Dear Classmates,

SMITH’S NEXT PRESIDENT! KATHLEEN McCARTNEY, Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, will become the 11th President of Smith, beginning July 1st. Her presidency follows the impressive eleven year tenure of CAROL T. CHRIST. Read all about our future leader by clicking the link at: www.smith.edu/newpresident.

Additional exciting news from Northampton earlier in the fall was the WOMEN’S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION, held Oct. 12-14. Hundreds of alumnae leaders, trustees and volunteers attended panel discussions, lectures and presentations on a broad range of topics. Among the featured speakers was Smith’s first woman president, Jill Ker Conway. President Christ called this weekend one of the finest events she had witnessed at Smith. Our Media Chair, Irene Stiefel Starr, was pleased to be able to attend.

Smith has an ambitious and bold vision for liberal arts in the 21st century and for extending and affirming Smith’s status as a global women’s college. The new Women for the World campaign has raised $211 million toward a goal of $450 million. I encourage you to view the video I found very moving. It’s entitled “Women for the World: The Campaign for Smith” at: www.smith.edu/thefund. Click the top choice offered on each page. You will be proud of our college and you will recognize a ’61 classmate!

Warmest wishes, Joyce
YOUR CLASS OFFICERS SPEAK...

VICE PRESIDENT/REUNION CHAIR - Louise Merrill Dudley

Very Long-Range Planning!

My little paper calendar doesn’t go out to 2016, but maybe those of you with very smart phones or clever tablet apps are making appointments three years out. The rest of us can try to remember (!) that our 55th reunion is coming up in late May 2016.

In the meantime, I’d love to hear from anyone with great ideas for a theme...or any other suggestions to help make our next gathering as fabulous as the 50th.

eldudley@embarqmail.com

SECRETARY - Nancy Silverman Skurnik

I am grateful to those who respond to my requests for news for the Quarterly and I encourage those who don’t write often to do so. Please send your emails to: nanskur@gmail.com or write to me at PO Box 154, Sagaponack, NY 11962.

TREASURER - Lynda Spence

We have a very healthy balance in our class treasury, most of which was carried forward from the 50th reunion. It will be on hand for future class needs and to prepay expenses related to our 55th. If you have not paid your class dues, you can send a check for $15.00 for the current year OR send $50.00 for the next four years. Please make your check payable to Smith College Class of 1961 and send it to me at 1333 Jones Street, Unit 705, San Francisco, CA 94109. If you have forgotten your status, just email me first at: lyndaspence@earthlink.com

MEDIA CHAIR - Irene Stiefel Starr

Our class website, www.Smith61.org, is now a temporary site with links to the Alumnae Association and other Smith sites. We plan to update the site this year with more content specific to our class, including a convenient archive of class newsletters and an In Memoriam section. As our next reunion approaches, this will be the go-to place for information.

Your thoughts are needed now on one question. On our previous website, very few classmates used the feature that invited us to post personal news or to discuss ideas. Would you be apt to participate in that kind of online communication via a Facebook page or another social medium? (This would be in addition to our primary class website.) The other class officers and I are considering possible options, looking for something that is easy, private and inexpensive. If few people are interested, however, there may be no need to pursue this. Please send me your thoughts at: is@starr.net
We are already halfway through the second year after our 50th reunion and have finally completed our new “linking list”. Class of 1961 has 27 “class ambassadors”, classmates who volunteered to stay in contact with (be linked to) other classmates until our 55th reunion, and to thank them for gifts that they make to Smith. (Ambassadors don’t solicit gifts!)

You can help! We need 10 more ambassadors in order that each member of our class is linked to an ambassador. If you would like to volunteer to be an ambassador, please contact a member of the Class Fund Team. It is easy and fun to be in touch with our classmates – both old and new friends.

It turns out that Marion is linked to a classmate, Laura Reed Werner, who lives 10 miles from her. They had never met or even heard of each other until recently. Laura made a gift and Marion wrote her a thank you note expressing astonishment that they had lived so close to each other for 10 years and did not even know of each other’s existence. Laura invited Marion for lunch in February! What a treat!

Marion Scattergood Ballard  marionballard@comcast.net
Sally Ross Schroeder  sallyrschroeder@comcast.net
Alice Schaffer Smith  asmith36@sbcglobal.net

I would like to remind everyone to think of establishing a charitable remainder gift with the college. Although one should talk to a lawyer or a knowledgeable person at the college, this is a great way to get a tax deduction now and to assure oneself of income, if that is also a goal.

I would also like to remind everyone who has an IRA that you are now (sigh) old enough that you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You can reduce the taxes on your RMD by making a contribution to Smith from your IRA account. As this is a tax free gift, think of giving more, perhaps the difference between your usual annual gift and the amount on which you might have incurred taxes.

Edie and Ellen want to thank our classmates who have given to the Smith Fund in memory of departed alumnae thereby helping this generation of students and adding to our Class of ’61 gift. We hope you’ll continue to give so generously.

“Terry & Friend”

Joyce’s Reunion Photo is of Sarah Drew Reeves with Leonard Baskin’s iconic owl.
The college alerts you to the following important news:

Smith Special Events Near You
President Christ and faculty guests are traveling the country -- and across the pond to London -- this spring to share the College's bold plans for re-imagining the liberal arts and extending Smith’s reach around the world. All alumnae are invited to these special events, Women for the World: Smith's Vision for the 21st Century, so be sure to save the dates whether you live nearby or will be visiting the area:

Seattle, WA -- March 18
Southern California (Los Angeles) -- March 20
Northern California (San Francisco) -- March 23
Chicago, IL -- April 13
Minneapolis, MN -- April 16
London, UK -- April 23

For more information, please visit the Alumnae Events Calendar at http://alumnae.smith.edu/calendar/

AND...
The Smith Fund office reminds us that our gift to the college each and every year is added to our total Reunion Year gift. An annual gift, large or small, is important to Smith in a number of ways. Among them, annual participation becomes a key factor when foundations award their grants and when college rankings are compiled. All gifts made between now and 2016 will be included in the Women for the World campaign. Our support is greatly appreciated!