



# Class News

## Smith College Class of 1961

### President

Below are reports from our wonderful class officers and directors. Smith's Office of Alumnae Relations and Development has sent out this message to those classmates with email addresses available. I will post by hand paper copies to the 77 others without email addresses. Please help me to cut this number down, especially as we approach our 60th!

You may add your email address to the directory at [alumnaerecords@smith.edu](mailto:alumnaerecords@smith.edu). You may limit the types of emails you receive. And there are great links in the electronic message for you to pursue! All the very best to you!

Betsy

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### Reunion Co-Chairs

Your 60th Reunion co-chairs, Anne Gagnebin Coffin and Mary Tison Wheeler, are putting their heads together to set the wheels in motion for a terrific reunion on **May 20th-23rd, 2021**. Mark your calendars! Our goal is to bring as many of us as possible to Northampton, to create a program that connects us with the current state of the college, and most importantly with each other. Our theme will be *Celebration!*—of distinguished Smith alums of the past, of the college itself, and of our own lives—rich, and long!

We are working with the college to develop a program that will explore the relationship of the college collections, art, botanical and archival, to academics and teaching at the College. This will inform us broadly about the changing academics and interdisciplinary programs at Smith, while enriching our class visits to particular collections over the course of the weekend. We are also working with the Alumnae Office, extracting records of who is where, and getting in touch with classmates who might be willing to volunteer to chair the various tasks necessary in preparation for reunion. Jill Russell Benedict has kindly agreed to once again head up our class headquarters. Nancy Champe Peters has agreed to take on planning for our class portion of the parade. Louise Dudley Merrill has offered to create an updated directory of classmates and Tina Schafer Long will take on feeding/plying us with drink! Many thanks to all of them and we hope to hear from others of you in the near future.

Betsy Carter, our indomitable Class President, and Marion Ballard organized and held a mini reunion in Washington D.C. in November. Twelve classmates attended and they enjoyed each other greatly!

Anne and Mary will plan one for New York area residents next spring, and we are looking for volunteers to organize or host events in other places. If you are willing to do so, and know that there is a critical mass of Smithies '61 in your area, please be in touch with one of us so that we can help you with the planning process.

Volunteers are also needed to organize house reps, so that as many classmates as possible can be encouraged by someone they know to join us reunion weekend in Northampton. Please be in touch, and most importantly, mark your calendars for May 20th-23rd, 2021.

Anne and Mary



Mini reunion

hosted by Betsy Carter and Marion Ballard at Marion's home in Bethesda, MD.

From left to right: Nancy Eaton Smart, Marjorie Seiger Zapruder, Carolyn Kinder Carr, Betsy Carter, Toni Stackpole Russin, Marion Scattergood Ballard, Susan Kulp, Sally Hand Herren, Peggy Barker Christie, and Laura Reed Werner

### **The Fund Raising Team**

We are a year away from our 60th reunion—and in those 60 years, we have lived many lives: personal, 2 generations of family, professions, community activities, political storms, intellectual/spiritual discoveries and more. I have attended many reunions, and each time, I leave my rental car (since I fly in from California) in the parking lot reserved for us old timers, ready to find my dorm assignment for the weekend. All these years later, I STILL experience the collywobbles that I felt at the beginning of my freshman year. Only now I know to take several deep breaths to banish them. I head to my assigned dorm room, get ready for the Friday night dinner and reunion has begun. And so it goes... By Sunday, it's time to depart: I pack, give/receive lots of hugs, rescue my car and head to the airport. I know I have been enriched.

I hope you will come back in May, 2021. I think you will be grateful for the experience. And in the meantime, please help support this remarkable institution that enriched our lives while we were students and has been part of our lives ever since. Thank you!

Sally

Please join me and make a Smith Fund gift today [via the college's secure website](#).

### Why are your gifts important to Smith?

- 67% of current Smith students receive financial aid from Smith. The average need-based grant is \$48,117.
- \$487,980 was raised from gifts of \$100 or less in 2019. Every gift, at every amount, matters!
- Last year, our alumnae participation rate was 29%. Wellesley's was 43%.
- Our annual participation rates are reported to *US News & World Report* every year, and it is a factor in gifts/grants from corporations and foundations
- If you make a gift, you will not receive any more solicitations for The Smith Fund this fiscal year--thus saving time, money, and resources.
- Gifts are a great way to honor the memory of a beloved classmate, friend, or professor. You can make your gift in honor or memory of anyone! The family of the memorialized individual will be notified about your thoughtful gift.

You might like to consider putting Smith College in your will. Visit the [Office of Gift Planning](#) website or call 800-241-2056, option 5, and speak with Sam Samuels, Director of Gift Planning. You may also consult with Nancy Skurnik [nansku@gmail.com](mailto:nansku@gmail.com) who is the class Planned Giving chair.

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### Here are a few ways to keep in touch and stay informed:

- [Alumnae Directory](#) (password protected) - find alumnae and update your profile
- [Update your address](#)
- We have a class website on the Smith Alumnae Association site. At this time, the important feature of it is our [In Memoriam](#) page, an up to date listing with obituaries of our classmates. Sadly, there are 120.
- Check out our class [Facebook group](#). We have almost 60 members, but need more and hope more of you will contribute to it, especially now that our 60th Reunion is approaching.



Pictured left to right: Left to right, Marion Scattergood Ballard '61, Betsy Carter '61, Sherley Young '61, Joan Martin (Betsy's sister) '67, and 2 other Smithies. Recent trip to SEGA secondary girls school, Tanzania.

To send class officers an email, click on their name below!

## Class of 1961 Volunteers

[Elizabeth A. \(Betsy\) Carter,](#)  
*President*

[Mary Tison Wheeler,](#)  
*Co-Reunion Chair*

[Mary Kiley Newman,](#)  
*Treasurer*

[Marion Scattergood Ballard,](#) *Smith*  
*Fund Agent*

[Alice Schaeffer Smith,](#)  
*Smith Fund Agent*

[Helen Hutchins Reed,](#)  
*Co-Memorial Gift Chair*

[Anne Gagnebin Coffin,](#)  
*Co-Reunion Chair*

[Louise Merrill Dudley,](#)  
*Secretary*

[Irene Stiefel Starr,](#)  
*Media Chair*

[Sally Ross Schroeder,](#)  
*Smith Fund Agent*

[Gill Wright Bentley,](#)  
*Co-Memorial Gifts Chair*

[Nancy Silverman Skurnik,](#) *Planned*  
*Giving Chair*

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