Greetings from Joyce,

In any and all seasons, we remember this view of Paradise Pond. Whether rushing to sports on the fields beyond or jogging with a friend, crossing the bridge at this spot cemented an enduring memory of our beautiful campus.

Ready or not, our next reunion comes in May of 2016. I know you will enjoy reading Louise's report below and will email offers of help or inspiration!

Sadly, this past year has brought personal loss to many. Ellen (Stover) Eddy was our Memorial Gifts co-chair with Edie Smith until her death from cancer last June. We miss Ellen and cherish her exuberance and zest for everything she tackled. She loved Smith and generously shared her talents over the years. Edie, and Ellen, too, would remind us that every gift, whether in memory of a classmate, mother or sister, or for the Library, Botanic Gardens, Athletic, Art or Music Departments, contributes to our Reunion Total at the end of five years. Our caring support helps this generation of students, as well as those to come, and the great news is that the applicant pool this year is the largest in Smith College history!

Happy Spring, Joyce (Geiger) Spencer
Our 55th reunion may seem far away—it’s more than 14 months off—but there’s one thing you can do right away: mark the dates on your long-range calendar. It’s May 19-22, 2016. Saving those dates now will help avoid unhappy conflicts with upcoming vacation trips, family gatherings and other major events. We do want to see as many of you as possible!

As you might guess, planning for reunion is already under way. In addition to the class officers, others have signed on to help with the logistics—though more willing hands are needed (see below). Many thanks to the following for stepping up early:

Betsy Carter – House reps coordinator
Kitty Norcross Wheeler and Sherley Young – Class program
Nancy Keebler Bissell – Alumnae Parade
Tina Schafer Long – Meals
Nancy Champe Peters – Nametags

We’re still in need of someone (or two people) to be in charge of our class headquarters. Ideally, one of them will live within driving distance of Northampton, which would make it easier to transport supplies needed for hospitality and displays. If you and a friend are willing to do this, please email me at eldudley293@gmail.com or call (434) 972-2399.

It would be great to have volunteers leading the kind of informal activities we had at our 50th, such as yoga sessions or a short hike before breakfast. Suggestions for these and for our class program are especially welcome. Put your thinking caps on!

Here are a few things I already know will be different about this reunion:

• We won’t be producing a class book, so you won’t be asked to capture yourself in 250 words or less.

• Because there will be no book, our class registration fee should be about half of what it was for our 50th.

• The extra-fee Alumnae College (a series of classes led by Smith faculty) that preceded reunions in earlier years has been abandoned. Instead, the Alumnae Association will organize faculty presentations during reunion weekend; they will be open to everyone at no extra charge.

• We’ll get to hear from Smith’s terrific new president, Kathleen McCartney.

I’m beginning to get excited about being together again on our old stomping grounds. I hope you are, too.
At our 55th reunion we want to be the class with the most members and the most new members in the Grécourt Society. For information on the ways in which a bequest also will count toward the class reunion gift, download www.grécourt.me to learn more.

If you wish to benefit the college but are uncertain of your future finances, consider a charitable gift annuity. You get a tax deduction for your gift and then a 6% or greater return on your money if you are 76 or older, for as long as you live. Call the Office of Gift Planning (413-585-2051) or check out the information you will need to consider this kind of gift to Smith at http://smith.plannedgiving.org and click Gifts That Pay You Income.

SECRETARY- Nancy Silverman Skurnik

I am very pleased with the number of interesting responses I receive after the 4 times a year call for news. Our classmates rarely pay attention to the announcement of upcoming deadlines coming from the Alumnae Office but respond enthusiastically after I send my personal email request. Please remember to send new email or address changes to the college.

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

As we approach our 55th reunion, please don't forget annual giving. Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2015. Remember, PERCENTAGE RULES! Although we'd love to make a gift that would guarantee Smith's prosperity for years to come, in the short run, we're really seeking something much more realistic -- a high percentage of givers in our class. What if everyone - EVERYONE! - gave something - in this fiscal year, and of course in the reunion year? Even a small amount. The Class of ’61 would achieve a goal that every class only dreams of. What an accomplishment!

TREASURER - Lynda Spence

Our class treasury is healthy ($20,884.54 as of January 31, 2015) and will be used to provide the necessary seed money for our 55th Reunion. The treasury will be reimbursed by our reunion fees, which we will aim to keep as reasonable as possible. Because our treasury is so healthy and because we have so few expenses, I have stopped requesting the payment of class dues. Besides, a large number of our classmates are already Life Members of the Class of 1961.

MEDIA CHAIR - Irene Steifel Starr

We are continuing with www.smith61.org as our temporary Web Site. The college plans a new reunion site for all classes which should be up and running soon. We look forward to investigating it and will keep you posted.

( If anyone would like to help Irene in the future or act as her back-up, please email Irene at: is@starr.net or Joyce at: jaehs@aol.com )