

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022-2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When you have a precious heirloom, you treasure and savor it. Since January 11, 1986, our Mount Holyoke club has been a special entity. It has served generations of Mount Holyoke alums living in Southwest Florida.

My 5-year presidential term ends this June. Board members can continue into the next administration, perhaps in other capacities. (I will remain as Past President to provide assistance as needed and serve as a source of institutional knowledge.) Many on the current Board have indicated their desire to retire from the board. I thank each of them for their extraordinary service.



It behooves each club member to consider how she might contribute to the club and its Board. To view short descriptions of board positions, click on our website link below, click on Board Member link, then click on "View Board Job Descriptions" at the bottom of the page. You will see that most of the positions are only intermittent in nature and with a manageable level of intensity. What could you contribute? Currently most Board meetings are hybrid or on Zoom. I would be happy to help explain the commitments involved.

Is an heirloom just old and fusty? Or should it be valued for what it has meant, still means and continues to offer? That is what each alum in our area should be asking herself.

--Joyce Gleason '69
(941) 637-5921
joyglee16@gmail.com

You're Invited to Board Meetings! Next meeting is Thursday, February 23, 2023 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm via Zoom. 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 Joyce Gleason '69 know of your interest and she will provide details.**

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

SPOTLIGHT ON DR. JAMIE DONNELLY '03



If you are at a Mount Holyoke Club function or join us for a Zoom meeting, you may be captivated by an engaging, youthful-looking alum with a gigantic smile. That is **Dr. Jamie Donnelly, Class of '03!** Residing in Tarpon Springs since 2012, she is an enthusiastic member of the Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida's Executive Board.

As a Holyoke, MA, girl of 10, Jamie was inspired by the Mount Holyoke College campus during drives to Atkins Farm. She set herself the goal of admission and found the four years there to be "an awesome experience from the beginning". Her plans for a Spanish major changed to Psychology after taking an Ed Psych course. She learned that she could work in schools as a school psychologist but needed to pursue a master's to qualify for that profession. After earning two advanced degrees at the University of Hartford, she began working at Stafford Springs, CT, High School. She loved the school and her chosen field.

But she also wanted to live in FL, where the beaches, climate and manatees called to her. While the transition to her adopted state's requirements was challenging, she also brought a deeper knowledge of special education and counseling than was the norm. After 15 years in public schools settings though, she transitioned to academia. Since 2017 she has been an adjunct professor at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, and now is the lead faculty member in the Psychology Department at Keiser University and the coordinator in its Teaching and Learning Center.

As one of MHC's Alumna Admissions Representatives, she responds to student interest in MHC from students in several counties. It was natural that she would bring those skills to the local club's board as well. She also serves her class in its annual fundraising. Additionally she is active in the Florida Association of School Psychologists, has presented at state and national conferences, and published a peer-reviewed article and book chapter. But there is the just-for-fun Jamie too: her two cats, Hallmark mystery movies and all things pumpkin!

So what does she see in her future? Right now she is attempting to convince Holyoke's Admissions Department to expand her outreach responsibilities to more counties. Students in the Class of 2027 list their home state, with Florida the fifth most common home state noted. With Jamie's work ethic and enthusiasm, you have to believe she has something to do with that outcome too!

--Joyce Gleason '69

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EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com

YALE CLUB OF THE SUNCOAST INVITATIONAL

**Luncheon and Lecture by Marty Hylton
THE SARASOTA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE:
A LEGACY OF INNOVATIVE DESIGN**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 11:30 am
*Sarasota Yacht Club***

Morris (Marty) Hylton III is President of Architecture Sarasota, which stewards the legacy of the Sarasota School of Architecture and provides a forum for the education, advocacy and celebration of good design in the global built environment. Anne Essner, Chair of Architecture Sarasota, will introduce Mr. Hylton.



Marty Hylton has more than 25 years of experience documenting, interpreting, and advocating for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage. Trained as an architect and historic preservationist, Marty specializes in closely collaborating with community residents and stakeholders to understand common values and develop multifaceted strategies and programs that help raise awareness and address the distinct conservation challenges of 20th-century heritage. His research and practice focuses on sites and buildings of the post-World War II era. While Director of Historic Preservation at University of Florida [2007-2021], Marty helped document and research the modernist structures of the Sarasota School of Architecture with a focus on the public schools commissioned by Philip Hanson Hiss III [1910-1988].

The event is at the nonmember rate of \$40. Please register and purchase tickets directly on the Yale Club website. Go to yaleclubofthesuncoast.org, click on events, click on the January 10th event, and click Purchase Ticket.

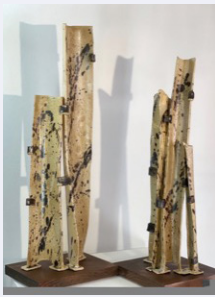
The Sarasota Yacht Club is at 1100 John Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236.

LIMIT OF 10 PEOPLE

TOUR OF THE ART STUDIO OF JOAN LIBBY HAWK '69**Friday, January 20, 2023, 11:00 am*****Lunch afterwards at the Apollonia Grill***

Artist Joan Libby Hawk, Mount Holyoke Class of 1969, seeks to visualize the not-yet-see through whatever means necessary. She experiments with materials and forms to fashion intriguing contemporary art that invites viewers to take a close look.

Like many women responding to urgent priorities – children, family – she required a pivot away from art to a different professional path. Joan built a communications career in government, nonprofits and the United Nations Women's organization developing innovative campaigns advancing human rights and women's empowerment.



In 2017, thinking "if not now, when?," she opened her studio in Sarasota, jumpstarting a full-time art practice put on hold decades ago. Joan exhibits at Sarasota's Art Uptown Gallery, where she installed her most recent show during December 2022, ON + OFF THE WALL, comprised of innovative clay vessels and sculptures and multi-layered abstract paintings. A selection of these pieces and more will be on view during our visit.

Joan explains that art and commitment to women's and human rights converge in expressions like MY CITY IN RUINS, a memorial to Ukraine, or SOCIAL DISTANCE, a rueful riff on our collective Covid experience. WALK THROUGH FIRE, nods to the past while moving emphatically through modern times; antiquity supplies an unending idea loop.



In addition to earning her BA in English at MHC, Joan studied at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford, dug into clay at the Oxford Polytechnic, attended Bangkok Museum seminars and received an MFA from New York's City University.

See: www.libbyhawkartmaker.com, www.artuptown.com

The tour is free, but please email mhcswfl@gmail.com to make a reservation. Limit is 10 on the tour. Optional lunch is paid individually. Sign-up deadline is Friday, January 13th.

Joan Libby Hawk's Studio is located in Pelican Cove at 1606 Brookhouse Dr Unit BR 138, Sarasota 34231. Lunch afterwards at Apollonia Grill, at 4956 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota 34231 is paid individually. Email mhcswfl@gmail.com if you need directions.

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The Smith College Club of Sarasota invites us to a
Luncheon and Presentation by Cintia Elenstar of UnidosNow
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 11:30 am, Palm Aire Country Club Clubhouse



Cintia Elenstar
New Executive Director, UnidosNow

The vision and mission of **UnidosNow** is to empower Latinos to achieve their American Dream and to elevate the quality of life of the growing Hispanic/Latino community through education, integration and civic engagement. Among the many programs developed by UnidosNow is its College Prep Series which empowers the leaders of tomorrow to be agents of social change through college preparation, leadership training and community service.

Originally from Argentina, **Cintia Elenstar** is a global sustainability strategist and a design thinker committed to social justice and a holistic approach to planning. She joined UnidosNow in 2019 as Program Manager and now, as the organization's Associate Executive Director, Cintia applies her diverse skill set to identify ways to innovate and advance UnidosNow's mission.

Directions: Palm Aire is situated 2 miles east of U.S. 301, and 2 miles west of I-75 on the north side of University Parkway. From U.S. 301 or 41, proceed to University Parkway, go east and turn left into the Palm Aire community entrance (Whitfield Avenue). Proceed north on Whitfield Avenue and turn left (west) at the first traffic light (Country Club Way), and follow the signs to the clubhouse. From I-75, take Exit 213 to University Parkway, go west 2 miles and turn right into the Palm Aire community entrance (Whitfield Avenue) and follow the signs to the clubhouse.

The Palm Aire Country Club Clubhouse is at 5601 Country Club Way, Sarasota 34236. Luncheon is \$27 per person and there is a choice of entrees (see form below). Annual Mount Holyoke Club dues are \$20, and may be paid with your reservation or in person at any of our 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 Wednesday, February 8th.**

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



Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 11:30 AM: UnidosNow, Palm Aire Country Club

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Guest(s) Name(s): _____

2022-2023 MH Club Dues @ \$20 \$ _____

Salmon with Dill Creme Fraiche Sauce _____ @ \$27 _____

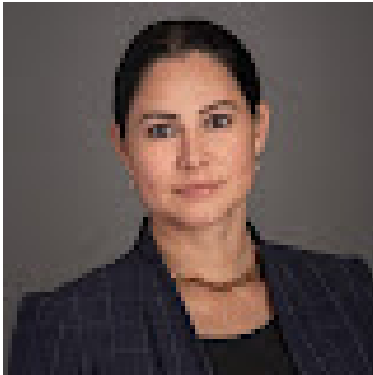
Vegetarian Plate of the Day _____ @ \$27 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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 Ana Schaus's '03 Presentation,
"Understanding Sexual Assault" on October 19, 2022**



On October 19th, 19 Mount Holyoke Club members and guests joined a video call to hear Ana Berrios Schaus, MHC Class of 2003, speak. Ana, who retired from the US Army in September, spoke on "Understanding Sexual Assault," bringing her unique perspective to this serious topic based on her years working for the Office of Complex Investigations (Sex Crimes).

Ana started her presentation looking at three criteria which help define sexual assault. Those criteria are: 1) whether sexual contact occurred, 2) what was the intent behind the contact and 3) whether or not consent was given. Using these criteria, sexual assault includes lewd behavior and sexual harassment. Ana then cited statistics that 1 in 6 American women is raped as is 1 in 10 American males. Victims are of all ages and any gender. Assault numbers are substantially higher for the American indigenous population. Male college students aged 18-24 years old are 5 times more likely to suffer sexual assault than non-students, and younger men are also targeted within the military.

While Federal law governed Ana's work in the Armed Forces, Ana referenced state law, especially that of Florida, in her discussion. In Florida, for example, there is no statute of limitations for first and second degree sexual battery if the victim is under 16 years old and the offender is over 18 years old. Even if the victim is over 16 years old, there are exceptions, so Ana emphasized the need to consult a victim's advocate.

Ana stressed the importance of the work of victims' advocates. Such advocates can be valuable not just for a victim of sexual assault but also if a loved one were accused by someone of sexual assault. Ana also cited FBI warnings about the incidence of sexual assault on airplanes, and that many of these incidences are not reported. Ana stated that overall, regardless of the venue, victims should report an incident. A victim has the right to request that an advocate sit in during a police investigation. This is important as a responding police officer may not be trained in such matters. A victim should also document what occurred during the incident. Documentation can be done by taking notes, texting a friend, or making an audio or video recording.

We thank Ana for her illuminating presentation. We wish her well on her new endeavors: creating and providing training to a victims advocates organization based in Hillsborough County.

--By Maria Mandler '74

In case you missed the tour of the Sarasota Opera House and visit to Alexa Scanziani's '87 Art Gallery on November 9, 2022

A convivial group of thirteen members and guests met at the Sarasota Opera House for a fascinating introduction to the famed hall. We were greeted by Travis Rogers who proved to be an entertaining fount of information all things Sarasota Opera!

First opened in 1926, the theater was originally intended to be a vaudeville and silent movie house with a goal of attracting more people to Sarasota. A microcosm of the city, it included shops, offices and single room occupancy units. With only 4000 people living in Sarasota at the time, everyone could see the show within 3 performances!

The theater has featured performances of every genre including silent movies, orchestras, ballet, film festivals, and operas. Tommy Dorsey and Elvis Presley were just two of the renowned performers coming to the theater in the mid-century. In the years since, the building has been restored to its original glory.

During the season the Opera employs 250-275 artists, many who are not local and reside in the Opera's apartment complex. The Sarasota Opera is the only company in the world to have performed all of Verdi's opera and non-operatic works! Owning sets for 17 productions and costumes for all productions, each performance requires its own intricate back stage choreography. The costume shop makes customized "clothing" for every performer, including understudies. If existing garments don't work, new ones are created.

There is a backstage crew of 15 who manage 30 line sets including lights, curtains, scenery pieces, and back drops. The height of the back stage is just under 24 feet which required cutting a ceiling panel to accommodate the set of "Don Carlos." Other key support staff include Hair & Make-up, Properties, Lighting, Carpentry, Electrics, and Audio.

The Sarasota Opera is a unique and wonderful facet of our charmed life in Sarasota and is a significant contributor to our diversified cultural experience!

Gracious thanks to **Alexa Scanziani '87** and her husband, Fabio Dal Boni, for hosting us at AlexArt International Fine Art Gallery doors from the Opera House after our visit to the theater. We had a wonderful tour of all the fabulous art on display! Fabio is one of the featured artists. Please see the in-depth article on Alexa and her gallery in our **Fall 2021 Newsletter** on our Website and navigate to the "Newsletters and Social Media" page.

by Leslie Farrand '77



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

Program Chair Elizabeth Russell '70 and the Board have planned the following programs for the remainder of the 2022-2023 season.



Tuesday, January 10 2023, 11:30 am:

Luncheon and lecture by Marty Hylton on "The Sarasota School of Architecture: A Legacy of Innovative Design." Yale Club Invitational at the Sarasota Yacht Club. **Details on page 3 of this newsletter.**

Thursday, January 12, 2023. Tour of Forty Carrots Family Center. **Event cancelled.**

Friday, January 20, 2023, 11:00 am: A Tour of the Art Studio of Joan Libby Hawk '69. **The event is free, but there is a limit of ten people for the tour.** Lunch afterwards at the Apollonia Grill, paid individuall. **Details on page 4 of this newsletter.**



February 2023:

Saturday picnic. **Event cancelled.**



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

The Smith College Club of Sarasota has invited us to hear Cinta Elenstar 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. **Details on page 5 of this newsletter.**

March 2023: The Wellesley Club of Sarasota is hosting. Date/time/location of this event

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 and 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