



MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

Hello, alums!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After all the rush of family events in May, we are now into the season for fun, sun and relaxation! And members of your club's Board will also take some time for themselves. Yet our work continues -- Annual reports from the President and Treasurer Diane Elliott '69 are due to the Alumnae Association by July 1. Secretary Sue Simpson '68 will complete the Minutes from the May 11 Board meeting. Vice-president Leslie Farrand '77, Program chair Elizabeth Russell '70 and I met virtually with the Smith and Wellesley clubs' leadership to plan for upcoming joint events. There are speakers and events for the coming season to be locked down -- thanks to Social chair Maria Mandler '74 and Elizabeth Russell. Member Susan Holderness '69 will assist the treasurer by conducting the annual audit. And many thanks to Georgia Walters '70 for providing us with yet another informative newsletter.

But, perhaps most importantly, the Nominating Committee will begin its work of finding willing volunteers to join the Board, beginning in 2023. Expect to hear from the Committee members: Maria Mandler, Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03, and myself. Other members may assist in this effort as well. We now have simple descriptions of each Board duty to make the tasks more transparent and approachable. The ideal would be to enlist early in the coming club season, so training on the positions could begin.

A gentle reminder that all members are invited to Board meetings to observe what we do and how we work together. The next one is Wednesday, September 14, 1-3 pm. via Zoom. You'll see what a great team we have! Feel free to contact us through the club email mhcswfl@gmail.com. Still have questions? Just ask!

Need a little more Mount Holyoke in your life?

Joyce Gleason '69, President

**Member Spotlight on Fredy Jacobson '50, page 2.
2022-2023 Program Preview on page 3.**



Our club admissions rep Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03 reports that 2 students from our club area are members of the Class of 2026! One student is from Tampa and one from St. Pete. Congratulations!

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

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MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

SPOTLIGHT ON FREDERIKA "FREDY" JACOBSON, CLASS OF 1950

Some people are just born lucky, or so Fredy Jacobson would have you believe. That, and that she never planned out her life.

The Dutch-born Mount Holyoke graduate, Class of 1950, took a vacation with her family to visit America in 1939. Later that year, when it was clear the Nazis were a fatal threat, her father returned them to the U.S. with many family members, a move that became permanent. They settled into New York.

With no clear plans for college, Fredy chose to apply to Mount Holyoke, following a good friend from Forest Hills High School. She majored in Zoology. By happenstance, in November of her senior year, she met a young man who was visiting the smoker with his date. He shortly after pursued Fredy, leaving roses at the bell desk for her January birthday. Since Fredy completed her studies that semester, she worked as a research technician at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York City but her February engagement was a surprise.

After marrying in May and graduating with her class, the newlyweds made their home in Holyoke. While her husband pursued a career in real estate development, they had four sons and finally a daughter (MHC '81). But he sadly passed away in 1987. Fredy had no plans but met a holocaust survivor, the widower of a good friend. He insisted that they wed and live in Greenwich CT. Parting on good terms after seven years, that marriage ended in divorce. Later she met her third husband, also a widower, marrying at a local golf club. She was so distracted with wedding plans, that she played poorly and lost the golf tournament on her wedding day.

Today she resides in The Fountains in Sarasota, a city she had visited years before. She keeps busy with family, exercise and enjoying the local art scene. Fredy would tell you this fortunate life was all without making plans. We should all be so lucky!



by Joyce Gleason '69

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.

**MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
2022-2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULE PREVIEW**

Program Chair Elizabeth Russell '70 and the Board are still formulating the Club's programs for 2022-2023. This is what we have in the works so far:

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 11:00 am, via Zoom:

"**Understanding Sexual Assault,**" a virtual presentation by **Ana Berrios Schaus, MHC Class of 2003**, military police officer and federal investigator. We invite all Florida MHC alums as well as local alumni/alumnae clubs to join us. Details and Zoom sign up information will be in the Fall Newsletter.



Mountain Day--Fall 2022: Meet at 6:37 pm (1837 hours) for ice cream and other treats. Date and locations to be announced when the College rings the bells to herald the event!

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 10:00 am:

Tour of the Sarasota Opera House, featuring the stage sets and costumes from Cimarosa's ***The Secret Marriage***. \$12 per person for the tour. Stop at **Alexa Scanziani's (MHC class of 1987)** art gallery, *AlexArt International Fine Art Gallery*, on the way to lunch, paid individually, at Cafe Epicure.

December 2022, 10:00 am:

Sarasota Jungle Gardens, private presentation of birds and reptiles. Lunch afterwards paid individually at Rico's Pizzeria & Pasta House, 5131 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Details to be announced.

January 2023, 10:00 am:

Forty Carrots, an in-person private tour, 1500 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota. Founded in 1993, Forty Carrots Family Center is guided by a vision that all parents will provide their children with experiences and environments that are emotionally and physically safe so that they can grow into capable and caring young people. Lunch after, paid individually, at Gecko's Pub and Grill on Hillview in Sarasota. Seven Sisters clubs invited. Details to be announced.



February 2023:

Join us for a Saturday picnic with games, prizes and MHC trivia! Families welcome. Date/time/location of this event TBA.

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 11:30 am:

The Smith Club of Sarasota has invited us to hear **Luz Corcuera** speak 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. Lunch at Palm Aire Country Club, Sarasota. More details later in the year.

March 2023:

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

April 2023, 10:00 am:

Event hosted by Eileen Coogan '83 and Jamie Donnelly '03 in the Tampa/St. Pete area. Program details to be announced. We hope to see many of the West Central Facebookers! Date/time/location of this event TBA.

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

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

In case you missed....

Dr. Kate McHugh of the Sarasota Dolphin Research Center



On April 8th, 14 members joined the Wellesley Club of Sarasota at the Sarasota Yacht Club for a delicious luncheon and presentation by Dr. Katie McHugh of the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program. The program is a partnership which engages in dolphin research, education and conservation. Katie focuses on understanding and mitigating adverse human-dolphin interactions. She oversees behavioral research and coordinates training programs for undergrad interns and international trainees.

Dolphin sightings from Fort Myers to St. Petersburg since 1970 have yielded approximately 5,600 individually distinctive dolphins of which 96% were seen in Sarasota Bay. Approximately 170 dolphins now reside between Venice and the southern edge of Tampa Bay.

Acoustics are key to all studies and drones are used for observation and tracking. Many different personalities have been observed amongst the tagged dolphins and they each have distinctive and unique markings on their dorsal fins which aid in identification. They interact in small groups with 3-7 other dolphins. Adult males form lifelong alliances which contribute to reproductive and foraging success, as well as protection. There is still much we can learn from these brilliant creatures!

--Leslie Farrand '77

In case you missed....

Yale Club Spring Invitational Events

On Wednesday, March 23rd, six Mount Holyoke Club members were in attendance for the Yale Club of the Suncoast's renowned speaker, Prof. Akhil Reed Amar, a constitutional scholar at both Yale College and the Law School. He read from his recent book, *The Words that Made Us*, the first of an expected trilogy on the interaction of history and the U.S. Constitution. The current book covers 1760-1840. He was both fascinating and entertaining in his interpretation of the constitution.



Dr. T.H. Culhane, speaker at the Yale Club's lunch on April 12th, which four of our club members attended, is an environmental evangelist. His mission is to reduce waste around the planet and to find low-cost uses for recycled pelletized products. As a National Geographic Explorer, he has done just that. In this quest, he has traveled the world and encouraged local, low-tech solutions to global problems. It turns out that many things we call "waste" will have no smell or vermin if dried and formed into particulates. Simple biodigesters assist in this process, and the resulting methane gas can be utilized for cooking and heating. The man's imagination appears boundless. Today he lives and teaches in south Florida and continues to improvise solutions for a healthier planet.

--Joyce Gleason '69

MHCSWFL 2021-2022 PROGRAMS RECAP



Mountain Day x 2



Dr. Darby Dyer



Elizabeth Russell '70 & Jeri Sedlar



Stacie Steinke '82

Elizabeth Russell '70, Program Chair, assisted by Maria Mandler '74, Social Chair & Zoom host, put together a fabulous 2021-2022 season. You kept us connected!

- Mountain Day 2021: We met at two locations at 6:37pm (1837 hours) on September 30th: Old Farmer's Creamery in St. Pete and at Cafe Epicure in Sarasota for ice cream and other treats.
- On October 5, 2021, Dr. Darby Dyar, Kennedy-Schelkunoff Professor and Chair of the Department of Astronomy at Mount Holyoke College, gave a wonderful Zoom presentation, "Looking for Life in our Solar System: A Mars-Earth-Venus Comparison." Fascinating talk and great photos.
- On November 10, 2021, we enjoyed luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club and speaker Jeri Sedlar on "Don't Retire, Rewire!" Jeri, a very dynamic motivational speaker, described how the 21st century retirement landscape has evolved and demands new and creative thinking.
- December 9, 2021 found us at the Sarasota Honey Company for a private tour and presentation on bees, honey, agriculture, and beekeeping. The tour included honey pairings with fruit, cheese, tea, jams, and sauces.
- On February 16, 2022, Stacie Steinke, MHC Class of 1982, presented a Zoom workshop, "Optimize Your Vocal Health." Stacie helped us to understand how the voice works and guided us to use the body to produce sound in a healthy way.
- On March 23, 2022, the Yale Club of the Suncoast invited us to a luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club to hear Yale Law Professor Akhil Reed Amar, one of Yale's most engaging and dynamic speakers. See the write-up for this and the next two events on page 4.
- At the invitation of the Wellesley Club of Sarasota, we joined Seven Sisters clubs at the Sarasota Yacht Club on April 8th for lunch and a presentation by Dr. Kate McHugh of Mote Marine's Dolphin Research Project.
- At the invitation of the Yale Club, we joined a luncheon at the Sarasota Yacht Club to hear Dr. T.H. Culhane of University of South Florida speak on environmental issues.



Sarasota Honey Company