

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021



APRIL 20TH BIRDING WORKSHOP

There is one more event for the 2020-2021 season!

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 1:00 pm: VIRTUAL BIRDING WORKSHOP. Join us to hear Kathy Doddridge of the Manatee County Audubon Society. Workshop is free. Flyer and registration details on page 2.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

What a year we have had! But, first of all, I hope that this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. You have seen the diversity of programs the club has held in these trying Covid times. I am quite proud of what we have accomplished. Loud applause please for **Elizabeth Russell '70**, our intrepid Program Chair! She was ably assisted throughout the season by **Maria Mandler '74**, **Georgia Walters '70** and **Diane Elliott '69**.

So now, moving forward, we are faced with many choices: Do we simply go back to our charming speaker and luncheon format? Do we continue to explore lovely Sarasota and its environs on foot? Do we "Zoom in" our speakers, and include expanding our offerings across Florida? Do we desire a mix of those, and perhaps other options? I do not know!

But I bet that you and our collective membership with all its talents, skills and opinions can contrive a solution. Watch for an emailed survey from Elizabeth in the next few weeks to collect your thoughts. We may be at a crossroads but let's find out where those paths will lead!

Our club which thrived under Covid will continue to survive "normalcy", whatever that may be. Help us determine that direction -- with more Mount Holyoke in our lives.

Joyce Gleason '69

**Need a lot more
Mount Holyoke in your
life? Join us in the
discussion.
Please let me know
your thoughts.**



Joyce Gleason '69, President
mhcsowl@gmail.com

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL BIRDING WORKSHOP

Speaker, Kathy Doddridge of the Manatee County Audubon Society

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 1:00 pm

We are honored to welcome Kathy Doddridge who will cover such topics as bird topography, the four keys to identifying birds, and birding etiquette. She'll show a wonderful collection of photos of Florida birds in their habitat groups--mangroves and canals, fresh water ponds, woods, the intracoastal waterway, and the beach.



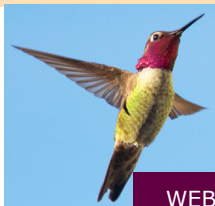
Kathy Doddridge

Kathy is a retired communications director having worked at NCR Corporation for 23 years. She is an enthusiastic birder who learned from some of the best birders in Sarasota and Manatee counties. For the last five years she was the top e-Birder in Manatee County tallying over 240 species in each year. She serves as Compiler for the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count - Bradenton Circle, teaches birding classes, serves as a trip leader for Manatee County Audubon and is an accomplished photographer. She is a certified genealogist and serves on the boards of several lineage societies and holds positions at the chapter, state and national levels. In the summer months, she volunteers with the Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch.

The Birding Workshop is free, but please email mhcswfl@gmail.com to make a reservation and to receive a Zoom link one week before the event. Guests are welcome. You don't need a Zoom account to participate. **New sign-up deadline is Friday, April 16th.**

Please send your questions for Kathy in advance to mhcswfl@gmail.com. There will also be plenty of time to ask questions after her talk.

MHCSWFL Program Chair, Elizabeth Russell '70 has arranged the Birding Workshop for us, and Maria Mandler '74, Social Chair, will be our Zoom host. The bird photos are by Stew Pollock (Penny '57). Thank you all!



**Come and brush up on your birding skills & etiquette!
We look forward to having you join us.**

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com

In case you missed us on January 19, 2021:

**CULTURAL & HISTORICAL GUIDED WALKING TOUR
~ DOWNTOWN SARASOTA ~**

We met at the *Unconditional Surrender* statue on a crisp January morning. Our tour guide, Rob, arrived promptly, fully attired in his Scottish clan regalia. We then proceeded to take a comfortable stroll through lower downtown Sarasota, stopping at various landmarks marking the progression and growth of our lovely community. We learned that Sarasota was founded in 1885, with 60 families sailing here from Scotland, at a cost of 100 pounds Sterling per family. These early settlers were led to believe they were coming to an established town, only to find absolutely nothing. The town was platted on July 7, 1886.

The waterline of the bay was just to the west of where we now find Gulf Stream Avenue. The first pier was built in 1886.

We strolled on to the Art Ovation Hotel in the theatre district, where a quick elevator ride took us to the rooftop patio for a splendid overview of downtown Sarasota--a great way to establish one's bearings for further exploration. We moved on to Five Points, the heart of the downtown district, and viewed several notable sculptures and landmarks celebrating the history and growth of the city. We ended our tour at the Church of the Redeemer founded by the original Scottish settlers in 1885.

A few of us then went on to enjoy a lovely lunch at Café Epicure. Thank you to Elizabeth Russell '70, Program Chair, for organizing the event.

--Leslie Farrand '77



In case you missed us on February 18, 2021:

ROB BRANCH'S TROPICAL GARDEN TOUR

Our next adventure took us to the Rob Branch Tropical Gardens in the Bayou Oaks neighborhood of north Sarasota. Conceived and developed by the eponymous Rob, these gardens were created on what was originally a bare plot of property. Rob has traveled the world, collecting rare and exotic species of plants and creating a new little Garden of Eden in this corner of North Sarasota. We enjoyed a relaxing stroll through the 1-½ acre garden where Rob explained the various species of bamboo, bromeliads and 245 varieties of palm tree--including the tallest species in the world. Rob offered several of his exotic plants for sale and also provided complimentary cuttings of a beautiful Angel's Trumpet.

Following the visit to the gardens, several of us then went on to enjoy a delicious lunch at the nearby Sunnyside Café. Thanks again to Elizabeth Russell '70, Program Chair, for organizing the event.

--Leslie Farrand '77



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EMAIL mhcswf@gmail.com

In case you missed us on March 10, 2021:

VIRTUAL TEA WITH ABIGAIL STCLAIR '02

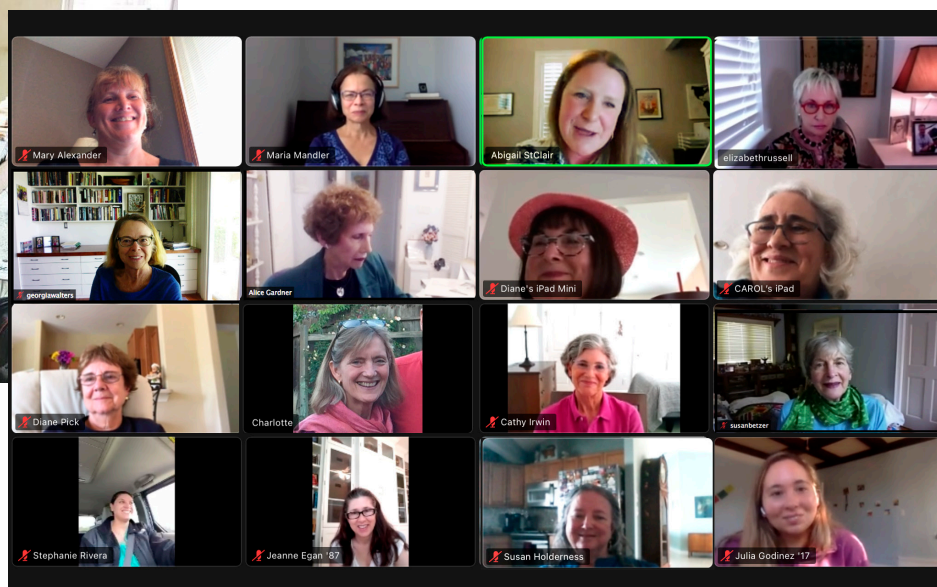
Via Zoom, **Abigail StClair '02** gave a delightful, informative and inspiring workshop on tea and her entrepreneurial life on March 10, 2021. In spite of having no real background in business, Abigail founded and owns TeBella Tea Company. She sells tea, teaware and gifts at shops located in Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota, and online at tebellatea.com. She started her talk by saying, like most MHC-ers, she doesn't like to relax but learned "mindfulness" while sipping a cup of tea. She stated she has loved tea since she was a little girl.

Abigail gave us a comprehensive overview of tea. Black, green, Oolong, yellow, white, and fermented teas all come from the same plant but with various levels of processing and with varying health benefits. Herbal "infusions" are not tea at all and are made from anything but the tea plant. Most of these are without caffeine, like Rooibos or bush tea from South Africa, but there is a native Florida plant called Yaupon Holly which produces an infusion that is caffeinated. Tebella Tea Company processes teas by hand that Abigail has selected on tea-buying trips to Japan, China, Sri Lanka and India. Her relationships with tea producers have served TeBella well over the past pandemic months, as the company was able to continue receiving tea shipments.

Abigail urged all of us to brew tea from loose leaves. She said brewing was quick. More importantly, loose tea is often much fresher than tea packaged in tea bags, as sending bulk tea to be packaged in bags delays getting tea to the consumer.

When Abigail started her company in 2010, she was the only employee for the first two years. Now she has thirty to forty employees in four locations in three cities and a thriving wholesale and online business. Abigail gives classes and seminars on tea. Author Lisa See attended one of her classes, and as a result, Abigail makes a cameo appearance in *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*. And like many women, she's had to balance work-life and family.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Abigail, and to Maria Mandler '74, our Club Social Chair, for hosting the event.



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Save the Date!

Darby Dyer, Kennedy-Schelkunoff Professor of Astronomy and chair of the Department of Astronomy at Mount Holyoke College, will provide a presentation on "Looking for Life in the Universe: An Mars-Earth-Venus Comparison" virtually on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 1:00 pm. We are in for a treat. Be sure to put this on your calendar.

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!**



"SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!" 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, **event of interest you may be presenting**--the possibilities are endless. Photos welcome too! **Email Georgia at mhcswfl@gmail.com.**

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES FOR 2020-2021. WE SO APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

Mary Alexander	Allyson Cornish	Diane Glynn	Katherine A Johnson	Alexa Scanziani
Mary Allyn	Jamie Donnelly	Catherine Gotschall	Maria Mandler	Mary Ellen Scarborough
Marguerite Alpers	Diane Elliott	Eleanor Harding	Debbie McDermott	Sue Simpson
Barbara Blumfield	Connie Farnsworth	Susan Holderness	Joan Ohlson	Georgia Walters
Kitty Cannon	Nanette Galloni	Fredy Jacobson	Sallie Palmer	Diane Whitaker
Eleanor Cicerchi	Joyce Gleason	Suzanne Janney	Elizabeth Russell	MaryAnne Young

It's not too late to pay your dues for the 2020-2021 season. Although dues are voluntary, we rely on them to underwrite Club expenses such as honoraria and other expenses for speakers, newsletters, website, and support of MHC students and potential students from our local area. Thank you!!!



DUES REMITTANCE SLIP 2020-2021

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Club Dues @ \$20 \$ _____

☐ I am new to the Club.

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

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

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com