



MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019

SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019 TOUR OF THE ELLING EIDE CENTER

A hidden gem, the **Elling Eide Center** is a private research library and nature preserve overlooking Little Sarasota Bay. Dedicated to the study of classical Chinese literature and art, the Center fills a unique role in the cultural and scholarly landscape of its Florida coastal location. Visits are by special arrangement.

Bequeathed by Sarasota resident Elling Oliver Eide (1935-2012), visionary, scholar and preservationist, the 72-acre waterfront preserve brings together Old Florida and new modern architecture. Opened in 2016, the Center's collection amassed by Eide over six decades contains comprehensive library holdings and special collections of rare books, manuscripts and artwork.

We'll meet at the Center, 8000 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, at 10:00 am for a tour of the campus. Lunch will be afterwards at a local restaurant.

 **Details will be in the Fall Newsletter.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joyce Gleason

Dear Members,

It has been a learning year as your Club President. First and foremost though, I must give kudos to the terrific Board members who serve you in all manner of club responsibilities. Pat Brodt '55 is a stalwart as Membership Chair. Diane Elliott '69 is a worthy Treasurer. Maggie Gat '61 will form a committee as Nominations Chair. Wendy Hanaffee '84 is keeping us informed of contacts to the College from our vast area as College Representative. Maria Mandler '74 has taken on Social functions. Elizabeth Russell '70 offered many new ideas for our year's Programs and advertises them via Jeanne Egan's ('87) Facebook page. Sue Simpson '68 is valiantly continuing her service as both Secretary and Past President. Georgia Walters '70 as Communications Chair is sending frequent announcements, updating our Website and acting as Newsletter Editor. I am fortunate to have each one to lean on for advice and support.

Please read all about our '18-'19 event-filled season on page 5 of this newsletter. I had challenged Elizabeth Russell to dream of different programs--she had many ideas and met my expectation for experimentation. Those in attendance loved the imaginative and informative events Elizabeth organized such as tours of Save our Seabirds and the James Museum in St. Pete, as well as programs with the local Yale Club. We also experimented with a collaboration of other Seven Sister clubs in the area. We had many successful events, but our event with Alexa Scanziani '87 at AlexArt International Gallery was undersubscribed, even with invitations to the other clubs, and was unfortunately cancelled. Please visit her gallery at 25 N Pineapple in Sarasota on your own.

...continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued

A visit to the Elling Eide Center in Sarasota kicks off our '19-'20 season. We are also going to try a single event by each of the local Mount Holyoke, Smith and Wellesley clubs to which the other two are invited. Watch for these and particularly the one we will host Saturday, December 7th at The Field Club. You can read about this season's plans so far on page 3 of this newsletter.

It is a sad duty to remember members we lost this year: most recently Mindy Lewis '75, Trustee of the College for 15 years (see page 3), Elaine Marieb MA'66, a renowned anatomy teacher and author, and Mary Hodgson '51 who served this club for many years.

As your president, I have missed speaking with some of you. Whether it is at a meeting with an opportunity to socialize or as a Board member (Vice-President, Newsletter Editor and spots on the Nominating Committee are currently open) at our four meetings a year on the New College campus, I am astounded at the copasetic interactions that always occur among MHC alums. I was reminded of this in May during the 50th Reunion of my class. I had been anticipating it for so long. Also in attendance from our club were Kitty Howell Cannon, Joan Libby Hawk and Susan Tanner Holderness from the Class of '69. We reconnected, ate together, sang, listened and participated in panels of our concerns, had the chance to hear professors, strolled the beautiful campus, learned of our two honorary degree recipients (Barbara Smith and Helen Gannon Drinan), heard from MHC President Sonya Stephens, danced to the oldies, reconnected more, and, of course, marched together! It was all so heartwarming and spectacular. As many are already aware, this is an experience not to be missed. Maria Mandler '74 reflects on her 45th reunion on page 6.

The College Common Read for 2019 is **There, There** by Tommy Orange. The novel is a brilliant story of twelve unforgettable characters attending the Big Oakland Powwow. I'd love one of you readers to send me a review for our Fall Newsletter.

"NEED A LITTLE MORE MOUNT HOLYOKE IN YOUR LIFE?" That's the slogan for my term in office so please join us in whatever way you can. Have ideas or comments? A Newsletter article? Contact me at mhcswfl@gmail.com. Thank you.

Joyce Gleason, President



MOUNT HOLYOKE CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA 2019-2020 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Program Chair Elizabeth Russell and Social Co-Chairs Joyce Gleason and Maria Mandler are still formulating the Club's programs for 2019-2020. This is what they have in the works so far:

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 10:00 am: Elling Eide Center tour with lunch afterwards at a local restaurant as described on page 1. Registration slip and further details in our Fall Newsletter.

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 11:30 am: The Field Club of Sarasota. Panel Discussion: "Women and Their Careers in Corporate America." We'll feature our Club Members on the panel as well as women from other Seven Sisters clubs whom we've invited. Come prepared with questions and anecdotes from your own experiences--there will be a lively give-and-take! Lunch as well.

Sunday, January 19, 2020: The Smith Club of Sarasota has invited us for a Theater of the Mind production at the Meadows Country Club in Sarasota.

In March 2020 the Wellesley Club is hosting: date/time/location of this event TBD.

We're also planning events in February and April. *Check our Club website calendar for updates!*



IN MEMORIAM MINDY McWILLIAMS LEWIS '75

We are very sad to report the loss on June 9th of a beloved member of our Club and the Mount Holyoke community, Mindy Lewis. Club Secretary and Past-president Sue Simpson '68 writes, "I am so very sorry to hear of Mindy's passing. She and her husband attended several of our club events and, as I recall, was the program speaker at least two times while I was club president. Mindy was a warm, caring advocate passionate about MHC."

As speaker at our Club program in January of 2010, Mindy shared with us her perspective on the College from the vantage point of a member of the College Board of Trustees. She reminded us of the MHC mission and how the College has done a remarkable job in fulfilling these goals. She also discussed programs the College is implementing to attract the young women of today. Her warmth, optimism and sense of humor were most evident throughout the talk.

"What a spectacular gift Mindy Lewis was to Mount Holyoke and what an enormous loss this is for us all," said MHC Board chair Barbara M. Baumann '77.

Pangy Day Fun Celebrates the World of Women



Pangynaskeia Day—Pangy Day for short—is one of MHC students' favorite spring events even as it remains the College's hardest-to-pronounce tradition. Surprisingly Pangy Day is unfamiliar to many of us. Pangynaskeia, a Greek word loosely translated as “whole woman making” or “cultivating the total world of women—physical, intellectual, and moral,” was one of the names considered for Mary Lyon’s new seminary before “Mount Holyoke” was chosen. Pangy Day has celebrated that world of women each spring since 1980.

This year’s celebration which took place on April 24th featured a community picnic, performers at the Amphitheater, collaborative art and the traditional dance around the maypole, among other activities. A wonderful tradition to join the others that make Mount Holyoke special.

And--just think--we could have been the Pangynaskeia Club of Southwest Florida!

Heartening News for Women’s Colleges

Our area College Representative Wendy Hanafee reports the Mount Holyoke College has accepted 6 women from the area--one chose to enroll.

NBC 7 San Diego reports that women are breaking records in 2019: six women so far are running for president, 127 women are serving in Congress and there has been a significant increase in applications to women’s colleges. Over the past five years, application at three elite institutions in Massachusetts have spiked: Mount Holyoke was up 23.6%, Smith 25% and Wellesley 40%. Admissions at Bryn Mawr went up by 23.1% and Barnard went up by a stunning 64%.

MHC president Sonya Stephens believes there are many factors that contribute to the rise, “including but not limited to a growth in interest in social movements,” she said. *Inside Higher Ed* reports that Stephens said that the College had a strong commitment to social justice and these values seem to be resonating with prospective students. When colleges survey students about why they enrolled, typically academic programs, prestige, campus life and career goals top the list and most other factors are well below. This year when Mount Holyoke asked students who decided to enroll why they did so, 54% said that awareness of social movements influenced their decision “quite a bit” or “very much.”



**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES FOR 2018-2019.
WE SO APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**

Mary Alexander
Mary Allyn
Katherine Bendo
Betsi Bozeman
Pat Brodt
Susan Brown
Kitty Cannon
Linda Crosskey

Trish Curran
Pat Edmonds
Diane Elliott
Candice Ermer
Connie Farnsworth
Leslie Farrand
Mary Jim Fergeson
Alison Forbes

Nanette Galloni
Anne Garrett
Maggie Gat
Joyce Gleason
Diane Glynn
Wendy Hanafee
Eleanor Harding
Susan Holderness

Fredy Jacobson
Suzanne Janney
Katherine A. Johnson
Sheila Lirtzman
Maria Mandler
Diane Pick
Stewart Pollock

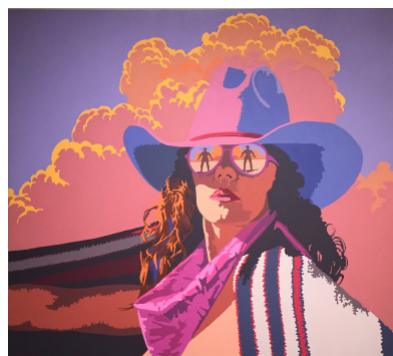
Elizabeth Russell
Reiko Seymour
Adrienne Shirk
Susan Simpson
Michelle Tonini
Georgia Walters
Diane Whitaker



Mountain Day



Our Brick at SOS



James Museum Cowgirl

OUR 2018-2019 PROGRAMS (in case you missed!)

Elizabeth Russell, Program Chair, and her committee put together a fabulous schedule of events for the season just past:

- On Mountain Day October 16, 2018, three alumnae groups met impromptu in our area: one in Sarasota, one in Dunedin and one in St. Pete.
- In November 2018 we toured the three-acre Save Our Seabirds facility in Sarasota viewing fascinating educational displays featuring live birds that have been injured and treated, but are unable to be returned to the wild. Tom O'Brien, husband of Dee '63, suggested a paver brick for the walkway. We had it inscribed "MOUNT HOLYOKE SW FL CLUB 2018."
- In December 2018 the local Yale Club invited us for luncheon and lecture by Susan MacManus, Professor Emerita of political science at USF, for an eye-opening analysis of the November election results--excellent as always.
- January 2019 featured two events with other Seven Sister clubs. First the Smith College Club of Sarasota invited us to a luncheon to hear renown Smith Professor of Government Mlada Bukovansky speak on international populism. Next the Wellesley Club of Sarasota invited Smith, Vassar, Bryn Mawr and our Club to see the stunning Theater of the Mind production of "Women of Lockerbie", followed by a luncheon and a "Celebrating Sisterhood" cake. We plan more events with Seven Sister clubs in the upcoming season.
- A Saturday in February found us at the James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art, "St. Petersburg's New Museum Destination," for a docent tour and congenial lunch afterwards. Founders Tom and Mary James were captivated by the art, landscape and wildlife in their travels out West and built this museum as a home for part of their vast personal collection.
- March 2019 brought two more invitations from the Yale Club: a luncheon to hear Cuban-born Carlos Eire, Yale Professor of History and Religious Studies, speak on the exile experience, and a fabulous performance by the Whiffenpoofs featuring the first female singer in their 110-year history. Great fun--brought back memories for many.
- In May 2019 we were invited by Yale to hear Professor Ann Kurth, Dean of the Yale School of Nursing, speak on "Nursing the Planet Back to Health." Informative and insightful.

REUNION REFLECTIONS

The MHC Class of 1974 held its 45th reunion the weekend of May 24th 2019 at “Reunion II.” There were 130 of us, and we were housed in Creighton Hall, the newest dorm. The campus was beautiful -- the lilacs and rhododendron were in full bloom - and we Reunion II classes had the campus to ourselves.

It was a weekend about connection and reconnection. I was touched by inspiring stories from alumnae of various classes. I visited with a member of the Class of 1944, who spoke about Mount Holyoke during World War II, and how some classmates accelerated their studies to enlist in the WAVES. I am still thinking about the Class of 1959, who were quarantined for weeks upon arrival their first year due to a polio outbreak nearby. And one of my classmates told us how - and why - she became a hospice volunteer.

I enjoyed the back-to-class offering of Professor Valerie Barr ('77). She gave us a mini-version of her first class for “Baby” Computer Science. As the department chair, she also spoke about the recent department faculty vote to increase the number of humanities and social sciences classes required for a Computer Science major. This was done to ensure that CS majors have greater familiarity with other fields.

Reunion II rekindled old memories -- there were classmates I'd known well whom I hadn't seen since graduation -- and also created new ones.

--Maria Meisenhelder Mandler '74



Class of 1974 ----->
Club Social Co-Chair & Reflections
author is 3rd from the right



Class of 1944

