



# SMITH '61 NEWS

WINTER 2014

[www.smith61.org](http://www.smith61.org)

## Class Officers 2011-2016

**President-Joyce Geiger Spencer**  
21 Spring Cove Road  
Arrowsic, ME 04530  
207-443-8464 [jaehs@aol.com](mailto:jaehs@aol.com)

**Vice-President/Reunion Chair-  
Louise Merrill Dudley**  
250 Pantops Mountain Rd., C293  
Charlottesville, VA 22911  
434-972-2399  
[eldudley293@gmail.com](mailto:eldudley293@gmail.com)

**Secretary-Nancy Silverman Skurnik**  
630 Narrow Lane, P.O. Box 154  
Sagaponack, NY 11962  
631-537-7935 [nanskur@gmail.com](mailto:nanskur@gmail.com)

**Treasurer-Lynda Spence**  
1333 Jones Street, Unit 705  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
415-217-0094  
[lyndaspence@earthlink.net](mailto:lyndaspence@earthlink.net)

**Media Chair-Irene Stiefel Starr**  
6260 Rosewood Street  
Mission, KS 66205  
913-725-0133 [is@starr.net](mailto:is@starr.net)

**Smith Fund Agents:  
Marion Scattergood Ballard**  
4413 Chalfont Place  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
301-320-3931  
[marionballard@comcast.net](mailto:marionballard@comcast.net)

**Sally Ross Schroeder**  
10 Paseo Mirasol  
Tiburon, California 94920  
415-435-3872  
[sallyrschroeder@comcast.net](mailto:sallyrschroeder@comcast.net)

**Alice Schaffer Smith**  
4284 Los Palos Circle  
Palo Alto, California 94306-4310  
650-493-3554  
[asmith36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asmith36@sbcglobal.net)

**Memorial Gifts:  
Edie Smith**  
77 7th Avenue, Apt. 19B  
New York, New York 10011-6640  
212-647-0489  
[ediesm@aol.com](mailto:ediesm@aol.com)

**Ellen Stover Eddy**  
16 Beechcroft Road  
Short Hills, NJ 07078  
973-379-7932  
[elleneddy@comcast.net](mailto:elleneddy@comcast.net)

**Planned Giving:  
Carolyn Kinder Carr**  
4943 Hillbrook Lane, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20016-3208  
202-244-0492  
[ck\\_carr@yahoo.com](mailto:ck_carr@yahoo.com)

Greetings from Joyce,

It was a thrill and profoundly moving to watch the investiture of **Kathleen McCartney, Smith's new President**, as it was live-streamed this fall. When I discovered that one of our classmates, Nancy Keebler Bissell, had actually marched in the procession of dignitaries that day and shared her enthusiasm for Pres. McCartney by email with Chapin housemates, I asked if I might quote her. Nancy has an honorary PhD from the University of Arizona and has been a Smith trustee. Proudly, I send parts of Nancy's email for all of you to enjoy!

“ I just returned from a lively two days at Smith for the inauguration of our 11th president, Kathleen McCartney. I wish you could all have been there to share the excitement in the air as she gave a remarkable speech, attended by her friends, family (four kids and husband; she is the first in her family to attend college) and colleagues, including the presidents of Harvard, Yale, Tufts and several others, plus 50 or so former trustees, current trustees, Smith's former presidents Jill Ker Conway and Mary Maples Dunn, all the faculty in their colorful robes, and the wildly enthusiastic student body. From top to bottom she wowed them all, with her directness, humor, energy, and intellect. And the students identify with her, have even given her a nickname (K-Mac). They love it when she turns out for their parties and events. She eats in the dining halls, strides all over the campus talking to everyone, seems to have a magical quality of effervescence that you just feel in her presence.

She quoted Bob Dylan ("she who is not busy being born is busy dying," referring to the process of being reborn to new parts of ourselves throughout our lives--with just the pronoun changed) in her speech, along with the more intellectual sources (she has published some 60 articles on education, policy and developmental psychology, most recently from Harvard where she was Dean of the College of Education) and she really did convey the sense that she wants to transform the world beyond Smith, especially for women, increasing access to education across the globe and narrowing the gap for those who--like the Pakistani girl Malala--are hungry for it. I hope that if she gets to your communities, you'll make an effort to meet her. I think she is extraordinary and exactly what Smith needs.”

Thank you, Nancy, for sharing this!

FROM YOUR OFFICERS:

VICE-PRESIDENT/REUNION CHAIR - Louise Dudley Merrill

Our next reunion is more than two years away, but now is the time to think about "mini-reunions": smaller gatherings with classmates who live near you. It might be a potluck lunch in someone's home -- Marion Scattergood Ballard hosted a terrific potluck at her house in D.C. before our 50th reunion and Nancy Champe Peters had a similar summer picnic in Maine. Other possibilities are going dutch-treat to a restaurant that lets people linger a bit, or a group excursion to a local museum, or any other informal social event that seems appealing. If you'd like to organize such a gathering in 2014, the Alumnae Association can supply contact information for classmates who live within a reasonable distance. Just email me at [eldudley293@gmail.com](mailto:eldudley293@gmail.com) and we'll help however we can.

As for our 55th in May 2016, I'd love to hear from you if you are willing to work on one of the functions that make these reunions so wonderful: topic(s) for our class program, parade theme and costumes, displays in our headquarters house, before-breakfast activities, meals, etc. There will be no class book this time, so no worries about summing up your life in 250 words or finding a suitable photo!

SMITH FUND TEAM - Sally R. Schroeder, Marion S. Ballard, Alice S. Smith

Hello from your class fund agents! Our ambassadors have joined us in an effort to personally thank, by hand-written notes, classmates who have made gifts to the annual fund. As of mid January, 138 people had contributed \$120,560 to the Smith Fund this fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. That's approximately 1/3 of the class. We are hoping to raise our giving percentage dramatically in the next 5 months, and double (or better) the dollars raised. We hope you will help make this happen!

As you are probably aware, the Smith Fund supports (1) financial aid, (2) faculty-student collaborations and research, (3) campus and dorm maintenance, and (4) paid student internships. You may also know that education-oriented foundations look at percentages of alumnae giving when they consider grants. Another reason to raise our class giving level!

Many thanks to the many who have donated to this very vital fund.

Sally Ross Schroeder - [sallyrschroeder@comcast.net](mailto:sallyrschroeder@comcast.net)

Alice Schaffer Smith - [asmith36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asmith36@sbcglobal.net)

Marion Scattergood Ballard - [marionballard@comcast.net](mailto:marionballard@comcast.net)

PS - We would love to have more ambassadors. Your only obligation is to send thank you notes to donors - or you can telephone if you would prefer. Please contact any of us to volunteer!

#### MEDIA CHAIR - Irene Steifel Starr

I'd be interested in knowing if classmates would like a Facebook and/or Google Group to exchange thoughts. Both those can be set to maximum privacy so only "friends" or those in the group can see the postings. You can let me know at [is@starr.net](mailto:is@starr.net). Please put smith61 in the subject line. Meanwhile [www.smith61.org](http://www.smith61.org) will lead you to our temporary Web Site.

#### SECRETARY- Nancy Silverman Skurnik

The college has taken over the call for class news from the individual class secretaries, but you may write to me, [nanskur@gmail.com](mailto:nanskur@gmail.com), at any time. Your thoughtful comments are appreciated by all and make interesting reading.

#### PLANNED GIVING - Carolyn Kinder Carr

Several of our classmates have been added to the growing list of those who have made charitable remainder gifts. They are a great device as they provide income during one's lifetime, should one need it, and an immediate charitable deduction.

#### MEMORIAL GIFTS - Edie Smith and Ellen Eddy

We are grateful to those who have given to the Smith Fund in memory of departed classmates. These gifts help current students and the amounts are also added to our reunion tally for 2016. Every gift to Smith between reunions is counted into our 5 year total.