

Friends of the Smith College Libraries



SPRING UPDATE-MARCH 2006

WILLIAM ALLAN NEILSON LIBRARY • SMITH COLLEGE • NORTHAMPTON, MA 01063

Gift From The Sea : A Reading

Sunday, April 2, 2:00-5:30 P.M., Alumnae House Living Room

You are invited to attend a reading of this best-loved work by Anne Morrow Lindbergh '28. First published in 1955, *Gift from the Sea* has never been out of print, and its universal themes continue to resonate with new readers today. The 50th anniversary edition contains an introduction by Lindbergh's daughter Reeve, who will make some brief remarks prior to the reading. Whether you come for the entire reading or a portion of it, please R.S.V.P. to Alison Kriviskey '67 (alison-bruce@comcast.net, 413-587-7979) or Linda Smith '60 (hmslfs@aol.com, 413-256-6020). Light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Hampshire County Smith College Club, with support from the Friends of the Libraries, the Alumnae Association, and the Poetry Center.

2006 Annual Lecture: "From Margin to Center: New Voices of Feminism", by Loretta Ross

Thursday, April 6, 7:30 P.M., Neilson Browsing Room

We are very pleased to host Loretta Ross, a leading voice for women's rights, as our 2006 guest lecturer. She will share her experience working with the Sophia Smith Collection to preserve the histories of women of color. This is part of a project funded by the Ford Foundation to broaden the scope of the Collection.

Born in Temple, Texas, Loretta Ross dates her activism to the early 1970s when she attended Howard University and became involved in black nationalist politics and tenant organizing. In 1979 she became director of Washington's DC Rape Crisis Center, and the following year she organized the first National Conference on Third World Women and Violence. In 1987, as director of women of color programs for the National Organization for Women, she organized the first national conference on Women of Color and Reproductive Rights. From 1991 to 1995, Ross was national program research director for the Center for Democratic Renewal (formerly the National Anti-Klan Network), where she directed projects about right-wing organizations in South Africa and Klan and neo-Nazi activity in the U.S. In 1996 she created

(continued P.2)

SPRING EVENTS:

Sunday, April 2, 2:00-5:30 P.M.

*Gift From The Sea: A Reading
Alumnae House Living Room*



Thursday, April 6, 7:30 P.M.

*"From Margin to Center: New
Voices of Feminism" by Loretta
Ross. A reception will follow.
Neilson Library Browsing Room*



Saturday, May 20, 3:00 P.M.

Commencement Reception
Mortimer Rare Book Room.

Saturday, May 27, 2:00 P.M.

**Reunion Weekend Special
Collections Tour.** *Mortimer Rare
Book Room, the College Archives and
the Sophia Smith Collection.*

Dear Friends,

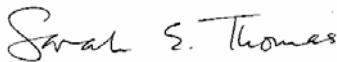
I would like to welcome new members and thank everyone who has recently sent in dues, contributions to endowed funds, or gifts of materials. If you haven't already renewed, please do so today.

I am very pleased to report that thanks to your generosity, we have together raised over \$115,000 towards the new Reading Room in Neilson Library. I encourage your repeat donations, and I hope you will purchase some of the Japanese note cards described on the attached flyer. All proceeds from the sale of these cards will go to the Reading Room Fund. A naming opportunity exists for a major donor or group of donors. For more information, see www.smith.edu/libraries/readingroom or contact Mary Irwin at (413) 585-2903. To make a donation, simply make out a check for the Neilson Library Reading Room Fund and send it to: FSCL, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063.

FSCL funds are used in a variety of ways to benefit the Libraries — for acquisitions, building endowments, etc. Recently, we funded a project to preserve archival film in the Sophia Smith Collection. The film in question is Nancy Hamilton's Academy Award winning documentary "Hellen Keller in Her Story" which has been the object of increased scholarly interest since the Helen Keller International archives disappeared in the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001. In a completely different vein, we funded attendance at an immersion training program in information literacy for reference librarian Robin Kinder. In these times of rapid technological change and proliferating information resources, teaching information literacy skills to students has become an important goal for librarians at Smith and elsewhere.

Friends make a crucial difference to the well-being of the Libraries. I hope you will remain involved, and that you will encourage others to join the Friends as well. I look forward to meeting some of you on April 6.

Sincerely,



Sarah E. Thomas '70, Chair



Loretta Ross, continued

The National Center for Human Rights Education, a training and resource center for grassroots activists aimed at applying a human rights analysis to injustices in the U.S. Ross was co-director for women of color for the April 2004 March for Women's Lives, and in January 2005 she became National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective.

Active internationally, Ross is a founding member of the International Council of African Women and of the Network of East-West Women. She has been a regular participant in International Women and Health meetings. She has testified on women's health and civil rights issues before Congress and the U.N. She publishes on the history of abortion in the black community and is co-author of *Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice* (2004). In 2003, Ross received an honorary Doctorate of Civil Law degree from Arcadia University.

CAMPUS PARKING

Visitor parking is available in the Parking Garage on West Street. Use blue or white-lined spaces on levels 2, 3, or 4. A permit is not required after 5:00 p.m.

2005-2006 FSCL Executive Committee

Sarah E. Thomas '70, Chair; **Priscilla Barlow '80**; **Carrie Cadwell, Ed.M '82** Executive Director, Alumnae Association; **Carol Christ**, President, Honorary Chair; **Mary S. Hinkel '73**; **Mary Irwin**, Executive Secretary; **Micheline E. Jedrey '71**; **Katharine Kyes Leab '62**; **Christopher B. Loring**, Director of Libraries; **Ann M. Martin '77**; **Sherrill Redmon**, Coordinator of Special Collections; **Cheryl L. Stadel-Bevans '90**; **Nancy C. Steeper '59**; **Susan von Salis '79**; **Arlene Colbert Wszalek '83**

