

I received the emails below in January and February 2017. Brief excerpts from most of these have been published in the Summer issue of the *Quarterly* [saq.smith.edu/i/834789-summer-2017 pp 43-44], along with several shorter notes. Classmates who emailed me in April and May can expect to see their notes in the Fall issue, due out in September.

Louise Merrill Dudley, '61 Class Secretary

Laura Pires-Hester:

First of all, I was so sorry to miss the last Reunion, and hope to do better next time around. Life is "sort of 'same as always'" but perhaps more so. On the mundane side, I just had my apartment painted in "rejuvenate orange" and "skyfall/blue" accents, and recommend it highly for a needed "lift"!!...of course, the books are still mostly on the floors, but the colors make it ok, at least temporarily! On the more serious side, I am still deeply involved with our church/still in "transition"; the Schooner *Ernestina-Morrissey* (123rd anniversary of launching in Gloucester February 1!) being restored in Booth Bay Harbor Shipyard (near Joyce Geiger Spencer) and still Chairperson of MA Schooner Ernestina Commission--in major "transition", needing further funding to complete restoration; member of national Ministries Council of Church of God/Anderson IN (appointment just renewed); Treasurer of New York Theological Seminary, and great joys in seeing the children and young people in my family deal with this 21st century. I was honored over last couple of years to be featured in 2 books chronicling two important parts of my personal and professional journey: *The Making of a College That Works*, by Grace Roosevelt; and *Ernestina-Morrissey: Phoenix of the Seas* by Chester Brigham. I do recommend Margot Lee Shetterly's *Hidden Figures* (have not yet seen the movie), highlighting another one of those untold stories of contributions by so many, especially important during this month and during this time of national and global turmoil. I wish love and blessings, and fortitude, to all...

Joan Callaway Pratt:

I sit here alone in my house with my dog watching a brutal snowstorm outside (2/9/17) and making soup and bread to keep feeling productive while at the same time trying to respond to all the nonprofits calling for help making calls and writing to our senators and reps in D.C. (and in Concord, NH) about the critical issues facing our new government. I am (as no doubt we all are) on a lot of "activist" lists and most days find the news and the assignments totally overwhelming, necessitating serious "choice-making".

I added solar electricity to my house last fall, and can see it happening more and more around me. There are exciting plans for more offshore wind projects near me too, and endless possibilities with new discoveries about batteries so I am hopeful that maybe even we will see a day when the energy mix becomes more balanced between alternative sources, fossil fuels and nuclear. I also volunteer for a local Land Trust with big plans, for Seacoast Eat Local, for a homeless shelter, and I can grow most all of the food I need in my back yard and at our summer place on Cape Cod.

Being very grateful for each day, for good health and for family and friend support I forge ahead!

Sally Ross Schroeder:

Greetings to all from California. I am enjoying the "senior citizen" era, and taking advantage of so many opportunities! Something nobody understood in our era at Smith, and which has grabbed my imagination, is the concept of plate tectonics. Who knew! I'm taking geology classes at the local community college, and we go out and examine various strands of the San Andreas Fault - and try to understand how this huge fault got there. Turns out, my back yard is a treasure trove. Come visit, and I'll take you for a tour!

Susan Schaffer Patricelli:

If anyone's life seems the same as always, consider oneself lucky! At our age (± 77) maintaining the *status quo* is an achievement both physically and mentally.

As far as recommending a good book, try all seven (in order) of *The Clifton Chronicles* by Jeffrey Archer.

Lynne Batzer Klopff:

I'm attaching a copy of our Xmas letter: For about the last eighteen months John and I have worked as co-chairs of our Vicars Boutique which is a major fund raising effort for the benefit of Vicar's Landing's Employee Scholarship Fund. We volunteered to do it because it was last held in 2013 and we realized a lot of changes would need to be made. We were to hold the sale in our new auditorium building so one of our most important concerns was - how is everything to be staged in order to create an effective and appealing sales environment?

Well, after we decided the logistics questions, we found committee chairs and began the collections, pricing and packing of thousands of sales items. In the beginning it seemed things were moving very slowly, but we were assured that the closer it came to the November 15th sale date, the more merchandise we would receive. So - be careful what you wish for. Beginning in late August we were swamped with donations and struggling to keep up. Sleep became illusive because I would awaken during the night and think about all we needed to do. Big mistake. Anyway, the good news is, we raised over \$32,000 - against a projected goal of \$25,000. So in the end it was well worth the effort. On the day of the sale we had over 100 volunteers working and just the fun of having so many people in our small community involved was a big part of the excitement.

Now we are trying to get used to having nothing pressing to do! Except we do have many friends over during the holidays and we are also entertained. Anyway, still busy and we have plans for some other, different activities next year.

Although we rarely travel, we did go to Celebration, Florida, for Thanksgiving to visit with my college friends Marge Coffing and Cyndi Kahn, along with her husband Ed, two of their children and four grandchildren. It is always special to spend time with close friends you never see often enough.

We hope all of you have had a healthy and happy 2016. We always look forward to reading about your special times. Here's to a wonderful New Year.

Margaret Frelinghuysen Kurzman:

It's 5 years since we had the class dinner for our 50th in my NYC apartment, a delightful evening of catching up that I wish I could offer again this year.

But I won't be able to attend because of a unique family obligation. My sister and her husband are celebrating his 2nd recovery from cancer by taking the extended family for a visit to Richard Branson's Necker Island across from St. Thomas in the Caribbean. However much I may miss you all, I confess my heart will be on Necker Island!

The last 7 years have for me been a long struggle with entrenched Lyme Disease, still ongoing. At times I've been barely able to walk with a cane, confused, highly forgetful and much more. Then it rolls back with new treatments--and I relax and enjoy my recovery only to have it start all over again. It is quite easy to suppose you are losing your mind, along with everything in your kitchen and pocketbook, misplaced and misplaced yet again. At the moment I am feeling better, working with a brilliant and offbeat MD to try to clear my brain of its remaining Lyme squatters.

Somehow I've been able to maintain a small private practice of psychotherapy clients, whose various conflicts and needs keep me on my toes and remind me that my troubles pale beside most of theirs. I do love the work and get as much from it as they do.

My husband, Paul, is still working full time at the Hunter School of Social Work, which he thoroughly enjoys. He also edits a professional journal in the field, and currently, at 78, has no plans to retire!

Our two children and grandchildren live in NYC and Berkeley, CA, respectively, and we all commute back and forth regularly to stay in touch. In many ways it is a very good time for us all.

Sherley Young:

I was the Smith College hostess on a fabulous Smith College trip to Egypt in November; there were 22 of us: 13 Smithies, 6 husbands and 3 camp followers. I felt completely safe in Egypt; in fact the tour companies in Egypt ever since 1992 have an armed guard with each tour at all times. I'd rather be in Egypt than in Chicago! One Smithie said, having been on many tours with the best tour companies, that Smith sponsored tours have, by far, the most interesting people on them.

I am completely absorbed in providing push back to our 45th president. It's a full-time job. Reading Traister's All the Single Women and Ruth Bader Ginsburg's book.

Alice Schaffer Smith:

I am the lead for the National Voter Corps: our vision: one person one vote and every vote counted. Voter Integrity a reality and an end to voter suppression. We are urging viable national groups such as LWV, ACLU, HRW, NAACP, Women's Clubs of America, national voting rights groups to form a coalition to create a 50 state solution to get proper IDs as per state laws, perform a massive voter registration drive, ensure voting machines aren't corrupted with a paper trail and making sure every voter can vote in a reasonable manner. Energized by the disgraceful election in November 2016. Join us, please.

Peggy Barker Christie:

To me life in the USA and how I spend my time turned on a dime with Trump's election. Beginning with the Woman's March on January 21st I am politically engaged locally for the first time in years. Recently the role of big money in both parties put me off from personal involvement. Now working locally for values I have probably taken for granted seems enormously compelling. Chestertown is surrounded by rural America. The shake-up will hit here when ICE descends on local farms, nurseries, landscapers and restaurants. We need to have lawyers, Spanish speakers and witnesses ready to go to the sites when this happens. I am convinced that our age group should be on the forefront of political action. We are old enough to know a thing or two. We have more time than the young. And we have lots less to lose, having often led full and fortunate lives.

Alice Arnott Oppen:

I went to the Women Deliver Conference in Copenhagen in May, a splendid convocation of reproductive health support around the world. As classmates will know, in January Trump reintroduced an expanded Global Gag rule affecting U.S. \$9.5 billion in integrated health services. Of course, wherever health services are incomplete, abortion will be end game, so the action was counterproductive. I am working harder than ever in Women's Plans Foundation to raise funds for family planning as a part of overseas aid programs. Without contraception and womanpower, where will the world be, with rising population in a heating climate? When we were at Smith, there was more hope for the world.

Barbara Russell Kornfield:

Just a few thoughts to share: if anyone is looking for something worthwhile to do, think about becoming a volunteer ESL teacher. I have been doing this for 20 years, and I continue to look forward to my weekly meetings with non-English speakers who are so motivated to learn our ridiculously difficult language. The only qualification you need is the ability to speak English! Book recommendation: A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

Mary Kiley Newman:

Over the past few years Fred and I have expanded our Smith-related activities --a number of wonderful trips organized by Smith Travel, the Smith College Museum of Art, and IPCNY, the print center founded by Anne Coffin 16 years ago. Always we're impressed by the intellectual vigor of Smith women and their willingness to share thoughts, ideas, and experiences. On the home front we still enjoy NYC, but with three daughters living in Atlanta and a glorious three-year-old granddaughter, it's hard to know how long we can resist the pull.

Gill Wright Bentley:

I am happily in the In-Law Suite next to family in a cornfield near Baltimore. Lots of Monarchs and little grass to mow in my wild flower meadow! My interest continues in conservation, historic preservation and horticulture with the Amateur Gardeners Club, Baltimore, as the AGC was one of the 6 clubs to found the Garden Club of America. I am especially pleased to be the Club Delegate to the Garden Club of America Annual Meeting in Baltimore, May 2017.

Susan Nair Cohen:

Nancy Eaton Smart and I were among the crowds in D. C., planning to find the Seven Sisters' group, but unable to do so because of the crowds [at the Women's March January 21]. It was exhilarating and wonderful to be part of such an enormous gathering. (see photo on right)



Heather Hyde:

In July I traveled to Cuba with the Smith College Alumnae Chorus. Gail Minault, '61, was also on the trip. My roommate was Eloise Rivera, Class of '62, (but originally a member of our class.) We performed in Havana and Matanzas with some very well- prepared Cuban musicians. It was very interesting to learn about Cuban/USA history and to see, firsthand, the human cost of our countries' politics.

Elizabeth Robertson Mossbarger:

I have not written in years! I have lived in Sarasota 40 years - came here in the summer of 1976! Am almost a native, compared to the newcomers and seasonal "snowbirds". I retired from banking and became involved in various needle arts more than ever before. We have an active chapter of ANG (American Needlepoint Guild) and a small chapter of SAGA (Smocking Arts Guild of America). Being a "city girl". I had never been to a county fair - now I am the winner of many Blue Ribbons for my smocked dresses! My guild has fun doing it! I will attach a picture of this year's winner - a Christmas toddler dress, with Shadow embroidery - all hand work - (do not do machine embroidery - it is just computer programming!)

I hope that someday I will have great-grandchildren to wear these garments. My grandchildren are all adults! My grandson, recently engaged, works for a financial firm in NYC, his sister is with an antique and fine arts dealer in New Orleans, both planning on graduate school soon. My husband's granddaughters are still in college - all in STEM fields. One is majoring in Chemical engineering, the twins are in pre-med (one for pharmacy).

So, my letter is not like my more successful classmates - nothing published, no awards, just my Blue Ribbon in the county fair!



Judith Hamilton:

I'm still substitute teaching and working as a Reservist with FEMA . I was with FEMA in Alabama for 2 months and in northern Wisconsin for 1 month, and am currently in North Carolina for a month. I'm getting to see a lot of the country! Also doing some foreign travel. My companion Bill Collins and I were in Tahiti, New Zealand, and Australia in the fall. And I'm still studying Japanese (it certainly was a lot easier to learn a language when I was younger - something seems to have happened to my memory!), playing the viola in a small folk orchestra, working on my various houses, and gardening.

Barbara Burn Dolensek reports that she finally returned to political protesting by going to Washington DC for the Women's March on Jan. 21, 2017. Aside from one march she joined later in the 1960s against the Vietnam War, the only other protest in which she participated was a sit-in at Woolworth's in Northampton on February 25, 1960, when she was joined by (among others) Talbot House mates Toni Stackpole Russin (the organizer), Linda Konheim Kramer, and Susan Gladding Cocks, whose photo appeared in newspapers in Richmond VA and Holyoke MA and who remembers that people threw snowballs at the marchers. Little did we realize that similar small groups throughout the North and South would eventually lead to success of the civil rights movement. Let's hope that the marches of 2017 are equally influential!

