

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Club Members,

"Need a Little More Mount Holyoke in Your Life?" has been my mantra for my 5-year term. It encapsulates my feelings towards the club and you. I have grown close to many of you and thoroughly appreciate your Board members' contributions of time, energy and creativity.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I am proud to announce the slate of candidates for the 2023-2028 term: President Leslie Farrand '77 (our current VP); Vice-president Alexa Scanziani '87; Secretary Eileen Coogan '83; and Treasurer VACANT. As hard as Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03, Maria Mandler '74 and I have worked, we have been unable to find a Treasurer.



Leslie will shortly be filling Board positions too: Program, Membership, Communications (including Webmaster), and Newsletter Editor (could be split between content and production). All these positions, including Treasurer, call for special skills suited to the assignment, ones that are surely found among many members. Some positions could be combined. Take a look at the 2-sentence descriptions of board positions at <https://new.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/swfl/> on the bottom of the Board Members page. WILL YOU HELP? We owe gratitude for all our members -- in whatever capacity you participate.

We are fortunate that Maria Mandler and Jamie Donnelly will remain in their slots -- Social Chair and Admissions Representative respectively. I will also continue, with institutional knowledge if you will, as past President. It definitely takes a village! But I believe the proof is in the pudding -- all those wonderful events we have had, many in spite of Covid. Contact Leslie Farrand (941-330-3457, mhcswfl@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of the fun the new Board will be having!

Our final meeting of the year, Friday, April 21st, 10 am to noon, at the Sarasota Yacht Club, will include a brief in-person business meeting. The Board will hold the election of officers, those listed above plus any nominations from the floor. Join the celebration: the end of an era (outgoing Board) and a coming-out party (incoming Board)! The event is free. Details and registration information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Joyce Gleason '69, President

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com

~ April 21st is our final meeting of the season ~
**JOIN US FOR A BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING AFTER THE PROGRAM AND
MEET AND GREET NEW OFFICERS!**

Coffee, Pastries and Fruit, No Charge
Please mail mhcswfl@gmail.com to make a reservation

**ELIZABETHAN SECRET AGENT: THE UNTOLD STORY OF
WILLIAM ASHBY (1536-1593)**

By Dr. Timothy Ashby, PhD, MBA, JD

Friday, April 21, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Sarasota Yacht Club



Dr. Timothy Ashby

Tim Ashby presents the never-before-told story of William Ashby, an Elizabethan ‘gentleman spy’. A trusted protégé of Sir Francis Walsingham – the Queen’s spy master – William Ashby was a key figure in Anglo-Scottish relations during his tenure as English ambassador to the Court of King James VI from 1588 to 1590. The non-fiction biography of this “Elizabethan James Bond,” a collateral ancestor of the author, reads like an adventure novel, but it is all factual.

Tim Ashby writes, “My formative years were spent on the Caribbean island of Grenada, where I rarely attended school, spending my days indulging in archaeology, sailing, diving, and exploring. To the surprise of family and friends (not to mention myself), I eventually added the alphabet soup of PhD, JD and MBA after my name, became a senior official in the US government, and spent the following years as an international lawyer and entrepreneur, during which time I rose early and spent weekends to indulge another passion - writing.”

Please join us in welcoming Tim Ashby!

The Sarasota Yacht is at 1100 John Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236. **The event is free, but please email mhcswfl@gmail.com to make a reservation.** Guests are welcome; just indicate name(s) in your reply. Annual Mount Holyoke Club dues are \$20, and may be paid at any of our Club’s events. **R.S.V.P. by Monday, April 17th.**

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from the Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for the 2023-2028 5-year term (The term of office is July 1, 2023 -- June 30, 2028.):

President Leslie Farrand '77
Vice-president Alexa Scanziani '87
Treasurer vacant
Secretary Eileen Coogan '83

During the election, nominations may also be offered from the floor.
Notice of the election must be made to members 10 days in advance.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03
Joyce Gleason '69, chair
Maria Mandler '74

February 23, 2023

In case you missed the dinner and presentation by Professor Justus Doenecke on “Churchill and FDR: Diplomats at War,” December 1, 2022:



Following a lovely dinner at the Sarasota Yacht Club, we were privileged to attend a presentation by Professor Doenecke who discussed the various aspects of the critical relationship between Roosevelt and Churchill during World War II. With distinctly different backgrounds and ideologies, the two leaders were able to look beyond those differences and, together, overcome the Nazi goals of world domination.



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In case you missed the tour of the Art Studio of Joan Libby Hawk '69, January 20, 2023:

Joan has managed to create the elusive life of an artist, homemaker and government representative. She built a communications career with non-profits and the U. N. Women's organization, advancing human rights and women's empowerment. She opened her Sarasota studio in 2017, reigniting a full-time art practice. She works with a wide range of media and exhibits at Sarasota's Art Uptown Gallery. Much of Joan's artwork reflects her multi-faceted geo-political experience as well as a strong streak of curiosity, which she claims "keeps the fun in the foreground"!



In case you missed the presentation by Clintia Elenstar of UnidosNow, February 15, 2023:



Cintia Elenstar

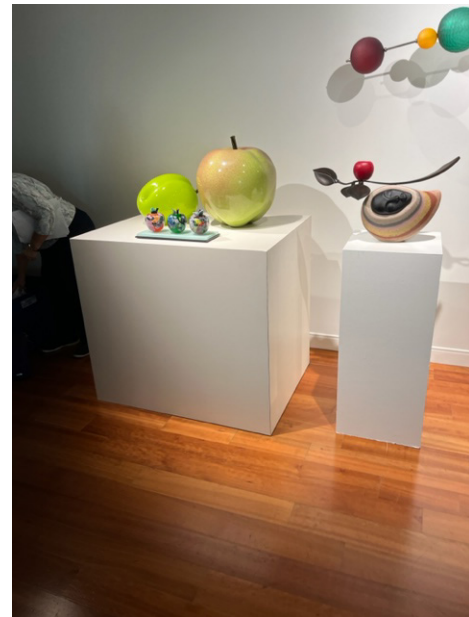
As guests of the Smith Club, we enjoyed a luncheon and presentation at the Palm Aire Country Club, featuring the Executive Director of UnidosNow, Cintia Elenstar. UnidosNow is an organization which prepares young Latino students to elevate the quality of life in the growing Hispanic/Latino community through educational integration and civic engagement. There is a strong emphasis on attaining college degrees and, to that end, students are provided with extensive coaching and support in scholarship solicitation. Mentoring continues through college and beyond.

Recap articles on pages 3-5 by Leslie Farrand '77

**In case you missed the docent tour of “Circles + Spheres: Exhibition of Works from the Art Glass Collection of Richard and Barbara Basch”
Barbara Basch ‘64, Docent, February 28, 2023:**

With a theme of ‘Circles + Spheres’, the current exhibit at the Richard and Barbara Basch Gallery at the Ringling College of Art + Design is a unique view into the fascinating world of glass artistry. With over 36 pieces on display, Barbara provided the concise story behind each acquisition, as well as an explanation of the various techniques utilized in the production of these amazing creations.

Representing about 1/10th of their total collection, this is the 14th annual exhibit of studio art glass. Truly a show not to be missed!



COLLEGE ANNOUNCES TWENTIETH PRESIDENT

Karena V. Strella '90, Chair, Board of Trustees, announced the appointment of Danielle Ren Holley as the twentieth president of Mount Holyoke College. Below are excerpts from her February 7, 2023 announcement.

“On behalf of the Mount Holyoke College Board of Trustees, I am honored to announce the appointment of **Danielle Ren Holley** as our twentieth president, beginning July 1, 2023. A scholar of education law and civil rights, Holley is currently professor of law and dean at Howard University.

“When we began the presidential search, the Mount Holyoke community — through a series of listening sessions, online surveys and individual conversations — shared its aspirations for our next leader. You asked that we identify a president with a fresh and forward-looking vision who can guide the College in charting a clear path forward.

“Our community sought an experienced leader to work with our world-class faculty and academic leaders to guide renewal of the academic program; elevate the College’s profile and visibility; advance our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; fortify the student experience; nurture a campus-wide culture of trust, clarity and transparency; and expand the College’s financial resources.

“We understood the assignment. President-elect Holley is the leader you told us Mount Holyoke needs. Trained as a scholar of the law, she is widely recognized for her broad intellectual interests and curiosity, as well as for her rigorous advancement of racial and social justice in the legal field and beyond. She has a proven track record of cultivating shared purpose, leading change with courage and empathy, and taking strategic action to address the needs and aspirations of the communities she leads. Holley understands the College’s storied history while being deeply committed to all our College can become — particularly as we continue our work together to create and maintain a culture of belonging that advances the dignity of all who pass through our beloved gates. She is the first Black woman in the 186-year history of our College to be appointed permanent president, and the fourth Black woman in history to lead one of the original Seven Sisters Colleges. Seven of the top 50 liberal arts colleges according to the U.S. News & World Report are currently led by Black women.

“Holley has served as dean and professor of Law at Howard since 2014 and holds a bachelor’s degree from Yale University and a *juris doctorate* degree from Harvard Law School.”



Danielle Ren Holley