

# MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA NEWSLETTER

**LATE SUMMER 2020**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*In this short Life that only lasts an hour  
How much - how little - is within our power*

- EMILY DICKINSON

(My thanks to Dr. Dan Freeman, husband of Dr. Jean Otis Freeman '69, for this quote.)

Dear Members and Friends,

No one planned on the Covid virus but, in addition to our other challenges as a club, we must respond and survive -- for the good of us, our members and the college. Need a little more Mount Holyoke in your life? Let's make sure that the club is still here for us when we come out the other side of this horrible pandemic. I need not tell you that much has changed since last spring. Heartbreakingly, MHC made the last-minute decision to teach and learn remotely this fall. This choice has to have been agonizing for the administration. We saw the same kinds of decision-making at our recent club Board meeting, now via Zoom through the auspices of **Maria Mandler '74**. (Thank you, Maria!) In their wisdom and enthusiasm for our club, Board members scheduled an extra Board meeting for August to review and reconsider our plans for this coming season.

We must move forward with what our club can accomplish this season. **Elizabeth Russell '70** has prepared a wonderful program. (See page 2.) But can we actually do it? Only time will tell, but your club and its Board are ready to attempt the impossible. In a similar vein, with a nod to last spring's crises, Florida Studio Theatre is holding a special suffrage event on August 20 at 5:30 pm. by Zoom at no cost (See page 6). We are all invited!

Need a little more Mount Holyoke in your life? As we start this season, though, my prime concern is how to provide value to you, our members: Should we offer more M&Cs or other Zoom events? Mountain Day anyone, suggested **Georgia Walters '70** (See page 2)? There is no Common Read announced yet for this year; should we try for a book club on our own? Can we involve more individuals by adding to our Board? Can we conduct focus groups around the value and health of our club, as mentioned to me by VP **Leslie Farrand '77**? Are we transparent to you, our members, so you are getting enough for your voluntary dues contribution? For that matter, should our Zoom Board meetings be open to all members?? I am trying to do BIG Picture thinking here!

I continue to wish you health and safety.

**Joyce Gleason '69, President**  
**mhcswfl@gmail.com**



WEBSITE <http://new.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/swfl/>

EMAIL [mhcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswfl@gmail.com)

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2020-2021

Your board, under the guidance of Program Chair **Elizabeth Russell '70**, is making tentative plans for a robust 2020-2021 season of events starting in the fall. We'll keep you updated as the season unfolds. You will note several events with other alumnae clubs in the area. **Elizabeth and Joyce Gleason '69** met on Zoom with the local Smith and Wellesley clubs to continue the collaboration of the past two seasons.

**All events subject to change due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic**

### **Mountain Day ~ upon MHC's announcement**

*See details below*

### **November 2020 ~ Orchid Show**

Selby Gardens, Private Tour.

*Details to follow in next newsletter*

### **December 8, 2020, Tuesday -Virtual Event**

2020 Presidential Election Recap--Time TBD.

Dr. Susan MacManus, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of South Florida.

Hosted by the Yale Club of the Suncoast.

### **January 2021**

Smith Club Invitational/Seven Sisters.

### **February 2021**

Colloquium: Pandemic Round Table

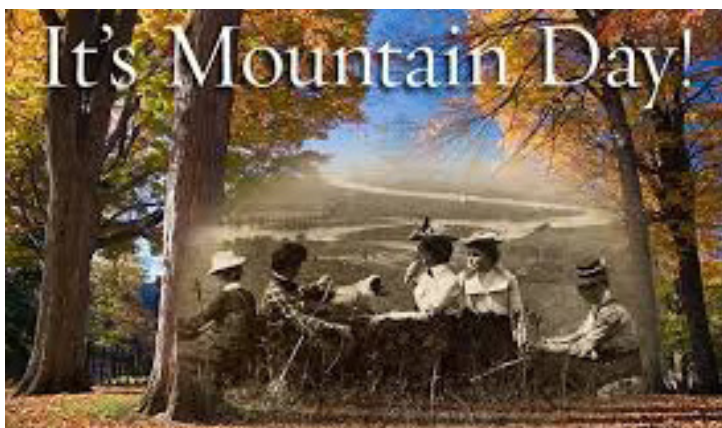
Mount Holyoke Club Invitational/Smith, Wellesley, Yale

### **March 2021**

Wellesley Club Invitational/Seven Sisters.

### **April 2021**

Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsy in Sarasota.



## JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL MOUNTAIN DAY VIA ZOOM!

Our Social Chair Maria Mandler '74 has kindly offered to host us again. Sign up at **[mhcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswfl@gmail.com)** to receive a Zoom link first thing in the morning on the day the College tolls the bell in Mary Lyon Hall to announce the event. Our Zoom session will begin at **6:37 pm (18:37 hours)**, so make sure you have a bowl of ice cream or cone at the ready. Get ready too to participate in some Mount Holyoke mini-trivia!

You don't need a Zoom account to participate. New to Zoom? If you need a dry run before the event, email [mhcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswfl@gmail.com) for help. Spouses, partners and kids are welcome. **Sign-up deadline is Wednesday, September 30th.**

***Look forward to seeing you!!!!***

We feel as though we've joined the 21st century! On April 29th and August 12th, your Board met via Zoom due to the coronavirus concerns. The meeting made us feel very connected one to the other, and we want you to feel the same. Social distancing got you down? Contact us via email at [mhcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswfl@gmail.com). Leave a message for any of us. If you want to talk to us by phone, leave us your number and we'll call you.

***Please reach out!***



## VIRTUAL M&Cs ~ May 26, 2020

Due to the initiative of **Maria Mandler '74**, Social Chair for the Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida, the club hosted a virtual Milk and Cookies (M&C) event on May 26, 2020, for about 30 members and friends of the club throughout the state and beyond. While the choice of beverage and snack were your own, our special guest was **Dr. Maria Mossaides '73**, currently President of the Alumnae Association (AA). Dr. Mossaides, Maria if you will, is Director of the Office of Child Advocacy in Massachusetts. She took an hour from her busy day to talk about the pandemic-related status of MHC, plans for operations, and work of the AA.



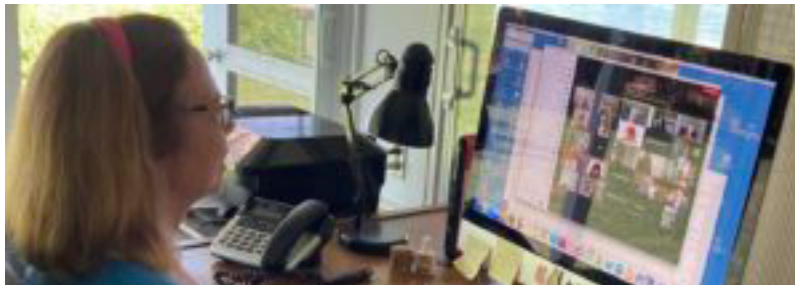
Maria Mossaides

While many of these plans are still in flux, depending on orders going forward from MA Gov. Baker for K-12 schools and higher education, the college's administration is outlining many variations of what is possible and what is prudent. In fact, the Emergency Student Fund, to which our Board donated \$500 on your behalf at its April meeting, will benefit many students who are still on campus due to travel and social restrictions and helping to replace summer earnings for those who lost internships and/or campus employment.

Maria also outlined AA's new outreach efforts to our nearly 39,000 alums in 48 countries at various stages of their lives (across seven decades!) and geographical distribution. Many will respond to "affinity groups", sometimes networking by profession, or other interests, like the V-8s. For the first time ever, the AA's annual meeting took place virtually, and for those who connected on June 6th had a vote! Watch too for coming "Events in a Box", such as the new "Welcome to the Neighborhood" as young alums acquaint themselves with new employment and graduate school locations. Ultimately, Maria stated, supporting each other is "in our DNA", just as Mary Lyons herself established networks of teacher/graduates in 1837.

With all that went on during this session, did you eat your snack?

-JG





148th ANNUAL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION MEETING ~ JUNE 6, 2020



On Saturday, June 6, 2020, the Alumnae Association held an unprecedented virtual meeting for alums around the world. This was in lieu of the traditional meeting held during the weekend of graduation and Reunion I. The only times this AA meeting was not held was during the Pandemic of 1918, and several years during World War II. It was good to hear that the Second World War classes that also missed graduation held the ceremonies following the war, as did the skipped reunion classes. It appears that this will be the pattern for this year's class and reunions too.

We saw live and recorded messages from Maria Mossaides, President of AA, President Sonya Stephens, Presidents of the Classes of 2020 to 1945. Each class president recounted the shared history of her class's four years. I was touched by the President of '45 saying that she still is proud to say she attended MHC after all this time. Me too!

Our own Susie Betzer '65 received the Mary Graham Davis Leadership Award awarded only once before. After her years of service to the college, Board of Trustees, AA, fundraising, etc., she has certainly earned this unique distinction. Kudos to her!

The end of the meeting was a virtual Laurel Parade composed of photos and congratulations to the new alums (Class of '20) from members of classes as far back as 1950. It ran for 10 minutes! Did I see Susie Betzer '65, Sue Simpson '68, and Maria Mandler '74 among all the well-wishers? When the "parade" finished I cried. Link to <https://youtu.be/bbgsJJXNI0> or type "Mount Holyoke Alumnae Extended Virtual Laurel Parade 2020" in your search engine to see it for yourself. -JG

CONGRATULATIONS SUSIE BETZER '65



**Then Alumnae Association Executive Director Nancy Bellows Perez '76 presented the Mary Graham Davis Leadership Award to Susie during the virtual annual meeting on June 6, 2020.**

**The award is presented to an individual who demonstrates exceptional leadership in service of both the College and the Alumnae Association. Susie served as president of the Alumnae Association from 2003–2006, during a pivotal moment in the relationship between the Alumnae Association and the College following the signing of the landmark agreement between the two. Her substantial and ongoing contributions to both the Alumnae Association and the College span decades.**

## MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



### ***DID YOU RECEIVE MAGGIE'S LETTER?***

The Rev. Maggie Gat '64, Nominating Committee Chair, has written us all a very heartfelt and powerful letter about the future of our Club among many other thought-provoking issues pertinent to the club and the college. The letter is an invitation to our membership to help us find direction as we wade deeper into the 21st century. A link to Maggie's letter is on the Board Members page of our website or email us at [mhcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswfl@gmail.com) if you didn't receive a copy.

**Our club admissions rep Wendy Hanafée '84 reports that two students from our club area are members of the Class of 2024! One student is from Seminole High School and the other from Saint Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton. Check the College website for what's new on the fall opening.**

### **College's Emergency Student Fund:**

Over 100 students, mostly international, were still on campus in April even though Mount Holyoke closed due to Covid-19. These students had immediate financial needs and the college established an Emergency Student Fund. Our Club's board voted to donate \$500 of surplus funds to the Emergency Fund.

### **CONNECT THROUGH FACEBOOK!**

Did you know we belong to the "**Mount Holyoke Alumnae: West Central Florida**" Facebook group started by **Jeanne Egan '87**? It's more than 80 members strong and it's a great way to receive and share up-to-date information with other members. If you are on Facebook and would like to join it, search for the group via the name in quotes above and ask to join.

It's a "closed" group which includes:

- 1) Alumnae living in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Manatee, and Sarasota counties,
- 2) Students/future alumnae from these counties, and
- 3) Current members of the **Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida!**



## **DUES ARE APPRECIATED! THANK YOU!!**

Please note that annual dues are voluntary. Your dues help defray printing, mailing, and website expenses along with some speaker and venue costs associated with membership meetings. In the past few years we have been able to donate surplus funds to the MHC Alumnae Scholar Fund as well as to the Emergency Student Fund set up to help on-campus students during the Covid-19 crisis.



### **DUES COUPON 2020-2021**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

2020-2021 Club Dues @ \$20    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to : Diane Elliott, Treas.  
10594 Alvarado Ct  
Seminole, FL 33772

☐ I am new to the Club.

☐ My contact information has changed. (Use reverse side to provide changes. Thank you!).

WEBSITE <http://new.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/swfl/>

EMAIL [mhcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswfl@gmail.com)

Our Program Chair **Elizabeth Russell '70** had planned a wonderful event for us on April 16, 2020, The Suffragist Project Presentation at Florida Studio Theater celebrating 100 years of the woman's right to vote. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 concerns, the event was cancelled. However the Florida Studio Theater has planned a Zoom event of the Suffragist Project on August 20, 2020, at 5:30pm! **If you'd like to attend, sign up directly with Florida Studio Theater** at this link <https://tickets.floridastudiotheatre.org/anniversarycelebration>, call them at 941-366-9000, or go to the FST website. Tickets are free, but registration is required. The theater's flyer is below for more information.

Hope you can attend!



## Florida Studio Theatre invites you to celebrate 100 Years of the Woman's Right to Vote!

On the official centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment: **August 20, 2020**, hear from inspiring speakers, including **Mayor Ahearn-Koch, Suffragist Project Director Kate Alexander and accomplished artists**, watch a sneak peek of the new documentary following FST's Suffragist Project, and share in a special moment of recognition with hundreds of our brothers and sisters in a candle-lighting ceremony. Participate and reflect as we unite our community in an online celebration of this monumental milestone.

*Attire: Suffragists frequently wore white during their demonstrations. We invite you to wear something white in their honor (a flower, a scarf, etc.).*

### 100th Anniversary Celebration: Ratification of the 19th Amendment

**WHEN** August 20, 2020, 5:30PM

**WHERE** Held online through Zoom

**TICKETS** Free, though registration is required

**This event will be held exclusively online. After registering, you will receive an email from Florida Studio Theatre with information about how to join this virtual event. This will be a separate email from your confirmation email. If you have any issues with registering or accessing the conversation, please call the FST Box Office at 941.366.9000. You will need to download the Zoom mobile or desktop app to participate in this event.**