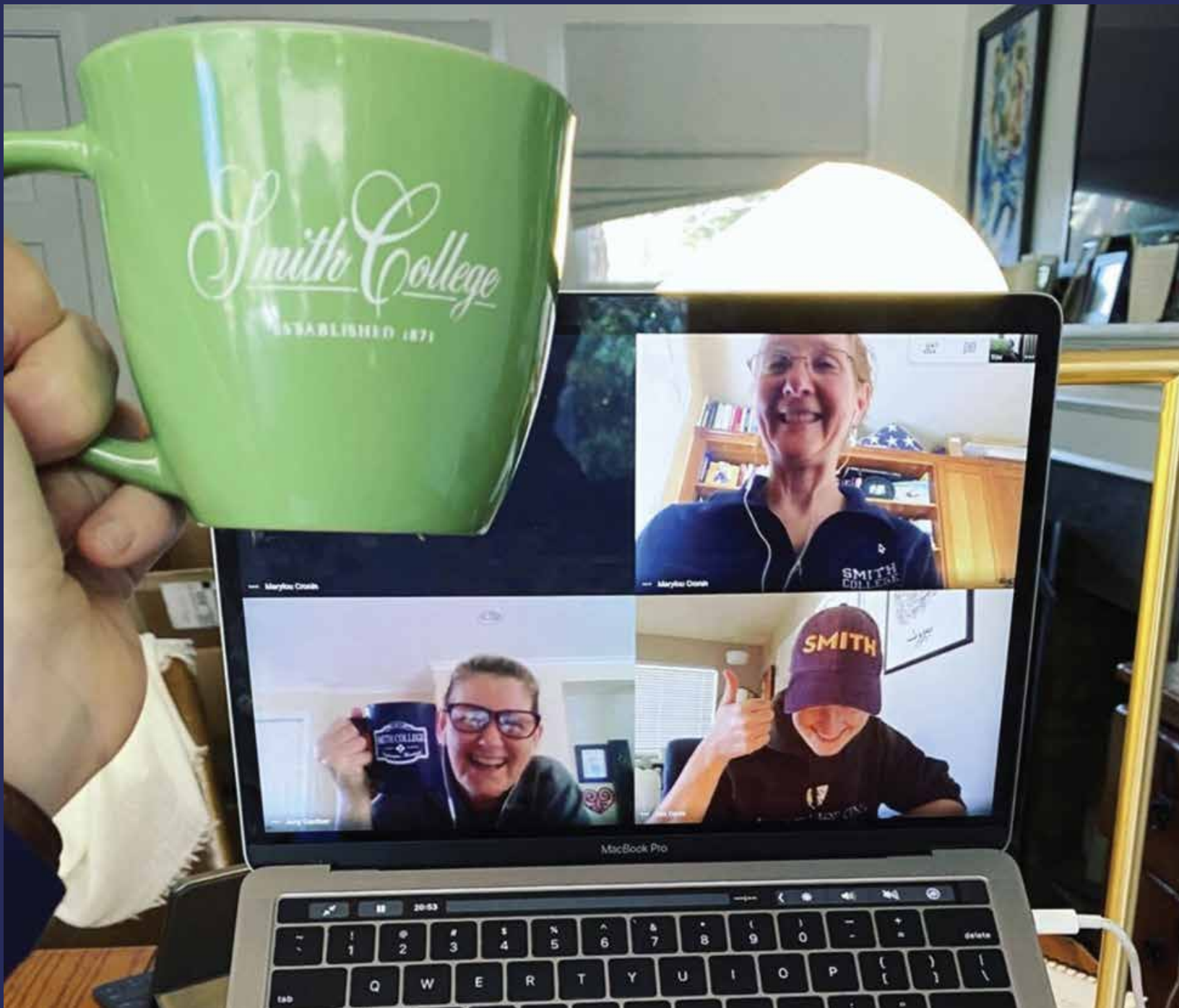


Smith College Club of the Peninsula

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2019/2020



IN THIS ISSUE

Admissions Update • Events Update • Book Club • Book Awards
Endowed Scholarship Fund Update • Club Expenditures
Smith Innovation • A Note from Club President Alex Frizzell

A Note from the Club President

What a year it's been! Through the pandemic and painful yet important conversations on race and equality in our country, we have found new ways to come together as a Smith community in person and online. From September into March, we had some wonderful in-person events, including:

- The annual Cider Party with prospective students, current students, and alumnae
- An evening with Smith College President Kathleen McCartney and VP for Alumnae Relations Denise Wingate Materre
- Our 12th annual holiday tea and cookie exchange
- Several happy hours

With the onslaught of COVID-19 we adapted to shelter-in-place with virtual happy hours, virtual teas, and virtual book club. Some highlights for me also included launching a new website, re-launching our presence on social media (Instagram), and welcoming new members to the board (Jun, Nisha, and Indira). I'm so proud that our Club always finds new ways to celebrate, have fun, continue to learn, and share the joys of Smith College.

The Smith College Club of the Peninsula covers one of the widest geographic regions and has some of the most diverse membership. We embrace one another as alumnae, support our current Smithies, and work to recruit prospective students to a college we love.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer your time with the club's activities — whether it's at the cookie exchange, a virtual tea, or the monthly book club! If you've been meaning to come to an event, please join us soon; all alumnae are always welcome. You can email us at thepeninsulasmithclub@gmail.com. Check out past and future events and get more information at our website: www.peninsulasmithclubca.org.

Please reach out, we love hearing from you!

Alexandra Frizzell, President
Smith College Club of the Peninsula

Book Awards

The Smith College Book Awards recognize outstanding young women in our local community for their academic and personal achievements. This year, five students will be given the book ***The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off!: Thoughts on Life, Love, and Rebellion*** by Gloria Steinem '56.

This year's award recipients and their schools are:

- **Stephanie Hernandez Roman** of Eastside College Preparatory School
- **Emily Deng** of Menlo-Atherton High School
- **Cindy Chen** of Lynbrook High School
- **Shauna Zahabi** of Saratoga High School
- *Los Altos High School will select their recipient in the fall due to delays caused by COVID-19*

Book awards fulfill two purposes: Recognition of Smith College's name by the student/parent community during the award ceremonies, and inspiration for a promising junior to learn more about Smith and possibly apply. While many factors influence enrollment, the Admissions Office views book awards historically as a successful recruitment tool for the College. For Bay Area students, Smith is far away and colleges and universities closer to home flood the students with information. Therefore, the book award is an invaluable public relations tool.

We would love to expand this program. If there is a local high school where you would like to raise awareness of Smith through sponsorship of a book award, please email us at peninsulasmithadmissions@gmail.com.



Welcome, Class of 2024

We're excited to report that 74 young women from the Peninsula applied to Smith this year, 14 of whom will matriculate in September. The incoming students hail from Archbishop Mitty High School, Carlmont High School, Crystal Springs Uplands School, Henry M. Gunn High School, Lynbrook High School (2), Los Altos High School, Menlo-Atherton High School (2), Monta Vista High School, Mountain View High School (2), and Palo Alto Senior High School; there is also a transfer student from Santa Clara University.



Smith College Peninsula Book Club

For Smithies only! Every month 6-12 alums gather at our various homes, or virtually these days, to have informal discussions about the book chosen for that month. Our discussions are wide-ranging and relaxed. Meetings usually take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., and in August we have a book-related movie night. Please consider joining our group! Sign up for book club news and updates here:

www.peninsulasmithclubca.org/book-club.

Here's what we have read in 2020 thus far:

- Hunchback of Notre Dame* by Victor Hugo
- The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman
- Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou
- Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by Roz Chast
- Back When We Were Grownups* by Anne Tyler
- Galileo's Daughter* by Dava Sobel
- Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

Peninsula Scholarship Fund

Since the creation of the **Smith College Club of the Peninsula Scholarship Fund** (fund #568040) in 1960, Peninsula alums have made frequent donations to the Fund. **This year the Club has contributed \$1,000 to the Fund. The Fund's current fair market value is approximately \$253,000.**

When you make your annual contribution to the College, please consider designating your gift to this Scholarship Fund. The income generated by this Fund is given as a scholarship award each year to a deserving Smithie from the Peninsula. The Fund is administered entirely by the College and the Club does not participate in the decision of which student receives the scholarship award.

As tuition and living expenses continue to rise, students are increasingly taking out loans to pay for their education. Scholarships like ours are highly prized by their recipients for helping those students graduate without crushing levels of student loan debt to repay.

Additional contributions to this fund are most welcome. If you are interested in making a donation to this scholarship fund now or through your estate plan, please contact Stewardship Specialist Anne-Marie LaFosse directly at (413) 585-2059 or alafosse@smith.edu for more information. Her mailing address is Smith College Office of Development, 76 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063.



2018/2019 Expenditures



Peninsula Scholarship Fund | \$1000



Peninsula Club Events | \$790



Student Exam Care Packages | \$515



Communications | \$382



Website and Online Services | \$306



Admissions Recruiting | \$204



Book Awards | \$192

Join the Club

The Smith College Club of the Peninsula is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable organization that sponsors social, cultural, and educational programs for 600+ alumnae living on the Peninsula and recruits prospective students through college fairs, book awards, candidate parties, high school visits, and interviews. The club does not receive any funds from the college; membership dues support all club activities. See the membership form inserted in this newsletter for more information, or go to our website at www.peninsulasmithclubca.org/membership.



Perks of Being a Member

- Discounted admission to Club events, including lectures by faculty from the College.
- Evite invitations to fun programs geared toward the varying interests of local alumnae.
- The opportunity to meet and form lifelong connections with intelligent, interesting alumnae!
- A sense of satisfaction knowing that Club funds help Smith attract outstanding young women from the Peninsula and provide scholarship funds to enable them to attend the College.

www.peninsulasmithclubca.org/membership

INNOVATE²VENTILATE

A team from Smith recently won the CoVent-19 Challenge, organized by anesthesiology residents at Massachusetts General Hospital. More than 200 teams across the country participated in the challenge to design and build a rapidly deployable ventilator—a machine that could save lives and possibly alter the course of the pandemic.

Check out the details at www.coventchallenge.com.

CoVent-19
CHALLENGE



9/8/19 Annual Meeting and Potluck



2019 College Fairs



Book Club Discussions

GO TO THE BOOK CLUB SECTION IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING, AND WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT!



12/8/19 12th Annual Holiday Tea & Cookie Exchange



1/12/20 Annual Applicant & Alumnae Hot Cider Party



2/19/20 Trivia Night



2/11/20 An Evening with President Kathleen McCartney & VP for Alumnae Relations Denise Wingate Materre '74



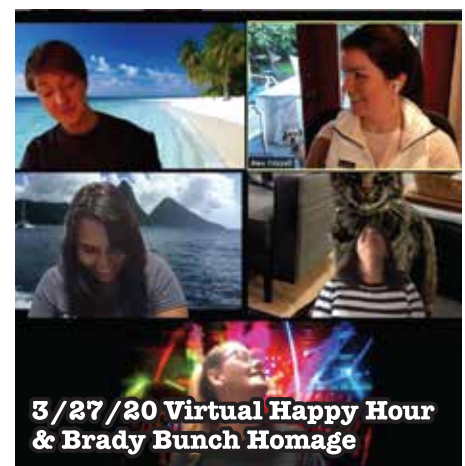
2/27/20 Palo Alto Happy Hour



2/7/20 Mountain View Happy Hour



3/13/20 Virtual Tea



3/27/20 Virtual Happy Hour & Brady Bunch Homage

We are always open to hearing event suggestions, virtual and in-person when we can get back to gathering within safe guidelines from the county and governor, so if you have an idea or a suggestion, please send it to Alix Davie at thepeninsulasmithclub@gmail.com.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

We want to thank our board members, event hostesses and coordinators, and other volunteers for their generous donations of time, talents, and hospitality during the past fiscal year that ends on August 31. **Sara Biyabani, Marylou Cronin, Jean Davidson, Alix Davie, Sidnie Davis, Indira Deonandan, Alex Frizzell, Amy Gardner, Fatima Hanif, Jun Fukukura Helzer, Laura Hyatt, Samantha Li, Diana McDonough, Erika Rodriguez, Laura Selznick, Melodye Serino, Sally Smith, Nisha Thatte-Potter, Isabel Walker, Arian White, and Eugenia Yee** all helped make this a fun year for our members. They have enabled the Club to thrive and supported deeper connections among Smith alumnae throughout the Peninsula. We know that many nonprofit organizations compete for your volunteer hours and hospitality and we are very grateful that you chose to support our Club!

The Club also wants to gratefully acknowledge receiving \$1,985 in philanthropic support from Benevity/American Online Giving Association. Some of our volunteers' hours were matched by financial donations from various corporate employers who participate in charitable giving for their employees through Benevity. The Club is very appreciative of these donations.

Admissions recruiting is one of the most important efforts the Club makes on behalf of Smith. It takes many volunteers to interview and follow up with prospective students, host college fair booths, and host or attend our recruiting events. Special thanks go to the following alumnae who helped in one or more of these ways: **Sara Biyabani, Anna Carroll, Robin Chang, Mindy Chu, Marylou Cronin, Alix Davie, Sidnie Davis, Donna Dong, Jessica Feinberg, Amy Gardner, Heather Grady, Melanie Herscher, Kelly Johnson, Lori Kahn, Felice Kong, Samantha Li, Ivana Lin, Elisa Morales, Joy Silver, Jane Su, and Hope Wu.**

We also thank current Smithies **Tjiasa Kmetec '22** and **Lindsey Rosenthal '22** for taking the time to attend our first-ever virtual tea for accepted students in April. Their up-to-date information was influential and fun!

Finally, we would like to thank all 42 Club members for paying their annual dues this year, which provide the financial resources needed to support our activities. This past fiscal year, the Club received \$555 in additional cash and/or in-kind charitable donations from the following members: **Carolyn Belknap, Sara Biyabani, Barbara Campbell, Martha Clayton, Marylou Cronin, Jean Davidson, Sidnie Davis, Amy Gardner, Fatima Hanif, Jun Fukukura Helzer, Laura Hyatt, Lori Kahn, Anita Seipp, Laura Selznick, Alice Smith, Sally Smith, and Nisha Thatte-Potter.** We greatly appreciate your benevolent support! The Club can offer more events because of these additional funds.

THE BOARD 2019/2020

Alex Frizzell, '12
PRESIDENT

Alix Davie, '08
VICE-PRESIDENT & EVENTS CHAIR

Jean Davidson, '73
TREASURER

Sara Biyabani, '84
Indira Deonandan, '08
SECRETARY

Marylou Cronin, '88
ADMISSIONS CHAIR

Sally Smith '64
BOOK CLUB CHAIR

Sam Li, '09
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

Nisha Thatte-Potter, '88
Fatima Hanif '89
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Eugenia Yee, '16
YOUNG ALUMNAE EVENTS

Jun Helzer, '02
WEBMASTER

Amy Gardner, '92
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER CHAIR