Message from Class President Gwen Mattleman

I hope this finds you and your families well. Yes, it’s true—our Reunion is less than a year away!

On behalf of the Class of 1977, I want to encourage you to save the dates of May 24-27, 2012 and plan to join your classmates in Northampton for our 35th Reunion. Our Reunion Chair, Laurie Macintosh, has been busy planning an exciting, innovative and memorable weekend for us.

One of our important goals is to transition to mostly electronic media for our future Reunion and general communications with the class. To do that, I ask each of you to please take a moment and ensure that Smith has a correct email address and other contact information for you. You can go to http://alumnae.smith.edu/cms/ and register or update your information, or email Secretary Sandy O’Brien at smobrien5@gmail.com or webwomen@smith77.org with any changes. We don’t want you to miss any Reunion information!

With great pride I’d like to call your attention to the number of your classmates who are serving Smith in various capacities. Among those serving the Alumnae Association Board of Directors are Lynn Smith Fox, its President, and Peg Jordan Merzbacher, its Clerk. And a remarkable five members of our class (listed on our masthead) are members of the Smith College Board of Trustees.

Our class is also incredibly fortunate to have a truly dedicated and talented group of officers. Sandy O’Brien, our class Secretary, will continue to ask you for news you’d like to share with the Smith community. Isabella Zagare, our Treasurer, has obtained tax exempt status for our class and will be managing our first class dues request in five years. Laurie Macintosh will be inviting more of you to participate in planning individual Reunion activities. Stay tuned for more on these below.

With the help of Nan Smith Stifel, we’ve set up a closed class Facebook group that allows your class officers to post information about Smith and Reunion easily and quickly, and lets us all communicate and chat with each other or simply observe. Please join those of us who

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35th Reunion News!

SAVE THE DATES! Our 35th Re-union will take place at Smith College on May 24 – 27, 2012.

Laurie Macintosh, our class Vice President and Reunion Chair, is very excited to be planning our 35th Reunion and she is off and running with many great ideas. The theme for our 35th Reunion is “Sustainable Smith: Remember & Re-live our Smith experiences, Reconnect & Re-energize with fellow Smithies, Reach Out with our Resources to make Smith a reality for generations to come.”

Jaye Barbaresi Hensel, Headquarters Chair, attended the Class of ’76 35th Reunion, which stimulated many creative ideas. She and Laurie are assembling a fabulous Reunion Team, and many hands make light work!! They are encouraging everyone who has even a little time to reply with interest! Past experience is not a necessity, but veterans of past Reunions are welcome as well! Many of us have children away at college now, so there is a bit more flexibility in our schedules. If you would like to help make this a Reunion to remember, please email Laurie at LaurieMacintosh@earthlink.net or join our class group on Facebook “Smith College Class of 1977” https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/smith77/, and let her know what event interests you. Involvement can range from 1 hour manning the welcome table at HQ, to chairing Saturday Afternoon Activities. Several capable classmates already have expressed interest, but the more the merrier!! Here are the positions and a brief description of what is entailed:

**Headquarters** - Chair: Jaye Barbaresi Hensel. Many people are needed on this committee. The HQ is decorated, has a refreshment center, has displays from current classmates, has memorabilia from ’73-’77, has a message board, and there are more very cool ideas in the works! This is a fun committee for you "party planners" out there!

**Friday Night Dinner** - Chair: Kate Martin.

**Saturday Parade** - think up signs that reflect our theme. The college makes the signs and delivers them to our staging location Saturday morning. A few funny clever people are needed for this committee.

**Saturday Afternoon Activities** - past events have ranged from yoga to panel discussions to karaoke. Several people are needed to plan and coordinate these fun, diverse and meaningful activities.

**Saturday Night Dinner** - choose menu, flowers, entertainment. The college assigns the location and takes care of set-up and clean-up. One person can do this easily. Advantage: you get to choose what you like to eat! Our Class Meeting takes place during this meal.

**House Reps** - Perfect excuse to catch up with your housemates! One Rep from each house contacts her housemates to encourage them to come to Reunion.

**Name Tags** – Help us design and distribute fabulous, useful tags!

**Don’t forget to join our Facebook group!** Sign up today: https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/smith77/.

So put the dates on your calendar and consider how you would like to be involved. “Facebook” your friends and start planning to attend. We look forward to seeing many of you at Smith next May to share stories and to have great fun! 

Laurie Macintosh
have been keeping in touch with one another there, and encourage your Smith 1977 friends to do so. Just set up a Facebook account (you can control your settings) and then sign up here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/smith77/.

It's somehow fitting that I have been writing this during a hurricane, at the end of a week in which an earthquake shook a good part of the Nation's east coast. It really has been a whirlwind of a time since our last reunion. Events such as a historic election, economic crises, blindly rapid innovations in communications and social networking, and political and legal changes at home and abroad all have filled the news. The same period has also brought innovations to Smith, notably the opening of Ford Hall, bringing new science and engineering areas of study to Smith students.

For me, it's been a fascinating and challenging few years. Like many of you, more responsibilities at work have to be balanced with joy and pride in my extended family and its growing children, and concern over its health issues and my own increasingly challenging eldercare responsibilities. When I graduated from Smith I was so grateful for my education, which has served me well in the ensuing years. But at graduation I don't think I truly recognized one of the most important benefits of a Smith education. That's you, my classmates. Having the chance to get to know so many more of you and share life milestones, Broadway shows, concerts, classes and conversation is one of the privileges of this office. I get new perspectives, insights and wisdom from you each time. But it's not my privilege alone. If you aren't in touch with your classmates beyond your original college circle of friends, I think you might be missing out on one of the best things Smith provides.

I encourage you to reconnect and renew your relationships with your classmates along with me. I hope you'll join your class officers and classmates in Northampton for Reunion, and consider helping us organize some local pre-Reunion get-togethers as well. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in May.

Warm regards,

Gwen Mattleman

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From Class Treasurer
Isabella Zagare:
OUR FIRST DUES APPEAL
IN 5 YEARS

Please pay your Smith College class dues now. As in the past, we are only asking for $77 for a five year period. The dues pay for the printing and mailing of the newsletters, costs incurred by the class officers for meetings, telephone calls, website fees, and for reunion planning costs. It's easy to use Paypal via the link on our website. If you prefer to send a check, make it payable to Smith College Class of 1977, and send it to Smith College Class of 1977, P.O. Box 2232 Westerly, RI 02891.

Visit our class website at www.smith77.org and

- update your email address — critical for Reunion news and communication from our class secretary!
- see the latest Reunion news
- click the Paypal link and pay your dues
- follow the link to our Facebook page
- connect with other classmates
- make an online gift to Smith

Take a moment to see what’s new on the site.
Our 35th Reunion theme is Sustainable Smith: Remember, Reconnect, Reach Out.

The actual logo will appear in living color on our website soon!

WANTED:

- Classmates willing to help host mini-reunions in their towns this fall or winter. These will be fun ways to reconnect with local classmates (not fundraisers). See www.smith77.org for details.

- Want to join the Fund Team? If so, email our Fund Team coordinator, Karen Flannery James, at karenfjames@msn.com

- Your news for the Smith Alumnae Quarterly. Email it to Sandy Macgregor O’Brien, smobrien5@gmail.com. Her next deadline is November 15th!