



Smith College Class of 1994
Fall 2022 Class Newsletter

Message from the Class Presidents

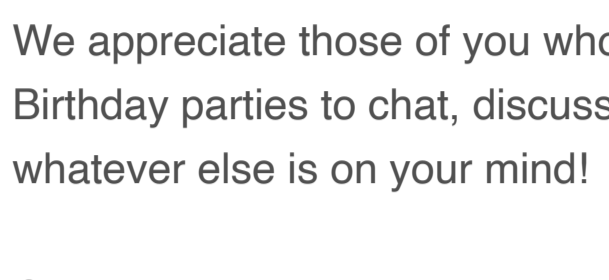
Connecting with Smith alums and classmates makes our hearts smile! There are many ways our class is celebrating friendship and support. Read on to see how you can join in the fun!

We would also like to express how proud we are that Smith is leading the way for inclusive education, by [replacing loans with grants in financial aid awards](#). This is a huge deal! Smith is the first women's college to expand its financial aid program in this way. Did you know that Smith is also providing ["launch grants" and "start-up grants"](#) to ease transition for 2022 grads and entering low income students? These investments in students are made possible by alums like you.

With love,
Holly and Liz

Class Announcements

50th Birthday Parties



Many of us have already celebrated our 50th birthdays, and many of our classmates will celebrate their 50th within the next year. Based on what we've been seeing on our [class Facebook page](#), we are checking off bucket lists, baking (or ordering!) cakes, and celebrating with our Smith classmates!

We appreciate those of you who have popped onto Zoom for our 50th Class Zoom Birthday parties to chat, discuss plans for celebrations, or share their birthday fun or whatever else is on your mind!

Our next 50th Birthday Zoom Party is scheduled for Sunday, November 6, 2022 at 4-5 p.m. Eastern. Please join us if you are able! These parties are also listed as events on our class Facebook page. Our last one will be on February 26, 2023, same time/zoom info.



First Champagne Cake at the Mother's Day on Oct Central Coast Photo taken by Holly Nydegger

Join Birthday Party Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 878 0444 6017
Passcode: 94TURN50

Someone Else Celebrates their 50th soon – Herrell's Ice Cream!

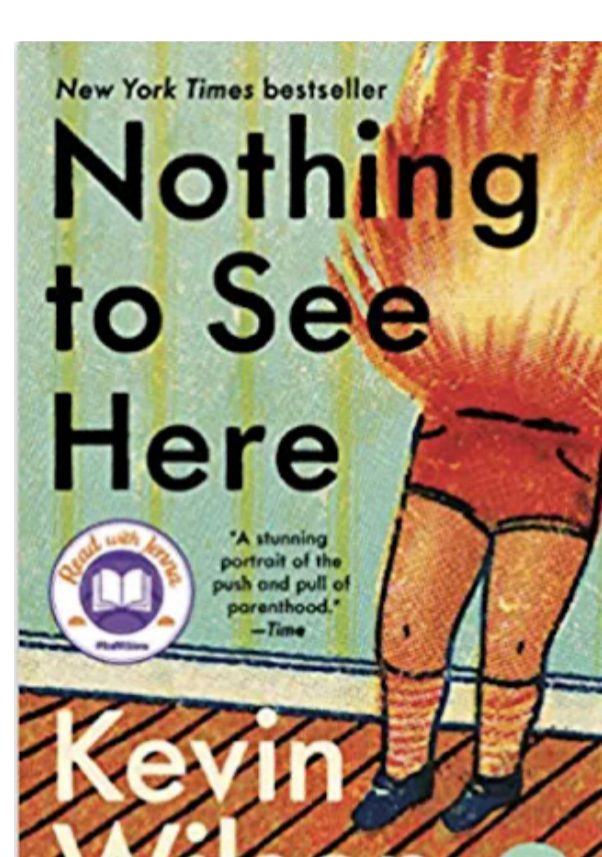


Herrell's 50th anniversary of their invention of the Smoosh-in is coming up in 2023. Should we celebrate with a year of ice cream pictures from our Class of 1994 family? Let us know by writing to us at smithclassof94@gmail.com. Liz Wohiksen Rugaber has a great recipe for [hot fudge](#), taken from the NYT Cooking site. Only eight minutes to make, and you will never buy hot fudge sauce at a store again!

Class of 1994 Book Club

We've also been connecting as a class during our Class of 1994 Book Club meetings on Zoom. We chat about the book and we chat about our lives. We are so grateful for those who join and share their lives with us. **The next one is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, 2022 from 4-5 p.m. Eastern.**

We've heard great things about the short and very funny book selected: *Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson. It's been named a Best Book of the Year by multiple media outlets. The two main characters are women who attended the same fancy high school (in one case, briefly), and whose lives are linked by a wholly original, hilarious plot line. Taffy Brodessa-Akner in the *New York Times* Book Review wrote, "I can't believe how good this book is.... The brilliance of the novel [is] that it distracts you with these weird characters and mesmerizing and funny sentences and then hits you in a way you didn't see coming. You're laughing so hard you don't even realize that you've suddenly caught fire."



You are welcome to attend our book club meeting whether you have read the book or not! We hope to see you on November 13th! And if you are planning ahead, the first book club meeting for the new calendar year will be on January 15, 2023, book to be determined at the November club meeting.

Join Book Club Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 970 1641 2514
Passcode: SMITHIE

College Network – More Opportunities to Connect More Easily

If you've been reading the recent emails from Smith (if you aren't getting emails from Smith, update your preferences [here](#)), we have a new tool for connecting with our Smith community – the [Smith College Network](#) app! It's available for iPhones and Android phones. You login with the same credentials for the Alumnae Directory, and if you need help contact alumnae-support@smith.edu. It's great! We've been using it to find addresses for alums and it's so much easier to use!

The college has also made more of a one-stop-shop resource page, where you can find many Ways to Engage, the latest news happening at Smith, info on how to make a gift, a message from President McCartney, and more – all on one page. Check it out [here](#).

Reunion Update

More Minis, Please!

Just two years to go until our Reunion in May 2024! (Sorry, the exact dates have not been determined yet, but we'll let you know as soon as we do!) We love getting together with our classmates as much as possible. Post a photo of your mini-reunions on our [class Facebook page](#), or send them to Anne Horton, our class mini-reunion chair, by writing smithclassof94@gmail.com. With Covid potentially less of a threat than it once was, perhaps we will see more 94ers sipping tea together and enjoying each other's company!

Class Spotlight

How often do you think about how things have changed since we were studying on campus? During one of our class book club meetings about *Band of Sisters*, we were talking about class differences and we wanted to hear what is happening to increase unity within the students who come from different financial backgrounds. Some of us remember washing dishes as first years. We asked about the work study program and whether first year students are still washing dishes as a work study job. We heard the following from the Student Financial Services team:

"The most important thing that I can report back is that we eliminated the requirement that first year students work in Dining or Res Life. This was done back in the 2018-2019 academic year. However, it is important to also state that these areas continue to be the largest employers on campus, so there is still a need to have a number of students covering the shifts. At least it is now optional.

"We have also lowered our work expectations from 12 hr/wk for returning students and 10 hr/wk for entering students to 10 hrs/wk/returning and 8 hrs/wk/entering. The wage levels as of 1/1/22 range from \$14.25 to \$15.75 per hour.

"Student jobs are now built within the Workday system, so students can use an automated system to apply for available positions." Read more about how Work Study operates at Smith [here](#).

Call for Class Notes

We love reading your news! Send your class notes for the SAQ to our class secretary [Alexa Kontes](#). You can also use the [Smith Alumnae Quarterly Class Notes form](#). Online submissions go directly to class secretaries.

Fundraising Update

30% by 30th Reunion

Such big numbers swirling around our great Class of 1994 these days...many of us are turning 50 this year, and our 30th class reunion is only two years away. Meanwhile, the numbers of the Smith Fund are climbing toward the year's target of \$12 million and class participation target of 30% by our 30th reunion.

The Smith Fund is a critical source of financial support for Smith students today, just as it was for many of us back in the early 90s. Did you know that even small amounts make a big difference? Please consider paying it forward. Make an annual gift and Power a Smithie today!

[GIVE TO SMITH](#)

Planned Giving Update

Why I Am a Greccourt Society Member, by Natasha Wendt and Elizabeth Foley

Natasha Wendt '94 decided to include Smith in her estate plan because she values her Smith experience and her continued connection with classmates and other alums in a variety of ways, and would not have these valued people in her life but for her Smith experience.



Natasha Wendt '94. She is a Smithie who loves cats!

Natasha continues to engage with a variety of Smithies in her personal and professional life. "Smithies who love cats" is an incredible group on Facebook that she regularly enjoys. "It is a wonderfully nonpolitical Smith-connected group involving all ages." Natasha is inspired by the "kitten train" organized by Smith alumnae volunteers to transport cats in need of homes from one end of the country to another. "Smith College Parents of Teens/Tweens" has also been super helpful.

Natasha graduated with a major in World Religions and spent time in Norfolk, VA, and traveling. She went on to obtain her master's degree at Michigan State in Health & Humanities and worked as a speechwriter for the Dean at The University of Iowa's medical college. Eventually, Natasha joined her mother's real estate sales agency as an assistant and credits her Smith experience with building her confidence in her professional skills, which has allowed her to become a founder and co-owner of Iowa City's top real estate company. She's even had the pleasure of helping several Smith alumnae buy homes.

"Smith alumnae do amazing things," Natasha says. "We should celebrate everything we all do that makes a difference for our own lives and the lives of others."

Many of our classmates are celebrating their 50th birthdays this year so it's a wonderful opportunity to update estate plans, ensuring your wishes are followed, and loved ones are protected. One simple idea is to name Smith as a beneficiary of a retirement plan – it's something you can do without the expense of revising a will, and it may relieve your estate of significant taxes. Please consider joining Natasha as a Grécourt Society member this year with a bequest to Smith. You can find out more about this and other ways to support Smith through your estate plan on the [Gift Planning website](#).

[MORE INFO](#)

Keep in Touch & Stay Informed

- Visit [Stay Connected to Smith](#) for the latest campus news
- [The Network](#) (password protected)—find alumnae and update your profile
- [Update your contact information](#)
- Follow Smith on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)
- Access every issue of the [Smith Alumnae Quarterly](#), going back to 1909, on the SAQ digital archive
- View past issues of [Notes from Paradise](#)
- [Be A Friend](#) (of the Libraries, Botanic Garden, Athletics, or Museum of Art)
- [Volunteer for Admissions](#)
- Join a [Smith Club](#) in your area

Class Volunteers

All class volunteers may be emailed at smithclassof94@gmail.com.

- Holly Nydegger, Co-President
- Liz Rugaber, Co-President & Fund Team Agent
- Jen McNally, Reunion Chair
- Vigie Ramos-Rios, Treasurer
- Alexa Kontes, Secretary
- Christine Acas, Web and Technology
- Jen Beachell, Fund Team Chair
- Karla Baldikoski Long, Memorial Gifts Chair
- Elizabeth Foley, Planned Giving Chair
- Ali Hawthorne, Fund Team Agent
- Cindy Stack Kardos, Fund Team Agent
- Judy Kim, Fund Team Agent
- Erinn McGurn, Fund Team Agent
- Katha Washburn, Fund Team Agent

30th Reunion Volunteers

- Naomi Graychase, Programming Co-Chair & Memorial Organizer
- Mariissa Walsh, Programming Co-Chair
- Rachel Day Velarde, House Reps Chair
- Anne Horton, Mini Reunion Chair
- Britt Neff, Seattle Mini Reunion Chair
- Erica Thomas, Northern California Mini Reunion Chair
- Kirse Granat May, Parade Chair
- Kira Mellups, Reunion Headquarters Co-Chair
- Brooke Teller, Reunion Headquarters Co-Chair

Connect With Us

Smith College Class of 1994
[Email](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) [Smith College Class of 1994](#) | [Facebook: Not What I Expected](#)