

# MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

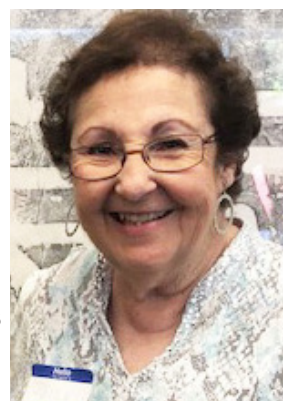
# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Club members and MHC alums,  
“Need a little more Mount Holyoke in your life?” Need a lot? Thanks to Elizabeth Russell '70, Program chair, the Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida has another remarkable year of activities planned for the upcoming season (see page 3).  
The activities will include a variety of events -- indoors and out, via Zoom and in-person, with other local clubs or just us -- to involve all of you whether or not you are still local or at a distance, and observing Covid restrictions or out and about. See the “Save the Date” item in this newsletter to start making your plans.  
Meantime the Board is conducting business as usual -- well, maybe not quite as usual. An Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee is concluding its work with recommendations to be discussed at a Special Board meeting in August. Stay tuned!

--Joyce Gleason '69, President



## FIND YOUR PEOPLE!

The Mount Holyoke Alumnae Association has a wonderful **Alumnae Directory** where you can search for and connect with other alumnae. In your computer's search engine, type in "Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College Find Your People" and click to log in or register. If you need help, call the Association at 413-538-2300 during business hours.

In the "**Alumnae Search**" function, you can search by first name, last name, undergraduate last name, and year. Under advanced search, you can search by town, major and/or industry. If the alumna has posted the information, addresses, phone numbers, emails, education, and employment history are listed.

## MOUNTAIN DAY 2021

We're planning on in-person get-togethers for **Mountain Day** this fall. As is tradition, we don't know what day it will be, but when the College announces, "It's Mountain Day," we'll meet at 6:37 pm (18:37 hours) for ice cream at a local cafe in one or more locations. We will be following federal, state and local COVID-19 guidelines for all in-person events this season.

***Details to follow.***

## SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021, 1:00 PM

"Looking for Life in our Solar System: A Mars-Earth-Venus Comparison", a virtual presentation by **Dr. Darby Dyar**, Kennedy-Schelkunoff Professor and Chair of the Department of Astronomy at Mount Holyoke College.

***Details and Zoom sign up information will be in the Fall Newsletter.***

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

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

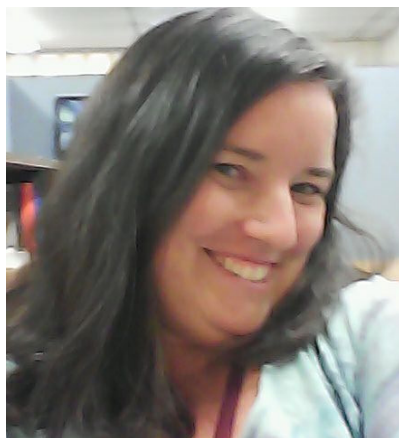
## MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

### **A Huge Thank You to Rev. Maggie Gat '61!**

It was with regret that the club's Board accepted Rev. Maggie Gat's resignation at the April meeting. She was leaving her position as chair of the Nominating Committee. Maggie has served the club in several positions over many years -- Secretary, volunteer auditor of our books and Nominating Committee. Her own background with the college included not only as an alum, but serving in the Admissions Office on campus. In recent years she has encouraged the Board to become involved with local charitable work in our club's region.

Remaining on the Nominating Committee are Arminee Bowler '75, Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03 and Maria Mandler '74. This committee assists the Board in filling vacancies such as the positions currently open -- Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair. A new chair is being sought for the Nominating Committee. This position does not carry a Board vote.

**Any member wishing to become more involved with the club is urged to contact President Joyce Gleason '69 through the club's email [mhcswfl@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswfl@gmail.com).**



### **And Welcome Aboard to Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03!**

Dr. Jamie Donnelly had been tapped by the college's Admissions Department as a local contact for high schools students in the Tampa/St. Pete area interested in applying. For some time, Jamie attended Board meetings (virtually this year) to understand how her work meshed with the club. There is a formal position for Admissions Representative to help the club's Board connect with that work. With the recent resignation of Dr. Wendy Hanafée '84 from that position, Jamie has expanded her duties. As such, she will have a vote on the Board. Good to have you with us, Jamie!



**Our club admissions rep Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03 reports that 8 students from our club area are members of the Class of 2025! One student is from each of these towns: Lithia, Lutz, Ruskin, Sarasota and St. Pete, and there are three from Tampa. One of the students is the daughter of a MHCSWF member. Let us know if we missed you. Congratulations to all!**

**MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
2021-2022 PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

Program Chair Elizabeth Russell '70 and the Board are still formulating the Club's programs for 2021-2022. This is what we have in the works so far:



**Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 1:00 pm:**

**“Looking for Life in our Solar System: A Mars-Earth-Venus Comparison”**, a virtual presentation by **Dr. Darby Dyar**, Kennedy-Schelkunoff Professor and Chair of the Department of Astronomy at Mount Holyoke College. We've invited all Florida MHC alums, and the local Seven Sisters and Yale Clubs to join us. Details and Zoom sign up information will be in the Fall Newsletter.

**Mountain Day--Fall 2021:** Meet at 6:37 pm for ice cream. Date and locations to be announced.

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021:**

**“Don't Retire, Rewire!” Jeri Sedlar**, motivational speaker. The 21st century retirement landscape has evolved and demands new and creative thinking. Luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club.

**December 2021:**

**Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsy**, Sarasota. In-person private tour with optional lunch afterwards.

**January 2022:**

The Smith Club of Sarasota has invited us for speaker and luncheon at Michael's on East, Sarasota, about **Unidos Now!**, an organization that prepares young area Latino students to engage in our community and be able to move on to traditional higher education.

**February 2022:**

**“Optimize Your Vocal Health.” Stacie Steinke, MHC Class of 1982**, speaker. Via Zoom.

**March 2022:**

The Wellesley Club is hosting. Date/time/location of this event TBD.

**April 2022:**

**Sarasota Honey Company**, an in-person private tour and presentation on bees, honey, agriculture, and beekeeping. Hands-on overview on hive inspection, how to wear beekeeping gear, and how to light a smoker. Hive inspection of an actual beehive: see the different levels of growth within the hive, identify types of bees, honey, pollen, and try to find the Queen Bee!

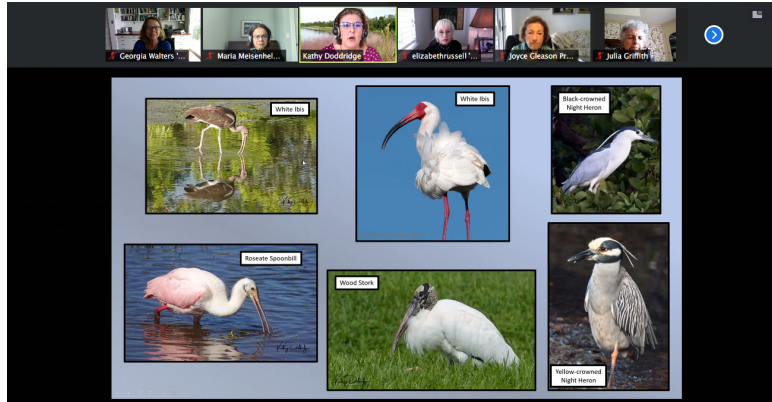


***All events subject to change--check our Club website calendar for updates!***

## MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

In case you missed....

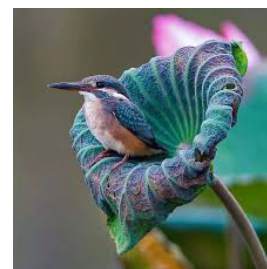
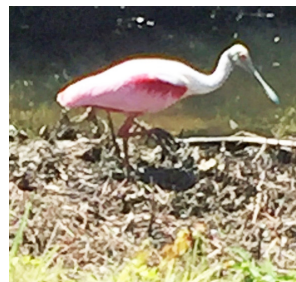
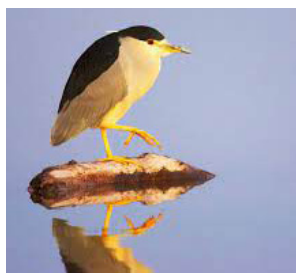
### BIRDING WORKSHOP WITH KATHY DODDRIDGE



On April 20th, a large group of members and friends gathered via Zoom to enjoy a wonderful presentation on Birding on the southwest coast of Florida. Kathy Doddridge, recognized as one of the top birders in Manatee County, educated us as to the vast array of birds which inhabit our communities. With over 240 species documented, the abundant diversity of birds which live amongst us is quite amazing! Kathy's presentation included an impressive collection of photos of these birds, both in their habitats and on the wing. She explained that the keys to identification include size, shape, color pattern, habitat, and behavior. The various habitats encompass both salt and freshwater environments, including mangroves, canals and beaches, as well as ponds, wooded areas and parks.

With her extensive knowledge, Kathy pointed out subtle differences between various members of the same family and varying behavior patterns. Who knew that Red Knot Peeps winter in Terra del Fuego but breed in the Arctic Circle?! Or that Brown Pelicans are solo feeders, but White Pelicans fish as a group? With such intriguing birding tidbits, our group of 43 participants posed more than 30 questions, with many suggesting that we reconvene post-COVID for a guided birding trip with Kathy--something we can all look forward to with great enthusiasm!

--Leslie Farrand '77



### You're Invited to Board Meetings!

Any member is invited to attend Board meetings -- with "privileges of the floor", i.e., you may speak but not vote. Many past and current Board members have begun their involvement in this way. **Please let President Joyce Gleason '69 know at [mhcswf@gmail.com](mailto:mhcswf@gmail.com) of your interest and she will provide details.**

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Mountain Day 2020



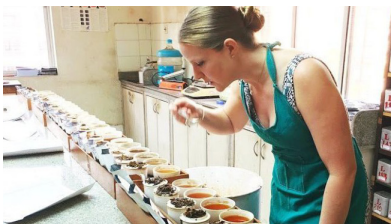
Marie Selby Gardens



Walking Tour of Sarasota



Rob Branch Tropical Gardens



Abigail StClair '02



Kathy Doddridge

## MHCSWFL 2020-2021 PROGRAMS RECAP

Elizabeth Russell '70, Program Chair, assisted by Maria Mandler '74, Social Chair & Zoom host, put together a fabulous 2020-2021 season. We had a lot of virtual events, but also several outdoor get-togethers.

■ On August 20, 2020, we joined the Florida Studio Theatre via Zoom to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment** and to hear several inspiring speakers including journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Sarasota Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch.

■ Host Maria Mandler '74 and co-host Mary Alexander '81 greeted 15 **Mountain Day** Zoomers at 6:37 pm on Monday, October 19th. We shared Mountain Day memories from years past (and ice cream) and played a rollicking game of Mountain Day Trivia.

■ On November 13th a small group of intrepid members ventured out to enjoy a special exhibit at the **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** entitled "Women Breaking the Glasshouse Ceiling". The show honored passionate gardener Marie Selby who bequeathed her home and grounds "for the enjoyment of the general public."

■ On December 8th via Zoom, we joined the Yale Club of the Suncoast and **Dr. Susan MacManus**, Professor Emerita of Political Science at USF, for an insightful analysis of the November election results--excellent as always.

■ The Yale Club of the Suncoast invited us to hear via Zoom **Dr. Gregory Huber**, Forst Family Professor of Political Science at Yale, speak on "Partisan Animosity in Contemporary America: Are We Coming Apart at the Seams?" on January 12, 2021.

■ January 19th featured a **Cultural and Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Sarasota** led by Rob Thierfelder, outfitted in authentic Scottish clan regalia. We viewed several landmarks and sculptures celebrating the history and growth of the city.

■ Our next adventure took us to tour the **Rob Branch Tropical Gardens** in the Bayou Oaks neighborhood of north Sarasota on February 18th. Rob has traveled the world, collecting rare and exotic species of plants, creating a 1-1/2 acre Garden of Eden including various species of bamboo, bromeliads and 245 varieties of palms.

■ On March 10th via Zoom, **Abigail StClair '02** gave a delightful, informative and inspiring workshop on tea and her entrepreneurial life. In spite of having no real background in business, Abigail founded and owns TeBella Tea Company. TeBella Tea Company processes teas by hand that Abigail has selected on tea-buying trips to Japan, China, Sri Lanka and India. Participants had fun showing off their favorite tea cups and mugs.

■ **Kathy Doddridge** of the Manatee County Audubon Society conducted a **Virtual Birding Workshop** for us on April 20, 2021. She discussed bird topography, the keys to identifying birds, and birding etiquette. Her slides of local birds in their habitats were marvelous. See the write-up by Leslie Farrand '77 on page 4 of this newsletter.

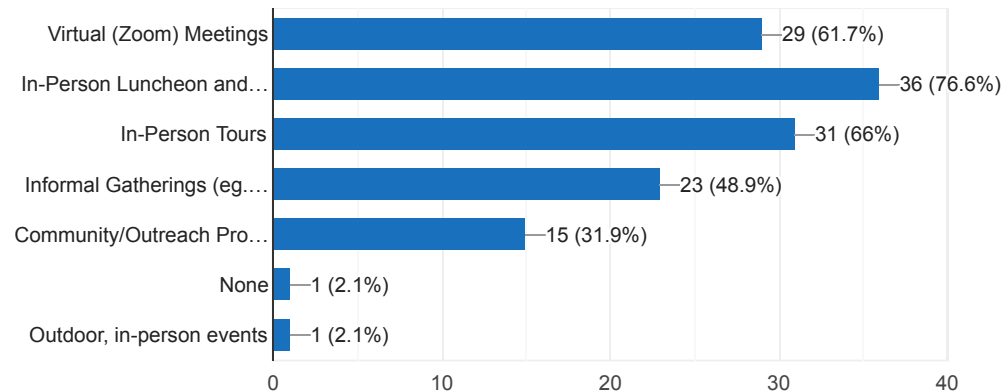
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### Thank You, Survey Respondents!

We had 47 responses to our question as to preferred meeting formats for the upcoming season. The percentages add up to more than 100% as respondents could choose multiple responses. We tried to tailor upcoming programs to your preferences.

What formats would you like to see for MHCSWFL meetings in our 2021-2022 season? Check all that apply!

47 responses



### COMMENCEMENT 2021

Susan Holderness '69 writes, "I've just got around to watching some of Commencement. If you haven't seen the honorary degree recipients, go to the website noted below. Sonya's remarks are articulate and appropriate, Yo-Yo Ma's words and music awe-inspiring (who knew his wife is a grad?), and Chloe Zhao was short and sweet.

"We just watched *Nomadland* ('Best Director' Oscar for Chloe). Much different than I expected, really wonderful."

Go to [www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/commencement-livestream](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/commencement/commencement-livestream) for the Virtual Commencement Ceremony. The awarding of the honorary degrees starts at 1:06:35 of the main ceremony; Yo-Yo Ma at 1:16:43; and Chloe Zhao at 1:31:00. **Yo-Yo Ma plays the MHC Alma Mater at the end of his presentation!**



Chloe Zhao '05



### Common Read announced: "The Fire This Time"

Mount Holyoke College's Common Read for 2021 will be "The Fire This Time," a collection of essays and poems about race edited by National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward.

The essays on race and racism are "thoughtful, searing, and at times, hopeful," said *USA Today*. "'The Fire This Time' is vivid proof that words are important, because of their power to both cleanse and to clarify."

The Common Read began in 2000 as part of the College's annual Orientation for new students. On September 9, 2021, at 7 pm, the College will host a virtual event featuring Jesmyn Ward, Kiese Laymon and Mitchell Jackson in conversation to discuss "The Fire This Time."

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

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