This year, as in 2000, summer meant Six Flags to the Activities Committee. Members of the Smith community purchased hundreds of single-day and season passes, resulting in a net saving to Smith community members of $9,639.67.

During the month of September, the Activities Committee expanded its discount ticket sales to include the Big E, otherwise known as the Eastern States Exposition.

On October 5, Smith College participated for the sixth time in the nationwide observance of Denim Day, an annual initiative that raises funds and awareness for breast cancer. Those who made a donation of $5 or more to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation were permitted to dress casually in denim clothing and wear a pink ribbon, which indicated that they had joined the fight against breast cancer. The Smith community raised an impressive $4,445 for the foundation, an astounding 62 percent increase over last year’s record-setting total.

Special thanks go to the campaign’s building volunteers, who have done so much to help the campaign reach every corner of campus; to the Smith College Club, which once again offered its space as a collection site; and to the donors, who honored us with their generosity.

On October 21, staff members boarded a bus bound for the Foxwoods Resort in Connecticut to try their luck in the casino and visit the impressive Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.

On November 5, the committee held a potluck dinner in the Field House. Participants brought their favorite ethnic dish and talked about why they chose it. Those recipes will be photocopied and distributed to participants.

Although we are all saddened by the tragic events of September 11, the Activities Committee decided to continue with its annual “day on your own” trip to New York City, scheduled this year on Sunday, December 3. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, citing the need to bolster the city’s economy and businesses in the wake of the World Trade Center tragedy, encouraged tourists to support the city by coming back and spending money. The fee for the trip is $30 per person. As usual, passengers will be dropped off at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in the Theater District.

While in the Theater District, people in the Kahn Institute recommend that you check out Star Messenger, a musical theater work written and directed by Smith theater professor Paul Zimet and composed by Ellen Maddow for the institute’s 1999–2000 project, “Star Messenger: Galileo at the Millennium." Star Messenger, a play about Galileo Galilei and fellow scientist Johannes Kepler, who changed our view of the universe, can be seen at the La MaMa Experimental Theatre, 74A East 4th Street, November 29–December 16. The play received the 1999 Frederick Loewe Award in Musical Theater and stars William Badget as Galileo and David Greenwich as Kepler.

On Friday, December 14, join your colleagues for the annual bus tour of Bright Nights, a 2.5-mile drive-through holiday light exhibition for the young and the young at heart. Why sit in traffic when you can get priority reservations and leave the driving to someone else? The price for this event has not yet been set.

For your holiday gift-giving convenience, the committee will sell 2002 season passes to Six Flags New England amusement park beginning in December. Single-day passes will arrive in late March.

As for next semester, the committee’s annual nonperishable food drive to benefit the Western Mass. Food Bank will be held from February 11 through March 1, 2002, and the second annual Paperback Book Exchange (likely to expand to music and more) will take place on Wednesday, April 24, in the Neilson Library Browsing Room.

To make a reservation, provide feedback or purchase discount tickets, the committee requests that you send an e-mail message to staffactivities@smith.edu, or call ext. 4424, then select option 1. To view upcoming events, consult our Web site at http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/activitiespage.html.
The Meaning of Colors

BY PATSY KIMURA

Red, white and blue ribbons. White ribbons. Pieces of cloth trailing in the wind. Some with raw edges, others in tatters. These symbols that we put up and hold fast to, tied to our cars, tied to fencing. A silent expression of who we are, of what we believe.

My great grandfather arrived in Hawai‘i when it was still a monarchy. It wasn’t part of the United States then, but by the late 1890s, American foreigners overthrew our queen and we became a territory of the United States. The Hawaiian flag disappeared, replaced by the Stars and Stripes (there were fewer stars then). My parents, my uncles and aunts, became Americans by birth. Then came a morning when Japanese planes sped down the Waimanalo and Koolau range to bomb Pearl Harbor and shatter the countrywide, including my grandmother’s house, laundry and the mango trees in her yard. My family hung American flags from their homes the next day, even while worrying that they would be shot at again, this time as “enemy Japanese” by white mobs or soldiers.

Seven uncles volunteered for duty. One became a U.S. interpreter attached to Australians in New Guinea. He translated captured diaries of Japanese troops. Japanese soldiers, longing for family, lost and starving, who cannibalized local people and finally each other. The war changed this uncle, gave him a cynicism about life, and a mean streak. The other six uncles fought in Europe. One ended up at Dachau concentration camp shortly after it had been liberated. The war changed him too. He became a much sadder man.

I don’t really know much, personally, about war. I don’t know much about flags either. I have a flag—the Hawai‘i state flag. It is red, white and blue with a Union Jack in the upper left corner. I fly it because it reminds me of family, of my childhood, of the past, of the complexities and ironies of war and upheaval, of what we often hope for, and what we sometimes find. I fly it because it is a story cloth. My story cloth.

I will not challenge anyone’s flag or ribbon. I will just listen quietly for the stories of human beings behind each piece of your cloth.

The Library in Your Livingroom

BY BRUCE SADDAK

Think of reading articles from electronic journals and newspapers, of finding facts from reliable sources, or of helping your children with tough homework assignments—all from your home.

Thanks to the hard work of Eric Loehr, Nielsen Library systems librarian, and Bob Andrews, Novell Systems administrator in Information Technology Systems, Smith staff and faculty members now have access to most of the Smith libraries’ electronic resources off campus.

Here’s How it Works

Visit the Smith College Libraries’ Web page at http://www.smith.edu/libraries/. Click on Research@Smith, and then select a database from either one of the Resources by Subject pages or from the Research Databases A-Z list. In most cases, when you click on a database title, you will be asked to enter your GroupWise email username and password. (If you are unsure of your username or password, contact the ITS User Support Desk at ext. 4457.)

If you’re at Smith, you’ll need no special passwords; access to almost all items is available from anywhere on campus.

What can you find on the Smith College Libraries’ Web page? You’ll see information on each library and special collection; library hours; a staff directory; and pages that teach you how to find information, request or renew library materials and much more.

Try this out: visit the Research@Smith page, click on Help with Research, then Finding Full-Text Articles. The sources on this page all contain links to innumerable articles on many subjects.

Give Us Your Feedback

The Smith libraries value your feedback. If you have comments or questions, just click on What do you think about our new Web site? at the bottom of the libraries’ home page.
Off to Mexico For a Good Cause

ROTARY PROJECT AMIGO is a nonprofit corporation with a mission to enable the poor children of Colima, Mexico, to achieve their highest potential. The project provides educational opportunities, material support, enrichment activities and medical and dental services not otherwise available to the children.

Project Amigo facilitates partnerships between North American and Mexican Rotary Clubs to sponsor projects that benefit the children and their families. Among the projects is the installation of computer labs in children's group homes and rural schools.

Cheryl Donaldson-Davis, former president of the Rotary Club of Easthampton, will travel to Mexico to volunteer for Project Amigo for nine days in February 2002. She will bring some Smith College town-gown computers with her and hopes to bring more needed supplies as well.

The following supplies are needed:

- For the project's dental program, various sizes of toothbrushes
- Children's clothes: good new or used boys' jeans, all sizes, and good new or used girls' daytime dresses, all sizes
- School supplies, such as pencils, pens, erasers, small pencil sharpeners, metric rulers, quality student calculators, student backpacks
- Art supplies, such as all kinds of paper (bright colored printer paper, drawing, newsprint, colored card stock, etc.), colored markers and pencils, crayons, children's scissors, glue sticks and old children's magazines to be cut up

Anyone interested in donating to the project should contact Donaldson-Davis at ext. 2613 or edonalds@smith.edu.

At a time when there is so much focus on humanitarian needs on a national and international basis, there must be some concern about a shifting of priorities and financial resources away from the local agencies. Why is it still important for the work of the locally based United Way agencies to continue to be supported?

It is critical that we do not forget our neighbors. Their vulnerabilities to poverty, homelessness, illness and disabilities have not disappeared as our attention has been turned to the events of September 11. It is important that we become more generous as we respond to the needs nationally and internationally.

The complexion of communities is constantly changing, perhaps more today than even 15 to 20 years ago. What is the HCUW doing to take the changing population and its needs into consideration?

In late 2000, HCUW established a Vision Council to do dialogue groups throughout the community to include broad community representation in determining how best to serve the region's needs and wishes. We want to create a joint vision of needs and goals for fundraising and allocation for the future. It is through this process of community involvement that we will be aware of the needs for our community and inclusive of all voices.

What is the most important message you would like to give the Smith College community regarding the HCUW?

HCUW has been responsive to the values, needs and priorities of the community. We are committed to funding programs that meet the needs of our community through a process of community involvement in fundraising and in fund allocation.

The HCUW board has had to grapple with complicated factors surrounding the Boy Scouts of America controversy. In making its decision, what were some of the primary issues at stake?

Several years ago, we completed a needs assessment that identified services to children as one priority. We also voted a nondiscrimination policy for agencies that we funded. The intent of the policy was to practice nondiscrimination with respect to employment, volunteer participation or the provision of services, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, age, ancestry or veteran status. To serve as a steward for funds designated to meet the needs of the community through delivery systems that do not discriminate is a core value for HCUW. The process of implementing community goals and values creates the tensions and opportunities for the Board as we serve as stewards of the community's funds.

Carolyn Jacobs
Q & A with Carolyn Jacobs

Carolyn Jacobs, acting dean of the School for Social Work, is no doubt the most active Smith representative in the Hampshire Community United Way (HCUW), though everyone on campus may not be aware of her leadership. In her ninth year as a member of the HCUW Board of Directors, Carolyn currently chairs the board. In that capacity, she plays a crucial role in all aspects of the work of the local United Way. Carolyn recently responded to questions about her involvement in the United Way and its importance to our community.

By Judith L. Markbury

More Than a Dean

Q: What caused you to get involved with United Way and why do you choose to be a leader in this endeavor?

A: I grew up in a family with a deep commitment to sharing with those in need. Our Sunday dinner table often included someone in need of a meal and friendship. Throughout my life and my professional career I have continued to express my family’s values in creating spaces of inclusion for those who are at the margins of society. This value has most recently been expressed in my volunteer service in social service agencies and as a member of nonprofit boards. Nine years ago, I was invited to serve on the United Way board. It seemed like an important way to continue expressing my values and commitment. I said yes to chairing the board because I believed that I could bring my experiences leading other volunteer organizations, my experience as an administrator at the college and my social work background to enabling the United Way to engage in a vision process that would provide goals for the future of community giving in the Hampshire community.

How does your role as chair of the Hampshire Community United Way board inform your role here at the School for Social Work and vice versa?

Social work values influence my perspective on each role. Those core values speak to service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity and competence. As I seek to enact those values in my volunteer and work roles, the experience of each helps me to understand and appreciate the unique demands of the other. For example, both roles have required a sensitive exploration of issues of diversity in policy development and implementation in a spirit of dialogue that moves us through difficult decisions. I have taken a stance as Chair of the United Way Board and as Acting Dean of the School for Social Work that adhering to the group’s process for making decisions is critical when there are major differences. Leadership requires listening to the opinions, wishes and desires of the members. Creating a space to listen and allow others to speak is a value I hold deeply. For I believe that the best decision comes when each one has shared his or her perspectives and best thinking on an issue. I believe in listening to what is under the passionate voices, to discern what divides us and what unifies us.

PERSONNEL PROFILES

A Matter of Pride

Leroy Truehart

Working the night shift at Smith can take some getting used to. If the rumors of hauntings at Sage Hall don’t get to you, the unusual schedule might. But for Leroy Truehart, a custodian with Physical Plant who has worked the night shift for 16 years, cleaning Sage Hall, Ainsworth and Scott gymnasiums and the tennis courts, it has its benefits.

“The night shift, either you love it or you hate it,” he says. “It takes a special type of person to be around here at night. I’ve heard there’s a ghost in Sage. We’ve chased music down the hall, we’ve chased sounds.”

For Truehart, the night also offers peace and quiet, a stressless commute to work and back home in the morning—opposite the prevailing traffic—and a chance to work uninterrupted. “There’s nobody around,” he says of his shift, which runs from 10:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. on Sunday through Friday. “You can go to work and you can get your job done.”

Having grown up in Easthampton, Truehart, 58, says he’s been around Smith College his whole life. “I’ve watched the campus change since I was a kid,” he says. He left for a couple years in the early 1960s to do a stint in the Army, as a conscientious objector, he says. “I have a high regard for the military, but I was in Germany. But he returned after his duty and worked as a truck driver for Gleason Brothers, then as a mechanic for Northampton Volkswagen before starting at Smith in 1986.

“I’ve done a lot of different things in my life. But I wanted a place where I could retire,” he says of the reason he took a job at the college. “I was looking for a job with security.” With six children to raise, Truehart sought long-term stability at the time, he says. And though he wasn’t seeking a night-shift position when he accepted the job, he says he’s come to enjoy the campus in the early hours and takes pride in his work.

“When the crew team comes into the gym in the morning and they’re looking on the floor, I don’t want them feeling dirt on the floor,” he says.

When not sprucing campus buildings and facilities, Truehart is most often spending time in his Harlem home on something he loves: creating ornamental chokers in the Native American tradition and selling them at powwows. “I’m known for my jewelry, for the chokers I make,” he says. “I sell a lot of them to the native American community.”

A descendant of the Lakota on his father’s side and the Abanaki on his mother’s, Truehart has embraced his heritage and culture, and become heavily involved in local Native American society. Every weekend in the summer, he participates in powwows on the Mohawk Trail (Route 2) north of Greenfield, dancing in the Native American tradition or selling his chokers.

“I don’t sleep Fridays,” he says, because after getting off work at 6:30 in the morning, and driving the hour commute home, it’s time to prepare for the weekend powwow. “And I generally don’t sleep on Sundays.”

With his six children all raised and living on their own, he and his wife have more time to dedicate to the native American community, Truehart says. And he retires in a few years when he’s eligible (he’s not sure if he will). Truehart says he would like to spend more weekends, perhaps all year round, attending powwows. “The native American community is one of acceptance,” he says. “I have a thousand people out there in my family.”

He looks forward to the day when he can spend more time with his four grandchildren (a fifth, and possibly a sixth, are on the way) and participate more fully in powwows. While that day in mind, Truehart is learning to play the native American flute and he continues to cultivate ties to the community.

“The day I stop learning is the day they put me in the ground,” he says. But until his retirement, he’ll continue taking care of Sage, Ainsworth and Scott gymnasiums and tennis courts, always with pride. “I chose to be a custodian,” he says. “This is how I make my bread and butter. To me, it’s a way of life.” He fingers the six-strand choker that he made and wears around his neck. “With me, my job is a matter of pride—just like the chokers, just like my life.”
Staff Art Show

Staff Visions, the annual exhibition of art and crafts created by Smith staff, will be held in the Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, third floor, March 4–29, 2002. Registration forms will be sent in November to all staff members via campus mail. If you have any questions, please contact Mimi Lempart, chair of the ad hoc Staff Visions committee of Staff Council, ext. 2925, or via e-mail at mlempart@smith.edu.

Tuition Benefit Increase Approved

A tuition benefit increase for Smith staff has recently been approved by Ruth Constantine and will become effective in January 2002. For employees taking courses outside of Smith, the changes are as follows:
- the waiting period has been decreased from three years to one year
- the compensation has increased from $600 to $1,500 per year

These changes may be retroactive to September 2001 if reimbursement dollars are available.

More Excellent Employees

Nine staff members were honored at this year’s Employee Recognition Ceremony, on October 10 in Sweeney Concert Hall, as the fourth class of Employee Excellence Award winners. The program, which began in 1998, honors and rewards several employees each year for performing outstanding work for the college in the categories of service, teamwork or community relations. Each winner received a $1,000 (after-tax) award.

This year’s winners are Christi Bell, admission, for community relations/service; Mary Lou Bouley, libraries, for service and leadership; Patricia Kimura, human resources, for community service/diversity and leadership; David Cseppevcik, central services, for service; Peg Pieter, advancement, for community relations/service and leadership; Linda Shaughnessy, music department, for community relations/service; Patricia Thornton, advancement, for service; and as a team, Donna Kortz and Trinh Rocker, both in payroll, for teamwork/community relations.

Also honored at the ceremony were employees who have worked at Smith for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years.

Lisaune Sullivan-Crowley, director of human resources, opened the ceremony with these words: “On September 11th, lots of people like us went to work—ordinary people, ordinary jobs on an ordinary day. Take a moment and look around. You see the faces of people, co-workers, colleagues, people who are new to you, people you’ve known for a long, long time. We are the same ordinary people who live in these extraordinary times. And in these times, despite what may divide us, we are a community. I am profoundly grateful for each day with you and proud to be a member of our Smith College staff, our remarkable and extraordinary community. Whatever happens in an uncertain world, let this moment be a tribute to all of us, to our commitment, to the triumphs of what is best in us as a community.”

Staff Council Lunch and Learn Series

Bring a bag lunch and check out the remaining presentations:

Tuesday, February 12, 1–2 p.m.
Theatre Building, Cucina
Visit demonstrations of various crafts: Basket Weaving by Marsha Leavitt
Counted Cross Stitch by Sara Fisher
Creating Dream Catchers by Nicolette Micahad
Knitting by Lois Joy
Stained Glass by Barbara Day
Weaving by Joanne Cannon Carlson

Wednesday, March 13, noon–1 p.m.
Neilson Library, Book Arts Gallery, third floor
Gallery talk by participants in the Staff Visions art show.

Tuesday, April 16, 1–2 p.m.
Wright Hall Common Room
Alicia Giudotti will present “Veiques: What is All the Fuss About?” a talk about the U.S. role on the Caribbean island.

Winter Party

Save the date! The 2001 Winter Party will be held on Saturday, December 15, 8–11:30 p.m., in the ITT. Stay tuned for more details.

Cut From the Same Cloth

In response to the tragic events of September 11, Staff Council wanted to do “something.” A committee of volunteers was formed and set to work. The group met with Josh Miller of the School for Social Work to discuss ideas that might promote healing on our campus. Josh, a recognized authority in developing community mental health response to trauma and disasters, gave the group some valuable suggestions and input. As a result, the entire Smith College community was invited to participate in “Cut from the Same Cloth,” a visual representation of emotions created through interactive art.

Loosely inspired by a Japanese tradition, this project encouraged individuals to share their thoughts and feelings surrounding the events of September 11 (and the aftermath that continues today) by writing or drawing their responses with indelible markers on cloth strips. The markers and strips were located at various sites on campus: the libraries, Grinter, near the student mailboxes, Physical Plant, the Quad, and 30 Belmont. Suggested topics covered four general categories: “Anger and Fear,” “Things We Share/Have in Common,” “Hopes” and “Suggested Actions,” but all thoughts and feelings were welcomed.

Students, staff and faculty were asked to tie the strips onto any link in the designated area on the construction fence across from Neilson Library.

The effort was a success. Numerous strips were displayed through October 24. Now that the display has been removed, Staff Council is in the process of reading each strip of cloth and summarizing the expressed sentiments and suggested actions. In November, members of the Smith College community will have the opportunity to review these actions and indicate their preferences. Visit www.smith.edu/staffcouncil for more information.

Nick’s Chicks Come Through

On September 30, 10 hardy members of the Smith community set out on foot to walk 26.2 miles through Boston as part of the annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. Every one of them finished.

In the process, the team, which trekked under the name Nick’s Chicks, raised more than $2,500 for the Jimmy Fund, which contributes funds for cancer research and treatment to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Last year, the Jimmy Fund contributed $2.8 million.

Nick’s Chicks are named after Nicholas Corjay, the 8-year-old son of Patti Corjay, an associate director of student financial services, who was diagnosed more than two years ago with a brain tumor and received treatment at the Dana-Farber Institute. Nicholas is now a healthy third-grader.

Nick’s Chicks members are Christi Bell, Patti Corjay, Linda Jacob, Deb Johnson, Valerie Schumacher, Sue Stans, her husband Joe and daughter Kate, and Kelly Taylor.
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More Than a Dean

BY JUDITH L. MARKSBURY

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Having grown up in Easthampton, Truehurt, 58, says he’s been around Smith College his whole life. “I’ve watched the campus change since I was a kid,” he says. He left for a couple years in the early 1960s to do a stint in the Army, as a conscientious objector in Germany. But he returned after his duty and worked as a truck driver for Glidden Brothers, then as a mechanic for Northampton Volkswagen before starting at Smith in 1986.

“I’ve done quite a lot of different things in my life. But I wanted a place where I could retire,” he says of the reason he took a job at the college. “I was looking for a job with security.” With six children to raise, Truehurt sought long-term stability at the time, he says. And though he wasn’t seeking a night-shift position when he accepted the job, he says he’s come to enjoy the campus in the early hours and takes pride in his work.

“When the crew team comes into the gym in the morning and they’re lying on the floor, I don’t want them feeling duf on the floor,” he says.

When not sprucing up buildings and facilities, Truehurt is most often spending time in his Harlow home on something he loves: creating ornamental chokers in the Native American tradition and selling them at powwows. “I’m known for my jewelry, for the chokers I make,” he says. “I sell a lot of them to the native American community.”

A descendent of the Lakota on his father’s side and the Abnaki on his mother’s, Truehurt has embraced his heritage and culture, and become heavily involved in local Native American society. Every weekend in the summer, he participates in powwows on the Mohawk Trail (Route 2) north of Greenfield, dancing in the Native American tradition or selling his chokers.

“I don’t sleep Fridays,” he says, because after getting off work at 6:30 in the morning, and driving the hour commute home, it’s time to prepare for the weekend powwow. “And I generally don’t sleep on Sundays.”

With his six children all raised and living on their own, he and his wife have more time to dedicate to the native American community, Truehurt says. And if he retires in a few years when he’s eligible (he’s not sure if he will), Truehurt says he would like to spend more weekends, possibly all year round, attending powwows. “The native American community is one of acceptance,” he says. “I have maybe a thousand people out there in my family.”

He looks forward to the day when he can spend more time with his four grandchildren (a fifth, and possibly a sixth, are on the way) and participate more fully in powwows. Until that day in mind, Truehurt is learning to play the native American flute and he continues to cultivate ties to the community.

“The day I stop learning is the day they put me in the ground,” he says.

But until his retirement, he’ll continue taking care of Sage, Ainsworth and Scott gym and the tennis courts, always with pride. “I chose to be a custodian,” he says. “This is how I make my bread and butter. To me, it’s a way of life.” He fingers the six-strand choker that he made and wears around his neck. “With me, my job is a matter of pride—just like the chokers, just like my life.”

BY ERIC WELD

Leroy Truehurt
Off to Mexico For a Good Cause

Rotary Project Amigo is a nonprofit corporation with a mission to enable the poor children of Colima, Mexico, to achieve their highest potential. The project provides educational opportunities, material support, enrichment activities and medical and dental services not otherwise available to the children.

Project Amigo facilitates partnerships between North American and Mexican Rotary Clubs to sponsor projects that benefit the children and their families. Among the projects is the installation of computer labs in children's group homes and rural schools.

Cheryl Donaldson-Davis, former president of the Rotary Club of Easthampton, will travel to Mexico to volunteer for Project Amigo for nine days in February 2002. She will bring some Smith College town-gown computers with her and hopes to bring more needed supplies as well.

The following supplies are needed:

- For the project's dental program, various sizes of toothbrushes
- Children's clothes, good new or used boys' jeans, all sizes, and good new or used girls' daytime dresses, all sizes
- School supplies, such as pencils, pens, erasers, small pencil sharpeners, metric rulers, quality student calculators, student backpacks
- Art supplies, such as all kinds of paper (bright colored printer paper, drawing, newsprint, colored card stock, etc.), colored markers and pencils, crayons, children's scissors, glue sticks and old children's magazines to be cut up

Anyone interested in donating to the project should contact Donaldson-Davis at ext. 2613 or edonalds@smith.edu.

The HCUW board has had to grapple with complicated factors surrounding the Boy Scouts of America controversy. In making its decision, what were some of the primary issues at stake?

Several years ago, we completed a needs assessment that identified services to children as one priority. We also voted a nondiscrimination policy for agencies that we funded. The intent of the policy was to practice nondiscrimination with respect to employment, volunteer participation or the provision of services, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, age, ancestry or veteran status. To serve as a steward for funds designated to meet the needs of the community through delivery systems that do not discriminate is a core value for HCUW. The process of implementing community goals and values creates the tensions and opportunities for the Board as we serve as stewards of the community's funds.

At a time when there is so much focus on humanitarian needs on a national and international basis, there must be some concern about a shifting of priorities and financial resources away from the local agencies. Why is it still important for the work of the locally based United Way agencies to continue to be supported?

It is critical that we do not forget our neighbors. Their vulnerabilities to poverty, homelessness, illness and disabilities have not disappeared as our attention has been turned to the events of September 11. It is important that we become more generous as we respond to the needs nationally and internationally.

The complexion of communities is constantly changing, perhaps more today than even 15 to 20 years ago. What is the HCUW doing to take the changing population and its needs into consideration?

In late 2000, HCUW established a Vision Council to do dialogue groups throughout the community to include broad community representation in determining how best to serve the region's needs and wishes. We want to create a joint vision of needs and goals for fundraising and allocation for the future. It is through this process of community involvement that we will be aware of the needs for our community and inclusive of all voices.

What is the most important message you would like to give the Smith College community regarding the HCUW?

HCUW has been responsive to the values, needs and priorities of the community. We are committed to funding programs that meet the needs of our community through a process of community involvement in fundraising and in fund allocation.
The Meaning of Colors

BY PATTY KIMURA

Red, white, and blue ribbons. White ribbons. Pieces of cloth trailing in the wind. Some with raw edges, others in tatters. These symbols that we put up and hold fast to, tied to our cars, tied to fences. A silent expression of who we are, of what we believe.

My great grandfather arrived in Hawaii when it was still a monarchy. It wasn't part of the United States then, but by the late 1880s, American foreigners overthrew our queen and we became a territory of the United States. The Hawaiian flag disappeared, replaced by the Stars and Stripes (there were fewer stars then). My parents, my uncles and aunts, became Americans by birth. Then came a morning when Japanese planes sped down the Waianae and Ko'olau range to bomb Pearl Harbor and strafe the countryside, including my grandmother's house, laundry and the mango trees in her yard. My family hung American flags from their homes the next day, even while warning that they would be shot at again, this time as "enemy Japanese" by white mobs or soldiers.

Seven uncles volunteered for duty. One became a U.S. interpreter attached to Australians in New Guinea. He translated captured diaries of Japanese troops. Japanese soldiers, longing for family, lost and starving, who cannibalized local people and finally each other. The war changed this uncle, gave him a cynicism about life, and a mean streak. The other six uncles fought in Europe. One ended up at Dachau concentration camp shortly after it had been liberated. The war changed him too. He became a much sadder man.

I don't really know much, personally, about war. I don't know much about flags either. I have a flag—the Hawaiian state flag. It is red, white and blue with a Union Jack in the upper left corner. I fly it because it reminds me of family, of my childhood, of the past, of the complexities and ironies of war and upheaval, of what we often hope for, and what we sometimes find. I fly it because it is a story cloth. My story cloth.

I will not challenge anyone's flag or ribbon. I will just listen quietly for the stories of human beings behind each piece of your cloth.

The Library in Your Living Room

BY BRUCE SAJDJAK

Think of reading articles from electronic journals and newspapers, of finding facts from reliable sources, or of helping your children with tough homework assignments—all from your home.

Thanks to the hard work of Eric Loehr, Nielsen Library systems librarian, and Bob Andrews, Novell Systems administrator in Information Technology Systems, Smith staff and faculty members now have access to most of the Smith libraries' electronic resources from off campus.

Here's How It Works

Visit the Smith College Libraries' Web page at www.smith.edu/libraries. Click on Research@Smith, and then select a database from either one of the Resources by Subject pages or from the Research Databases A-Z list. In most cases, when you click on a database title, you will be asked to enter your GroupWise username and password. If you are unsure of your username or password, contact the ITS User Support Desk at ext. 4487.

If you're at Smith, you'll need no special passwords, access to almost all items is available from anywhere on campus.

What can you find on the Smith College Libraries' Web page? You'll see information on each library and special collection; library hours; a staff directory; and pages that teach you how to find information, request or renew library materials and much more.

Try this out: visit the Research@Smith page, click on Help with Research; then finding Full-Text Articles. The sources on this page all contain links to innumerable articles on many subjects.

Give Us Your Feedback

The Smith libraries value your feedback. If you have comments or questions, just click on What do you think about our new Web site? at the bottom of the libraries' home page.
Activities Committee

This year, as in 2000, summer meant Six Flags to the Activities Committee. Members of the Smith community purchased hundreds of single-day and season passes, resulting in a net saving to Smith community members of $9,639.67.

During the month of September, the Activities Committee expanded its discount ticket sales to include the Big E, otherwise known as the Eastern States Exposition.

On October 5, Smith College participated for the sixth time in the nationwide observance of Denim Day, an annual initiative that raises funds and awareness for breast cancer. Those who made a donation of $5 or more to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation were permitted to dress causally in denim clothing and wear a pink ribbon, which indicated that they had joined the fight against breast cancer. The Smith community raised an impressive $4,445 for the foundation, an astonishing 62 percent increase over last year's record-setting total.

Special thanks go to the campaign's building volunteers, who have done so much to help the campaign reach every corner of campus to the Smith College Club, which once again offered its space as a collection site; and to the donors, who honored us with their generosity.

On October 21, staff members boarded a bus bound for the Foxwoods Resort in Connecticut to try their luck in the casino and visit the impressive Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.

On November 5, the committee held a potluck dinner in the Field House. Participants brought their favorite ethnic dish and talked about why they chose it. Those recipes will be photographed and distributed to participants.

Although we are all saddened by the tragic events of September 11, the Activities Committee has decided to continue with its annual "day on your own" trip to New York City, scheduled this year on Saturday, December 1. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, citing the need to bolster the city's economy and businesses in the wake of the World Trade Center tragedy, encouraged tourists to support the city by coming back and spending money. The fee for the trip is $30 per person. As usual, passengers will be dropped off at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in the Theater District.

While in the Theater District, people in the Kahn Institute recommend that you check out Star Messenger, a musical theater work written and directed by Smith theater professor Paul Zimet and composed by Ellen Mckillop for the institute's 1999-2000 project, "Star Messenger: Gaileos at the Millennium." Star Messenger, a play about Galileo Gaileli and fellow scientist Johannes Kepler, who changed our view of the universe, can be seen at the La MaMa Experimental Theatre, 74A East 4th Street, November 29-December 16. The play received the 1999 Frederick Loewe Award in Musical Theater and stars William Badger as Galileo and David Greenspan as Kepler.

On Friday, December 14, join your colleagues for the annual bus tour of Bright Nights, a 2.5-mile, drive-through holiday light exhibition for the young and the young at heart. Why sit in traffic when you can get priority reservations and leave the driving to someone else? The price for this event has not yet been set.

For your holiday gift giving convenience, the committee will sell 2002 season passes to Six Flags New England amusement park beginning in December. Single-day passes will arrive in late March.

As for next semester, the committee's annual nonperishable food drive to benefit the Western Mass. Food Bank will be held from February 11 through March 1, 2002, and the second annual Paperback Book Exchange (likely to expand to music and more) will take place on Wednesday, April 24, in the Neilson Library Browsing Room.

To make a reservation, provide feedback or purchase discount tickets, the committee requests that you send an e-mail message to staffactivities@smith.edu, or call ext. 4424, then select option 1. To view upcoming events, consult our Web site at http://www.smith.edu/staffcouncil/activitiespage.html.