



The Smith Club of Great Britain

CLUB CALENDAR

Since many of you indicated you would prefer weekend events, we have decided to hold a multi-part Saturday event that we hope will attract many alums, including those living outside London.

As usual, all alums living in the UK will receive electronic invitations to all events. Please save the dates!

October 18: We will hold a “Super Saturday” event. Alums may attend any or all of three events including a matinee performance at the Royal Court Theatre; a post-theater talk by a leading theater critic; and a welcome reception for Junior Year Abroad students at the nearby Sloane Club.

October 20: Candy Beery '64 will host a book launch party for Polly Grose '54, now living in Minnesota, and a former leading light of the Smith Club of London.

December 4: Members are invited to attend a Christmas concert of Venetian music at Christ Church, Spitalfields, preceded by a talk by well-known author and Venice expert, John Julius Norwich.

February 7: We will hold our second annual Winter Dinner at the Sloane Club and will feature a leading Smith College representative speaking on the state of the college.



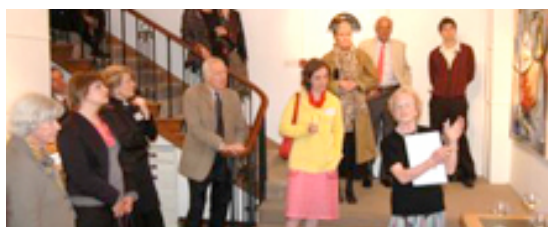
Helene Fesenmaier studied under Leonard Baskin at Smith and is a leading abstract artist.

London Gallery Show by Smith Artist Attracts Alums of All Ages

On June 3, the Smith College Club of Great Britain was delighted to host an exclusive showing of the works of Smith alum **Helene Fesenmaier '59** at the Redfern Gallery, Cork Street, London. Helene is a leading referential abstract artist and a graduate of the Yale School of Art. She has works in many of the world's major art museums such as MOMA and the V&A, as well as private collections. A large sculpture, “Logbook,” was commissioned by the V&A several years ago and stood outside the main entrance of the museum during the exhibition, “The Open and Closed Book.”

We were so pleased to have a personalised tour through the works in her new show, “Lives of the Saints: Painting and Sculpture, Part 1.” Not only did we hear Helene speak movingly about her inspiration for her works, we also heard from her friend and leading art expert, Mary Rose Beaumont. Mary guided us through the imagery and symbolism of both painting and sculpture with a great depth of historical reference and a sharp sense of humour as well!

The evening was a wonderful combination of art and socialising—we were pleased to see alumnae of all ages attending, including an alum who graduated in 1945! Special thanks to **Frances Bendixson '57**, **Liz Pinto '58** and **Kathleen Merrill '72** for all of their support in putting this special evening together, and of course to Helene for sharing her work and her thoughts with us all. ■ **Michelle Laven '95**





MEMBERSHIP SURVEY *Reveals All*

The recent survey of Smith Club of Great Britain members has given us a picture of a group of accomplished Smith alums leading diverse and interesting lives. It also highlighted a strong desire on the part of alums to connect with one another in social, cultural and educational settings. It also has given us a rich database to work with. Half of our 240 members completed the survey, which is an amazing and encouraging response rate! As promised, we would like to share our findings with you:

✓ WHERE YOU ARE

Not surprisingly, most of you—60%—live in London. The rest are scattered throughout the country with 10% in the Southeast and 12% in the Southwest. There is also a handful of you in Scotland.

✓ WHEN YOU GRADUATED

About 25% of you graduated between 1980 and 1989 and about 22% between 2000 and 2007. 18% graduated between 1970 and 1979; 15% between 1990 and 1999; and 14% between 1960 and 1969. 7% graduated before 1959 and several of our alums have lived in the UK over 50 years!

✓ WHAT YOU DO

53% of you work full-time, with 17% working part-time. 17% of you are either retired or not working and 11% of you are students (not including JYAs). Only about 7% of you described yourselves as full-time mothers. The largest group is in management consulting, about 10%, closely followed by those in financial services, almost 9%. 7% of our

members work in creative arts with another 4% in arts management. 7% are journalists and the rest are employed in a wide range of other areas. Here are just some examples of what our alums do:

- Executive Director of non-profit charity devoted to climate change
- LSE professor
- Author of over 300 children's books
- Consultant senior pediatrician at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Curator of Fashion at V&A
- Jewelry Designer
- PhD Candidate in Medieval Studies, St. Andrews

✓ INTERESTS, HOBBIES & VOLUNTEERING

In this category, you are even more diverse. One alum heads the Junior League of London while another is a polo player in her spare time. One is a long-distance swimmer who has just swum the Channel and another maintains a website on Mindful Living and Meditation. A peripatetic alum spends three months each year working at archeological museums in the Middle East and North Africa.

✓ WHAT YOU WANT

You are interested in everything— theatre, book clubs, purely social events and, above all, arts events— registering either a “very interested” or “interested” in practically every area we asked about.

✓ WHAT WE ARE DOING IN RESPONSE

Already your Club has acted on survey information. For example,

you told us you were interested in theater events and weekend events. As a result, we are planning a combined JYA Welcome event and matinee theatre event on Saturday, October 18. We have also organized regional Smith groups and are taking a new look at our book club. Thanks to all who participated in the survey and a special thank you to **Barbara Klaas '74** and **Liz Nichols '90**, our membership heads, who labored long hours tabulating survey information. ■ **Kathy Merrill**

RECRUITMENT *Starts Up Again*

The Smith Club of Great Britain will once again support Smith at the USA College Day, the leading event for Europe-based students interested in attending college in the U.S., on September 27 from 10-3 at the Royal Hotel in London. This year we are thrilled to have Associate Director of Admissions **Sid Dalby** represent Smith at the Fair. It is a coup to get Sid here and she will be supported by alums **Julia Iwinska '04** and **Kate Rieppel '06** who can give prospective students a view of what it is like to be a Smith student today. This fall, Smith welcomed four women from the UK into its class of 2012. The four students will enter from the following schools: ACS Hillingdon; The American School in London; United World College in Wales; and Chigwell School in London. ■ **Becky Lindon '80**



Hostess Madeleine Plaut '86 (r) and Gretchen Faust '83 share an illuminating conversation at faculty talk.



Sarah Thomas '70 (l), Head of Oxford's Bodleian Library, talks shop with Meg Ford '80, Head of the Books and Manuscripts department at Christie's

An Evening *with* Martin & Nina Antonetti

On Monday, May 19, **Madeleine Plaut '86** hosted a delightful evening with Martin and Nina Antonetti, visiting professors from Smith, in her home in Holland Park, London. Martin Antonetti is Head of Rare Books, and spoke on a previously undocumented Italian Renaissance illuminated manuscript by the important Papal scribe, Ludovico Arrighi. Arrighi's handwriting is utterly gorgeous, so it was a particular delight for the Smith JYA student who was sent to Spain for a week or two to investigate the manuscript!

Nina Antonetti is Assistant Professor in Landscape Studies. She spoke on the early history and evolution of the profession of Landscape Architecture, which she argues was first referred to in the letters of Englishman William Andrews Nesfield. Over 30 alumnae attended the event in Madeleine's beautiful home, which was filled with stunning Renaissance art. ■ **Shana Worthen '97**

Sloane Club Membership *Taken Up*

One of the many benefits of membership in the SCCGB is a recently-established Affiliate Membership with the Sloane Club in London. Each temporary alumna membership lasts for one year (renewable), and allows the member to use the restaurant at any time and to book Club guest rooms Friday to Sunday. In addition, affiliate members can book longer-stay apartments in the Club. All room bookings benefit from reduced rates.

More than 20 Club members already have taken up this special offer and the memberships will remain available throughout the year. If you are interested in joining them and having an appealing West London stopping point for tea, meals or longer, the cost is £30 (cheque made payable to "The Smith College Club of Great Britain"). For more details, please contact **Nancy McHugh** at the club e-mail address: smithclubgb@googlemail.com.

■ **Nancy McHugh '74**, Sloane Club Rep



Calling for Smith Club VOLUNTEERS

The Smith Club is issuing a call to all club members to volunteer for a variety of club positions. Our goal is to build teams of alums in different activity areas. Please take a moment to consider whether you would like to volunteer for any of the jobs described below and feel free to contact the club members identified as contacts at:

smithclubgb@googlemail.com

to express interest in the position. If you don't have time now to volunteer, there will always be another opportunity.

Recruitment

Our current head of recruitment, **Becky Lindon**, has done a wonderful job for the past two years and would now like to hand over the baton. The role involves representing Smith at the Annual College Fair in London, working with the Admissions Office and interviewing applicants. There is also important work to be done to attract more UK students to Smith by targeting additional schools for outreach.

Contact: Becky Lindon

Events

We could use more volunteers as our events calendar grows. You would organize event proposals for the Board, and coordinate the administration of those events. We have an exciting list of events in the planning stage for next year ranging from faculty talks to a private tour of the Bodleian Library and of Kew. We would love your help in this key Club area.

Contact: Michelle Laven

Book Club

We are looking for volunteers to work with **Arlene Cohrs**, the present head of the Smith Book Club in Great Britain, to explore expanding the Book Club in light of the considerable interest expressed in the survey. Book club experience most welcome!

Contact: Arlene Cohrs

Communications

We are looking for alums to work with **Shana Worthen**, our head of communications. The primary responsibilities are writing and editing the Club newsletter, maintaining the Club website and occasionally serving as Club photographer. Writing, digital publishing and web skills would be very useful!

Contact: Shana Worthen

London Short-Stay

We all know London is very expensive. As a result, many of our alums have volunteered spare rooms in their homes for one or two nights for students who need accommodation in London for interviews or for non London-based alums who need accommodation to attend Club events. We are looking for an alum to manage this initiative.

Contact: Kathy Merrill

Seven College Consortium

The 7CC representative serves as Smith's link to the seven women's college network. We are looking for an alum to take this over.

Contact: Candy Beery

Many thanks to...

Morgan Raines '05 and **Elizabeth McCarthy '06** who did a great job with the JYAs this past year. Elizabeth, a former Kew intern, has decided to turn her many talents to developing our relationship with Kew Gardens, along with **Amy Brown**. They will serve as our Kew Garden reps and we are looking forward to great things from them! Meanwhile, Morgan needs to devote all her time to pursuing her studies at the Courtauld Institute for now. Best Wishes, Morgan! We are pleased to welcome the following new volunteers to the Smith Club of Great Britain: **Barbara Klaas '74**; **Julia Iwinska '04**; **Sarah Fabiny '83**; **Whitney Hicks '96**; **Veneta Nikolova '05**; **Marina Vidor '05**; **Kris Smith '92**; **Rachel Gardner '01**; **Autumn Green '03**; **Hallie Swanson '81** and **Nancy McHugh '86**.



2008 CLUB BOARD & VOLUNTEERS

CO-PRESIDENTS

Kathy Merrill '72
Amy Brown '90

COMMUNICATIONS & SECRETARY

Shana Worthen '97

RECRUITMENT

Julia Iwinska '04
Becky Lindon '80
Hallie Swanson '81

MEMBERSHIP

Liz Nichols '90
Barbara Klaas '74

JYA/YOUNG ALUMS

Sarah Fabiny '83 (Co-head)
Veneta Nikolova '05 (Co-head)
Whitney Hicks '96

EVENTS

Michelle Laven '95 (Head)
Kate Rieppel '06
Marina Vidor '05

REGIONAL CLUB REPS

Kris Smith '92 (Southwest)
Rachel Gardner '01 (Northwest)
Autumn Green '03 (Scotland)

SLOANE CLUB REP

Nancy McHugh '86

KEW GARDEN REPS

Elizabeth McCarthy '06
Amy Brown '90

SEVEN COLLEGE REP

Candy Beery '64

BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Penny Hammar '73
Liz Pinto '58

LETTER *from* Your Co-Presidents

Dear Club Members,

Since we last wrote, much has happened at the Smith Club of Great Britain! We had two great events attracting different groups of alums, and we conducted a membership survey to better understand what you would like from your Club.

In addition, we have launched three regional clubs to better serve club members living outside London and we negotiated a special membership for alums with the Sloane Club. We expanded our JYA focus and are holding special welcome events for them in London and Edinburgh. We have added twelve volunteers to our ranks and are hoping for more! Lastly, we have issued our second newsletter and launched a Smith Club of Great Britain Facebook site!

The events we held were great fun. The faculty talk by **Martin and Nina Antonetti** was attended by many alums working in the fields of books or landscape architecture or who had studied the subjects at Smith. One alum even came to honor the memory of her mother who had worked in the victory gardens at Smith during World War II!

We were happy in particular to welcome **Sarah Thomas** '70, head of Oxford University's Bodleian Library, and look forward to working with her on an event for alums in Oxford next year. A special thanks to **Madeleine Plaut** '86 who provided her beautiful home for the talk. We rely on the generosity of alums and Madeleine, and husband Timothy, outdid themselves in making us feel welcome!

The second Club event, a gallery show of the works of **Helene Fesenmaier**, attracted many older alums who hadn't seen each other for years. The atmosphere was great and it was wonderful to have them. We hope to welcome more of these interesting and vital women to future Club events.

Finally, the survey we conducted will help us immensely in planning the Club's future. We thought one alum was spot on when she described what she felt the objective of the Club should be: "to keep interesting and worldly women interesting and worldly through shared social and cultural experiences." We will certainly try to follow her wishes!

We look forward to an active fall and are in the midst of planning a range of interesting events for next year. As always, we welcome any comments and suggestions so please email us at the club e-mail address:

smithclubgb@googlemail.com

Kind regards,

Kathy Merrill '72

Amy Brown '90

Smith College Club of Great Britain Co-Presidents