

Short Bios of Speakers, Moderators, Readers and Hosts 50th Reunion, Class of 1972

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH, 8:00-9:30PM

“Optional Discussions” – ’72 Class Survey Video & Why We Read, What We Read

(see the “50th Reunion Class Survey” video online: smithcollege72.org/class-survey-2022/)

Susan Gutchess splits her life between Sandwich, NH and Washington, DC with her wife Helen and her two cairn terriers. She is involved in conservation and preservation efforts in her local community in NH and spends much of her time walking the dogs, reading and volunteering for Smith. Her life is not as boring as this paragraph sounds - for further details check out THE BOOK! You can reach her by email (sgutchess@gmail.com).

Nancy Ammon Jianakoplos was an economics major in Northrop House at Smith and went JYA to Geneva. She has participated in Smith College Class of 1972 alumnae activities including: Assistant Class Fund Agent for the 25th Reunion, Class President for the 35th Reunion, Class Fund Agent for the 40th Reunion, and Co-Chair of the Class Fund Team for the 50th Reunion. She conducted the reunion Class Surveys for the 35th, 40th, 45th and now 50th reunions (with Susan Gutchess for the 40th and 50th). Beyond Class of 1972 Smith activities, Nancy is a member of the Colorado-Wyoming Smith Club. She participates in both her Colorado Smith Book Club and the Smith Alumnae Association Book Club.

Nancy was an economics professor at Colorado State University for 30 years until she retired at the end of 2020. Her teaching and research involved using statistical methods to better understand the economy, particularly the impact of gender differences in risk taking on saving for retirement. You can reach Nancy by email (Nancy.Jianakoplos@ColoState.edu).

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1-2:30PM:

“Living our Best Lives” – Panel & Guided Movement Activity

Susan Griss was a pioneer in the field of arts-in-education. Rooted in her background as a professional dancer and choreographer, her successful methods of teaching academic curriculum through movement have been presented throughout the U.S., in Copenhagen, Slovenia, Israel, and most recently as a Fulbright Specialist in India. Her book, *Minds in Motion: A Kinesthetic Approach to Teaching Elementary Curriculum* (Heinemann, 1998), has been widely used in teacher education courses and by innovative teachers.

Susan taught graduate courses for early education teachers at Bank Street College of Education for 25 years, and for sixteen years taught K-12 teachers throughout the U.S. in the Creative Arts in Learning Program at Lesley University. She was on the faculty of the Kennedy Center and the Annual Partners in the Arts Summer Institute in Richmond, VA. In the NYS capital region, as Associate Director of Concerted Effort, Susan was co-founder/co-director of *BEYOND PAPER AND PENCIL: Bringing Literacy to Life through the Performing Arts*, offering professional development and artist residencies in elementary schools. In addition to working with educators, she has brought dance to women in prison and the elderly in a continuing care facility. Now retired, she spends her time dancing, playing electric bass, doing community service and walking her Newfoundland dog. You can reach Susan by email (susangriss1@gmail.com).

The dances she plans to teach in the “Guided Movement Activity” on May 13th are: *Nyandolo*, a dance to a Kenyan lullaby about giving potatoes to everyone in the family (elders, mama, papa, sisters) and to the world and *Devojko Mari Hubava*, danced to a sad song from the southern mountains of Bulgaria

about two lovers whose fate will keep them apart. She has two recommendations, if you are looking for online movement resources:

- NIA is a movement technique that combines dance, martial arts, and healing arts. <https://nianow.com/>
- Dance for PD was created by the Mark Morris Dance Company for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers, but it is really for all of us. <https://danceforparkinsons.org/>

Robin Thomas Poponne, M.A., has always loved to dance. After Smith, she pursued a career in dance in New York City. She hoped to be a regular “gypsy” but only landed on the Broadway stage for two performances. She was a dance-movement therapist for several years in the Maryland mental health system and a performer in an American Sign Language ensemble. Over the years she has become a charter member of the Charles Moore African Dance Company (NYC), the Caribbean Dance Company (U.S. Virgin Islands), Kankouran West African Dance Company (Washington, D.C.), and Sankofa Dance Theater (Baltimore). Dance has been a vehicle for travel to Senegal, the Gambia, Holland, France, Cote D’Ivoire, and Peru.

She is now retired and enjoys her four grandchildren, writing and her Bi-amesecat. Occasionally, she performs as a dancer and songstress. The dance she plans to teach in the “Guided Movement Activity” on May 13th is Funga Alafia, a West African dance of welcome. You can reach Robin by email (birddance@gmail.com).

Bonnie Beaver Roberts recently retired from a 38-year rewarding career in women’s health and was in private practice in suburban Los Angeles. She is Board certified in OB-GYN and is a member of the North American Menopause Society. Recently, she relocated to Marin County.

Cheryl Suchors majored in Hispanic Studies and soon realized she didn’t know what to do with her degree. In 1977, she received an MBA from Harvard Business School. Over the next 20 years, she was variously a management consultant, a bank officer, a partner in a national accounting and consulting firm, and head of her own (teeny) consulting firm.

And then she followed her dreams. At age forty-eight, she decided to climb the 48 tallest, toughest mountains in New Hampshire. It took her ten years. Along the way she followed another dream: she started writing a book. Her award-winning memoir, [48 Peaks: Hiking and Healing in the White Mountains](#), describes how hiking sustained her through cancer, the death of her hiking buddy, and her search for success. Cheryl lives with her husband and plants in Cambridge and visits their daughter in Washington, DC, as often as possible. Feel free to email her any time: cherylsuchors@gmail.com

Patricia Dillin Wright, after graduating from Smith with a Hispanic Studies major and a Theater minor, attended Indiana University for a Premed Postbac and then Medical School. She did her Psychiatry Residency at the University of New Mexico, Child Psychiatry Fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Psychoanalytic Training at The Boston Psychoanalytic Institute. She had a private practice for 37 years in Cambridge, MA, where she also supervised and taught at Harvard, the Boston Psychoanalytic and the Cambridge Eating Disorders Center. She was involved in many aspects of the Boston Psychoanalytic, including running a popular speaker series.

She moved with her husband four years ago to Oakland, CA to be closer to two daughters, a step-daughter and a grandson. There she enjoys hiking with her Covid dog, a Belgian Tervuren named Cayo, skiing, acting in Zoom plays and studying VoiceOver, acting, storytelling and writing. You can reach Pat by email (patwrightmd@comcast.net).

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH @ 1:00-2:30PM

PANEL 1: “Educating at Smith: Then, Now and in the Future”

Phoebe Haddon, a nationally known leader in issues related to access and equity, served as chancellor of Rutgers University–Camden from July 2014 through 2020. Under her leadership at Rutgers University–Camden, the institution was able to widen affordable access to students through its landmark Bridging the Gap program, which provides full or significant tuition coverage for New Jersey’s working families. She amplified the University’s role as an anchor institution in Camden and in the Delaware Valley by expanding the University’s nationally recognized civic engagement program. Prior to joining Rutgers University–Camden, Haddon was dean of the University of Maryland School of Law during 2009-2014 and secured a \$30 million gift for the law school; at the time, this was reportedly the largest gift to a public law school, leading to its being named the Francis King Carey School of Law. Among other awards and recognitions, Haddon received the 2019 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of American Law Schools and the 2019 Smith College Medal.

Ann Lebowitz lives and works in Philadelphia, where she has practiced law for 45 years. As a member of the District Attorney Law Division from 1978 to 1993, she participated in organized crime prosecutions and served as an appellate lawyer in state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. In her subsequent private law practice, she participated as motions counsel in a case against a celebrity defendant who was sued for sexual assault and defamation. She has handled appeals in employment, products liability, real estate and white-collar criminal defense.

For the past ten years, she has practiced in the field of municipal finance. She is a co-author of an article on the tax-exempt financing of sectarian institutions, for which she was awarded The Carlson Prize by the National Association of Bond Lawyers. She is a past president of Hillel of Greater Philadelphia. Since 2007, she has served on the advisory board to the Beitler Dreyfus Collection at the University of Pennsylvania. The Beitler Collection - through a lecture series, middle school curriculum, exhibitions, and a new fellowship - seeks to promote values of justice, tolerance and civil discourse. Ms. Lebowitz holds a valid (albeit ancient) Smith College diploma and an active Pennsylvania law license (J.D. Temple University). She looks forward to serving as moderator for this impressive panel of her Smith classmates. You can reach Ann by email (acl@alebowitz.com).

Mattie Peterson Compton is serving her second term on Smith’s Board of Trustees, where she is currently Vice Chair. For 40 years she was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division before her retirement in July 2019. During her tenure in the office she served as a line assistant, the Deputy Civil Chief, and the Deputy Criminal Chief of the Asset Recovery Unit. Throughout her career she has also led a number of non-profits and has served in various capacities on the boards of a number of other non-profit and civic organizations. She received her degree in African American studies from Smith and earned her J.D. at the University of Michigan School of Law.

Janie Vanpée After earning her PhD from Yale and teaching at MIT for five years, Janie joined the French Department and Comparative Literature Program at Smith College in 1985. Her scholarly work focused on the French Enlightenment with essays on Rousseau, Laclos, Olympe de Gouges and the Encyclopédie. During her 30+ years at Smith she twice directed the JYA program in Paris and participated in almost all of Smith’s Faculty committees. When Acting President John Connolly called for rethinking how space was used on campus, she organized a group of faculty to imagine a center for Global Studies at Smith, which eventually resulted in the creation of the Lewis Global Studies Center. As Faculty Director of that Center from 2014 to 2018 she founded the Translation Studies Concentration and the online student journal “Global Impressions.” Since her retirement in 2020, she

has focused on a new project centered on the Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk, his novel *The Museum of Innocence*, and the relation between the narrative and the actuality of house museums – fictional, real or conceptual.

PANEL 2: “Making a Difference: Leading, Supporting, Pivoting - What Comes Next?”

Bessy Kong is currently retired from a twenty+ year career with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, DC. While there, she spent most of her time in the Office of Public and Indian Housing where she was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy. She relinquished that position to serve as the HUD representative to the White House Domestic Policy Council during the first term of the Obama administration. She was also detailed to the Wilson Center where she was engaged in research on issues of participatory democracy, leading to a joint project between HUD and the Ministry of Transportation and Housing in South Korea. She was subsequently nominated and accepted a post as a Wilson Center Global Fellow working on issues of affordable housing and community development.

Previous to her career at HUD, Bessy spent ten years in the private sector both with a private engineering firm and leading her own environmental and land use consulting practice in Los Angeles. She began her housing career after obtaining her MSUP from Columbia School of Architecture and Planning in 1975 and then finishing a two-year tour as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines. She served as a Peace Corps Country Director in Namibia in 1993.

Melissa Hield, Melissa loved being an American Studies major at Smith.

After graduation she worked as a waitress in Minneapolis restaurants for a year while she reapplied to law schools and graduate schools. She moved to Austin, Texas, in August 1973 to attend the doctoral program in American Civilization at The University of Texas at Austin. She earned a Master’s degree, taught undergraduates and kept forgetting to work on her dissertation. In 1975, Melissa and four women graduate students founded People’s History in Texas, a non-profit educational organization that uses oral history to document the stories of people who are left out of the history books. PHIT produced *Talkin’ Union*, the story of four Texas women labor organizers; *The Rag*, the story of Austin’s underground newspaper in the 1960s and 70s; and *The Stand-ins*, about the white and African American students who integrated Austin movie theaters in 1962. She co-edited *Talkin’ Union*, a book of essays about Texas working women. Melissa has been the executive director of PHIT since 1980 (www.peopleshistoryintexas.org).

During this time Melissa met the political women of Austin. Through their non-profit Foundation for Women’s Resources they started the Texas Women’s History Project. In 1979, Melissa joined the team working to find, document and present Texas women’s history in a museum exhibit (Institute of Texan Culture, May 1981). Melissa continues to support Texas women’s history as a founding member of the Ruthe Winegarten Foundation (www.womenintexashistory.org).

Ann Richards was elected State Treasurer in 1983, and in 1984 Melissa was hired as an administrative assistant in the front office. She discovered she liked public service a lot. In 1989, she joined the Texas Department of Insurance as a “planner.” In 1994 she transferred to the Consumer Protection division. She worked with professional staff who helped consumers with complex complaints and returned tens of millions of dollars to consumers every year. Twenty-five years later she retired as the Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection. Like many Smithies, Melissa has come to think of retirement as “reirement.” Today she works on Texas history and women’s history projects, writes a bit for herself, and volunteers for Smith. She has been a class officer since 2002. She is committed to women’s education, our class, and our college.

Lou Turner Zellner now retired, had a career in public policy analysis and as a senior executive in the financial service industry. Along the way she was a senior insurance regulator and a senior advisor

to the Housing Finance Agency of Mexico. Lou has long been an active supporter of the women's equity and the reproductive health and justice movements. She has served as a member of the PPFA Board, three years as Treasurer, chair of the Finance Committee and a member of the Executive Committee. Ms. Zellner previously served on the Guttmacher Institute Board from 2008 to 2014. During her tenure she chaired the Audit Committee, served on the Executive Committee and was a member of the CEO Search Committee. Ms. Zellner rejoined the Guttmacher Board in 2016 and is the immediate past Board Chair. After Smith she studied policy analysis and economics at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School, where she was a Sloan Fellow. In her spare time she chairs the board of a classical music festival, plays tennis and knits. She alternates her time between Manchester, VT and Naples, FL.

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 4:15-5:15PM

CLASS OF 1972: "In Memoriam Remembrance"

Christine Bancheri: after graduating from Smith, Chris taught high school English for a year before returning to Smith as an Assistant Director of Admission. In 1975, she moved to Philadelphia to attend Rutgers Law School, graduating with a JD in 1978. For the next 20 years she practiced corporate law in the Philadelphia area. In 1998, Chris moved with her family to the British Virgin Islands. She now divides her time between the BVI and Ipswich, Massachusetts. Chris has two daughters, a son and two grandchildren.

Susan Gutches splits her life between Sandwich, NH and Washington, DC with her wife Helen and her two cairn terriers. She is involved in conservation and preservation efforts in her local community in NH and spends much of her time walking the dogs, reading and volunteering for Smith. Her life is not as boring as this paragraph sounds - for further details check out THE BOOK! You can reach her by email (sgutches@gmail.com).

Maria Nipson Born and raised in Chicago, I fell in love with the peace and quiet of "small town" Northampton and the Smith campus, particularly the brand new Theatre Center on Green Street. I immediately abandoned plans to major in French, live in Dawes and work as a UN interpreter. Four years in Emerson House, three in the same room, experiencing major changes in life at Smith, the U.S. and the world.

After graduation I've lived in four cities and had a variety of jobs, interspersed with an assortment of educational interludes and travels by trains, planes, buses and even a little post-Valley hitchhiking. I have been settled in New Mexico for over 20 years now. When frustration and injury called a halt to my chosen career as a massage therapist, I spent my last 10 years of employment as an elementary school substitute teacher. I learned early on, that a traditional 9 to 5 was not for me! Since retiring I continue to travel. The old hippy in me still checks into hostels, but the older me is happy to book a tour in four star hotels (five is just a waste!). Still waiting to visit my 7th continent. Australia got cancelled due to CoVid. Oh, well. Still going with the flow. You can reach Maria by email (mnip@hotmail.com).

Louise Parent grew up in Connecticut and graduated from Sacred Heart in Greenwich before heading to Smith where she majored in American Studies. After Smith, she went to Georgetown University Law Center, where she lived with Smith classmates Lisa Barlow and Nancy Fitzpatrick McKenna. She spent 36 years working at American Express Company in New York. After retiring from American Express, she was Of Counsel at Cleary Gottlieb, an international law firm, through 2021. She is married to John Casaly, and they live in New York City but also spend time on Long Island and in Los Angeles.

Louise has served on many non-profit boards, primarily focusing on education and women's issues. She was vice chair of the Smith Board of Trustees and chaired the search committee that brought Kathy McCartney to Smith. She is an active volunteer at Calvary Hospital in New York and enjoys travel, reading, theater, tennis and spending time with her cherished friends, brothers, nephews, and grandnephews.

Katherine Sonderegger has served as Professor of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA, a seminary of the Episcopal Church, since 2002. She is a priest of the Episcopal Church, having been ordained in 2000. After graduate work at Yale Divinity School and Brown University, Kate joined the Religion department at Middlebury College, where she taught for 15 years. Her scholarly interests lie in systematic theology and in historical theology, particularly the theology of 20th century Swiss Reformed theologian, Karl Barth. Her non-scholarly interests run to opera and art museums, everything outdoors, including especially sailing on her day-sailer, Sophia, whose home port is on Lake Champlain in Vermont.

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Consumer Protection division. She worked with professional staff who helped consumers with complex complaints and returned tens of millions of dollars to consumers every year. Twenty-five years later she retired as the Associate Commissioner for Consumer Protection. Like many Smithies, Melissa has come to think of retirement as “reirement.” Today she works on Texas history and women’s history projects, writes a bit for herself, and volunteers for Smith. She has been a class officer since 2002. She is committed to women’s education, our class, and our college.

Nancy Roth Remington, Reunion Co-Chair, has worked in universities, primarily as a founder/ director of international programs initiatives, and as a consultant on fundraising and communications for a variety of non-profit organizations. After Smith she completed an M.A. in East Asian Studies at Yale followed by a variety of jobs, including making short films on Chinese history, working in a small stock photo firm. In 1986, 8 years after moving to Atlanta, she completed Emory’s Executive MBA program thanks to mountains of help from her husband , mother and young son. For the next 30 years she focused on working with international students and programs, which included extensive travel in Asia, Europe and countries of the former Soviet Union. In 2017 she and her husband returned (at last!) to New England where they now live in a converted truck repair factory in Cambridge, MA and a house in MidCoast Maine. Gardening, art & crafts, music, conversation, some volunteer work and gazing out the window at Penobscot Bay are her primary activities.

Cathy Roberts, Reunion Co-Chair, left Smith an aspiring actress and returns fifty years later as a retired judge. In the intervening years she has worked in cancer epidemiology and biostatistics, written articles for newspapers and magazines, graduated from law school, and became a civil litigator, then a public defender and finally a judge for Salt Lake City. She married a Brit, raised two children, lived in Utah for 35 years, and has been fortunate enough to travel to Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. Smith College was always there; whether it was the focus of her volunteering, or the source of confidence that she could do (almost) anything. In 2004 she rediscovered horseback-riding as a hobby, and upon retirement in 2017, moved husband and horse to Nevada City, in the Sierra Foothills, where she rides, hikes and cross-country skis. She is on the board of a land trust and substitute-teaches in high schools.

5/11/22