Dear Classmates,

Our 60th reunion is three years away, but we have started to plan! We're hoping some of you will host Mini-Reunions in your area to drum up enthusiasm. Picture above is one held recently in San Francisco at Lynda Spence's home. The group had great fun and made new friends! From left to right front row: Lynda, Alice Schaffer Smith, Sally Ross Schroeder back row: Margery Kremers McFarland, Nicole Peter Yellin, Betsy Fox Fisher, Christine Naumann Gandel, Penny Holland Foster and Heather Hyde. Alumnae Relations staff are able to provide you with appropriate contact information for your area. Joy Williamson, bjwillia@smith.edu or 413-585-2079 is the person to contact. The Logo above is from our 50th. We're working on a new one. One of our themes for our 50th was "Green", something cool. Here's something remarkable. Smith has formed a partnership with Amherst, Bowdoin, Hampshire, and Williams to purchase solar energy from a facility in Maine starting in 2019. It will produce 30% of Smith's emissions by 2030. For more see: https://www.smith.edu/news/smith-will-partner-on-new-solar-facility/.

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Smith has also earned a gold rating from the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for the college’s overall sustainability performance. Among the reasons for this rating were reduced energy consumption in campus buildings, the formation of a committee on investor responsibility, and the growing proportion of faculty members (now at 28 percent) engaged in research on sustainability issues.

Here’s some other news of interest. The Mwangi Cultural Center was reestablished in April by Florence’s (Dr. Njenga Mwangi’s) daughter, Wambui Mwangi, class of ’90, during Smith’s annual Women of Color Conference. The renovated center is a social and cultural hub for Afro-American students at Smith. As you may remember, Florence was the first African student at Smith and became the first female physician in Kenya. Here she is at Smith.

**VICE PRESIDENTS AND REUNION CHAIRS**

**Anne Gagnebin Coffin and Mary Kiley Newman**

We are consulting regularly (and having fun doing so) and really looking forward to seeing everyone...and to having suggestions as we move forward with planning for the best 60th ever.

The more classmates who come, the better! To that end, we will be asking for volunteers to step forward to host regional cocktail parties or teas to bring together people from their respective areas when the appropriate time comes (late 2019-spring 2020). Meanwhile we encourage everyone to stay in touch with each other and with us, with ideas and suggestions.

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**

It would help me a lot if anyone who has switched to a new email in the last year or so would update that in the college’s database. That way, even if you have already told me about the change, it will be included when I periodically request a new master list from the college.

Betsy has given you two ways to do that. Or you can go to www.smith.edu, click on the Alumnae tab at the top, then Update Contact Information from the list at the left. Or, to get there directly (if you’re reading this newsletter online), go to https://alumnae.smith.edu/aasc/aasc/update-address/

Many thanks to all who have contributed to Class Notes. It’s wonderful to catch up virtually! The Quarterly’s summer issue, which should be arriving this month, includes what you sent me back in February. Your recent contributions will be published in Sept.

**TREASURER – Lynda Spence**

Our class currently has $19,406.60 in its treasury ($16,954.17 in an account at the Northampton Cooperative Bank and $2,452.43 in a Smith-held account). Because the class officers feel that we have more than adequate funds to meet class expenses in the run-up to our 60th reunion, we have decided to suspend any requests for class dues for the time being. As always, we will strive to keep the reunion fee for our 60th reunion as low as possible and will offer confidential financial assistance to those classmates who otherwise might not be able to attend.

**SMITH FUND AGENTS**

**Marion Scottgood Ballard, Sally Ross Schroeder, Alice Schaffer Smith**

Our second fiscal year since reunion will end June 31, 2018. As of April 2, 2018, our class had raised $161,975. In FY 17, we raised a total of $ 373,521. We anticipate that our total gifts this fiscal year will exceed that number, as many more gifts are expected to arrive in the next 6 weeks. Don’t forget to send your gift before June 30. Thank you! Our class participation is at 40% - a little lower than the other classes of our decade.

We are consulting regularly (and having fun doing so) and now live in the same building in Florida during some months each winter, which makes it easier to keep in touch. 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!

**MEDIA CHAIR – Irene Steifel Starr**

The class websites are www.facebook.com/groups/smith61 and https://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/1961/. The Facebook site is set to maximum privacy so only members of the site can see the content. An easy way to get to the alum site is to go to www.smith.edu, then click on ALUMNAE, Class Websites, and 1961. Sadly, the Memorial page is the one that most often has new content.

I give a workshop called “The Internet for the Technically Terrified.” The handout is at www.starr.net/is/smith61/internet.pdf and might be of interest if you are among the terrifed.

Please contact me at is@starr.net or 413-531-3737 for help accessing the sites and/or to submit info for either Smith61 site.

I hope someone will volunteer to be co-chair of media (in case I am unable to continue). Most months I spend an average of an hour updating the website.

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All the very best,  
Betsy Carter, President

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**MEMORIAL GIFTS – Jill Wright Bentley and Helen Hutchins Reed**

We 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 1961 gift. Helen writes: “We have been friends since our days at Smith and now live in the same building in Florida during some months each winter, which makes it easier to collaborate.

Some years ago and never anticipating I would be honored by having this job, I received a long letter from the Class Memorial Chair of Tina MacAyeal’s and Gloria Steinem’s class in response to my donation in memory of Tina, my sister-in-law and close friend. The letter meant a great deal to me because the writer actually told me things I didn’t know about Tina during her years at Smith and brought her alive for me during a time I did not yet know her … I have also been touched by the number of classmates who give repeatedly in memory of a mother or sister or cousin or friend.”

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**PLANNED GIVING – Nancy Silverman Skurink**

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.