



SMITH COLLEGE CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER – MAY 2014

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 6, 2014

Dear Philadelphia Area Alums,

Welcome to our annual newsletter. Despite the winter's challenges, the Smith College Club of Philadelphia is going strong. We had a busy year filled with fun events and are planning many more in the coming months. Please join our activities and get involved!

Since our 2013 newsletter and the annual meeting at the Philadelphia Rare Book and Manuscript Company last May, we've organized nearly two dozen events. Highlights include a playground gathering at Franklin Square (May), an ice cream social and send-off for current students (August), a tour of the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown (September), a party to celebrate President McCartney's inauguration (October), our Fall Faculty Speaker event with Professor of English Doug Patey (November), our second annual "Smith Across the Decades" tea (held in March at Beaumont at Bryn Mawr and attended by seven decades of Smithies) and a visit to Yellow Springs Farm (April, see details on this and other events inside). We hosted the third-annual series of free career-related workshops with Smith's Colleen DelVecchio in January. We continued our monthly "On the 18th" events, which drew Smithies for after-work drinks, teas and other events around town on the 18th of every month. We started a new series of service-oriented events with a volunteer night at Philabundance (March). We also began participating in a consortium of Seven Sisters alumnae groups. We sponsored book awards to area high school juniors, and had a send-off party for students starting at Smith, then sent care packages for local current students that were delivered in time for both Fall and Spring semester final exams.

We broke last year's record with higher membership numbers this year and hope to continue the trend in the coming fiscal year. Thanks to all who became full club members by contributing dues! Regular dues support club activities, including care packages for

current students, events for admitted and current students, book awards for high school juniors, etc. Dues paying members also receive discounted tickets for many events. Please fill in and mail the membership form on the last page of this newsletter with your check, or follow the instructions on the website to use PayPal and send your form electronically.

On Thursday, May 29, 2014 we will be holding our Annual Meeting at the New Century Trust. More details regarding the event are on page 3. Dues-paying members will be electing a new slate of directors. We welcome nominees! We promise to keep the business part of the meeting short so there will be plenty of time to tour the building and socialize.

As you will see in the following pages, plans are in the works for many other activities in the coming months. Please get involved by attending events or helping to organize them. Have a talent to share? Want an event to be closer to home? Give us your ideas! Let us know if you have questions or suggestions by emailing phillysmithclub@gmail.com or leaving comments on our web or Facebook page. We look forward to hearing from you!

Finally, my personal thanks go to our kind and industrious board: Vice-President Kathryn Fox '07, Secretary Lindsey Benitz '03, Treasurer Lindsey Allen '08, Alumnae Area Coordinator Carolyn Trench '07, Communications co-Directors Anna Kegler '05 and Jaime Estrada '12, STEP Director Lisa Platt Carmalt '68, Student Outreach Coordinator Susie Kwon '11, and Directors Tara Thompson Gontkosky '02, Kelly Shipman '04, and Liz Balcom '10. Tara, Anna, Lisa, and Kelly are ending their terms and each deserves a big pat on the back for all they have done to help build the club. Thanks to all officers and members for keeping the club vital, and helping us build the community of Smithies in our area.

--Elizabeth Borland '97, Club President

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ABOUT THE CLUB

The Smith College Club of Philadelphia (SCCOP) is the official Philadelphia-area chapter of the Smith College Alumnae Association. Driven by pride for our alma mater, our mission is to connect local alumnae with one another and to the rich cultural and social activities of the Philadelphia region. The club also runs a range of activities to support and encourage current students and applicants to the college.

Our club covers the Greater Philadelphia Metropolitan Area, which includes southeastern Pennsylvania, northern Delaware, and southern New Jersey. The club aims to connect with the more than 1,000 alumnae in our area. Please help spread the word about our events! While many events take place in downtown Philadelphia, we have and will continue to organize events in the surrounding communities. If you would like to help us organize an activity in your area, want to host an event, or can suggest a great place to meet, please let us know!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Why Join?

The Smith College Club plays a vital role in fostering alumnae connections in the Philadelphia region and brings you an exciting array of events all year round. While our group is led by a dedicated team of volunteers, we rely on your dues to make all we do possible. Your dues allow us to send care packages to current students, host an annual send-off for accepted students, present local high school juniors with book awards, and cover the cost of many of our club events. Many of our events are free and members receive a discount on our ticketed events. No matter how long you've been away

from Smith, there's a vibrant community of Smithies here in the Philadelphia area that would love for you to join in!

Membership Details

A full regular membership to the Club is \$20.00, valid for our fiscal year, July 1-June 30. Starting this year, we're offering a special 3-year membership rate of \$55. Get your dues squared away through June 30, 2017! We also offer a discounted junior membership to the classes of 2009-2013 — and the class of 2014 and all current students can join for free! If you're unsure about your membership status, email phillysmithclub@gmail.com. See the membership form at the end of the newsletter to renew or join and enjoy the benefits through June 30, 2015!

CONNECT WITH US



www.phillysmithclub.wordpress.com



phillysmithclub@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Smith-College-Club-of-Philadelphia/213751108651251>



@phillysmithclub
www.twitter.com/PhillySmithClub



<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Smith-College-Club-Philadelphia-4881822/about>

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RSVP TODAY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Where? New Century Trust
1307 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

When? May 29th at 6:00 pm

Cost: \$20 for members. \$25 for non-members.
Send your registration along with your annual dues and get the members rate!

The annual meeting is an opportunity for club members to socialize as well as conduct club business, including the election of new board members. Are you interested in joining the board? Do you know someone who is? Nominations for board members can be sent to the club in advance or made at the meeting.

This year's event takes place at the New Century Trust in Center City Philadelphia, an organization with roots going back to the Women's Pavilion at the centennial exhibition in 1876. The Trust was active in Pennsylvania's women's suffrage movement and in providing both vocational training and social events for women. Today, the Trust continues to run programs to support its mission of improving the status of women and girls, preserving their landmark building, and educating the public about the Trust's role in women's history.

We'll enjoy a tour of the Trust's building, a National Historic Landmark, and learn more about this trailblazing organization. Register today!

ONGOING EVENTS

TWO BOOK GROUPS DRAW PHILLY-AREA ALUMS

The Smith Regional Book Group celebrated its 21st anniversary at the November 20th faculty speaker event. English Literature Professor Douglas Patey joined with members of SCCOP in presenting the book group with a birthday cake.

Members of the Regional group meet on the third Tuesday evening of each month from September through June, in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. They range from the classes of the 1950's through the 2000's. During the past year the group bid farewell to their long-time coordinator Abby Garfield when she moved out of state, and welcomed new coordinator Bernadette Miller AC'90.

A second SCCOP book group which meets monthly in Center City was started in 2010 and has continued to grow. In December, this group added a "movie night" to their calendar. The group enjoyed viewing a film based on one of our selected books and comparing the two versions.

In addition to a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction selections, both groups read the One Philadelphia One Book choice and hope that next year the visiting author's talk will not get snowed out! New members are welcome. For more information, visit the SCCOP website or contact:

Bernadette Miller AC '90 (Regional Club):

bmiller19108@yahoo.com

Lisa Carmalt '68 (Center City Club):

lcarmalt@comcast.net

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MONTHLY EVENTS ON THE 18TH

Mark your calendar! The club organizes a casual gathering on the 18th of every month. These events offer the chance to join fellow alums for a cup of coffee, a happy hour drink, or an outdoor picnic. Join us! Look for the table-tent sign or a club member wearing Smith gear.

“On the 18th” events this year have included drinks at Pub & Kitchen, Mad Mex, and Devil’s Alley, skating at the Piazza, and a special toast to new Smith President Kathleen McCartney.

Know a great place for a get-together in your neighborhood? Contact the club to plan a gathering on an upcoming 18th!



Next up...

May 18th (Sunday) at 2pm. Join us for a family-friendly outing at Sister Cities Park at 18th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Bring a picnic or buy a snack at the café. There is a boat pond for kids and kids-at-heart.

June 18th at 5pm. Raise a glass in West Philly at Local 44 (4333 Spruce St.). Their bottle shop will be open for ‘Beer School.’ Local 44 asks for a ‘pay what you wish’ donation for this beer tasting event. Come early! Beer School is limited to the first 20 people, but latecomers can do some informal learning in adjacent bar.

MEET SCCOP’S FIRST SMITHIE OF THE MONTH!

In an effort to better connect alumnae and to introduce more people to great Smithies in the area, the club is pleased to announce that we will be bringing you a monthly interview with a local Smithie.

Meet our first Smithie of the Month:
Bernadette Miller, AC ’90



SCCOP asked Bernadette...

Why did you choose Smith?

I saw a piece on CBS’s Sunday Morning television show with Charles Kuralt about Smith’s Ada Comstock Program, and was swept away with the idea of getting my degree at Smith.

What makes a Smithie unique?

Smith women celebrate the life of the mind! Smith women participate. Smith women are life-long learners.

To read Bernadette’s full interview, visit the SCCOP website. Nominate the next Smithie of the Month! Email the club with the name and contact information of the Smithie you’d like to see profiled next.

SCCOP RECRUITS AND SUPPORTS CURRENT STUDENTS

THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Started in 1940, the SCCOP Scholarship Fund is one of the oldest and most successful alumnae scholarship funds in the country. With help from donations from our Club, the Smith College Alumnae Association has provided financial assistance to many students from the Philadelphia region. Scholarships are awarded as grants in the students' financial aid package from the College. Donate today!

The endowed fund currently has a market value of \$1,792,329. In 2013, \$86,397 was awarded to several current Smith students from the Philadelphia area.

ALUMNAE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

Alumnae Admissions Coordinator Carolyn Trench has the SCCOP Alumnae Admissions program in full swing! This program works closely with the college to encourage students from the Philadelphia area to apply to Smith and to give newly-admitted and entering Smithies a local welcome. With an awesome group of alumnae volunteers, the club has interviewed a dozen prospective Smithies, hosted an ice cream social for incoming Smith students in August 2013 at the home of Elizabeth Borland '97, and hosted our yield event – an afternoon tea for accepted students in April 2014 at the historic home of Andrea Pilling '76. Smith alumna volunteers have also attended college fairs in Philadelphia and the surrounding area and participated in a volunteer training workshop with Admissions Assistant Director Deedee Cleveland. We look forward to the upcoming send-off event for entering students this summer, and another successful admissions season this fall.

BOOK AWARDS

Each year the club reaches out to area high schools to identify a hard-working member of their junior class. That student is honored with a book, a certificate, and the opportunity to apply to Smith with no application fee. In 2013 the club presented 7 book awards and we aim to give twice that many this year.

Do you have a connection to a local high school, want to help recognize a talented student, or want to increase awareness of Smith College? Just \$20 sponsors a book award for an outstanding student at an area high school.

CARE PACKAGES



Do you remember receiving care packages at the end of the semester? Many of us do. We also remember how stressful it is during the last couple of weeks of a semester. To offer encouragement to the 37 students from our area studying at Smith this year, SCCOP sent them care packages at the end of both the fall and spring semesters. Each care package included a little taste of home – Herr's potato chips and Fralinger's salt water taffy. The club also sent surprise welcome gifts to 11 students who joined the Smith community last fall. The students appreciated the gifts, which we know from the many thank you notes we received! Thank you to our club members whose support makes this program possible. We hope to see many of you when we gather to put together the next round of care packages!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

ALUMNAE VOLUNTEER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

On March 18, a group of club members volunteered at Philabundance, the Philadelphia region's largest hunger-relief organization. Together with another group of volunteers, SCCOP members packed up 720 boxes of canned goods, cereal, and juice that were then delivered to senior citizens in the area. The event was a huge success, with many expressing interest in returning. It was a fantastic way to give back to our community and to meet new friends!



PHILLY SMITHIES SEND GREETINGS TO SMITH COLLEGE'S NEW PRESIDENT

Local alumnae and their friends toasted Smith's new president, Kathleen McCartney, at a festive inauguration eve celebration on October 18th. We joined with Smithies around the world in sending our good wishes via tumblr and other social media. Cheers went out over Rittenhouse Square from the home of our host, Katherine Schneider '86. Two members of our board, Elizabeth Borland '97 (Club President) and Liz Balcom '10 Membership Director), attended the inauguration in person the next day in Northampton.

PROFESSOR PATEY VISITS CLUB FOR ANNUAL FACULTY SPEAKER EVENT

This fall, the Philadelphia Smith Club hosted Professor Douglas Patey at the Cosmo Club in Center City. The event was well attended and featured a lovely dinner as well as a birthday toast by Elizabeth Borland '97 to the Regional Book Club on their 21st anniversary. Jaime Estrada '13 introduced our honored guest, who gave a fascinating talk on Jane Austen's use of language in light of changing linguistic conventions at the turn of the 19th century.



VISIT TO SMITHIE-OWNED YELLOW SPRINGS FARM

Local Smithie Catherine Renzi, '86, was recently featured in the *Fall 2013 Alumnae Quarterly* as part of a group of Smithies working in small-scale, sustainable agriculture. We were thrilled that she invited our club to visit Yellow Springs Farm this April. Yellow Springs Farm is a Native Plant Nursery and Artisanal Goat Cheese Dairy, founded by Catherine and Al Renzi, located in Chester Springs, PA. Visitors met the farm's goats, including some new babies, and then enjoyed wine and farm-made cheese. It was a great way to welcome spring after a long winter!





SMITH COLLEGE CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

Membership Form

July 2014 – June 2015

Our programs, events, and scholarships are funded by your membership dues.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Learn more about what your membership supports at <http://phillysmithclub.wordpress.com>. Please note that SCCOP has recently been reclassified by the IRS as a 501(c)4. Donations and membership dues are not tax deductible. Donations to the Scholarship Fund continue to be tax deductible and should be made out to the Smith College Scholarship Fund.

Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Note: This contact information is only for the Club's use. You must notify the Alumnae Association at <http://alumnae.smith.edu> of any permanent changes. We primarily use email to send information; be sure your email address is up to date with the Alumnae Association.

Membership Dues are for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

- ☐ \$5 Junior Membership: Recent Graduate (Classes 2009-2013 incl. AC.; Class of 2014 free!)
- ☐ \$20 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$55 Ivy Day Membership: Three-year membership good through June 2017

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- ☐ \$20 Sponsor a Book Award. If you have a school suggestion, please include it here:
- ☐ _____ Annual Meeting RSVP – May 29 (\$20 for members. \$25 for non-members)
- ☐ _____ Scholarship Contribution (Make payable to Smith College Scholarship Fund)

_____ Total Amount ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ PayPal via website

Please indicate your willingness to help out in any of the following ways:

- ☐ Open your home for a small meeting
- ☐ Open your home for a large meeting
- ☐ Serve as hostess for an event
- ☐ Volunteer for a Board Position or Committee Member

If you have any program suggestions, please include them here:

To send a personal check:

Make your check out to *Smith College Club of Philadelphia* and mail with completed Membership Form to:

Treasurer
822 S. 9th St, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19147

To make a secure online payment via PayPal:

Go to <http://phillysmithclub.wordpress.com/membership> and click on the "donate" button.

Email your completed Membership Form to phillysmithclub@gmail.com