Kate Lehmann, and Holly Churchward. We even had some of the almost-80-or-over Smith Day stalwarts pitch in once again, including Barbara Brown, Mary Taylor, Nancy Malmon, and Polly Grose (plus Marnie Hensel played the drums!). We had record support from our more recent alumnae, too, which is just great, as it keeps the vitality of Smith Day going strong.

One incredible Smith Day volunteer was missing this year, Cybel Monson '91. Cybel worked tirelessly year after year for Smith Day, making sure all the behind-the-scenes needs of department chairs and the depot were met. Cybel passed away unexpectedly in November 2013. Smith 2014 was dedicated to her memory and all that she did for Smith Days gone by.

Some of the loyal almost-80-and-up club members who were able to be at Smith Day 2014. *Top, l to r:* Barbara Brown ('52), Mary Gould ('52), Joanne Von Blon ('45), Ginny Humphrey ('42), Marnie Hensel ('52), Barbara Longfellow ('38). *Bottom, l to r:* Grace Norris ('47), Mary Taylor ('55), Polly Grose ('54).



We are pleased to report that our profits from Smith Day were good. We netted \$12,000. This is down some from previous years, the main reason being that while we had record sales, we also had a record amount of merchandise donated, which meant we incurred higher storage and moving expenses. These are nice problems to have! So, thank you donors, and thank you shoppers, for coming out in force this year.

Preparations for **Smith Day 2015** are under way. See the box below for instructions about dropping donations at the year-round depot.

We had a wonderful time working with such an energetic group of smart, fun women of all ages—true Smithies, all!

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

Storage lockers are available in Minnetonka for your donations for Smith Day 2015. Please contact Marty Swain or Paula Prah (see pg 1) for access info, as the gate code has changed. Most important, **please pack breakables carefully in tissue, newspaper, or bubble wrap**, since they will likely end up with things on top of them and they will be moved come September. **Boxes are best for books and household items**; clothing can be in garbage bags, boxes, or on hangers. Storing items this way helps our bottom line tangibly because the hired movers are expensive, and each 15 minutes we save getting the merchandise over to Hopkins adds to our profits.



Clockwise, from top left: (l to r) Melanie Kiihn, Justina Roberts, Gubby Kubick, and Marian Kramer pause during their morning rounds; shoppers peruse the adult clothes department; Elissa Mautner (l) and Cecily Hines (r) congratulated each other on their work during set-up week; wow, did we have shoes!; (l to r) Siri Caltvedt, Shirley Kooyman, and Peggy Smith have a mini-reunion; Brigid Brindley (l) and Ellen Luepker (r) catch up at lunch; the well-stocked housewares department awaits the throngs of shoppers.



Smith Day in pictures . . .