

**Nancy Ashton, 2013    Susan Begg, 2019**  
**Julia Lampson Blackwood, 2007    Ann Blum, 2015**  
**Yvonne LeCamp Boucher, 2021**  
**Jeannetta Bronner, 1995    Lisa Connor, 2010**  
**Frances Dalton, 2016    Virginia Smith Harvey Dawson, 2016**  
**Susan Delehanty, 1993    Elizabeth Kelly Ebitz., 2004**  
**Catherine Axon Elder, 2019    Yahee Fernandes-Baxter, 2017**  
**E.J. Fischer, 1986    Patricia Dodd Flynn, 2016**  
**Emma Foa, 2007    Christine Hamilton Foote, 2014**  
**Barbara Fritz, 2014    Susan Garber, 2015**  
**Katherine Flowers Gerke, 2013    Nancy Gilmore, 2013**  
**Beverly Holmes Hall, 1987    Nori Hall, 2017**  
**Ellen Hassett, 1973    Anne Hilliard, 1973    Ann Imbrie, 2006**  
**Cassia Whiteside Jevremov, 1978    Cynthia Jones, 1988**  
**Mary Kelly, 1972    Sally Kennedy, 2017**  
**Mary Kerner, 2017    Mary Blagdon Kinnas, 2021**  
**Martha Love, 1979    Frances Twohig Mather, 2001**  
**Melinda Moore, 2019    Stephanie Monka, 2021**  
**Candida Susan Ohnysty, 2021    Jean Osborne, 1999**  
**Laura Anderson Park, 2000    Deborah Post, 2021**  
**Elizabeth Fennelly Sasser, 2009    Rosanna Sattler, 2017**  
**Deborah Sobol, 2014    Katherine Sorenson, 2001**  
**Jane Southwick, 2016    S. Florence Spencer, 1981**  
**Mary Jo Corral Sultenfuss, 2010**  
**Christine Swenson, 2004    Sylvia Thompson, 1973**  
**Kathryn Torda, 1993    Elizabeth Herman Tracy, 1999**  
**Marja-Riita Vallila, 2018    Marie Viita, 2003**  
**Catherine Hoover Voorsanger, 2001    Anne Winchester, 1992**  
**Cynthia Works, 1999    Eleanor Yee, 2017**



**In Memoriam RemembranceSmith**  
**College Class of 1972 May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**at 4:15pm**

**50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**  
**Northampton, MA**

## Greeting and Welcome

*The Rev. Katherine Sonderegger*

## Tributes to Classmates who died between May 2017 & May 2022

Readers: *Christine Bancheri, Susan Gutchess,  
Maria Nipson, Patricia Dillin Wright (text on insert)*

### Classmates we've lost

### Readers

Candida Susan Ohnysty	(died 4/22/21)	<i>Patricia</i>
Catherine Axon Elder	(died 3/26/19)	
Deborah Post	(died 1/30/21)	
Marja-Riita Vallila	(died 12/23/18)	<i>Maria</i>
Mary Kerner	(died 9/13/17)	
Mary Blagdon Kinnas	(died 8/3/21)	
Melinda Moore	(died 1/17/19)	<i>Susan</i>
Rosanna Sattler	(died 11/24/17)	
Sally Kennedy (died 11/7/2017)		
Stephanie Monka	(died 2021)	<i>Christine</i>
Susan Begg	(died 9/15/19)	
Yvonne LeCamp Boucher	(died 6/29/21)	

\*Susan Dows Barra (died 2/27/22) learned of her death at Reunion

## Group Choral Reading of Names

Together we will read the names of the 57 classmates who have died since our Graduation in May 1972. Their names are on the back of our program.

## Silent Remembrance

Reading: **"About Angels and About Trees"**

from **Evidence: Poems** by Mary Oliver (*see insert*)

Reader: *Louise Parent*

**Closing Remarks**

*The Rev. Katherine Sonderegger*

**Profiles and Closing Poem for “In Memoriam Remembrance”**

**Honoring Classmates who left us from May 2017 to the present**

Comments drawn from 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Book, obituaries & personal recollections

*A librarian turned banker; two dancer/choreographers; a renowned expert on public health; an investment banker turned apple farmer; a sculptor/artist whose works have been exhibited world-wide; a creative high school English teacher; first woman lawyer at a prominent Boston firm; a scientist who helped develop drugs to fight HIV; a veterinarian and Merchant Marine; a French teacher twenty years older than we were—an “Ada” before there was the Ada Comstock program; and most recently, a classmate about whom we know only a little, but we trust some of you will remember her. These are the 12 classmates who have left us since our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion in May 2017.*

*We know we cannot do these women’s lives justice in a short time. Today, we want to awaken your sense of their lives by touching on their vibrancy, dedication and spirit. In our Reunion Book, you can read their full written profiles and the Memorial Comments of classmates.*

*NOTE: a late addition to this list is Susan Dow Barra, who died on February 27, 2022.*



**Candida Susan Ohnysty**

Just last month Candida’s sister wrote to the College that Candy had died one year ago - on Earth Day, April 22, 2021. She lived in Massachusetts for her entire life – much of it in and around the Boston area; she died in Sandwich, the oldest town on Cape Cod. At Smith she lived in Parsons House, majored in economics and in 1971 wrote “Comparison of tax burdens in New York City and surrounding suburban towns,” under the direction of a NYC Urban Fellow. Candy received an M.A. in Economics from Tufts in 1973 and an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1982. She was vice president of the State Street Bank & Trust in Boston and served as Treasurer at the Massachusetts Society for the University Education of Women until 2018.

From memorial comments left on an obituary site we know that she touched the lives of friends and neighbors. A longtime neighbor at Crossroads on the Charles noted that they had served together on the landscaping committee. Another tribute was very personal: “My dear friend I will miss you.... you are with your Mom and Dad who you missed every day. I’m sorry we did not get a chance to catch up before you left us. I said a prayer today. May the angels carry you to heaven. Hope your precious cat found a loving home.”

**Catherine Axon Elder**

Cathy Axon was my first roommate at Smith. My parents dropped me off after our long drive from Indiana, and I was met by this cheerful girl

with a beautiful smile. We took a stroll to Paradise Pond. I was 17, she was 19, and I learned that she had gone to school in Switzerland. Wow! I wasn't in Kansas anymore. Or in my case, Indiana. Here I was at Smith College, walking with this wise, confident woman of the world. On a surprising note, I also remember her saying she liked to fish. I remember her as upbeat, friendly, relaxed and well-organized, and I was impressed by her enthusiasm for scrapbooking.

Cathy passed away in March of 2019 after a fall at her home in Kennett Square, PA, where she had retired with her husband, Tom Elder. Tom had received his MFA from Smith in '71. Catherine and Tom married in '73 and their son Adam, who is now a music producer in LA, was born in '84. After graduating from Smith with a degree in Art, she earned her Master's Degree in Library Science and worked as a librarian in both the Smith College and Suffolk University libraries for some years. She then returned to school for an MBA from Simmons College in Boston and worked for 20 years in banking and finance. She was active in local politics, championing public welfare projects and equal access to housing and services. Upon moving to Kennett Square - where half of the U.S. yearly mushroom crop is produced! - she especially enjoyed volunteering at Longwood Botanical Gardens where she was a docent and helped in the digital library. Catherine is described by her friends and her family as "exceptionally intelligent, insightful, gracious and inspiring"; "a person of strength, compassion and determination;" and "exuberant and fun to be around and at ease with herself."

### **Deborah Post**

Debbie spent Freshman year at Smith before transferring to Yale. She earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1976 and went to work on Wall Street where she became among the first women hired in Corporate Finance at Lehman Brothers. Then, she embraced life as a farmer, and for 20 years was the proprietor of a pick-your-own apple farm near where she grew up in New Jersey.

Debbie was an enthusiastic do-it-your-selfer who loved to refinish furniture, choose her own investments, and do her own taxes. She backpacked through Asia and Africa, often traveling solo, and when apple season was over, she headed to Colorado to indulge in her love of skiing. Nothing daunted her. When diagnosed with brain cancer, she eagerly sought out clinical trials and took a great interest in the science behind the treatments, finding satisfaction in knowing that she could be advancing medical knowledge.

A classmate remembers Debbie on their first day at Smith: "She and I, both unsure about our suitability for an all-girls college, had delayed selecting a Smith dorm and ended up...living in the infirmary. We each fancied ourselves as rebels and bonded immediately in our odd living quarters. Debbie was homesick for her summer life at the Jersey Shore where she surfed with the boys....She talked of leaving Smith and going 'back to surfing....While it would have been easy to lose touch with Debbie [after she transferred to Yale, we] remained friends....Over the years I was fortunate enough to discover that underneath her tough competitive exterior, she was a loyal, dependable and understanding friend. I admired her grit and courage."

### **Marja-Riita Vallila**

Marja was born in Prague to a Finnish father who was a diplomat and a mother of Czech descent. She spent Junior year in France, and after Smith received an MFA at Cornell. She was a sculptor who used many types of materials; art critics spoke of her "exuberant yet intricate overlapping shapes." Her work was exhibited in galleries around the world and is part of several permanent collections, including at the Smith College Art Museum. When her parents died they left her a family estate near Prague, which had been spared during the Cold War because of its Finnish

flag and diplomatic plaque; she deeded the property to become a special education center. Marja taught at SUNY Albany for 25 years before her health began to deteriorate; she died of complications from early-onset dementia.

One classmate recalled: “The best part of Junior Year Abroad was becoming friends with Marja when we lived together with a host family in Aix-en-Provence.... She was Bohemian in both senses of the word - cosmopolitan with an unconventional approach to life and born in Czechoslovakia. The important artist she later became was prefigured by her many artistic forays during the time I knew her best: shaped canvases, small oils on whatever was at hand, including matchboxes. Delicate etchings. Later, big, heavy-metal welded sculptures.”

Another classmate wrote: “I so admired her creativity and vivacity from afar. Many, many years later I learned that her work was exhibited at a Memphis gallery and I was able to appreciate more fully the mature artist she became. Thank you, Marja, for inspiring me.”

### **Mary Kerner**

Mary – impetuous, adventurous, fun-loving, and possessing a wicked sense of humor – had a deep love of music and dance from her earliest days. Before arriving at Smith she played violin in a Youth Symphony Orchestra, was in a ballet company, and in 1968 was 4th runner-up in the Illinois Junior Miss Pageant.

After college, Mary taught, was a free-lance writer, and wrote a book on Balanchine. She traveled extensively throughout the U.S. with her beloved sheltie, Balanchine, and for many years commuted between her home in California and France. She was a passionate swimmer and you could find her donning her wetsuit for the nearest ocean or diving in ‘au naturelle’ when she discovered a lake on one of her hikes. Although numerous health issues eventually curtailed her mobility and ability to work.

One Smith classmate remembers: “Both of us were from the middle of the country, Mary from Chicago and I’m from Tulsa, and I was impressed with how fearless she was riding her bike to classes in the snow! We took a weekend trip to NYC (my first time), staying at the YWCA on the cheap....

I was [also] invited to visit her family in Chicago where she introduced me to the incredible architecture and art of that city. New York and Chicago are still two of my favorite cities. Another classmate remembers hosting Mary: “Mary was so full of energy and enthusiasm for her projects. She was also very impish so I remember her smile and her dimples framed by short, dark, wavy hair.”

### **Mary Blagdon Kinnas**

Mary, born in Boston, was one of six brothers and sisters. The eldest daughter of parents who were educators, she developed a curiosity and deep interest in learning and literature. As a high school senior, she set her sights on an English degree at Smith because she so personally identified with Smith’s culture and commitment to learning. Recollections of her experiences inspired her daughter to follow her to Smith.

Mary taught literature to students of all ages over a 40-year career. As adults, her former students remembered her creative approach, which included literary high points, such as celebrating Shakespeare’s birthday with an authentic olde English meal. Mary’s motto, often quoted, and credited to her buddy Will (*Shakespeare*) was: “Though she be but little, she is fierce.” Mary’s daughter Kathleen reported that when her doctor gave her only six months to live, she was determined to take control of her disease. From this determination, she saw the birth of her 3rd grandchild, spent holidays and extra birthdays with family and friends, and made 103 baby quilts.

Classmates remember Mary arriving at Gillett House with a “Coco Chanel haircut, black frame glasses, serious expression, rippling laughter. She was a dedicated student with a passion for English literature and, unlike the rest of us, she knew what she wanted to do once she graduated. She loved lingering after dinner with friends in the Gillett dining room and chatting over a cup of coffee at the Alumnae House. Having watched her ride herd on her younger siblings during visits to her home in Pittsfield, there could be no doubt about the origin of her ability to manage chaos at Gillett with a great sense of humor and affection.”

### **Melinda Moore**

Melinda attended Smith for two years, studied abroad junior year and then went directly to Harvard Medical School, where she earned her MD and MPH. During her extraordinary career in global health – at CDC, HHS, and RAND – she attained the rank of Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service. She worked in over 45 countries and met her husband in Kinshasa in 1984, where they were an unbeatable mixed doubles tennis team.

A Parsons classmate recalls her prowess in Chemistry: “Not having taken Chemistry in high school, I soon found myself in way over my head, and if it hadn’t been for Melinda’s endless patience, I would never have gotten through it. We met again junior year on the Hamburg JYA program, and I remember her as smart, joyful, considerate, driven and unafraid to ask questions.” Another classmate recalled catching up with Melinda after Smith “when she was working on a plan for large-scale biological terrorism, back when anthrax was being mailed to different high officials....I will miss you Melinda. You were always an inspiration to me.”

“I remember playing tennis with her during JYA in Hamburg. She had been, I think, a ranked junior in Southern California tennis, so one day I cajoled her onto the courts near the Uni. She blasted her serves past me, and I only managed to block the ball back, just dribbling it over the net. Melinda thought I was making the weak returns on purpose and congratulated me, but I couldn’t do anything else.”

### **Rosanna Sattler**

Rosanna was a freshman at Smith and then graduated from Yale in 1972. During the Summer of 1970, she met Ed Orenstein on a tour of a beer brewery in Holland; they were together for 44 years. She attended Yale Drama School, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1978 and was the first woman partner at a prominent Boston law firm; her special passion was for Space Law.

A classmate, who transferred to Yale with Rosanna, wrote: “Rosanna was a Renaissance gal,...a huge rock music fan [and committed to] women’s issues....Rosanna got a professor to add several female political philosophers to his curriculum on American Political Philosophy after she pointed out that there were none on the reading list.” When the two attended their 40th Smith Reunion together, Rosanna said she’d “never felt as academically challenged by professors and classmates as she did during her Freshman year.” Her favorite moment at that Reunion was when they “joined the waves of feisty older alumnae....We felt like Suffragettes!” Rosanna had a congenital heart condition and she knew that every moment was precious. “She was determined to live her life to the fullest. And she did!”

“Rosanna was my next-door neighbor at Franklin King. I remember Rosanna for her friendliness and how hard she studied....No wonder she got into Yale - she was an extremely able student - taping the Gov 100 lectures and then listening closely to them again. (I was lucky to have paid attention the first go-round.)... I saw her at the 45th reunion, and it was wonderful to reconnect....I was sorry that I had not really appreciated her when we were dorm-mates.”

### **Sally Kennedy**

Sally was a multi-generational Smith legacy. She followed her sister, mother, aunt and grandmother to Smith, where she devoted herself to Italian and art history. After graduating she transitioned to the pharmaceutical industry, where she worked for more than 25 years. She helped to bring numerous drugs to market in critical areas including HIV, reproductive endocrinology and metabolism.

A proud child of the 1950s, Sally loved everything about that decade. She also enjoyed intricate baking projects (the more challenging, the better), gardening and spending time with her beloved King Charles Cavalier Spaniel. She faced the last year of her life privately, with strength, valor, grace and the companionship of her beloved dog.

A JYA classmate and fellow Italian major remained close to Sally during their senior year and after Graduation when both moved to the Boston area for work: “Sally said she knew someone I just had to meet, and [she] introduced me to the man who would become my husband....She was smart, witty and fun to be with. Though we were very different and had few interests in common, I valued our friendship. When I stopped working, I found more time to spend with Sally, on the phone, over lunch, and on walks with our dogs. I was devastated when she died of lung cancer, way too young. I miss her.” Another classmate wrote about a memorable Spring Break trip to Puerto Rico: The “fantastic, (too-good-to-be-true) price included a dumpsy “hotel”...where some of the beds that didn’t fit into the tiny rooms were in the hallway....I will always remember her infectious laugh and gift of friendship.”

### **Stephanie Monka**

Stephanie was a philosophy major who loved to dance. She was a soft-spoken and reserved young woman when she was at Smith. A housemate wrote that she had a “ballerina look” - slender with long dark hair. Another described her as “almost nun-like” in appearance, always in a skirt and button-down blouse, when many of the people around her dressed more casually. Even as the social rules changed dramatically, Stephanie seemed to accept that her life would be different. Stephanie lived in New York City for most of her life and worked as a dancer and choreographer. She also gave private lessons in dance. Her father reported to the College that she died of cancer in 2021.

A classmate remembered Stephanie from Wilder House days: “I did not know her except for mealtime and chance meetings in the hallways. She was slim and always wore a slim skirt and buttoned shirt, even in the coldest weather. In those days, bell-bottomed blue jeans were the “uniform” for most people. She had a late-night study habit. As I remember, she was a philosophy major who always had an alternative and fascinating viewpoint to share at the dinner table. I am saddened to hear of this loss. I thought of her as having a serene spirit and insightful mind. May she rest in peace; her memory is a blessing to me.”

### **Susan Dows Barra**

Sue died on February 27, 2022 surrounded by family. She was predeceased by two siblings and is survived by her husband of 46 years, Dr. Edward P. Barra; four sons, two grandchildren, her sister and nieces and nephews.

She worked as a television morning show co-host (and after having children she continued to do cooking segments for local newscasts), a renal dietician, home economist, food stylist and recipe developer. She placed a high value on education and earned multiple Master's degrees as a

proud alumna of Smith College and Cornell University. She loved her family and friends, cooking, gardening, music, dogs, Cape Cod, the Rochester International Jazz Festival, doing crossword puzzles and playing word games like Scrabble.

Her Lawrence House roommate wrote: "I'm so deeply saddened to learn of Sue's death. She and I were roommates for two years in college at Smith. It was clear from the beginning that the Dean assigned us to each other because we were so extremely different. She was the most important part of my college education: brilliant, funny, irreverent, fearless, deeply engaged in art and in the community we forged in Lawrence House. I was scared to death of the arts when I arrived. Sue offered a window into an entirely new world. We reconnected in the last year as our class prepares for our 50th reunion. Our exchanges were filled with photos and stories about our families. I'm so glad to have learned more about her boys and grandkids. She loved you with all her heart."

### **Susan Begg**

Sue is remembered as a vital and valued member of Emerson House. She often led, and always accompanied, her housemates on their adventures, taught them to accept differences and showed them how to "live life large." She moved from Smith to Cornell Veterinary School, then to an internship at the American Medical Center in NYC and residency at Cornell. Her business was Vet Express in Ithaca, N.Y. Every client who needed her to come to their house and tend to their beloved pets loved her. Her work was one bucket of her multi-bucket life of sports (softball and rugby), friends, Unitarian Universalists, and perhaps most notably, the Merchant Marines.

Sue knew who she was and what she wanted. She was beset with hurdles, some too great for her to conquer, but she addressed them honestly and directly and soldiered on. Perhaps her greatest gift to the world was that her raw honesty permitted others to see life through a different lens and perhaps even address their own demons out loud.

A Smith friend commented: "Sue was smart, perceptive, daring, funny and always so full of energy. She had a quirky sense of humor and always loved a social gathering....I remember her as always curious, always having time for her friends and boldly charging ahead in any situation."

### **Yvonne LeCamp Boucher**

Yvonne was born in 1929 in Upper Silesia, Germany. When she was 10, and the Second World War engulfed Europe, she fled with her family to Belgium and then to southern France, where she lived for the rest of the war. In 1947 she emigrated to the U.S. with her family and settled in New York City. An avid walker, Yvonne met her husband, Robert, on a hike in 1952 and one year later they married. She graduated from the Evening Division of a New York City high school and then, 12 years later, after she'd been living in Northampton for over a decade, she entered Holyoke Community College. She then transferred to Smith, graduating magna cum laude in 1972. In the 1980s she earned a doctorate in French at UMass and then taught for 35 years in Northampton public schools.

Through the years Yvonne was involved in her Pioneer Valley community, including as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, a member of the League of Women Voters and the Orchid Society. When she died last year at age 91 she left a large multi-generational family, including two great-great-grandchildren. A classmate remembers her as "a resilient woman who...was an Ada...before there was an Ada Comstock program."

In 2010 Yvonne wrote to the Quarterly: "Greetings from the future: You're turning 60 and I've turned 80. If you have your health, 80 is a snap. You've put to rest the ambivalences and questions of your life, either by solving them, ignoring them, or perhaps writing about them in a memoir.



It's smooth sailing from now on.

5/4/22



**“About Angels and About Trees” from *Evidence: Poems* by Mary Oliver**

Where do angels  
fly in the firmament,

and how many can dance  
on the head of a pin?

Well, I don't care  
about that pin dance,

what I know is that  
they rest, sometimes,

in the tops of the trees

and you can see them,  
or almost see them,

or, anyway, think: what a  
wonderful idea.

I have lost as you and  
others have possibly lost a

beloved one,  
and wonder, where are they now?

The trees, anyway, are  
miraculous, full of

angels (ideas); even  
empty they are a

good place to look, to put  
the heart at rest—all those

leaves breathing the air, so

peaceful and diligent, and certainly  
ready to be

the resting place of  
strange, winged creatures

that we, in this world, have loved.

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