

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020/2021



Pat Brodt '55

Hail and Hearty Thanks to Pat Brodt '55 !

After more years than we can count, Pat is resigning her position as Membership Chair of our club's Board. She greeted us as we arrived at meetings. She had personalized name tags for us. She always had a smile! We knew we were "home" with the club, because she made it that way. We are grateful to and for you, Pat.

But now Pat needs to take more time for herself and who can blame her for that?

So THANK YOU, PAT, for your long service to the Club. We look forward to seeing you at a place at the table and enjoying our events without duties. You earned this respite.

--Joyce Gleason, President

Thank you, Elizabeth Russell '70, Program Chair, for putting together an amazing program for this season in the midst of the pandemic. See page 2 for details and registration slip for our January 2021 program, and pages 3 through 6 for highlights of our season through December 2020.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE For the Remainder of the 2020-2021 Season

All events subject to change

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 10:00 am

- IN-PERSON CULTURAL & HISTORICAL **GUIDED WALKING TOUR** OF DOWNTOWN SARASOTA
- Optional Lunch afterwards at **Cafe Epicure**, Sarasota.
- Flyer and registration slip on page 2 of this newsletter.

February 2021

- **Branch Tropical Gardens** in Sarasota ~ Private Tour ~ Details to follow in next newsletter.
- Optional Lunch afterwards at **Sunnyside Cafe**, Hungarian Restaurant, Sarasota.

• "NEED A LITTLE MORE MOUNT HOLYOKE IN YOUR LIFE?" is President Joyce Gleason's slogan for her term in office. We have openings on our Board. If you'd like to join us or have ideas or comments, email Joyce at mhcswfl@gmail.com.

• Please consider contributing an article for the Newsletter. Perhaps you have fond memories of the College to share, insights on women's education today, comments on one of our programs, member spotlight--the possibilities are endless. Photos welcome! Email mhcswfl@gmail.com

• Our website <http://new.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/swfl/> has a plethora of information including event calendar, contact information for Board members, links to West Central's Facebook page, and copies of our most recent newsletters and flyers.

Have a happy and healthful New Year and have a little more Mount Holyoke in your life!

-----the MHCSWFL Board

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com

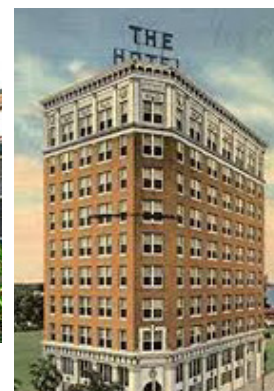
MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021, 10:00 AM IN-PERSON CULTURAL & HISTORICAL GUIDED WALKING TOUR ~ DOWNTOWN SARASOTA ~

Travel back in time, walk in the present, and discover the future of one of America's most interesting and historic cities. The professionally guided tour is a comfortably paced stroll through downtown and allows for rest and photographic stops along the way. Wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing.

Masks and social distancing are required.

We'll meet at 10 am at the Unconditional Surrender statue in Bayfront Park west of Route 41 in downtown Sarasota. The statue may have been moved 100' south from its current location by the date of the tour, but, at 3-stories high, it's hard of miss. There is plenty of free parking in the park. **Optional lunch afterwards at Café Epicure, 1298 N Palm Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236 - paid individually.**



Directions to Bayfront Park, Sarasota:

From I-75 heading south from Tampa area: Take exit 210 onto SR780 Fruitville Rd. Turn right onto SR780 Fruitville Rd and head west for 6 mii. Go 3/4 of the way around the rotary and head south for .5 mi. on US-41 N Tamiami Trl. Turn right onto Marina Plaza and into Bayfront Park.

From I-75 heading north from North Port area: Take exit 207 onto SR758 Bee Ridge. Turn left onto Bee Ridge and head west for 5.1 mi. Turn right onto US-41 S Tamiami Trl. In 2.1 miles keep left onto Mound St. In .9 miles turn left onto Marina Plaza and into Bayfront Park.

Tour is \$20 per person. Annual Club dues are \$20, and may be paid with your reservation or in person at any of the Club's events. Send reservations and payments to club Treasurer Diane Elliott at 10594 Alvarado Ct, Seminole, FL 33772, (phone 727-642-5354). Checks payable to "**Mount Holyoke Club of SW FL.**" Guests are welcome; just indicate name(s) on the form. **R.S.V.P. by Thursday, January 14th.**

Note: Don't have a printer? Just replicate the info below on paper & mail it in with your payment.

- ✂ -

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 10:00 AM, Walking Tour of Downtown Sarasota

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Guest(s) Names(s): _____

Sarasota Walking Tour ____ @ \$ 20 \$ _____

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

TOTAL \$ _____

Note: Lunch afterwards paid individually.

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

- ☐ I am new to the Club (attending for the first or second time).
- ☐ My contact information has changed. (Use reverse side to provide changes. Thank you!).

In case you missed us on October 19, 2020:

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA MOUNTAIN DAY 2020



Host Maria Mandler '74 and co-host Mary Alexander '81 greeted 15 Mountain Day Zoomers at 6:37 pm on Monday, October 19th. Joyce Gleason '69 welcomed Jeanne Egan '87, Facebook administrator, and introduced Arminee Bowler '75 and Jamie Donnelly '03, the newest members of our Club's Nominating Committee. Joyce pointed out that our Zoomers encompass classes from '52 to '03 and was delighted to note there were four members of the class of '69 in attendance.

We started out sharing Mountain Day memories from years past. Leslie Farrand '77 hiked up Mount Holyoke her freshman year and drove to the top the next. Jeanne Egan '87 headed over to Northampton to Herrell's for ice cream with the best hot fudge. One year Mary drove to Tanglewood for the day. Susan Holderness '69 picked apples at Atkins Farm and brought home cider to keep on her windowsill—the cider turned hard! Jamie Donnelly '03 remembered having two Mountain Days—the one in the fall was rained out so the College scheduled a "Millennium Day" for the spring. Connie Farnsworth '52 biked to Northampton!

Other MHC memories surfaced. Jeanne brought up Pangynaskeia Day. Jane Zimmy '74 remembered it started in the 1980's in the spring. Mary was one of the "Wild and Crazy Guys" from Saturday Night Live in the Junior Show. She also remembered a male student in her class that year. The big question was unanswered: did anyone go to Mary Lyon's grave on Founders Day? More memories came fast and furiously, but this writer couldn't jot them all down quickly enough. Any memories you'd like to include in the next newsletter?

For us Floridians missing New England's fall foliage, Maria Mandler shared gorgeous slides taken by the head of MHC's Asian Studies, Ying Wang. Maria had assembled MHC Trivia with help from board members and the competition was on! Answers on page 5.

-- G. Walters

Maria Mandler's MHC Trivia:

1) On which day is Pangy (Pangynaskeia) Day celebrated on campus?

- a) The Monday after Founder's Day
- b) The first Friday of classes in the spring semester
- c) The last Friday of classes in the spring semester
- d) It is a surprise during spring semester

2) What was Mount Holyoke's original name?

- a) Mount Holyoke Female Seminary
- b) Mary Lyon Female Seminary
- c) Mount Holyoke Seminary and College

---continued on page 4

Maria's MHC Trivia, continued:

3) The lead female character in Dirty Dancing was named after which Mount Holyoke alumna?

- a) Virginia (Apgar)
- b) Frances (Perkins)
- c) Wendy (Wasserstein)
- d) Emily (Dickinson)

4) How many residence halls are named to honor Mount Holyoke presidents?

- a) two
- b) three
- c) four
- d) five

5) Mount Holyoke is often compared to Harry Potter's Hogwarts because:

- a) MHC has beautiful neo-Gothic architecture, notably the library.
- b) MHC classes have creatures as mascots to each class.
- c) The MHC 2002 Lacrosse team was named Quidditch Flyers
- d) a & b
- e) a, b & c

6) Mount Holyoke students enjoy apple cider donuts from this store:

- a) Bakery on the Green
- b) Apple Stand at the Notch
- c) Atkins Farm
- d) Shoppe of Pioneer Valley

7) What is the name of Mount Holyoke's golf club, commissioned by Joseph Skinner and designed by Donald Ross? It was the site of the U.S. Women's Open in 2004.

- a) Ledges
- b) The Orchards
- c) Lyon's Ridge
- d) Skinner's Notch

8) Mount Holyoke and Women's Christian College have been sibling schools since 1920. In which Indian city is WCC located?

- a) Chennai (Madras)
- b) Mumbai (Bombay)
- c) Kolkata (Calcutta)

9) The 800-acre (3.2 km²) campus was designed and landscaped between 1896 and 1922 by a landscape architecture firm founded by:

- a) George Haussmann
- b) Gertrude Jekyll
- c) Thomas Church
- d) Frederick Law Olmsted

10) Which woman didn't attend Mount Holyoke?

- a) Elaine Chao
- b) Ella Grasso
- c) Sylvia Plath
- d) Carol Higgins Clark

Bonus Round:

X) What is the official name of the gates to Mount Holyoke's campus?

- a) Fidelia Nash Field Gate
- b) Portal of Foreign Missions
- c) Seminary Passage
- d) Elizabeth Mead Entrance

Y) What is Mount Holyoke's current foreign language requirement (if any)?

- a) There is none
- b) One course within the first eight semesters
- c) Two courses within the first eight semesters

Z) In the 1978 movie, Animal House, what was the name of the college based on Mount Holyoke?

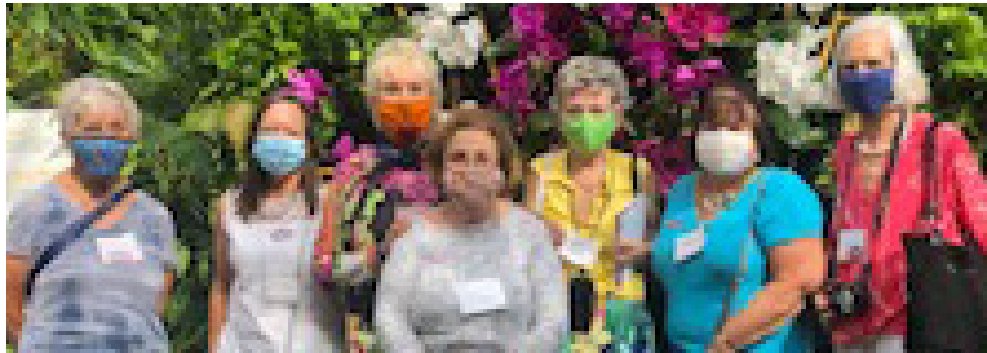
- a) College of Seven Sisters
- b) Emily Dickinson College
- c) Mary Lyon Institute

Past-president Sue Simpson '68 wrote "Some Unusual Mountain Day History" that appeared in our last newsletter. You will find our Fall Newsletter on our website, or email us at mhcswfl@gmail.com and we'll send you a copy.



In case you missed us on November 13, 2020:

MHCSWFL SELBY GARDENS ORCHID TOUR



left to right: Maggie Gat '61, Allyson Cornish '84, Elizabeth Russell '70, Joyce Gleason '69, Leslie Farrand '77, Diane Elliott '69 and Joan Ohlson '62. with moderator Elizabeth Russell '70.

In November, a small group of intrepid members of the Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida ventured out to enjoy a special exhibit at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens entitled “Women Breaking the Glasshouse Ceiling”.

We were introduced to the history of the Gardens by Jenny Coburn. Jenny discussed how Marie and William Selby came to Sarasota almost 100 years ago and how the grounds evolved into today’s beautiful downtown campus. The Botanical Gardens were founded in 1973 when the passionate gardener Marie Selby bequeathed her former home and property ‘for the enjoyment of the general public.’

This year the annual Orchid Show honors Marie Selby and highlights the accomplishments of many notable women. They built on her legacy and helped make Selby Gardens home to the best scientifically-documented collection of orchids in the world. The dynamic display in the Tropical Conservatory celebrates the Suffrage Movement and the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment to the U.S. constitution, granting women the right to vote. The symbolic colors of the Suffrage Movement are represented in the orchid collection: purple for loyalty and dignity, white for purity, green for hope, and gold for light and life. Kinetic planters set the orchid displays in jubilant motion. Architectural motifs and music from the 1920’s evoke a sense of this pivotal period in American history.

This year also marks the acquisition of the Spanish Point campus, which links the estate of Bertha Palmer, a significant contributor to women’s rights, to the Selby Collection.

We are truly blessed to have access to such wonderful collections in our own backyard!

-- Leslie Farrand

Thank you, Selby Gardens, for providing some of the copy.



Answers-MHC Trivia 1. c 2. a. 3. b 4. c 5. d. 6. c. 7. b 8. a 9. d.10. c. X. a. Y. b. Z. b.

In case you missed us on December 8, 2020: Susan MacManus Presidential Election Recap

On December 8th, fifteen of our members joined the Yale Club of the Suncoast on Zoom for Dr. Susan MacManus's analysis of the presidential election, especially as it relates to Florida. A third-generation Floridian, Dr. MacManus is a Distinguished Professor Emerita at USF and NPR's "go-to" person for Florida elections. Here are just some of the highlights of her informative and insightful presentation.

She began by noting that **pundits assumed that Florida would be a toss-up** state, since Florida's vote had been within a 1% margin in the five prior presidential races. In her opinion, Democrats failed to dissect what caused their losses in 2016, or clearly understand the nuances of Florida's demographics, and took a hit.

The **Democrats'** two main goals were to build on the Obama coalition and to focus on the federal response to the pandemic. They targeted women (especially older women), the young, Blacks and Latinos, southeast Florida and the I-4 corridor, as well as Donald Trump's non-presidential style. Due to the pandemic, they cancelled in-person events and instead relied on social media, drive-through rallies and a strong aversion to Trump. The big surge in suburban voters for Biden didn't materialize in Florida, nor did a surge in women voters. They relied too much on stale data, broad demographic categories and, outside consultants, and too little on Spanish-language media and grass-roots efforts. They found that big money doesn't help if not targeted effectively.

The **Republicans**, in contrast, built a strong grass-roots effort, concentrated on "choice-based moms," those of the conservative Jewish faith and Hispanics. They also focused on improving margins, especially in Miami-Dade County, and emphasized an anti-socialism message. They had great success with in-person boat parades, car caravans, events with Latin music, and events for women. Trump and family visited Miami-Dade 14 times! Republicans had the best "ground game" in Florida -- knocking on 4.4 million doors v. 300,000 for Democrats. Trump also won the registration battle in large part by targeting Hispanics. Republicans won big on the state level.

Republicans outmaneuvered the Democrats in diversity. For example, there is a broadening coalition of voters from South and Central America and Cuba that approved of Trump's anti-socialism message. Dr. MacManus noted that by 2040, Florida will be even more diverse with non-Hispanic whites predicted to be in the minority. Looking at voters' countries of origin will be even more important in the future.

Although more money was spent on **television ads** in Florida than any in other state, more than 58% of Floridians voted more than a week before the election, thus making last minute TV ads less effective. **Virtual**



events were the order of the day--Dr. MacManus laughed about her experience of watching the two Town Halls simultaneously on different TV channels!

Florida **turnout** was high and Republicans had a larger share of voters than in past elections. Dr. MacManus showed Republican gains by county, especially in Miami-Dade, and also in Orange County. There Hispanics, including Puerto Ricans, were concerned about the tourism industry. Democrats made gains in the Panhandle where there is a strong military presence. In general, the minority vote was up for Donald Trump, with Black men--a new group--voting more Republican. The White vote was down for Trump. For 38% of the voters, **the economy** was the most important issue. Going forward, Dr. MacManus felt the economy would continue to be the most important issue, although 69% of Floridians say racism is an important problem.

The women's vote overall changed little from 2016: Dr. MacManus felt the **biggest surprise** was that women did not rush to vote for Biden. She noted that, although Republicans have a problem with college-educated women, there were unexpected victories for women Republicans down ballot. The strongest supporters of Biden were Black women. **Many younger voters**, those under 40, split their votes. Many have no party affiliation. In fact, nearly 30% of registered voters in Florida are NPA.

The polls were terrible, according to Dr. MacManus, since they failed to take into account nuances of race and age, sample sizes, and for missing the "shy" Trump voters. People this time were more fearful about the lack of privacy and the polling refusal rate was higher. During the Q & A period, Dr. MacManus emphasized how important the polls are. She stated, "How are we going to be knowledgeable about issues if we can't poll." Distrust, in her view, is a huge issue.

Dr. MacManus pointed out we're **no longer "Floriduh"** --we can run an election. She concluded by stating that **Florida remains a very complex puzzle** where the shapes are constantly changing.

--G Walters