



HOMETOWN Civitan Newsletter

October, 2023

President's Corner



Well, ladies, this is my final message as your Hometown President.

I am not crying because it's over...Rather, I'm smiling because it happened.

We have had a good year together. Not simply a good year, but a very good year!

When I look back at what we accomplished I see many faces of members who did their job well. And from my perspective I knew I could count on each person to "make it happen". I especially want to recognize members of the Board who met faithfully every month as we moved along throughout the year.

I had hoped at this point for Hometown to have achieved 501(c)3 tax status. We have run into some glitches in getting this accomplished. But it will ultimately happen. And that will be my greatest legacy as your President.

I am so proud of Hometown Civitan and all that has come both before and during my tenure. We are an ultra generous group, and we work hard to give back to our community. Our track record of giving is unequalled for a club of our size. Our impact has been impressive.

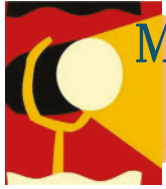
I look forward to continuing in a support role. And I wish the next generation only the best as they continue to move us forward.

I sign off for now with great feelings of gratitude.

Laura

Never doubt that a group of people, however small, can change the world one person at a time.





Member Spotlight Judi Higbee



Way back, when I was in my 20's and interviewing for a job, the HR person asked me, "Where do you see yourself in five years?" I had no answer because I had never looked or planned forward more than six months! Even when I got married the first time, my parents had three weeks' notice. Retirement? Since I worked from home, I was going to do medical transcription until my fingers couldn't type anymore, I loved it that much. Then when John and I officially retired in January 2010 and started traveling internationally in earnest, I learned what retirement fun was.

When Laura McLaughlin asked me to volunteer for her club working at the early voting polls in 2020, another world opened up for me and I fell in love with Hometown Civitan. I jumped at the opportunity to be secretary the next year as that was my career – creating typed records/documents. How easy and fun was that? Then I was able to step in and fill the treasurer position and learned more about the organization.

I am so proud of all our small women's group has accomplished in the past three years! Everything is documented on our website www.HometownCivitanClub.org. The most recent addition is the video '2023 Charitable Grants Presentation' on the Video Channel tab. Take a look at How We Serve, and the Photo Gallery of events, and In the News for all of our public media exposure. Every other month or so I listen to all of the videos to refresh my perspective and brighten my day. Still can't believe 'Girls Just Want To Have Fun' is my husband's creation!

Looking forward to the year ahead, I am really excited to be a part of our major fundraiser Adopt-A-Precinct in March, August and November. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to support in so many different ways the Tim Tebow Foundation's 'Night to Shine' prom night for special needs people aged 14 and older on February 9th. There are so many ways to have fun and give back – would love to hear your suggestions.

Club Notes

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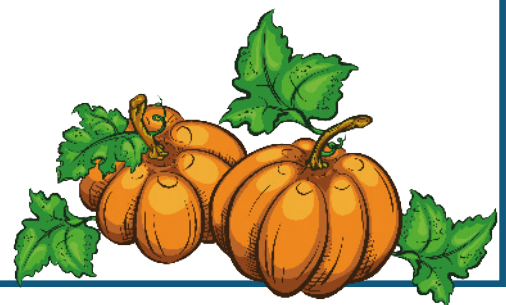
Annual dues of \$150. Are due by November 7th

Monthly Guest Speaker



Pictured with Laura is Alyssa Persad from UF Precision Health Research. She spoke to the group about participating in research studies on various health issues. They are also seeking volunteers to participate in studies regarding memory, Alzheimer's, and other cognitive impairments.

Hometown Civitans have an opportunity to help at Beacon College Parents Weekend October 6 & 7. Contact Lana Rosenberg for more info.





Mary Anderson made the table decorations

*Hand in Hand/ Ruth House
“Purses of Purpose” Auction
was held*

Saturday September 16

at Life Pointe Church in Eustis.

Diane Hintzen from Evelyn & Arthur, and Judi Higbee’s daughter, were in attendance. Diane was responsible for collecting a number of purses for the event. Rebecca Randall one of Hometowns valued members was the main event speaker. She told her emotional story of her very troubled past life. Along the way she met a woman who was powerful and influential in rescuing and changing her life. She felt compelled when presented with the opportunity to found Ruth House a faith-based charity which Hometown has supported for years. Rebecca will be retiring from Hand in Hand (formally Ruth House) in December 2023. Those in attendance were given the opportunity to bid on gently used purses. Also included was a fun and exciting live auction of high end designer purses one of which sold for \$3000.

Every table was beautifully decorated by individuals in attendance.

Thank you to Mary Anderson for decorating our table in a fall theme.

Our Hometown ladies offer Rebecca all the best in her new life’s journey.



Hometown Civitans awarded grant money to these worthy recipients

Pictured above are Carol Savage Hagans of Pace Center for Girls, Laura McLaughlin, Rebecca Randall Ruth Hose/ Hand in Hand, Dick Boyden and Joan Bender of Our Moment Cafe, and Cindy Brown of Congressman Daniel Webster’s office, In front are Sandy Laing of Patriot Service Dogs, and Sue Carpenter of Voices for Children

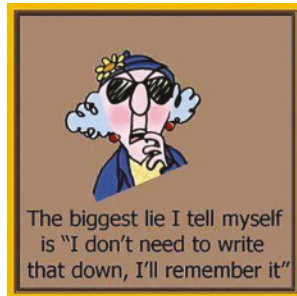


Sharlene Floam and Arlene Kaplan display back-to-school gifts for Center Hill children



Volunteers Needed

Night to Shine prom night for special needs people ages 14 and older, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, that will be held Friday, February 9th, 2024 at New Covenant United Methodist Church. This event needs over 200 volunteers – there is a job for everyone to participate.



October

- 1- Lana Rosenberg
- 4- Betty Rohan
- 7- Sharlene Floam
- 7-Claire Gore
- 7- Beth Halstead
- 22- Jackie Harris

November

December

- 8- Arlene Kaplan
- 22- Marilyn Laurent
- 22 Deb McCoy
- 26- Laura McLaughlin



CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL

Region 2 District

Fall Region 2 Meeting

October 21, 2023

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

The Villages, Florida

The Hometown Civitan Club has graciously agreed to host our fall meeting at Laurel Manor Recreation Center, 1985 Laurel Manor Dr, The Villages, FL 32162. There is a Hampton Inn & Suites just two blocks away for those that need a place to stay. The address is 11727 NE 63rd Drive Lady Lake, Florida, 32162

Our guest speaker is Richard Killion from Beacon College, Leesburg, FL which offers curriculum and support services to serve students with specific learning disabilities. Club Officer training and Officer Installation will be available at no extra charge to all in attendance.

Registration is \$40 which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. We'll send a link to register and pay online soon. All Region 2 Civitans are invited.

My sincere thanks to all who send me articles, information and photos. Mary Anderson, Penny Badolato, Laura McLaughlin, Sharlene Floam, Kay Dando, Lana Rosenberg and Arlene Kaplan

