



SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1994  
Fall 2023 Newsletter

Message from the Class Presidents

Hello, dear classmates! Happy Fall/Winter! We hope you enjoyed your summer and Mountain Day! We are excited to share some important news with you!

**Our 30th Reunion is happening May 23-26, 2024!** The countdown has begun! Reunion is not about how many professional achievements you have racked up, not about whether you have maintained an ideal weight, not about any societal expectations of us at all. It is a chance to reconnect, re-energize, see old friends and make some new ones. It is about belonging to this wonderful group that is the Smith College Class of 1994, and we would love to see you!

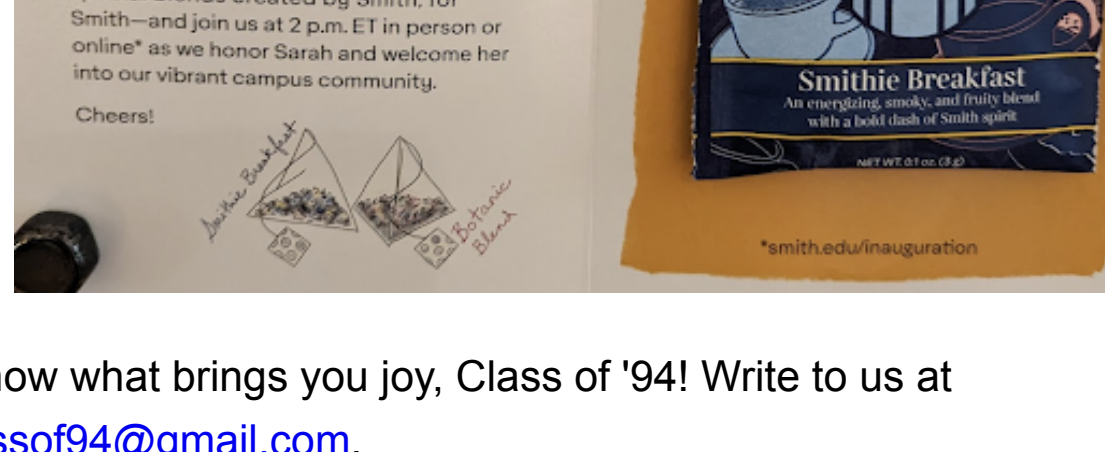
**And the Reunion theme winner is....** very appropriate and we hope brings up some fond memories for you. We know it does for us! Thank you for voting in our FB and email polls!

*I'm trying to tell you something 'bout my life  
Maybe give me insight between black and white  
And the best thing you ever done for me  
Is to help me take my life less seriously  
It's only life after all, yeah*

Yes, our upcoming Reunion theme is **"Closer to Fine"** inspired by the song by the Indigo Girls! Because we're all a little closer to fine when we're together!

Last but not least, **congratulations and welcome** to Smith College's 12th president, **Sarah Willie-LeBreton** (LeBreton is pronounced like/rhymes with "question" and not with "baton"). We love the smiles all over her social media! In honor of her Inauguration on Saturday, October 21, she asked you to share an image of **what brings you joy**. Smith has turned these images into an interactive piece of community artwork to celebrate her installation as president—and our connections. Check out the **Joy Mosaic** on social media and on the Smith College website – it's really cool! We hope you share(d) this great moment with some Smith friends, maybe even snapped a photo.

Did you get your special blend of Smith Tea in the mail? Tell us how you liked it!



Let us know what brings you joy, Class of '94! Write to us at [smithclassof94@gmail.com](mailto:smithclassof94@gmail.com).

With love,  
Holly Nydegger & Liz Wohlken Rugaber, Class of 1994 Co-Presidents

More About Reunion 2024

**Jennifer Pollock-McNally**, our Reunion Chair, is working hard on pulling together an amazing Reunion full of events and time for our class to connect. Thank you, Jen!

- Our class website will have Reunion information!** Christine Acas, Web Chair, to whom we owe abundant gratitude for creating this amazing resource, is starting on the updates for our [Smith Class of 1994 website](#). The goal is to have our website be your go-to place for your questions about our 30th Reunion!
- Could you volunteer less than an hour of your time to call some housemates?** We are looking for volunteers to help with our 30th Reunion. Right now, the biggest need is for folks to contact classmates and encourage them to come to Reunion, aka **Be a House Connector!** Please send an email to [smithclassof94@gmail.com](mailto:smithclassof94@gmail.com) and we will connect you with **Rachel Ann Day**, our House Connectors Chair, who can get you started. Thank you to all of you who have already volunteered to reach out to some housemates to get excited for May 2024!
- Mini-Reunions & FB Photo Permission for Class Website.** Some of us have been reuniting since 2019, and **Anne Horton** is collecting photos of these mini reunions. Many of these were posted on our [private class Facebook page](#), and we would like your permission to share on our website as well (which is public). If you are OK with that, please comment on our class FB page by the picture you posted – it would help us out a lot!
- We Need Your Photos, from Smith Days to Today.** An exciting event at our 25th was the tremendous class slideshow that **Jen McNally** laboriously put together. We'd like to do it again, and with Google's and your help, it will be a lot easier to do! Just **upload your photos to this shared Google folder**, and we will make a slideshow from what we receive.

Call for Class Notes

**Remember:** please send in your updates for the *Quarterly* to our Class Secretary Alexa Kontes at [smith1994notes@gmail.com](mailto:smith1994notes@gmail.com), where they will be preserved for posterity and not just posted to FB!

Class Spotlight

Congratulations to **Nolwandle Mgoqui** who was appointed as new CEO for AON South Africa!

**Judy Kim** and **Jennifer Pollock-McNally** held a Barbie Movie/Seven Sisters event in LA on Sunday, July 23 at Judy Kim's Gardena Cinema!

**Vigie Ramos-Rios** started a Masters in Social Work at Columbia University.

**Erica Thomas** has a new course available, [Eating with Self Love](#).

Madison, WI, Mayor **Satya Rhodes-Conway** visited Exact Sciences and the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness with Dr. Jill Biden and Senator Tammy Baldwin '84 to support the Cancer Moonshot project to end cancer as we know it.

**Inna Dukach**, Metropolitan Opera Soprano, performed at the Museum of Modern Renaissance in Somerville, MA on Saturday, September 9. Inna also performed the national anthem live at the Italian Bowl in Toledo, Ohio on July 1.

**Sarah Bennison** co-founded a new education/social impact venture called the Mattering Movement. Learn more about what they are up to [here](#).

**Shira Doron: Tufts doctor specializes in infectious diseases... and singing.**

**Moneshia Zu Eitz** and **Alli Novak Hawthorne** hosted a Women's Life Design Retreat in October in Lucca, Italy, dedicated to "designing a life that works for women, a time to gather, learn and reflect on ourselves and growth as leaders!"

**Natasha Wendt** was awarded the 2023 Distinguished Service Award at the Iowa City Area Association of Realtors Inaugural Banquet!

**Jen Beachell** reports that **Katie Manty** and **Barb Bellefeuille Guitierrez** are doing a great job re-energizing the West Boston Smith Club! They have organized an afternoon tea event on November 4. See the great photo below! Please reach out to [jenbeachell@gmail.com](mailto:jenbeachell@gmail.com) or Barb and Katie to join the What's App group and get details on future West Boston events!



Fundraising Update

**We Want the Highest Participation Number for Giving to Smith in 2024!**



**The Big White (Fundraising) Sign.** At our 5th Reunion, we raised \$14,063 for the Smith Fund with 39% of classmates giving. Let's make our 30th Reunion Big White Sign have even bigger numbers!

Do you consider the Smith experience transactional or aspirational? Is Smith about what happened during your four years at Smith, or is it about what Smith envisions for the world?

Smith is doing more than lip service to change the world. Smith committed to equity and access to education, and it acted by [eliminating student loans in financial aid](#). Smith committed to a [critical examination of climate](#), and it acted to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 in its operations, including making a [\\$210 million investment in geothermal energy](#). Did you know that Smith is one of a handful of schools that is achieving this carbon neutrality not by carbon offsets, but by transforming its energy systems on campus and is engaging its current students to engineer that leadership? It's another hallmark of Smith linking its mission to shaping transformers who can address society's challenges, and this mission is worthy of our financial support.

- Give for your memories.
- Give to welcome our new president.
- Give to support scholarships.
- Give to support a bold vision for women in the world.
- Give to change something that you hated when you attended.
- Give to make our Big White Sign at Reunion have the biggest number! (See photo if you don't know what The Big White Sign is!)

**Give now** – yeah, YOU, your participation really matters. The fiscal year is July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

If you are wondering how much to give, any amount makes a difference! If you are looking for more guidance on a level of donation for 30th Reunion, consider a donation of at least \$199.40 or greater.

Some classmates have been making gifts to the Smith Fund in honor of a beloved alum, a current student or a professor. These gifts are very special and we encourage classmates to cherish someone who has made a difference in their life by noting their donation with a dedication. Donating here makes designating your gift so easy, it's really filling in the blank!

Interested in supporting the class by becoming part of the Fund Team as we ramp up for our **30th Reunion**? Please reach out to our Fund Team Chair **Jen Beachell** at [jenbeachell@gmail.com](mailto:jenbeachell@gmail.com) or **267-972-6385**, and please consider [making a gift](#) to the Smith Fund today!

**And for you numbers folks, here's how we did in FY23 on fundraising:**

Smith Fund Goal FY23: \$75,000  
Participation Goal FY23: 21%  
Smith Fund Result FY23: \$58,723  
**Participation Result FY23:** 21% – ok, but *Wellesley's is like 50% people, can't we do better than this?*

[GIVE TO SMITH](#)

Gift Planning

**For Those Who Prefer the Long Game**



**Elizabeth Foley** is our Planned Giving Chair. She is happy to talk with you about how you can plan to include Smith as a beneficiary of your legacy, through a bequest, IRA Designation, Life Insurance and more. Please also visit [The Greccourt Society web page](#) for more information about including Smith in your estate planning.

[MORE INFO](#)

In Memoriam

**Karla Baldikoski Long** is our Memorial Chair. We would like to create a book with more information about our classmates who have passed. If you have access to obituaries or other information, please reach out to Karla at [smithclassof94@gmail.com](mailto:smithclassof94@gmail.com). Making a gift to Smith in memory of a loved one is also a great way to honor those who are no longer with us; there is a spot for designation right on the [giving form](#). For every gift given, Karla writes a note to the next-of-kin letting them know that a gift was made in the loved one's honor.

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](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- 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

Contact all class officers at [smithclassof94@gmail.com](mailto:smithclassof94@gmail.com), and we will get your request to the right person! For *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* class notes, contact our class secretary directly.

- Christine Acas, Web Chair
- Karla Baldikoski Long, Memorial Chair
- Jennifer Beachell, Fund Team Coordinator
- Elizabeth Foley, Planned Giving Chair
- [Alexandra Kontes](#), Secretary
- Jen Pollock-McNally, Reunion Chair
- Holly Nydegger, Co-President
- Vigie Ramos-Rios, Treasurer
- Elizabeth Wohlken Rugaber, Co-President & Class Fund Agent

Connect With Us

Smith College Class of 1994  
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