



The North Shore Smith College Club

The North Shore Smith College Club (NSSCC) Annual Report

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Special Thanks

What an incredible year for the NSSCC! Thank you to our amazing board for all of their efforts in fostering new alumnae connections and nurturing existing ones. Our membership has increased, and our events, Book Club, meetups, and Walking Group have supported this dynamic boost. Additionally, we've expanded our tech processes through the addition of electronic payments for membership, events, and more while increasing communications via our growing social media accounts. We also brought back our beloved S'mints, our chocolate scholarship fundraiser, bringing much delight and supplementary financial support. Through our Book Awards program and Alumnae Admissions Coordinator (AAC) efforts, we are cultivating the next generation of Smith students coming from the North Shore. Finally, we've strengthened our governance and nominations processes by passing brand new bylaws (the first new bylaws since 1969!) and through the creation of a Governance and Nominations Committee where we've crafted more structured election and nominations' policies.

I want to thank the new slate of board members stepping up to lead the NSSCC for the next year, and thank those who are leaving our board: Leslie Beatty '78, Angela Williams '96, Kathy Rabin '70, and Marissa Szabo '09. We are so grateful for your service and commitment to our Board and Club!

And a very special thank you to our members for making all of this possible. You are the fabric of our North Shore Smith community, and THANK YOU for all you do to support the Club and College!

It has been an absolute honor and a sincere joy to serve as your President these past 3 years. I could not be prouder of all of our accomplishments, and I look forward to continued success as we move into the 2024-2025 academic year. I hope you enjoy reading each of the Officer and Committee reports in this newsletter highlighting more in detail these achievements.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer in this beautiful region we call home!

Christina Bain '00

NSSCC Events

Harvest Supper November 2023

The NSSCC hosted its annual Harvest Supper this year at the Riverwalk Brewing Company in Newburyport. We enjoyed hearing from Riverwalk co-founder, Betsy Sanderson, on the creation of Riverwalk and had a great time touring the brewery and learning about the brewing process.



At Riverwalk, November 2023

Spring Luncheon April 2024

We had a fantastic time at The Century House in Peabody for our annual Spring Luncheon. Our guest speaker, Dr. Jessamine Finch '12, a Research Botanist at Native Plant Trust, Framingham, MA, and Friends Leadership Council Member, Botanic Garden of Smith College, shared her enthusiasm for research and

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2024-2025 NSSCC Board

President & Technology Chair

Kimie Matsudo Kester '88

Vice President & Tech Committee

Sarah Pedicini '11

Treasurer & Membership

Marta Meade DeSimone '81

Secretary

Marla Meschinelli Hoyt '88

S'mints & Tech Committee

Jessica Lane-Quinquis '93

Governance & Nominations

Christina Bain '00

Book Awards

Iris Sheinhait '86

At-Large

Ronna Woodward (Book Club Chair) '72

Sara Sweet Rabidoux-Kelsey
MFA '98

Events Chair

Open

Young Alumnae

Open

The North Shore Smith College Club recognizes and embraces the breadth of experiences and diversity among its alums. We welcome all Smith alumnae on the North Shore of Massachusetts to join the North Shore Smith College Club.

Email:

nssmithcollegeclub@gmail.com

Website:

<https://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/northshore/>

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the importance of native plants in natural areas and our gardens. She also gave us an update on the “swing tree” that overlooked Paradise Pond. Due to decay, the tree was removed but cuttings were taken and have been replanted at an arboretum where they are showing signs of growth. So there is hope that the tree will live on and may even return to Smith in the future.

Annual Meeting & Potluck

On Wednesday, June 12, the NSSCC was treated to an Annual Meeting at Ann Harrison’s lovely home overlooking the Manchester harbor.

Well attended by several dozen alumnae of all ages, the gathering enjoyed a delicious and varied potluck dinner.



After dinner, the 2024-2025 Board slate was elected, with new faces among those who will continue. Lastly, after a few years of diligence and persistence, the Club has voted in a new set of bylaws that should hold up for quite a while.

Thanks to all who attended - we couldn't be the Club we are without you and your support.

Technology Recap

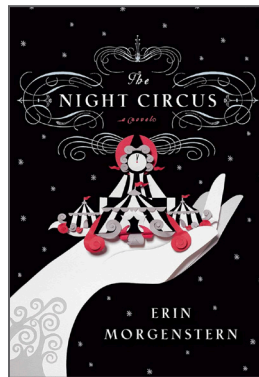
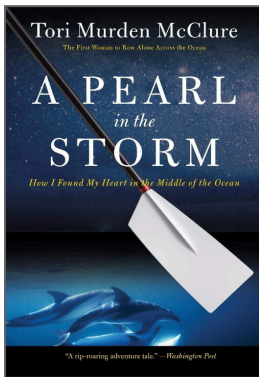
Our [private Facebook group](#) has grown from 97 to 118 members while the number of [Instagram](#) followers has risen from 67 to 86. [LinkedIn](#) has grown from 13 to 23 members. Please join us if you haven't already!

One new idea we are thinking about is reaching out to Smithies with WhatsApp. If you use WhatsApp, please let Sarah Pedicini know at: sepedicini@gmail.com.

Book Awards

The Book Award is presented to an outstanding junior who exemplifies the academic achievement, leadership qualities, and concern for others that characterize the thousands of women who have graduated from Smith College.

There were two books given this year: *A Pearl in the Storm* by Tori Murden McClure '85 and *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern '00.



We ask the guidance counselors at local high schools to nominate a student from the top tenth of the junior class. Book Awards have been given at the following high schools:

- Andover
- Beverly
- Bishop Fenwick
- Danvers
- Gloucester
- Hamilton-Wenham
- Haverhill
- Ipswich
- Lawrence
- Lynn Classical
- Lynn English
- Lynnfield
- Manchester-Essex
- Marblehead
- Masconomet
- Peabody
- Rockport
- Saugus
- St. Mary's
- Salem
- Swampscott

If you are interested in learning more about the Book Awards process, email Iris Sheinhait at: irissheinhait@gmail.com.

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 A special thank you to everyone who donated towards the Book Awards and NSSCC Scholarship Fund!

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
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Book Club

Each November, members of the Book Club select books for the coming year (Jan–Nov) from books they have read. Meetings are held in person at the home of a Book Club member as often as possible, with an occasional Zoom meeting held for weather, health or other reasons.



In Beverly, February 2024



In Manchester-by-the-Sea, May 2024

December is our annual delicious potluck dinner and book swap. Membership is open to all members of the NSSCC in good standing. This year, Book Club added two members.

Please visit the [website](#) for a list of current and previous book club selections.

If you have any questions, please contact Ronna Woodward at: ronnaw@comcast.net.

Walking Group

The Walking Group continues to meet on the first Saturday of the month at 11 am. We usually have a small group of about 4-5 walkers and sometimes 10-12 depending on the location and weather.

We enjoyed an extra special walk this year at The Garden in the Woods, Native Plant Trust, Framingham, MA. Our tour guide was our Spring Luncheon guest speaker, Dr. Jessamine Finch. We learned so much on our walk!

Here is a list of some of the beautiful places where we have walked this past fiscal year:

- Independence Greenway Path, Peabody
- Tompson Street Reservation, Gloucester
- Clipper City Rail Trail, Newburyport
- Weir Hill, North Andover
- Halibut Point State Park, Rockport
- John J. Donovan Reservation, Hamilton
- Chebacco Woods, Wenham
- Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield
- Historic Marblehead
- Maudslay State Park, Newburyport
- Harold Parker State Park, Andover

Our walking pace is leisurely and we hope you will join us for a walk soon.

To be added to the walking email list or to send in suggestions for places to walk, contact Kimie Kester at: kkester@comcast.net.

Meetups

Meetups are normally held at cafes around the North Shore. It has been a nice way to get to know one another a bit better over a cup of coffee or tea.

We did branch out beyond the idea of meeting at cafes this past year though and actually went on a cruise with Essex River Cruises.

We also incorporated two “Watch” parties to view the Smith Presidential inauguration of Sarah Willie-LeBreton and one for “Rally Day”. We had fun watching the livestream of both events on a big screen at the Ipswich Public Library and the Beverly Farms Public Library.

Upcoming Meetups

There are a couple of ideas in the works for meetups this summer. We are hoping to see the famous sand castles that are created every July in Revere and stop in at Kelly’s Roast Beef.

We’d also like to take another cruise together - this time with Newburyport Harbor Cruises and then drop by Riverwalk Brewing Company afterwards.

New for Young Alums

We are hoping to have more meetups specifically geared towards young alums in their 20’s and 30’s this year.

Ideas include pizza & movie night, mini-golf & ice cream, paint & sip, and more. Contact Sarah Pedicini for details and to share your ideas at: sepedicini@gmail.com.



Meetup at Good Day Cafe, North Andover



Meetup to cruise with Essex River Cruises



Meetup to watch the inauguration of Smith’s president, Sarah Willie-LeBreton



Meetup to watch “Rally Day” and an excuse to wear silly hats

Alumnae Admissions Coordinator (AAC) Report

The application and admissions numbers for the North Shore along with a table of admitted students by school can be seen to the right.

There has been an update this past year and interviewing is no longer organized by local or regional AACs. While we still play a role in collecting some information and helping volunteers get enrolled, all interviews are assigned directly by Smith. Thank you to NSSCC members who assisted with interviews this year!

Another update is that prospective students are only allowed to request an interview once their application has been submitted. A student can either do an on-campus interview with admissions or current senior or have an off-campus interview with an alum, but they can no longer do both.

Ideas are being generated regarding celebrating and engaging admitted and enrolled students. If you have an idea or want to help out, email Sarah Pedicini at: smithnorthshoreAAC@gmail.com.

Application/Admissions Numbers					
	Apply	Admit	Enrolled	Interviewed*	Percent Admit
Early Decision I	5	3	3	1	60%
Early Decision II	5	1	1	1	20%
Regular	78	19	0	2	24%
Ada	0	0	0	0	N/A
Transfer	1	1	1	1	100%
Total	89	24	5	5	27%

*Only provided this information if student was admitted

Admitted Students Stats by School	
Brooks School	1
Central Catholic High School	1
Commonwealth School	2
Community Charter School-Cambridge	1
Danvers High School	1
Essex Agricultural and Technical High School	1
Hamilton-Wenham Regional HS	1
Lynn English High School	1
Malden Catholic High School	1
Marblehead High School	1
Northern Essex Community College	1
Phillips Academy	2
Phillips Exeter Academy	3
Pingree School	2
Pioneer Charter Of Science II	1
Revere High School	1
Salem Academy Charter School	1
Saugus High School	1
The Academy at Penguin Hall	1

S'mints

The NSSCC partnered with local women-led Harbor Sweets in Salem to relaunch the S'mints program that began 30-ish years ago. The chocolates were well received and many were sold at our Harvest Supper last fall. Purchases continued to be made throughout the year at in-person events.

We hope to have S'mints available again in the fall. They make a great gift for a Smith friend or a delicious treat for yourself. Proceeds benefit our NSSCC Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who purchased S'mints this year!

Questions? Email Jessica Lane-Quinquis at: jlq_basc93@yahoo.com.



Membership

Cape Ann Area

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Beverly	6	8
Danvers	0	2
Essex	0	0
Gloucester	4	5
Ipswich	3	5
Manchester	7	8
Marblehead	6	5
Peabody	7	10
Rockport	0	0
Salem	4	4
Hamilton	4	4
Wenham	0	1
	<u>41</u>	<u>52</u>

Newburyport Area

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Amesbury	2	2
Merrimac	0	0
Newbury	0	1
Newburyport	3	6
Rowley	0	0
West Newbury	0	0
	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>

Andover Area

Andover	2	2
Haverhill	0	1
Lawrence	0	0
Lynnfield	0	1
Methuen	0	0
North Andover	0	2
North Reading	0	0
Reading	0	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>

Lynn Area

Lynn	0	0
Nahant	0	0
Revere	0	0
Saugus	0	0
Swampscott	1	0
Winthrop	0	2
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Central Area

Boxford	0	1
Byfield	0	0
Georgetown	1	2
Groveland	0	1
Topsfield	0	1
Wakefield	0	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

Other

Dover, NH	0	1
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NSSCC Class Year Summary 2023-2024

1963 and earlier	12	10 Honorary
1964 - 1973	12	
1974 - 1983	16	
1984 - 1993	15	
1994 - 2003	8	
2004 - 2013	10	
2014 - 2023	4	1 Honorary
	<u>77 Members</u>	<u>(19 New)</u>

Our membership increased from around 60 to 77 this year with 19 new and 11 Honorary members. Our core area of Cape Ann grew by 20% with all other areas at least doubling. This growth may be attributed to our new online membership form and ability to more easily pay dues via PayPal. The meetups and walks that have been organized in different areas around the North Shore have also helped in our outreach efforts.

If you have any questions about Membership, please contact Marta Meade DeSimone at: meadedesimone@comcast.net.

Treasurer's Report

Report of the Treasurer for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024			
Beginning Balance, July 1, 2023:			
TD Bank, Operating Account			\$ 4,158.90
Revenue and Expenses by Category			
Membership Dues	\$ 1,977.07		
PayPal fees	\$ (27.07)		
		\$ 1,950.00	
Spring Luncheon			
Reservations	\$ 1,121.79		
Meals	\$ (810.00)		
Decorations, Gift, Room Deposit	\$ (317.94)		
		\$ (6.15)	
S'mints			
Sales	\$ 1,324.54		
Harbor Sweets	\$ (620.20)		
		\$ 704.34	
General Operating Expenses			
PayPal Transaction Fees	\$ (67.71)		
IRS Filing			
State of MA Filings			
Fall mailing, printing and stamps	\$ (932.10)		
Checks			
Supplies and Gifts		\$ (999.81)	
Book Awards (to date)			
Donations (22)	\$ 610.00		
Books (+shipping)	\$ (412.73)		
		\$ 197.27	
Scholarship Fund			
Memorial Payments to Smith	\$ (50.00)		
Individual Donations (15)	\$ 820.00		
Donation to Smith, June 2024	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ (730.00)	
Net Change			\$ 1,115.65
Ending Balance, June 28, 2024			\$ 5,274.55

Submitted by Angela Williams '96