

Margaret Eastman Smith's 'A Spectacular Inheritance' Explores Growing Up in a Community Determined to Remake the World

New Memoir Chronicles One Woman's Journey from an International Peacemaking Community to Finding Her Own Identity, Values and Voice

SAN DIEGO, CA, UNITED STATES, August 11, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Sibylline Press](#) announces the release of [A Spectacular Inheritance: What I Kept and What I Left Behind](#) by [Margaret Eastman Smith](#), a penetrating memoir about growing up in the world of Moral Re-Armament (MRA), an evangelical conflict-resolution organization now known as Initiatives of Change, and the remarkable journey that followed when Smith ultimately walked away from the community she had known since childhood. *A Spectacular Inheritance* is available now wherever books are sold.



“

A Spectacular Inheritance is a beautifully layered memoir about belonging, independence and the complicated inheritance we receive from the communities that raise us.”

*Vicki DeArmon, Publisher of
Sibylline Press*

When Margaret Eastman Smith left her close community on the eve of her thirty-fifth birthday, she had few friends beyond it, no college degree, no job experience, and little aptitude for dealing with the world outside.

A Spectacular Inheritance is a penetrating account of coming of age in Moral Re-Armament (previously the Oxford Group, now Initiatives of Change). The religiously-based reconciliation organization spawned Alcoholics Anonymous and Up With People. The movement is credited with contributing to postwar Franco-German

reconciliation but has also been criticized by some, including actor Glenn Close.

Margaret shares vivid memories of life within the community and her evolving view of it. As she steps away, it becomes a story of finding values that she can rely on. In her telling, the memoir is a reflection on the search for self, forgiveness and the meaning of love.

"A Spectacular Inheritance is a beautifully layered memoir about belonging, independence and the complicated inheritance we receive from the communities that raise us," said Vicki DeArmon, Publisher of Sibylline Press. "Margaret brings both intimacy and perspective to a remarkable life story, inviting readers to consider not only what she left behind, but what she was able to carry forward."

A lifelong interest in the question "Can ordinary people change the world?" continues to inform Smith's work. She is a columnist and essayist for *We Are One Humanity* and an alumna of the international peacemaking community.

Smith has upcoming events in Cambridge, Cape Cod, Washington DC, Hollywood, and Los Angeles and has a podcast and media tour.

Praise for *A Spectacular Inheritance*

"A compelling read, particularly for anyone who has grown up in and then left a religious movement." - Kirkus Reviews

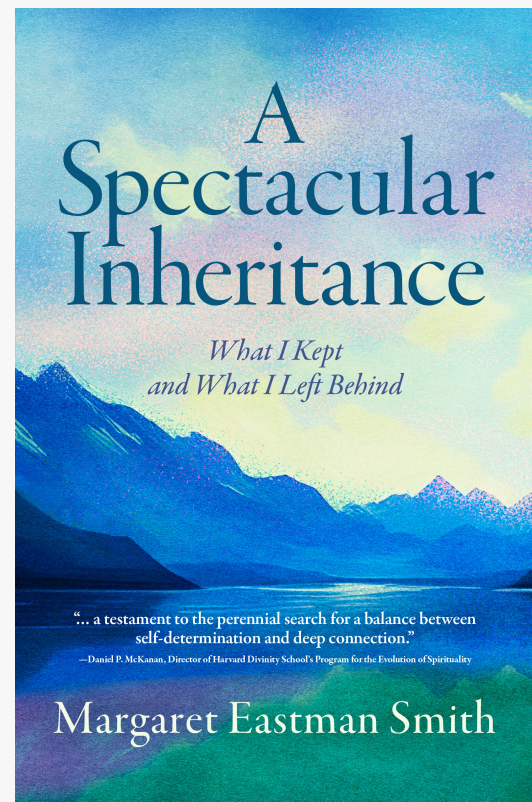
"Smith does a beautiful job of interweaving her personal narrative with the retelling of the growth of a social movement, while at the same time, questioning both." - Tamra Pearson d'Estrée, Ph.D. Professor of Conflict Resolution, University of Denver

About the Author

Margaret Eastman Smith grew up in North America, Asia, and Europe. She has American and British citizenship. Her column appears on the



Margaret Eastman Smith, Author, *A Spectacular Inheritance*



A Spectacular Inheritance, Book Cover

website We Are One Humanity (www.weareonehumanity.org) and she is a frequent essayist. She taught in the Program on International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University, Washington, DC, from 1999-2017. She is the author of *Reckoning with the Past: Teaching History in Northern Ireland* (Lexington Books, 2005). She earned her doctorate from the Fletcher School at Tufts University in 1999. In 2018, she earned a degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She splits her time between Cape Cod and Washington DC.

A Spectacular Inheritance

By Margaret Eastman Smith

Memoir

Page Count: 424

Trade Paperback: 9798897400201 | \$22

EBook: □ 9798897400218 | \$9.99

Publication Date: August 11, 2026

Published by Sibylline Press — Publishing the work of brilliant women over 50.

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