



Alumnae Book Clubs Are Best Sellers

They've followed a doctor to the mountains of Haiti, considered a murderous mind, and explored the recesses of the human brain. Book clubs are ubiquitous, and Mount Holyoke alumnae have organized at least two dozen affiliated with their regional clubs. Most report good attendance, interesting conversation, and a wealth of "good eats."

Some groups have just started. Kati Zeller Buehler '74 organized one in Santa Barbara, California, last fall that will meet every two months. Others, like the Afternoon Book Group

affiliated with the Genesee Valley Club in New York, have been going strong for almost twenty years. The most populous state in the union has the greatest number of MHC book clubs. The Peninsula Club in California boasts three; two more are in the San Francisco Bay area.

Book group size ranges from small—four to five members in Charlotte, North Carolina—to sizable—twelve to fourteen in the Genesee Valley. Choosing books is often done casually, as when someone's read a good review or a friend has recommended it. But some groups have a more structured approach, where a member suggests a book, reads it, and then

presents a review to others in the group, who are encouraged to read it, too.

Meeting locations range from sublime (bookworms in California conduct entire sessions floating in a swimming pool) to lively (readers gather at a local

coffeehouse) to relaxed (gatherings at participants' homes). Some clubs include non-MHCers; most welcome diversity in age and interests. Louise Hayes Booth '70 of the Oakland/Berkeley book club notes that one



Oakland/Berkeley book club members (left to right) Bea Bacher-Wetmore '67; Lyn Johnson Reese '60; Louise Hayes Booth '70; and nonalumnae friends Rachel Parker and Esther Hirsch

member, Helen Murphy Tepperman '38, has attended every meeting. "Among us there are a clinical psychologist, a medical researcher, a biologist, an environmental consultant, a research psychologist, a psychiatric nurse, a lawyer,

a consultant to schools on history, and two aspiring writers," notes Booth. The broad range of expertise and interests leads the group to read books that she probably would not have picked on her own, says Booth, but that she nevertheless finds

immensely enjoyable. New friendships are often the result of book club gatherings, and getting to know classmates who were relative strangers while on campus is an added benefit. Natasha Domina '96, who started

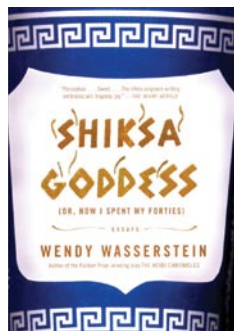
a book club in New Haven, Connecticut, five years ago, says she has particularly enjoyed getting to know two classmates also in the group whom she knew only peripherally when they were all at MHC. —M.H.B.

SPECIAL EDITIONS: Alumnae Book Clubs' Choices

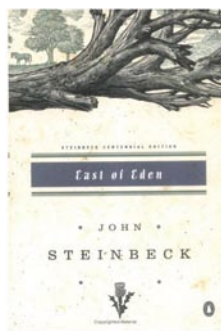
One of the hardest things about keeping a book club going is coming up with titles everyone in the group wants to read. It's often helpful to have the suggestions of dedicated readers outside the group. With that in mind, we offer you the recent book lists of several MHC book clubs.

Peninsula (California) Book Club

Mountains Beyond Mountains,
by Tracy Kidder
Collapse,
by Jared Diamond



Shiksa Goddess,
by Wendy Wasserstein '71
My Year of Meats,
by Ruth Ozeki



A Crack in the Edge of the World,
by Simon Winchester

Dallas/Fort Worth Book Club

My Cousin Rachel,
by Daphne du Maurier

San Francisco Book Club

Running With Scissors,
by Augusten Burroughs

The Memory Keeper's Daughter,
by Kim Edwards

Under the Banner of Heaven,
by Jon Krakauer

The Known World,
by Edward P. Jones

A Long Way Down,
by Nick Hornby

Don't Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight,
by Alexandra Fuller

East of Eden, by John Steinbeck

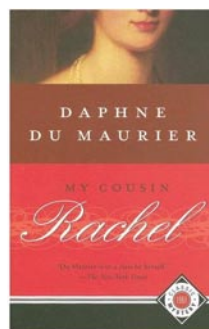
The Hours,
by Michael Cunningham

Self-Made Man,
by Norah Vincent

A Confederacy of Dunces,
by John Kennedy Toole

A Million Little Pieces,
by James Frey

In Cold Blood,
by Truman Capote



Oakland/Berkeley Book Club

Fireweed, by Gerda Lerner

The Great Influenza,
by John M. Barry

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed,
by Jared Diamond

Freakonomics, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Lighting the Way,
by Karenna Gore Schiff

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln,
by Doris Kearns Goodwin

American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation,
by Jon Meacham



Iran Awakening,
by Shirin Ebadi

Wait Till Next Year: A Memoir,
by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Genesee Valley/Afternoon Book Club

Cellophane, by Marie Arana

Leaving Home, by Anita Brookner

The Island at the Center of the World,
by Russell Shorto

Blue Ribbons, Bitter Bread, by Susanna de Vries

Genesee Valley/ Evening Book Club

Ireland: A Novel, by Frank Delaney

The Merchant of Venice, by William Shakespeare

The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief, by Francis Collins

The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design, by Richard Dawkins

I Fell in Love With a Con Man: A True Story, by Elizabeth Grzeszczyk
FP '87

Southern Arizona Book Club

The Power and the Glory, by Graham Greene

Independent People, by Haldor Laxness

March, by Geraldine Brooks

Isabella Greenway: An Enterprising Woman, by Kristie Miller

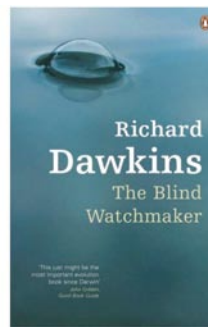
Year of Wonders, by Geraldine Brooks

The Far Side of the Sea, by Ben Clevenger

Uncle Tungsten, by Oliver Sacks

Charlotte Book Club

The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini



Reading Lolita in Teheran, by Azar Nafisi

The Bookseller of Kabul, by Asne Seierstad

The Glass Castle, by Jeannette Walls

Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen

The Places in Between, by Rory Stewart

WEB EXTRAS

• Can't make it to a book club meeting? The Alumnae Association has just launched online alumnae discussion groups. Join a book discussion group—or create one of your own—at alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/connect/index.php. You can also register at this page. (Already registered? Click on "Discussion Groups" and get the conversation started.)

• For MHC faculty book recommendations, go to www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/go/facbooks

Chemist, Education Specialist, and Adoption Expert Honored



Award winners (left to right) Hollee McGinnis '94, Sarah Cureton Chinn '97, Sara Vecchiotti '95

Three young alumnae who have demonstrated promise and sustained achievement received Mary Lyon Awards at a

ceremony in February.

Sarah Cureton Chinn '97, a staff chemist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, leads a team

in the weapons materials compatibility and aging group that investigates the degradation of materials like plastics, rubbers, and

foams used in defense applications. Considered by a supervisor to be one of the top three hires within the Chemistry and Material Science Directorate at the lab in the last five years, Chinn has served in lead roles in major national security programs and in the lab's nonproliferation and stockpile stewardship programs.

Sara C. Vecchiotti '95 is director of strategic planning in the Child Care and Head Start Division of the New York City Administration for Children's Services. She is responsible for the citywide implementation of a plan to improve early child care and education services for low-income

children in the city. As an undergraduate, Vecchiotti had a strong interest in a career in child-welfare policy and went on to earn a law degree and a PhD in applied developmental psychology. According to MHC psychology professor Robert Shilkret, Vecchiotti as a graduate student “reached a national audience with an

extensive analysis of day-care resources throughout the United States” and has worked with “some of the major players in child policy matters.”

Hollee A. McGinnis '94 is policy and operations director at the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York. An American studies major at MHC, McGinnis is currently the lead

researcher on a project investigating positive identity formation in transculturally adopted young adults. She also recently developed a project to evaluate implementation of the Hague Convention on international adoptions. McGinnis also formed an organization of Korean adoptees called Also Known As, and is actively

involved in supporting other adopted persons.

The Mary Lyon Award is given to young alumnae who have been out of college fifteen years or fewer and who demonstrate promise in life, a profession, or the community consistent with the humane values exemplified by Mary Lyon.—M.H.B.



At the annual senior fair, students picked up tips from alumnae on job searching, networking, financial planning, and thinking strategically.

Alumnae and Students Share Insights at AA Campus Events

Thanks to a host of events and activities offered by the Alumnae Association, alumnae appeared all over campus in 2006, offering wisdom and support to current students and each other.

Their expertise was diverse and abundant. In September, alumnae shared career, internship, and study-abroad advice with the sophomore class over s'mores. “I love coming back,” said Anna P. Bennett '04 at the “More for Sophomores” event. In October, Emily Weber LeBrun '96 and Elizabeth Onyemelukwe Garner '89 spoke to students aspiring to be doctors about women and the medical profession at an exhibition, *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*.

The Alumnae Council brought alumnae and students together in October for an award ceremony. “Mount Holyoke girls used to be a lot wilder than they are now,” concluded student blogger Stephanie Miedema '07 after reminiscing with a diverse group of alums. In November, many alumnae maintained their dedication to the college and community by participating in an Alumnae in Action day of volunteerism at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

All the activities were as important for students as for alumnae, participants noted. “We need alums to tell us what they did, to reassure us that things are going to be OK,” said class president Ximena A. Gomez '09 at the “More for Sophomores” event.—Shoshana Walter '07

Proposed Changes to the Alumnae Association's Bylaws

The following bylaws amendments will be considered at the annual

meeting of the Alumnae Association on May 26.

1. The board of directors proposes adding the following sentence to the current text in section 6 of article I (Introduction): A copy of the Mount Holyoke *Alumnae*

Quarterly magazine shall be sent to each member of the Alumnae Association.

2. The board of directors proposes deleting section 4 (Composition and Responsibilities of Standing Committees) of article VII.

The bylaws are available online at www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu (choose “About Us,” then “Governance”), and will be available throughout reunion weekend at the registration area.



Journalists Sheryl McCarthy '69 (left) and Priscilla Painton '80 (right) with Mary Graham Davis '65 at the NYC event.

MHC Journalists Network in NYC

Nearly sixty Mount Holyoke alumnae journalists, TV producers, writers, and editors gathered in late January for the first-ever networking reception for New York alumnae in the communications and journalism industries.

Hosted by the Alumnae Association in coordination with the college's Office of Communications and Career Development Center, the event was held at the home of Mary Graham Davis '65, president of the Alumnae Association. According to Davis, the event was a "spectacular success, if the noise level was [any indicator] of how much networking was going on."

Guest speaker Priscilla Painton '80, *Time* magazine deputy managing editor, gave a lively speech on her optimistic view of print news, the rising tide of blogging and Internet journalism, and her belief that women have a place in journalism. Painton was a guest faculty member at the college last fall, teaching the course *Can You Trust a Journalist?* (See related article on p. 4.)

With women still relatively underrepresented in the field (Painton, who began her career at the *Berkshire Eagle*, referred to the industry back then as a "sexist swamp") and few journalism-related resources available on campus, younger Mount Holyoke women rely on networking to garner support from older alumnae. Elettra R. Fiumi '05, assistant research editor at *Departures* magazine, believes that "young alumnae need mentors, people you can talk to comfortably [and] there's something about talking to a Mount Holyoke alumna that feels safe."

Beyond networking opportunities, the reception offered alumnae something less tangible but equally important: hope. As Amy Kommatas '01 observed, with so many successful Mount Holyoke alumnae in journalism and communications, it's clear that "print really *isn't* dead." —Stephanie Miedema '07

Tuition Prepayment Plan Available to Alumnae

Mount Holyoke College has joined the Independent 529 Plan, which allows alumnae and their families to prepay tuition at less than today's price for use in the future. More than 240 private colleges have joined the consortium administered by TIAA-CREF that enables families to plan for the rising costs of private higher education. MHC alumnae family members are automatically eligible. The plan operates on a

simple principle: in return for prepaying college costs, member colleges carry the investment risk and protect you from future tuition increases. The percentage of tuition you purchase today pays for the same percentage of tuition in the future and is guaranteed to satisfy costs at the time your child or other family member enrolls. For example, if the college your child will eventually attend has a current tuition of \$20,000 a year, and you prepay \$20,000 to cover one year of tuition at today's rate, that amount also will cover one year of tuition

ten years from now—even though the projected cost is \$35,817 (assuming a 6 percent annual tuition rate increase.) By prepaying, you save \$15,817, and that savings—the increase in value—is tax-free. In addition, each participating institution offers a discount on today's tuition prices, so the savings is even greater. The savings benefit you gain is proportional to the amount you prepay. However, even regular, small contributions will yield savings and help take the sting out of rising college costs. Plan certificates may

be redeemed at any participating college as long as a student is accepted for admission and enrolls. For more information, go to www.independent529plan.org.

In Search of Board and Committee Members

Are you interested in volunteering for an Alumnae Association committee? The Nominating Committee is always eager to hear of potential volunteers. Recommendations should be sent to W. Rochelle Calhoun '83, executive director of the association, at rcalhoun@mtholyoke.edu or 413-538-2300.

Nominees for Alumnae Association Directors and Committee Members

The Nominating Committee of the Alumnae Association is pleased to announce the following slate of directors and committee members for election at the May 26 annual meeting. All terms, unless otherwise noted, are for three years, beginning July 1.

Alumnae Association Board of Directors

Linda Maria Yu Bien '75, Vice President, Los Altos, Calif. Former trustee of MHC; major gifts volunteer; Campaign for Legacy and Leadership chair; Asian Scholarship Nucleus Committee; ALANA Committee; reunion gift caller; reunion lead gift chair. Acting chief executive officer, Northeast Medical Services, Los Altos, CA

Linda Ing Phelps '86, Treasurer, Manhasset, N.Y. Alumnae Association Finance Committee; Strategic Planning Committee; vice president, treasurer, first vice president, program chair, New York Club. Associate director, Standard and Poor's, Structured Finance Ratings

Susan Swart Rice '70, Classes and Reunion Committee Chair, Greensboro, N.C. Alumnae Association Classes Committee; class president; class agent; reunion volunteer; treasurer; reunion gift caller. Senior project manager, Center for

Creative Leadership, Global Initiatives Group, Greensboro, N.C.

Jill M. Brethauer '70, Nominating Committee Chair, Gibsonia, Pa. Alumnae Association board clerk; Nominating Committee member; executive director, Search Committee; Finance Committee. Class agent; reunion gift caller; Mary Lyon Society class chair. Volunteer

Naomi Friedman Lindower '84, Glastonbury, Conn. Class president; reunion chair; class nominating chair; reunion gift caller; class agent; Mid-Atlantic Club young alumnae chair; NYC special gift phonathon. Homemaker and volunteer

Alumnae Association Committee Members

Alumnae Relations Committee

Lois Dinsmore Meyer '71, Madison, N.J. Past Nominating Committee chair, treasurer and recording secretary for Northern New Jersey Club. MS, computer science. Programmer at

ADP (Automated Data Processing) for 10 years

Alumnae Association Research Committee

Patricia Shipman '92, Cogan Station, Pa. Past president, Philadelphia Club; book award chair; program; assistant admission rep; San Antonio Club; class agent; reunion gift caller. Staff attorney, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia

Kathleen Egan Norton '83, South Hadley, Mass. Assistant director, collection development, MHC library

Alumnae Quarterly Committee

Charlotte M. Overby '87, Ventura, Calif. M.A. journalism, University of Missouri. Currently print production coordinator, creative services, Patagonia Inc. Former freelance writer/editor with focus on natural history, science, and environmental journalism

Hannah M. Wallace '95, Brooklyn, N.Y. Freelance writer with focus on travel, alternative medicine, nutrition trends, and book reviews. Former associate editor at *Travel + Leisure*, former assistant to literary agent Phyllis Wender, interned at *Ms.* magazine

Clubs Committee

Jerrienne Barrett '83, San Jose, Calif. Peninsula Club president, secretary, newsletter, book group

coordinator, alumnae admissions representative; Dallas-Fort Worth Club alumnae admissions representative; Genesee Valley Club vice president, public relations representative, alumnae admissions representative; Lancaster-Harrisburg Club vice president and program chair. MBA in marketing from University of Rochester William E Simon School of Business Administration. Director of marketing, IP Unity

Nomination of Alumnae Trustees/Awards Committee

Ann Kotting Sadowsky '63, Stamford, Conn. Past class president; class agent; cornerstone representative; reunion gift caller; Nominating Committee chair; Alumnae Association Program Committee member. Fairfield Club book group coordinator, Nominating Committee chair, membership chair, Ways and Means Committee member, newsletter editor. Chicago Club president, second vice president, program chair. medal of honor recipient. CER health administration, George Washington University; MPA in public administration, Syracuse University. Consultant, health care; former administrator, Stamford Housing Authority



Clubs Corner

The Mount Holyoke Club of Central Maine will hold its annual luncheon and business meeting on June 23 at the Down-East Village Restaurant in Yarmouth. The annual picnic will be August 4, and the send-off to Maine students is scheduled for August 23.

Diving into the college's historical memories, Associate Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies Eleanor R. Townsley spoke to the **Mount Holyoke Club of Northern New Jersey**. Her talk was titled "The Memory and Promise of Mount Holyoke: Notes from the Archives."

The Mount Holyoke Club of Milwaukee enjoyed a potluck, discussing the atmosphere and current character

of the college with Joan Cocks, professor of politics, at the Miller Inn.

Ushering in 2007, the **Mount Holyoke Club of New York** held a wine tasting at Moore Brothers Wine Company. Members and guests enjoyed light sandwiches, cheese, and charcuterie.

Members of the **Mount Holyoke Club of Dallas-Fort Worth** book club read and discussed Ian McEwan's novel, *Saturday*, heralded by the *New York Times* as an "up-to-the-moment, post-9/11 variation on Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*."

World-renowned artist and Mount Holyoke alumna Jane Hammond '72 gave a tour of an exhibit of her works on paper to the **Mount Holyoke Club of Southern Arizona** at the Tucson Museum of Art.

In honor of Mary Lyon's birthday, the **Mount Holyoke Club of Chicago** held a Mary

Lyon potluck brunch.

Combining architecture, art, networking, and desserts, the **Mount Holyoke Club of Southern California** gathered at the Getty Center in Los Angeles for tours of the gardens, architecture, and artwork.

The **Mount Holyoke Club of Fairfield Villages** hosted a talk by Ellen Perrella, senior lecturer in physical education and athletics, titled "Separating Fat from Fiction: The Truth about Obesity, Exercise, and Diets."

The Mount Holyoke Club of Genesee Valley gathered for a performance of Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles* put on by the Nazareth College Theater Department. Lindsay Reading Korth '78, a professor of theater at the local college, led a pretheater discussion.

The Mount Holyoke Club of Boston enjoyed

an elegant English tea at the Four Seasons Hotel in March. Scones were served with clotted cream and homemade preserves.

Members of the **Mount Holyoke Club of the Greater Palm Beaches** celebrated Mary Lyon's birthday at a cocktail party in March. Guest speaker was Barbara McClearn Baumann '77, who chairs the college's Finance Committee.

Barbara Dallinger Crowell '64, a family court judge, spoke about her work with young women at risk at the winter meeting of the **Mount Holyoke Club of Delaware**.

The Alumnae Association supports more than ninety clubs and informal and affiliate groups around the world. Contact Assistant Director of Clubs Krysia Villón '96 at kvillion@mtholyoke.edu or 413-538-2738 with club-related questions, ideas, comments, and brief overviews of activities for possible inclusion in this section.



Help Us Update Your Bio Information

Watch your in-box: in early summer, you'll receive a questionnaire from our alumnae directory publisher, Harris Connect, asking for updates about you. If you have moved, changed jobs, had a baby, or have been promoted—or even if things are exactly the same—please let us know by completing the questionnaire. We're preparing now for the next alumnae directory, which will be published (in book form and online) in 2008. We're also converting to a new, more advanced data system, so when you send that questionnaire, you help us make sure that your alumnae information is 100 percent correct.