



# SMITH COLLEGE CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER — April 2017

### Letter From the President

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Dear Philadelphia Area Alumnae,

This past year has been one of significant changes for many of us. At home, my family has a tiny new person who is having a big impact on our lives! In the big world outside, a new president has altered the political landscape. Some of the shifts have been immediate and tangible, while others are much harder to pinpoint. At a time full of transitions, I am grateful for the constants in my life - and the Smith community in Philadelphia is high on the list. I regularly turn to you, my fellow Smithies, for thoughtful discussions, encouragement, commiseration, and laughter. My term as club president ends this summer, but I look forward to continuing to engage with and build a local Smith community where diversity is not divisive and Smithies support Smithies. Thank you for being a part of it.



The past year has offered many opportunities for local alumnae to connect. We began the year with our 2016 Annual Meeting at historic Bartram's Garden. This fall, Professor Marc Lendler spoke to a sold-out crowd about the 2016 election. In January, Smith alumnae came together in support of each other and women's rights at the Women's March on Philadelphia.

The Club continued to organize casual meetups every 18th of the month including happy hours, a Caribbean music concert, a visit to the Constitution Center, and assembling care packages for current students. Two Philadelphia-area book clubs brought Smithies together for monthly in-person discussion. Alumnae interacted online through social media and learned about each other through our website's "Smithie of the Month" feature. If you haven't visited our website recently, please do! You'll find a modernized format accessible via our new address: [phillysmithclub.com](http://phillysmithclub.com)

The Club continues to reach out to potential Smithies and support current students. **Carolyn Trench '07**, the longtime Alumnae Admissions Coordinator (AAC), organized a send-off event for entering students, in-person interviews for local applicants, and is currently planning a tea for accepted students. **Karoline Adler '81** has brought great creativity to our care package program this year. **Susie Kwon '11** and I worked together again to coordinate the presentation of Smith College Book Awards to talented local high school students. We were thrilled to honor students at twenty area schools in 2016 – a record number!

Your dues and generous donations make the Club's programs possible. Your participation and enthusiasm make them fun and engaging. If you've joined us for an event, made a donation, or liked our posts on Facebook, thank you! If you're looking for new or additional ways to get involved, there are lots of options:

- **Become a member! (p.3)**
- **Come to or host an "On the 18th" meetup (p.4)**
- **Follow us – and like us – on social media! (p.3)**

- **Sponsor a book award! (p.5)**
- **Volunteer to interview a prospective student! (p.6)**
- **Join the board!** The board seeks to represent the diversity of the college and of our local alumnae. The board meets monthly and is particularly looking for people interested in communications. But the most important qualifications are enthusiasm and an interest in building Smith community in the Philadelphia area. Nominate yourself or a friend by email at [phillysmithclub@gmail.com](mailto:phillysmithclub@gmail.com) or in person at our annual meeting on May 8.

I thank our board for their hard work – and for making our work fun! Thank you to VP **Kate Fox '07**, Treasurer **Elizabeth Savage '66**, and Secretary **Crystal Arellano-Fryer '09** for ably filling key board roles. Many thanks to **Carolyn Trench '07** for her outreach to prospective

Smithies, and to **Michelle Steiner '10** for managing club memberships. Thank you Co-Directors of Communications **Jaime Estrada '12** and **Lola Arellano-Fryer '11J**. Thanks to **Dru Foster '82** for publishing 'Smithies of the Month' profiles and to **Karoline Adler '81** for organizing care packages for current students. Many thanks to longtime board members **Liz Borland '97** and **Susie Kwon '11** for their ongoing support.

I hope to see you at a club event soon, and particularly at our 2017 Annual Meeting on May 8! Don't miss this opportunity to hear **Kory Stamper '96** read from her newly published book, *Word by Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries*. Complete event details follow below. See you there!

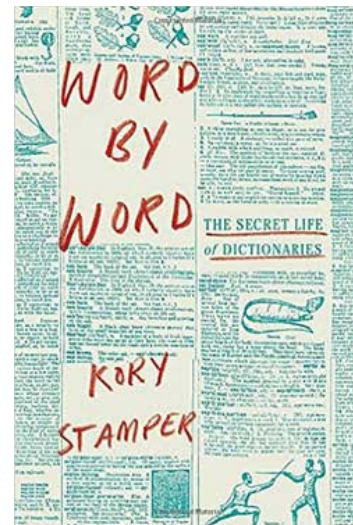
Sincerely,  
Lindsey Benitz '03  
President

## RSVP TODAY FOR the ANNUAL MEETING - with Alumna Speaker **KORY STAMPER '96**

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm  
Christ Church Neighborhood House  
20 N American Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

**RSVP:** RSVP to [phillysmithclub@gmail.com](mailto:phillysmithclub@gmail.com)  
Please **RSVP by May 1** if purchasing a copy of *Word by Word*.

**TICKETS:** \$12 for Members/\$20 for Non-Members. Add \$20 and you can get a copy of *Word by Word*! Purchase tickets and books at <https://phillysmithclub.com/membership> or you can mail a check to: SCCOP Treasurer, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave. Apt. 11A12 Phila, PA 19130.



## 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. SCCOP 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!



## UPDATED MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

We are pleased to announce our new and improved calendar year membership system! Membership will no longer be tied to the club fiscal year, and will instead be valid for one year from the date you join. We have made these changes to allow you to enjoy the benefits of membership for a full year – regardless of whether you join in January or July! If you have any questions or would like to confirm your membership status, please do not hesitate to reach out at [phillysmithclub@gmail.com](mailto:phillysmithclub@gmail.com)

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

The Smith College Club plays a vital role in fostering alumnae connections in the Philadelphia region. While a dedicated team of volunteers leads the group, we rely on your membership contributions to make all that the Club does possible. Your membership dues send care packages to current students, host the annual send-off for accepted students, present local high school juniors with book awards, and cover the cost of many club events. Many events are free, and members receive a discount on ticketed events. No matter how long you've been away from Smith, there's a vibrant Smith community in Philadelphia that would love for you to join in!

## MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

A full regular membership to the Club is \$20, valid for one year, or you can purchase a three-year membership for \$55. A discounted junior membership for classes 2012-2016 costs \$5 for one year. Members of the class of 2017 earn a free junior membership when joining within one year of graduation. You can become a member or renew your membership online <https://phillysmithclub.com/membership> Renew or join and enjoy the benefits through 2018!

## CONNECT WITH SCCOP

- WEBSITE: [phillysmithclub.com](https://phillysmithclub.com)
- EMAIL: [phillysmithclub@gmail.com](mailto:phillysmithclub@gmail.com)
- [FACEBOOK.COM](https://www.facebook.com/SmithCollegeClubofPhiladelphia)  
Smith College Club of Philadelphia
- [TWITTER.COM @PhillySmithClub](https://twitter.com/PhillySmithClub)
- [INSTAGRAM.COM](https://www.instagram.com/phillysmithclub) phillysmithclub
- [LINKEDIN.COM](https://www.linkedin.com/company/SmithCollegeClubofPhiladelphia)  
Smith College Club of Philadelphia

## ONGOING EVENTS

### AREA BOOK CLUBS

The Smith Regional Book Group has been bringing Philadelphia-area Smithies together for over 20 years. Members meet on the third Tuesday evening of each month from September through June, in Philadelphia and surrounding suburbs. They range from the classes of the 1950's through the 2000's.

The Center City SCCOP Book Group started in 2010 and has continued to grow. In addition to their regular discussions, book group members enjoy meeting up for author readings and to watch film versions of books the club has read.

This past October the two book clubs enjoyed their third annual joint gathering. A group of over a two-dozen alums discussed Ruth Ozeki's '80, *A Tale for the Time Being*, the college's book selection for entering students. Each year both groups also read the Free Library's "One Book One Philadelphia" program choice.



New members are welcome! For more information, visit the club website or contact:

**Kirsten Ernst '93** (Regional Club)

[kmernst@hotmailil.com](mailto:kmernst@hotmailil.com)

**Lindsey Benitz '03** (Center City Club)

[lbenitz@gmail.com](mailto:lbenitz@gmail.com)

### MONTHLY EVENTS ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup>

Every month, on or around the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Smith Club enjoys a get-together in a different Philly neighborhood. In March, Smithies gathered in Kensington at Franny Lou's Porch, a café and community space dedicated to activism and advocacy. This On the 18<sup>th</sup> featured food, coffee, and conversation about our roles in local and global communities.



On the 18ths included trips to the African American Museum for Otelia Cromwell Day and the National Constitution Center for Black History Month. Smithies also gathered for "Tea Outside the Cloud" for Julia Child Day, inspired by the Friday Teas in the Cloud Facebook group.

We hope to see everyone at future On the 18ths and are always looking for places to go, events to attend, and new Smithie faces who would like to organize (no need to be a board member!). Share ideas with [phillysmithclub@gmail.com](mailto:phillysmithclub@gmail.com)

Following the wordsmith theme of our Annual Meeting, **the next on the 18<sup>th</sup>** is Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for Happy Hour at [Writer's Block Rehab](#) in Washington Square West at 7:30.



## SCCOP recruits and supports current students

### BOOK AWARDS



Each year, the SCCOP reaches out to high schools in the greater Philadelphia area to identify a distinguished member of their sophomore or junior class. That student is honored with a book - *Gift from the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Class of 1928 - a certificate, and the opportunity to apply to Smith College with no application fee.

Since the revival of this program by the club in 2012 with three book awards presented, the club has increased the number of awards each year. In 2016, the club presented 20 book awards - four more than the previous year. Below is a list of schools that our 2016 book award recipients currently attend:

Abington Senior High School  
Academy of Notre Dame  
Agnes Irwin School  
Aim Academy  
Central High School  
Conestoga High School  
Episcopal Academy  
J.R. Masterman High School

Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy  
Jenkintown High School  
Olney Charter High School  
Penncrest High School  
Pennsbury High School  
Philadelphia High School for Girls  
Plymouth Whitemarsh High School  
Solebury School  
Springfield Township High School  
Strath Haven High School  
Upper Darby High School  
Upper Dublin High School

Book awards are funded entirely by club membership dues and donations. Consider sponsoring a book award for just \$20 to recognize an outstanding student in the area - and possibly a future Smithie!

### THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Started in 1940, the Smith College Club of Philadelphia 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.

The endowed fund currently has a market value of over \$1.8 million. Each year, funds are awarded to several current Smith students from the Philadelphia area--more than \$96k last year alone. Your donation to the fund will go toward local students, and counts toward your class gift. Donate today!

## SCCOP recruits and supports current students cont.

### ALUMNAE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

The Alumnae Admissions Committee celebrated another successful year! Our fabulous and dedicated volunteers conducted close to twenty interviews this past fall in the Greater Metropolitan Philadelphia area.

We have also been blessed with fantastic hosts for our annual events for admitted students and new Smithies. In August, **Dru Foster '82** hosted an ice-cream social send-off event for new Smithies and their families, current Smithies, and alumnae. We enjoyed vibrant conversation and a delicious selection of sweet treats.

This April, **Karoline Adler '81** hosted newly admitted Philadelphia Smithies and Smith Alumnae at her home in Society Hill. Alumnae volunteers brought many tasty treats, and we hosted five very excited admitted students! We are looking forward to another successful year reaching out to prospective Smithies and welcoming the newest members of the Smith community.

If you'd like to volunteer, just drop a line to [phillysmithclub@gmail.com](mailto:phillysmithclub@gmail.com) We are especially interested in working with anyone who would like to do outreach to prospective Smithies of color. Join in!

### CARE PACKAGES



We reminisce fondly about afternoon tea, our close friends from our houses, and the joy of Mountain Day – but we also worked really hard at Smith. Remember finals? To offer encouragement to the 42 students from our area studying at Smith this year, SCCOP sent them “EncourageMINT” care packages at the end of the first semester. The Club also sent gift certificates to Herrell’s ice cream to 10 students who joined the Smith community last fall. Thank you to **Karoline Adler '81** for hosting and organizing and to our club members whose support makes this program possible.



## Highlights from the past year

### ANNUAL MEETING AT BARTRAM'S GARDENS

Our club's year began with a very well attended 2016 Annual Meeting at Bartram's Garden. It was a pleasure to connect with old friends and to see many new faces in attendance. The group enjoyed a tour of the gardens, and food and beverages generously provided by members of the club board. We elected and enthusiastically welcomed six new board members. The Club extends special thanks to **Caroline Winschel '09**, Development Manager at Bartram's Garden, who graciously welcomed us and coordinated our visit!



### FACULTY SPEAKER: MARC LENDLER

The faculty speaker event has become an annual tradition and highlight of the year. In October, the Club had the pleasure of welcoming Marc Lendler, Smith College Professor of Government, back to Philadelphia. Professor Lendler gave a talk entitled *Amazing Like You Wouldn't Believe: The Strange 2016 Presidential Election*. Speaking to a sold-out audience, Professor Lendler shared insights into unusual trends of last year's presidential campaign, the idiosyncratic habits of voters, and this unique historical moment. The Club

thanks our Vice President **Kate Fox '07** for providing meeting space at the Penn Museum. We are excited to announce that **College Historian Nancy Young** will be our Fall Faculty Speaker. Whether it's your first faculty talk or your fifth, we hope to see you there this coming fall!



### PHILADELPHIA WOMEN'S MARCH

On Saturday, January 21, local Smithies joined on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to participate in the Philadelphia Women's March on Washington. As part of a 50,000-member crowd that marched from Logan Circle to the steps below the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Smithies (and their honorary Smithies) marched to voice their opinions on a variety of issues, and in solidarity with the diverse communities represented in our city and region.





## SMITHIES of the year



**Sue Badeau '79 and '80**

"The ideals and goals which have shaped my life and career were forged at Smith."



**Crystal Arellano-Fryer '09**

"Smithies are strong, independent, passionate with a pension for questioning authority, deep conversation, and political convictions."



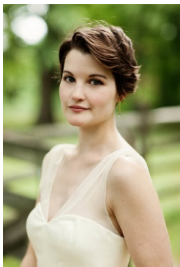
**Atema Addy '14**

"Smith was invested in me, and this... transformed me into someone who doesn't accept the cards I was dealt, but one who reshuffles and chooses her own hand."



**Dru Foster '82**

"Even at my first meeting of the SCCoP, when I was 20+ years older than any other attendee, I left feeling inspired, happy and as though I'd been with friends."



**Caroline Winschel '09**

"I give Smith a lot of credit—for providing space in which I could carve out those opportunities but also for offering a good grounding in not being a jerk. Assertiveness is good; balance is better."



**Kate Thomas '00**

"The confidence and determination that I built at Smith...has helped me recognize the dreams, realize that I could achieve them."



**Casey Rau '13**

"Smith helped me build my confidence and awareness of myself and the work around me."



**Jennifer Walters (Dean of Religious Life '01-'16)**

"My favorite traditions are Otelia Cromwell Day and Julia Child Day... I love that they capture two spirits of the college, striving for social justice and delighting in the things of ordinary life."



**Glenna Hazeltine '66**

"It's Smith's history of graduating outspoken and unafraid, high achieving women... one is a combination of talents and gifts not to be locked within someone else's gender box."

To read the complete profiles of the Smithies of the Month, visit the SCCoP website at <https://philysmithclub.com>

Do you know someone who would make a great Smithie of the Month? Send your nominations to [philysmithclub@gmail.com](mailto:philysmithclub@gmail.com)