

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

NEWSLETTER

2023-2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the New Year and more exciting events with the Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida! I am honored to have been elected as your new club president and hope I can be even half as effective as my predecessor, Joyce Gleason '69. Fortunately she continues on the board in her role as "Past President" and she has already gone above and beyond by taking over database management and working with the College to align our geographic boundaries.

We are also looking to increase our involvement with other Seven Sister and Ivy clubs. We greatly enjoyed a recent event with the Wellesley Club on "The Three Marjories" and have participated in several fascinating programs with the local chapter of the Churchill Society.

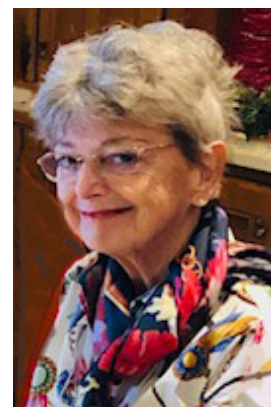
Read on to see what other exciting programs we are developing for the next few months! And please join us in our continuing pursuit of learning with entertainment!

Best,

Leslie H. Farrand '77

941-330-3457

mhcswfl@gmail.com



Leslie Farrand '77

UPCOMING PROGRAMS--DETAILS ON PAGES 2, 3 & 7

Friday, February 2, 2024, 5-7:30 pm: Free authors' talk with piano music, cheese and wine at **AlexArt International Art Gallery**, 25 N. Pineapple Ave, downtown Sarasota. Details on page 2.

Monday, March 25, 2024, 10:30 am:

Visit to the **Sarasota Cuban Ballet School**, a unique arts organization specializing in the Cuban training method known for athleticism, passion and grace. See details on page 3.

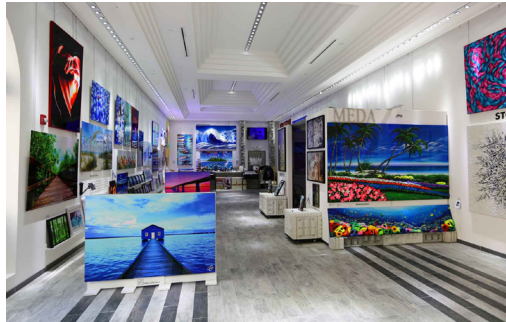
You're Invited to Board Meetings!

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 email Joyce Gleason '69 at mhcswfl@gmail.com to let her know of your interest and she will provide details.**

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com

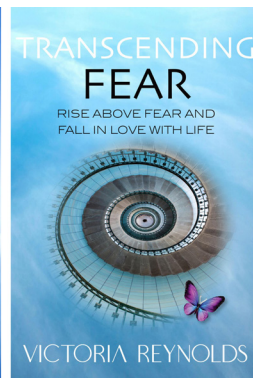
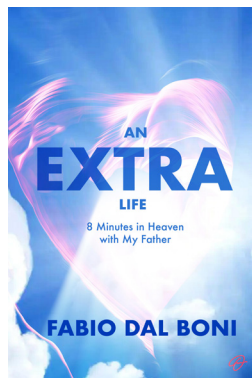
COME JOIN US at ALEXA SCANZIANI'S '87 ART GALLERY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024, 5:00-7:30 PM
FREE AUTHORS' TALK, PIANO MUSIC, WINE AND CHEESE



Join authors Fabio Dal Boni & Victoria Reynolds for a talk about the beauty of life and the science of happiness, during the launch of their new books. In the iconic setting offered by AlexArt International Art Gallery, in downtown Sarasota, with its acclaimed artists and colorful paintings. The authors will share their near-death experiences and will answer questions in this unique joint event. Fabio Dal Boni will present his book "An Extra Life - 8 Minutes in Heaven with My Father." Fabio will talk of his afterlife experience and how, following the absolute white light of paradise, he became a successful artist. The spiritual luminary Victoria Reynolds will present her new book "Transcending Fear - Rise Above Fear and Fall in Love with Life," the ultimate guide to living a fearless and free life while using your back story to empower your future.



Fabio Dal Boni



Victoria Reynolds

AlexArt International Fine Art Gallery is at 25 N. Pineapple Ave in downtown Sarasota 34236. There is no need to register for the event, but email mhcswfl@gmail.com with any questions. Art Gallery Owner Alexa Scanziani '87 will host the event.

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

VISIT AND TOUR OF THE SARASOTA CUBAN BALLET SCHOOL

Monday, March 25, 2024, 10:30 am

Lunch afterwards at the Madfish Grill



Please save Monday, March 25th for a visit to the **Sarasota Cuban Ballet School**, sponsored by the Mount Holyoke College Club of Southwest Florida. The local Smith and Wellesley Clubs are invited.

The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School is a unique arts organization in our area, and one of the few in the U.S. specializing in the Cuban training method known for athleticism, passion and grace.

We will tour the ballet school and observe a company rehearsal of upcoming performances. The visit will begin with coffee and pastries at 10:30 am. Program begins at 11:00 am and ends at 12:30 pm. A minimum of 10 people is needed for the tour with a maximum of 30. **There is no charge for the event.**

Please note that The Cuban Ballet School is opening their doors to us at no charge. In exchange, they will make a request for donations to support their operations and school scholarships. Donations are voluntary.

We will meet at the school, which is located at 4740 Cattlemen Road in Sarasota 34233. There is ample parking.

The Mount Holyoke Club is also arranging a luncheon for alumnae at nearby Madfish Grill immediately following the program. This optional lunch will be paid individually.

Please register by emailing mhcswfl@gmail.com. Include your name, email and telephone number, and whether you will join the optional lunch. Sign up deadline is March 15th.

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

EMAIL mhcswfl@gmail.com



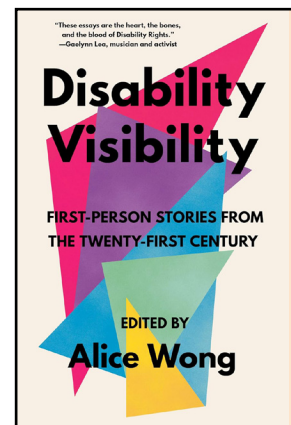
Pat Brodt '55

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness and sense of loss, that the Mount Holyoke Club of Southwest Florida acknowledges the passing of **Pat O'Keeffe Brodt, Class of '55**, last summer. She was a figure on our Board for many years and took her Membership Chair duties seriously, greeting members when they attended events. In the past few years, she relocated to Venice from her long-term home in Osprey. She resigned from the Board at that time. Her smile and well-informed opinions are missed.

COMMON READ

The College's **Common Read** for 2023 was a departure from recent selections. ***Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-first Century*** is an anthology of reflections and experiences from those many would call disabled. Their writings may disabuse you of that characterization. Sometimes shocking, sometimes heart-felt but always in a strong individualistic voice, the stories range considerably, but are always deeply personal. Many will stay with you for months and intrude on your thoughts unbidden long after.



REMINDER

It's not too late to pay your dues for the 2023-2024 season. Although dues are voluntary, we rely on them to underwrite Club expenses such as honoraria and travel for speakers, newsletters, website, and support of MHC students and potential students from our local area. You can also pay dues at any event--cash or check made out to Mount Holyoke Club of SW FL. Thank you!!!



DUES REMITTANCE SLIP 2023-2024

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 : Alexa Scanziani
25 N Pineapple Ave
Sarasota, FL 34236

MEMBER NEWS



Sue Simpson '68

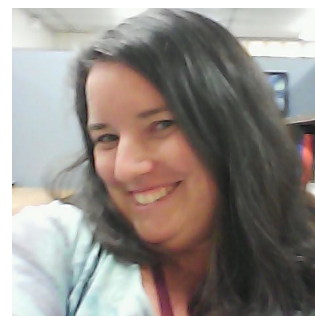
Those of us in the local Mount Holyoke Club know Sue Simpson '68 as our president for 7 years, with long stints on the Board before and after that extraordinary achievement! Sue received the Loyalty Award at her 50th Reunion, coincidentally an award that was also given to her mother Muriel Kent Graham '44, who is 102! Also at her 50th Reunion, she was the 50-year Connections chair with the Class of 2018. Her '68 classmates presented the members of '18 with silk scarves in their class color and printed with their class mascot at a pre-graduation ceremony. This ceremony welcomes the graduating class into the Alumnae Association.

In the years prior to the Class of 2018's graduation, events were held so that both the Class of 1968 and the Class of 2018 could meet and share Mount Holyoke connections.

Sue is a legacy alumna. Besides her mother, Muriel Kent Graham '44, her paternal grandmother, Maude Fillmore Graham, graduated in 1913, and her mother-in-law, Lois Smedley Simpson, graduated in 1935. Her aunt was also a graduate as well as two of her husband's cousins. She is hoping her youngest granddaughter will consider attending Mount Holyoke. Sue grew up in the town of South Hadley.



Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03 was recognized by the College with the Loyalty Award at her 20th reunion last spring. Jamie currently serves as an admissions representative for an area north of Tampa, advising students who are considering applying to MHC. She holds a parallel position on the club's Board. Jamie is department chair of Psychology at Keiser University. We appreciate her contributions to our Board.



Dr. Jamie Donnelly '03

MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

PHOTO GALLERY



ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 21, 2023, SARASOTA YACHT CLUB

Leslie Farrand '77 (front row 3rd from left) was elected Club President for the 2023-2028 term. Alexa Scanziani '87 (back row 2nd from left) and Eileen Coogan '83 (back row 3rd from right) are VP/Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Joyce Gleason '69 (front row far right) is Past President. Maria Mandler '74 (back row far left) continues as Social Chair. Not pictured are Jamie Donnelly '03, Admissions Representative, and Elizabeth Russell '70, Program.



LUNCHEON, JANUARY 11, 2024, SARASOTA YACHT CLUB

The Wellesley Club of Sarasota hosted the Smith and Mount Holyoke Clubs at a luncheon featuring Rollins College Associate Professor Leslie Kemp Poole, author of *Saving Florida: Women's Fight for the Environment in Florida* and *The Wilder Heart of Florida*. She shared the stories of "The Three Majories" who were instrumental in preserving the wilder parts of Florida. One of the Marjories was journalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Wellesley class of 1912. The other Marjories discussed were author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and scientist Marjorie Harris Carr.

**MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
2023-2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE**



CHURCHILL SOCIETY EVENTS:

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 5:30 pm:

Lecture by Dr. Justus Doenecke, Professor Emeritus, New College on “Churchill, the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and the Fear of Bolshevism.” By invitation of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the International Churchill Society at the Sarasota Yacht Club.

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 11:30 am:

The Wellesley Club of Sarasota hosted the Smith and Mount Holyoke clubs at Sarasota Yacht Club, featuring Rollins College Associate Professor Leslie Kemp Poole, author of *Saving Florida: Women’s Fight for the Environment in Florida* and *The Wilder Heart of Florida*. She shared the stories of “The Three Majories” who were instrumental in preserving the wilder parts of Florida. One of the Marjories was Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Wellesley class of 1912.



Leslie Kemp Poole

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 2:00 pm:

By invitation of New College of Florida and the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the International Churchill Society, our club was invited to “A Churchill 150 Forum: Churchill, FDR, and the Waging of World War II.” Book discussion at College Hall, New College.



Fabio Dal Boni



Victoria Reynolds

Friday, February 2, 2024, 5-7:30 pm: Free authors’ talk with Fabio Dal Boni and Victoria Reynolds, piano music, cheese and wine at **AlexArt International Art Gallery**, 25 N. Pineapple Ave, downtown Sarasota. No need to register but email mhcswfl@gmail.com with questions.

Ms. Reynolds is the author of *Transcending Fear: Rise Above Fear and Fall in Love with Life*. Mr. Dal Boni authored *An Extra Life: 8 Minutes in Heaven with My Father*.

Monday, March 25, 2024, 10:30 am:

Visit to the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School, a unique arts organization specializing in the Cuban training method known for athleticism, passion and grace. The visit will begin with coffee and pastries at 10:30 am followed by a tour and observation of a company rehearsal of upcoming performances. Optional lunch afterwards at Madfish Grill, paid individually.

There is no charge for the event, but the school will make a request for donations for operations and scholarships. We will meet at the school at 4740 Cattleman Road, Sarasota. There is plenty of parking. Register by emailing mhcswfl@gmail.com. Please indicate your name, email and phone number, and whether you will join the optional lunch. Wellesley and Smith Clubs are invited. Sign-up deadline is March 15th.

