

Friends for life indeed, and if we have ever experienced a time to make plans to reconnect, replenish and rejoice, that time is now.

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SMITH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1971

Message from the Class Presidents



"I realize acceptance at Smith means little to you at the moment, dear, but you'll see—you'll meet freaks there who will be your friends for life."

Dear Classmates,

Friends for life indeed, and if we have ever experienced a time to make plans to reconnect, replenish and rejoice, that time is now. So get May 21-24, 2026 on your calendar and start getting ready to celebrate our remarkable 55th Class of 1971 Reunion! Covid robbed us of being together for our 50th, so gathering for our 55th to share the journeys of our precious lives in person, carries a special calling.

In the notes below from our incomparable Reunion Chairs Sarah Peskin and Angelica Didier Light, you'll see plans are well underway for a wonderfully engaging weekend. We are putting together communications to keep you up-to-date on everything from registration to events, and we're reinstating the House Rep system that worked so well for our 50th. We'd love to have your help spreading the enthusiasm. We can provide you with contact information for classmates who live nearby for a local gathering. We can help you set up Zooms with housemates and other friends. Let us know your ideas of how you might like to connect and we're here to help make it happen. Our contact

info is below.

Please read on for important information in the other sections in this newsletter. And keep an eye out for additional newsletters via email between now and our Reunion. We will keep you up to date!

Meanwhile, hugs from your co-Presidents and best wishes for a happy 75th or 76th birthday!

– *Sandy Cate, Carol "Pinki" Fontein & Margery Goldman*

Reunion Update

Join us on campus next spring to reconnect with your classmates in person and visit the gorgeous new Neilson Library, restored Alumnae House, and more. In addition to college events and Reunion traditions, we're putting together class programs building on Kiki Smith's book and exhibit, [*Real Clothes, Real Lives: 200 Years of What Women Wore: the Smith College Historic Clothing Collection*](#). Related topics we're exploring include fast fashion and its social and environmental impacts, and news about the future of this important collection. We'll have speakers and a reading list. And, of course, we'll all be sharing thoughts and worries about current national events and how we're responding. If you'd like to help with preparations, do contact us.

We'll be in touch regularly through House Representatives. Holly Darzen is setting up reps for each house. Thank you, Holly! Our House Reps will send along emails to their housemates with information about Reunion and ways to get connected. We are still looking for House Reps for some of our houses so if you'd like to help build excitement and be a connector, please let Holly know.

And please let us know if you have ideas or questions about Reunion planning.

– *Your 55th Reunion Co-Chairs, Angelica Light & Sarah Peskin*

Class Spotlight

Kiki's exhibit is at The New York Historical Society and getting rave reviews. Catch it before it closes on June 22, 2025! For those of us who can't make it to New York, we're hoping to put together a virtual gallery talk soon. Watch for an announcement!

We'd like to also pay tribute to classmate Sarah Peskin. In December 2024, President Biden gave National Landmark status to the Frances Perkins Homestead in Maine – in large part thanks to Sarah's tireless organizing efforts, with additional involvement of classmates Carla Dickstein and Jan Golann. Frances Perkins, the first woman in a Cabinet position (as Labor Secretary in President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration), fought to establish Social Security, unemployment compensation, and numerous improvements in the lives of working women and men. You can [read more here](#).

Supporting Smith

To date we have raised \$979,381 for our Class of 1971 Scholarship Fund. The goal for our 55th is \$1.5 million which will cover both tuition and room and board for a student. House Fund-Rep Chairs Kate Bennett and Sue Burns Maltz are recruiting volunteers to help us as we canvas by house. For our 50th Reunion we had a 63% participation rate. Let's all get onboard for our 55th and make that 70%, 80% or even higher. We can do it! Please help our class shine and make a gift that is right for you. You know how much your experience at Smith and the friendships you made have meant to you. Help us show our combined gratitude. Below are some ideas of giving opportunities from Smith:

- **Each of our donations, no matter the size, matters.** We have the power to transform lives, shape the future, and ensure that our love of Smith continues to thrive.
- **You decide where your donation goes!** Whether it's for faculty support, scholarships, curriculum, equity & inclusion, the library, career services, or sustainability, your choice matters!
- **Become a Smith Star!** Donate for 5+ consecutive years to earn this special recognition and be celebrated at our Reunion!

Want to set it and forget it? Become a sustaining donor by clicking the "Monthly or Yearly Sustaining Donor" checkbox on the [giving form](#) to set up your recurring gift. \$10 or \$25 per month adds up to \$120 or \$300 annually and it might feel easier coming out of your account that way.

GIVE TO SMITH

Gift Planning Update

By now, you have probably heard about Smith's largest bequest (\$51m) from an anonymous alumna of the Class of '79. You can read about it [here](#).

As of 3/14/25 our class has 52 active members of The Grécourt Society. Did you know that there's no minimum bequest to join? It's a myth that you need to be wealthy to become a member. Joining Grécourt can take as little as 15 minutes. One way is to simply find some account that you already have that is structured for a payable-on-death beneficiary(ies), make Smith at least a partial beneficiary, and [notify Smith](#) that you have done so.

It is very easy to name Smith as a beneficiary of your [IRA account](#) by revising your Beneficiary Designation Form. Contact your IRA administrator.

For further information and guidance, visit the [Gift Planning website](#) or call the office at 413-585-2051.

Thanks for your attention and support.

– Deb Lans, Planned Giving Chair

MORE INFO

Keep in Touch & Stay Informed

- Celebrate Smith's [150th anniversary](#)!
- Visit [Stay Connected to Smith](#) for the latest campus news
- Log into [The Network](#) to find alums, access Career Hub resources, update your info, and more

- [Update your contact information](#)
- Follow Smith on [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Access every issue of the [Smith Quarterly](#), going back to 1909, in the magazine's 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 Leadership Team

[Sandra Cate](#), Co-President

[Carol "Pinki" Fontein](#), Co-President

[Margery Goldman](#), Co-President

[Angelica Didier Light](#), Reunion Co-Chair

[Sarah Peskin](#), Reunion Co-Chair

[Suzanne Ross McDowell](#), Secretary

[Ana-Maria Zaugg](#), Secretary

[Karen Infantino Burke](#), Treasurer

[Constance "Connie" Herrick Weiss](#), Digital Media Coordinator

[Kate Bennett](#), Fund Team Coordinator

[Susan Burns Maltz](#), Fund Team Coordinator

[Mary Bergerud Perkins](#), Memorial Chair

[Deborah Lans](#), Planned Giving Chair

[Holly Darzen](#), House Reps Coordinator

SMITH COLLEGE

ALUMNAE RELATIONS

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THE NETWORK APP



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The Office of Alumnae Relations and Development mailing address is:

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