



SMITH '61 NEWS

Spring 2017

<https://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1961/>

Class Officers 2016-2021

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Sherrie S. Cutler

Dear Classmates,

I am so lucky to be surrounded by a gifted group of class officers, most of whom have served our class for many years. They are an amazing group! It is also fabulous that we have already 15 class stewards who will keep in touch with classmates over the coming 5 years. Consider joining them! More details below from Sally, Alice and Marion.

Here are just a few of many exciting developments at Smith.

1..Work is beginning on the new Neilson library, designed by the famous architect, Maya Lin. For details see: <https://www.smith.edu/news/maya-lin-shares-design-for-new-neilson-library/>. President Obama awarded Maya Lin the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016, saying that this year's recipients "have helped push American forward, inspiring millions of people around the world along the way." Maya's mom was a Smithie. Plans are for the library to be completed by the Fall Semester of 2020. We will thus be able to tour it in 2021 as we celebrate our 60th Reunion! Can't wait!

2. Media outlets across the country, including the New York Times, reported on the record breaking success of Smith's Women for the World campaign which raised \$486 million - goal \$450 million - for student scholarships and curriculum initiatives - the largest amount ever for a women's college.

3. This year Smith received a record 5,432 applications, a 3% increase over last year and a 21% increase since 2013. A record was set for the 10th year in a row. Women want to attend Smith!!!
4. Smith continues to lead the country in Fulbright Fellowships awarded. 37 applications are being reviewed this year.

Turning to our class, sadly, five of our classmates have died since our 55th reunion: Sally Haines Dudley, Mary Woodson Crowell, Elaine Reed, Carol Lobb Kimball and Jane Symonds Nalwalk. And Frances Jane Hailman 's death in 2013 was reported recently. Do read about them on our class website.

<https://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1961/in-memoriam/> Our website includes interesting material about our 55th Reunion, including photos, Louise Merrill Dudley's excellent Reunion report, and a video of the class panel discussion.

Please, please be in touch with me or other class officers with ideas or concerns.

All the very best,

Betsy Carter, President vanbets@starpower.net

VICE PRESIDENT AND REUNION CHAIRS - Anne Gagnebin Coffin and Mary Kiley Newman

We are very excited to be working on plans for our (it cannot be true) 60th reunion in 2021--and we trust that together we can equal the great standard set by our imaginative and energetic Reunion Chair predecessor, Louise Merrill Dudley!

These are early days, however we would welcome ideas for our Reunion theme. The earlier we have something in place, the more we can do to make it fun and memorable. Please feel free to email any thoughts to Mary, mary.newman@yahoo.com, or Anne, annecoffin2@gmail.com. And if there's a particular role you'd like to play at Reunion, i.e. something you'd like to volunteer for, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you - in fact that's why we agreed to take this on!

SECRETARY – Louise Merrill Dudley

Many thanks to all who sent news in February for our Class Notes column in the *Quarterly*. These contributions won't be in print until June, though, because production of the magazine takes almost four months. Thus, the Spring issue that arrived recently has the column that I compiled back in November!

Despite this sometimes frustrating lag time, which can make it hard to remember what and when you last wrote, do keep those emails coming. I try to work excerpts from as many of them as possible into the column's 750-word limit. And I'll be working with Irene Starr, our webmaestro extraordinaire, to post the full contributions on our class website. We're lucky that technology is making it so much easier to stay in touch with long-time friends.

Two other hints about submissions for Class Notes: The magazine's editors ask that we write about only events or activities that have already happened, not those that are planned for the future. And photographs, ideally showing only alumnae, can be either prints or attachments to an email. (The latter should be at least 1MB in size, with a resolution of 300 dpi or higher.) They don't guarantee publication, though, as they receive so many.

Despite all the rules and restrictions, it's fun putting these Notes together—and I hope you enjoy reading them.

MEDIA CHAIR - Irene Stiefel Starr

Please volunteer to be a media co-chair. You'll learn via a phone call (half hour or so) how to access our site and make simple changes. This is important in case I am traveling or sick when changes are needed! Reunion Highlights are at <https://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1961/>. **This is our new class website address! Please note that Smith61.org has been retired.** A password (name of campus pond in lower case) is needed only for pages that have contact info, to protect privacy. Additions, suggestions, news, questions, comments are welcome. Send to ics [at] starr [dot] net. We also have a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/smith61/, with 47 members so far!

SMITH FUND AGENTS - Marion Scattergood Ballard, Sally Ross Schroeder, Alice Schaffer Smith

Your 3 fund agents, along with our staff liaison Barbara Rejniak, have been put together a program for the next 4 years. Fifteen of you (plus 3 fund agents) have volunteered to be class stewards. This means we have a team of 18 to contact classmates - by email, snail mail or phone call - to say thank you! We are very grateful to the 15 who have volunteered to be stewards, but we would welcome even more, so we can thank more people. This does not require you to ask classmates for money. That's the college's job. Here is the list of our class stewards:

Ann Shepler Albright	June Frederickson Leatherbee	Joan Calloway Pratt
Emmy Pettway Cerveny	Christina Schafer Long	Sally Ellis Quale
Peggy Barker Christie	Marilyn Carlson Nelson	Nancy Silverman Skurnik
Ann Van Alstyne Frothingham	Dorothy Allen Penrose	Nancy Eaton Smart
Susan DeLay Gesing	Cindy Maughan Powell	Nancy Arnone Young

Please contact Marion, Alice or Sally if you'd like to participate!

<mailto:marionballard@comcast.net>, asmith36@sbcglobal.net, <mailto:sallyschroeder@comcast.net>

Best wishes from your fund agents!

MEMORIAL GIFTS – Gill Wright Bentley and Helen Hutchins Reed

Helen and I would like to remind you that a gift to Smith in memory of a classmate, your mother, or friend from another class, is added to your Class of '61 gift. The same holds true for gifts to the Botanic Gardens, Library, Athletic or Music Departments, etc. Gill finds writing letters thanking Class Donors interesting. Toni Stackpole Russin, for example, gave a gift in memory of a Mary Byers Smith, Smith '1908, to the Library. Well, on inquiry, Toni's Great Aunt Mary came to virtually every reunion well into to her 90s and had a particular interest in the Library. She knew various librarians personally. I have been so taken with the new Neilson Library project, the challenge to meet the needs of students in the new technological age and the choice of Maya Lin. It seemed to me Toni's gift and designation was especially appropriate. It was fun reconnecting with Toni as well.

PLANNED GIVING – Nancy Silverman Skurnik

For those who are considering a bequest to benefit the college and/or those considering the benefits of arranging one of a variety of trusts with substantial tax advantages that make trusts attractive in your long-term financial planning, please contact Sam Samuels at ssamuels@smith.edu for further information. Our class includes among us many members of The Grecourt Society because we have indicated to the college that we have included a bequest for Smith in our Wills. Please consider joining The Grecourt Society. You will be in good company. Here's a link. <http://smith.plannedgiving.org/smith/giving/2.html>

Most of our class is now online and will be receiving Newsletters and all class communication this way. Those who do not have or do not want to receive email will continue to receive hard copy newsletters. A reminder -

you may choose which emails you would like to receive from Smith on <http://alumnae.smith.edu/>. Also you can easily send a new email address or a change in your existing address to Smith's records department at alumnaerecords@smith.edu.