



Groundswell, Inc.

February 2012

Dear 1969 Classmate,

We are writing in advance of two reunions to occur in this decade, our 45th and landmark 50th, to inform you about a documentary film we are producing—and to ask for your help.

The “we” are your classmates, Liz Roman Gallese, a journalist and author, and Jane Startz, an award-winning filmmaker, joined by Peter Barton, Jane’s husband and an esteemed documentary filmmaker. Our movie, *Women of ’69, Unboxed*, will dare to tell the story of our generation—and, in particular, the women of our generation—through the lens of a single college class that was ours at Skidmore.

Our film will draw upon a metaphor that, throughout the years, has been our class’s signature: the oversized cardboard-box yearbook into which our college lives were forever placed, even as we—a generation that protested an unpopular war, marched for civil rights, and embraced a movement that questioned a woman’s “place”—became unbound on three broad fronts: war, work, and women’s bodies.

Our class, more than any before or since, was in the vanguard of a societal transformation that profoundly altered the collegiate experience and American society. Its members had more opportunities, and with them, tougher choices. What, in fact, did we make of those opportunities? At its core, our film will probe that question.

Women of ’69, Unboxed will enable a new connection between old friends, and a capstone to our pioneering class. Indeed, we see the film as our gift to the class—and, in turn, as a gift *from* our class to the next generation.

We would be most grateful for your participation. We want your ideas, your thoughts, and your wisdom. We are seeking, as well, your financial support, as our plan is to fund the film through contributions, large and small, from every member of the class.

Women of ’69, Unboxed will be produced through Groundswell, Inc., a New York-based nonprofit established in 1978 by Mr. Barton, a three-time Emmy nominee and Edward R. Murrow award recipient. Our formal proposal and budget are enclosed. We ask that you consider a tax-deductible donation from \$100 to \$100,000. Checks payable to Groundswell, Inc. may be sent to the following address: Groundswell, Inc., 440 Riverside Drive #122, New York, NY 10027.

The time is short for our generation, through the lens of Skidmore’s Class of 1969 and its members, to share our story with generations that have much to learn from us. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you have questions, please contact Liz at (781) 235-9040 or liz@lizromangallese.com.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Roman Gallese ‘69

Jane Startz ‘69