HAPPY NEW YEAR, SMITHIES!

WELCOME 2016

Upcoming Events

Please visit www.DCSmithClub.com under “Events” for more information on the following activities and/or to RSVP. Please direct your inquiries to our Programs Committee by emailing sccwprograms@gmail.com.

An Evening with Simran Sethi '92
Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
At the Camden Roosevelt Apartments, Simran Sethi—award-winning journalist and environmentalist—will be discussing her new book, “Bread, Wine, Chocolate: The Slow Loss of Foods We Love” and guiding alumnae through a delicious chocolate tasting. Tickets are $5. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event ($15, cash only).

Smith in the City: Washington, D.C.
Saturday, January 23, 2016, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
This half-day event at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center brings the best of Smith to you. Faculty from a range of disciplines will offer classes on an array of compelling topics, from the cost of higher education today to how to combat the spread of infectious diseases. During lunch, Katherine Rowe, provost and dean of the faculty, will bring news of Smith’s new and exciting initiatives. Tickets are $50, which includes lunch and $40 for alumnae in classes 2006 to 2015.

SCCW Monthly Book Club Meeting
Sunday, February 7, 2016, 2:00 p.m.
The meeting will take place at the Portrait Gallery. Stop by to discuss the February read, and please direct your book-club-related questions to sccwbookclub@gmail.com.

Alumnae Mike Night
Thursday, February 11, 2016, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
We will be having a mike night for literary alumnae of women’s colleges at The Pinch in D.C.’s Columbia Heights area. If you’re a poet/writer, or secretly one, this is an opportunity for you to share your work amongst new friends. We are in need of performers so if you would like to share a piece you have written, or are interested in helping out with the event, please send an e-mail to natasha.mcglynn@gmail.com, indicating your name/school/graduation year and what you’d like to share (if applicable).

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS— Page 2

Smithie Spotlight—Simran Sethi ’92

She has been called the environmental “messenger” by Vanity Fair and chosen as one of the top ten eco-heroes by the U.K.’s Independent. As a journalist and educator focused on environmental sustainability, Simran Sethi has had a fascinating and impressive media career. She is also the author of the new book, “Bread, Wine, Chocolate: The Slow Loss of Foods We Love.”

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Q&A: Simran Sethi ’92

What is your new book about?
The book is about the extraordinary changes that are underway in food and agriculture, specifically, the loss of agricultural biodiversity. It’s what I call the most important issue in food and farming I’d never heard of.

Agricultural biodiversity (or agrobiodiversity) is the loss of diversity in every component that makes food—food. From microorganisms in the soil; to pollinators such as bees; to the industrialization and genetic erosion of seeds, all the way up the food chain to plants, animals, and marine life.

Coffee, chocolate, bread, wine—every food we care about—is under threat. We’re losing the foundations of food. That’s what I learned when I traveled to Rome, Italy, to research challenges in modern agriculture. Embedded in every conversation about feeding people, conserving natural resources and ensuring a healthy diet—both now and in the future—is the threat of the loss of agricultural biodiversity. This reduction of diversity in everything that makes food and agriculture possible is the direct result of our relationship with the world around us. We are part of the problem—and the solution.

The revolution starts with us, on our plates, by looking at the pillars of our own diets and by making simple changes. The way to take back this power for ourselves is to understand why we eat what we eat. And to understand what we’re losing—so we know what to reclaim.

How did your major at Smith College influence your career path?
I double-majored in Sociology, and what was then called Women’s Studies. What I always knew was I wanted to help shed a light on challenges the world was experiencing. I have had many jobs, but this touchstone has not changed.

How has your principles or values shifted since you graduated from Smith and have these shifts altered your career path?
Smith helped fortify my commitment to social justice and also helped me make peace with my decision to live a life on my terms. Smith helped shape me into a formidable woman.

How do you remain connected to Smith?
A few years ago, I was awarded the Smith Medal. Prior to that, I had spoken at classes, Smith conferences, and at the Alumnae College. I stay in touch with someone who used to teach at Smith and with a few women I went to school with, but mostly I remain connected through the Quarterly. I have also found that connecting with Smithies during these last five years of researching and writing my book (across six continents) has been invaluable.

Favorite Smith memory or tradition?
I really did love Friday tea. I still have a spoon.

Simran Sethi will be hosting an event with SCCW to discuss her new book, “Bread, Wine, Chocolate: The Slow Loss of Foods We Love” and guiding alumnae through a delicious chocolate tasting on Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Camden Roosevelt Apartments. Please visit the SCCW website to acquire your tickets!

More Upcoming Events

Brewery Tour and Beer Tasting
Saturday, February 27, 2016, 3 p.m.
Save the date! The Smith College Club of Washington will be hosting a beer tasting tour at Bluejacket & the Arsenal (300 Tingey St. SE, Washington, DC 20003). More information on this event will soon be posted on the SCCW website.

The 21st Ivy/Seven Sisters Winter Indoor Mixed Doubles Tennis
Saturday, February 27, 2016, 6:45 p.m.—11:45 p.m.
Join us for one of the most popular alumni tennis parties for players of all levels and ages at the Four Seasons Tennis Club in Merrifield, Virginia. You do not need a partner to attend this event. You can come and leave at any time. Admission prices are $25 per player with advanced registration and $30 for door admission--non-players pay a fee of $10.

*For more information and/or to acquire tickets to the above events, please visit our website, www.DCSmithClub.com, and click “Events.” And please direct your inquiries to our Programs Committee by emailing sccwprograms@gmail.com.

SCCW supports local businesses!
Want to advertise with us?
Please contact our club treasurer Suzanne Mucchetti by emailing sdmucchetti@yahoo.com.

November 2015’s Picker Meets SCCW Young Alums Event: A panel of amazing young alumnae of various professions shared their post-Smith professional & personal experiences in DC with Smith’s visiting students in the Picker Program.
Left to right: Elena Farrar ’10, Kasmin Holt ’08, Angelica Martinez ’14, Amelia Murphy ’13.
Partnership with Hearst Elementary School — The club’s new partnership with Hearst Elementary School continues in 2016! We are seeking more tutors and read-aloud volunteers to lend a hand at the school. In the new year, we look forward to more Smithies joining this volunteer program and getting to know the wonderful students and teachers there. To learn more about Hearst Elementary School, go to www.hearstes.org. If you are interested in tutoring, please contact Margaret Greene (mhgreene01@aol.com); and if you are interested in joining the read-aloud program, please contact Andrea Kane (akane@thenc.org).

Mentoring Program — The Smith College Club of Washington, in conjunction with Smith College, is piloting its first ever mentoring program for alums this upcoming spring. Interested in participating as a mentor or mentee? Please contact Candace Gibson ’07 and Natasha McGlynn ’08 at sccwprograms@gmail.com.

Open Position: Newsletter Editor — We are seeking a new Newsletter Editor to serve on the Smith College Club of Washington Board for 2016! The position involves gathering articles for our bi-monthly newsletters; assembling and formatting the newsletters; and working with the printing company that prints and mails the newsletters. To be considered for this position, please email dcsmithclub@yahoo.com with a paragraph about why you would like this position and about your experiences at Smith by the end of January.

Join the SCCW Book Club! — The SCCW Book Club meets the first Sunday of the month at 2pm. If you are interested in joining the book club or want to inquire on the upcoming read, please email the group via sccwbookclub@gmail.com or the club moderator Sarah Sims at srs528@gmail.com. The next meeting will take place on February 7th. It’s never too late to join!

October 2015 Speakers Panel: How to be Politically Effective in Washington--Alumnae Views from Across the Spectrum @ the Project on Government Oversight

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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A percentage of fees will be donated to the Smith College Alumnae Fund.

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October 2015 Lecture — Professor Justin Cammy: Peace in Our Time? Reflections of the Israel-Palestine Conflict. Left to right: Caroline Carbaugh, Co-President of the SCCW; Professor Justin Cammy.