



Beach House Happenings

St Petersburg Civitan Club Newsletter

January 2024

ISSUE: 20241

Board of Directors 2023-2024

- **President**
Jim Seymour
- **Past President**
Eddie Pringle
- **Treasurer**
Lauren Heckert
- **Secretary**
Barbara Clark
- **Directors**
Karen Galinowski
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Norman Bungard
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President's Report

By Jim Seymour

Greetings to all of you!

As friends of the St. Petersburg Civitan Club, I'd like to extend my warmest wishes for a joyous and prosperous New Year. As we welcome in 2024, my goal is to foster a stronger sense of unity within our club by organizing more frequent gatherings. As head of your board, I am committed to maintaining transparency and providing support to achieve our forthcoming plans and organizational and fundraising objectives.

We start the year off with the presentation of the annual St. Petersburg Civitan Club Four Chaplains Award on February 4, at 4:30 PM at the Civitan Beach House in Indian Shores. This year, we are honored to announce Rabbi Philip Weintraub as the recipient of the award. The club committee has meticulously selected Rabbi Weintraub for this well-deserved nomination.

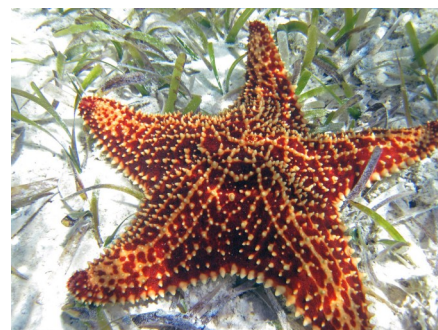
Shortly after, we will be sharing information about our first membership meeting of 2024 as well as our annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. We are also planning to introduce organic fundraising initiatives tied to events that encourage participation from family and friends.

I hope you find the second edition of our newsletter enjoyable and share with your friends the rewarding experience of being a St. Petersburg Civitan club member.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Jim Seymour

Jim Seymour
President,
St. Petersburg Civitan Club



Committees

Membership

**Social &
Entertainment**

Historical

**Four
Chaplains**



Installation of Officers

Eddie Pringle, Past President

Jim Seymour, President

Norm Bungard, Civitan Chaplain

Lauren Heckert, Treasurer

Barbara Clark, Secretary

Karen Galinowski, Director

Jeanne Davison, Director



We thank you for all your hard
work in
2023 and for all
your efforts to come!



Now's your chance to name the Newsletter!

Send your submissions to:

Dearflabeachhouse@gmail.com

**Send as many names as you'd like, as often as
you'd like, all submissions considered**
(yes, even the crazy ones)



CIVITAN TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 2023

October 20, 2023

Hello All,

We Karen, Joan Flume and Paul Palm, represented the Civitan tonight at Orange Grove Elementary School.

We had several hundred kids come with their parents. The kids ranged from 12 months thru about 7th grade. Many parents and some in costume with their children. Even some grandparents. We passed out candy from 5:00 to 8:00. The Civitan vests were great in identifying who we were. Several parents took pictures of us with their children. I did not take any pictures of the children for privacy reasons. Several parents asked us about Civitan and I wish we would have brought some brochures. I did tell some to look us up online. I truly believe this is something we should continue to do at several schools next year. The event is sponsored by the school PTA. It was fun to see and talk with the kids. Thanks for the opportunity !

We had a great time!!!!

Karen

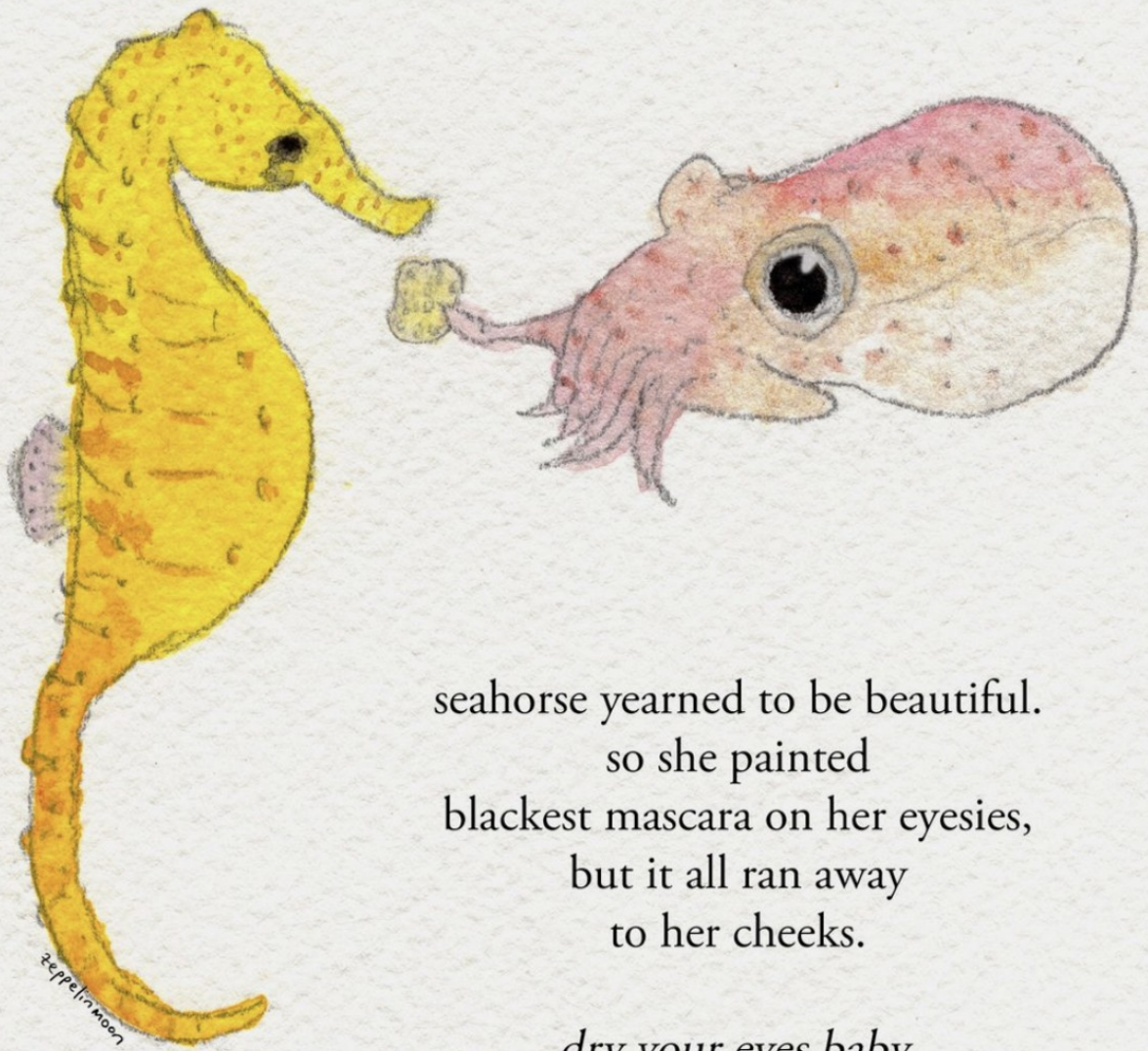




Karen Galinowski, Joan Flume and Paul Palm

The annual PARC Children's Gift Drive was a success once again.
We thank all of you who donated.
Below you see L-R, Barbara Clark, Jeanne Davison, and Lauren Heckert.





seahorse yearned to be beautiful.
so she painted
blackest mascara on her eyesies,
but it all ran away
to her cheeks.

*dry your eyes baby,
said cuttlefish.
you make the whole sea beautiful.*

A beautiful print, and sentiment by artist Zeppelinmoon.
Prints available on Etsy, support your local artist and businesses!



What members did for the holidays

...MEANWHILE PEACHES GOES FREE!

Tampa Bay Flamingo, Peaches to be Released Into Wild With Tracking Device

Kathryn Varn
Axios, Tampa Bay

Jerry Lorenz called from Alligator Alley, his voice cutting in and out on the swampy stretch of highway. He was headed to Tampa Bay on Friday on an important mission involving Peaches the flamingo.

State of play: Lorenz, a senior researcher with Audubon Florida, saw opportunity in Peaches' plight, who boaters recently rescued off the coast of St. Pete Beach.

It was one of several flamingos displaced by Hurricane Idalia that showed up in the Tampa Bay area after the storm.

Driving the news: Lorenz asked the federal government if he could attach a band and tracking device to the flamingo to follow its next steps. The process usually takes about a month, Lorenz said, but the feds expedited and approved the permit within 24 hours this week.

- Leaders at Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, where Peaches was rehabilitating, plan to release the bird into the wild this weekend.
Why it matters: Little is known about the migration patterns of flamingos, Lorenz said. Tracking Peaches in the coming years could tell him and other researchers more about the birds.
- They'll also know if Peaches decides to stick around. It would be another sign that Florida has enough natural resources to support the iconic shore birds.
Catch up fast: Over the week and a half since Idalia slammed Florida's Big Bend region, flamingos have been spotted from Marco Island to states as far north as Ohio.
- American flamingos, while native to Florida, primarily live in Cuba and on the Yucatán Peninsula.

The intrigue: Lorenz has tracked only one other flamingo. Conchy showed up in 2015 on Boca Chica Key, a couple islands north of Key West, and stayed in the area for awhile.

AXIOS TAMPA BAY



- Previously, wildlife authorities thought that any flamingos spotted in Florida had escaped from a racetrack in Hialeah that had imported the birds from Cuba.
- Conchy's decision to stay put, plus sightings of larger flocks in recent years and historical records, helped Lorenz and other researchers establish that the birds are native to the state and migrate here naturally.
- What's next: Lorenz hopes that Peaches stays here and starts nesting but recognizes that it's more likely it will head back south.



Kahona, Water God, Tiki Gardens, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida

Tiki Gardens above, in the 60's. It was a small but beautiful lush tropical garden with monkeys, ponds and peacocks. Today, below, it is a concrete parking lot.





Chooo Chooo ... All Aboard !

By Susan Lanson

Many of us, now old timers, were around before Disney was *a thing* here in Florida. We can remember Orlando when it was what we called a *cow town*. Fields of cattle and orange trees sprinkles with the occasional house or modest Florida Ranch. It was beautiful, scrub palms and all. That's not to say we weren't excited when they started construction on Disney World, we thought it was spectacular. I was in high school at the time and we piled into cars, drove the 30 or so minutes it took at that time and became some of the first in the park. At that time we bought our tickets in the form of a book. I think it worked out to something like .15 cents a ride. Somewhere I still have one of those tickets. I bet it's worth more than .15 cents.

When we first went to Disney the train station was not up and running, that came a visit or two later. We welcomed it as rides were spread out and in the Florida heat we didn't understand why. We had no idea of what was to come.

Soon the train station was built, early on in fact, but it never seemed very busy, just a slow steady pace. Back and forth, back and forth, round and round, it seemed boring as far as my young impatient mind was concerned. Give me Space Mountain any day.

But then I discovered something. A strange yet delightful sound emanating from



the train station. It happens I was learning to fly at the time and had become obsessed with Morse code, and yes, that's what I heard, But here at Disney?

So, yes, the *New Orleans Square* telegraph office attached to the Railroad Station continuously plays a message. It plays part of Walt Disney's Dedication speech in Morse Code.

Morse Code Message:

"TO ALL WHO COME TO DISNEYLAND, WELCOME. HERE AGE RELIVES FOND MEMORIES OF THE PAST, AND HERE YOUTH MAY SAVOR THE CHALLENGE AND PROMISE OF THE FUTURE."

Amateur radio operator, George Eldridge helped restore the message in 1997. After taping the message, Eldridge discovered that it had been cut short. The telegram was improperly edited. Imagineers transferred the message from a continuously looping tape, to a digital recording. Thanks to Eldridge, the recording now plays the correct message.

Which leads me to the best Disney train destination...Chili. And I don't mean the country, but Walt Disney's favorite thing to eat. He served his very own favorite recipe at one of the train stops, and now you too can give it a try.



Walt in the studio Commissary with the future President of Mexico Miguel Alemán Valdés, note the crackers in the center of the table (1942)



Walt Disney's Chili and Beans

Walt Disney may have had the financial means to support champagne wishes and caviar dreams, but "Uncle Walt" was reportedly happiest with a simple serving of chili and beans. Since summer (like fall, winter and spring) is a great time to serve chili to your family or community, *Disney Files Magazine* presents Walt's favorite recipe for the dish, still served at the Golden Horseshoe Revue at Disneyland Park.

Serves: 4

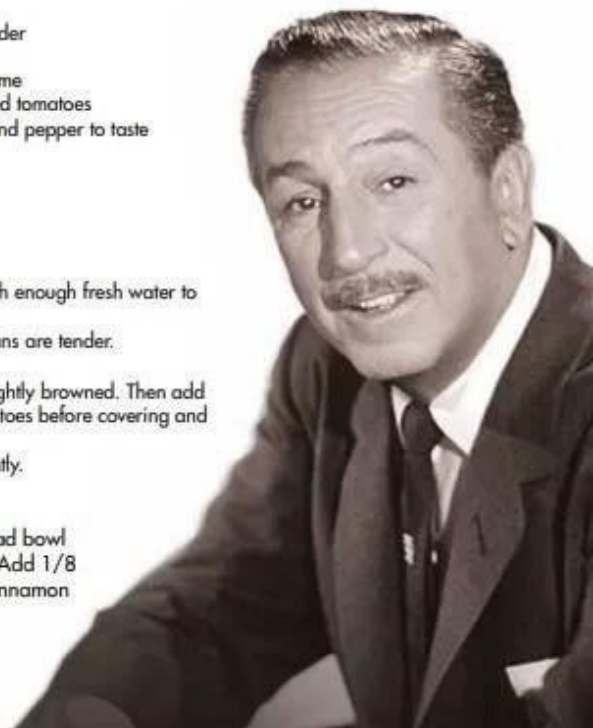
Ingredients:

2 pounds dry pinto beans	1 teaspoon chili powder
2 medium onions, sliced	1 teaspoon paprika
1/4 cup vegetable oil	1 teaspoon dried thyme
2 garlic cloves, diced	1 28-oz. can chopped tomatoes
2 pounds lean ground beef	Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 cup chopped celery	

Steps:

1. Rinse beans before soaking overnight in cold water.
2. Drain fully soaked beans and place in a 2-quart saucepan with enough fresh water to cover 2 inches above the beans.
3. Add sliced onion and simmer, covered, for two hours until beans are tender.
4. Heat oil in large pan and sauté the garlic until golden.
5. Add beef and celery to the garlic pan and cook until beef is lightly browned. Then add the chili powder, paprika and thyme. Stir in the chopped tomatoes before covering and simmering for one hour.
6. Combine tender beans with your meat concoction, stirring gently.
7. Add salt and pepper to taste, and serve!

Tips: You can really fancy it up by serving this in a sourdough bread bowl and topping it with shredded cheddar cheese. Like a spicier chili? Add 1/8 teaspoon each of coriander, turmeric, chili seeds, fennel, cloves, cinnamon and ground ginger, and finish with dried hot pepper to taste.



Sea Oats They're A Good Thing

As all of you have heard by now, Pinellas County is in the middle of their Emergency Beach Renourishment Program. It's only natural to feel it is having both a positive and negative effect on the Civitan Beach House.

Sand has been trucked in from mines near Davenport, Florida. This should go a long way to restore the damage done during Hurricane Idalia. The section that effects the Civitan Beach House coastline, was started January 9th, causing the entire beach to be blocked off.

The next phase of the program will be the planting of sea oats on the newly formed dunes. This stage will begin in March. During this time a six foot wide path is planned for us to access the beach from the Beach House.

While the larger slope and perhaps the planting of more sea oats will block even more view than ever, we have to understand this is actually a positive thing. These steps are exactly what will save the Beach House in the long run. Sea Oats, the natural savior of our coast line!





Before & After

Top is after hurricane Idalia Below is now after the Renourishment by Pinellas County



As you can see in the photo below, the view of the Civitan Beach House as viewed from the beach has changed. Because of the very wide slope, only the top of the roofline can now be seen. While this constitutes a change, we do not yet know what will be the final outcome. And again, it must be stressed, this is all to save our coastline and our buildings.



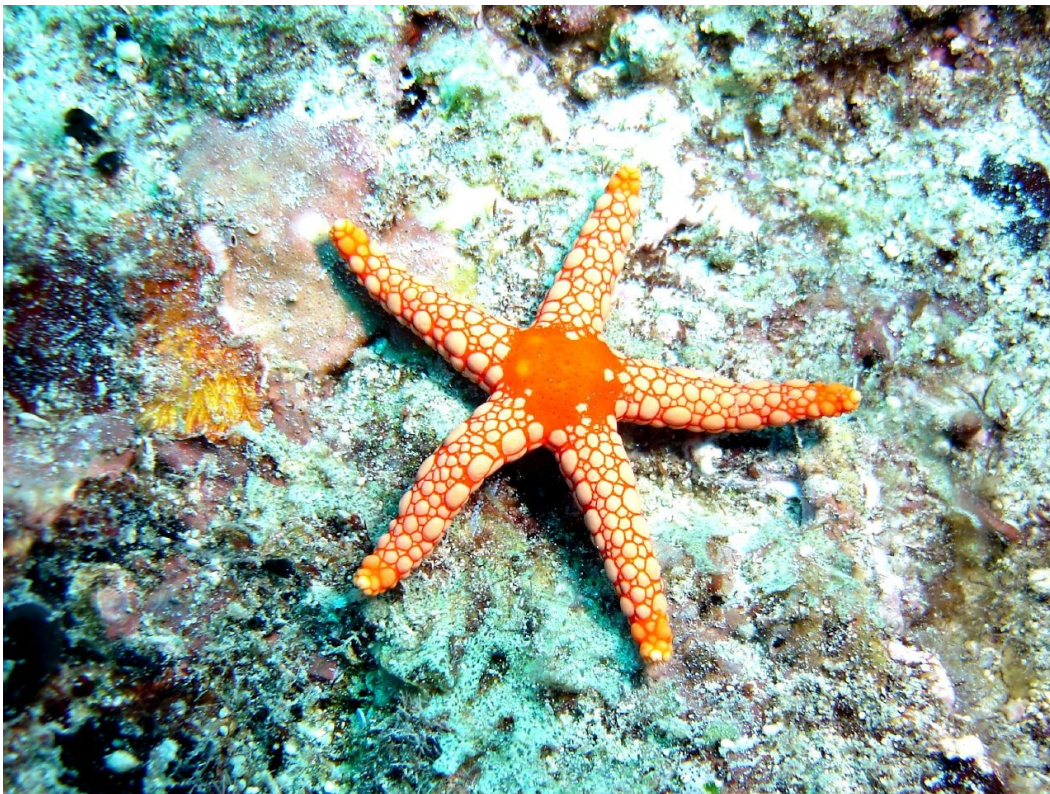
STRANGE SEA CREATURE ON THE LOOSE!



Strange sea creature sighted roaming
the parking lot of the
Civitan Beach House...

While we don't suspect fowl play and
he seems harmless enough, one can
never be too careful.





Our Beautiful Starfish

By Susan Lanson

Starfish, or sea stars are delicate creatures of the water belonging to the Asteridea class. There are about 1,900 species of starfish living on the seabed in the world's oceans, from warm tropical zones to frigid polar regions. They can be found in depths to 6,000 meters, (that's 20,000 feet to you) and just below the surface here on the west coast of Florida.

Starfish come in all shapes and sizes as well as coloring. They can be found in various shades of blue, orange, red as well as grey or brown. They also feed in different ways and have a very complex reproductive system.

In other words, you may see a simple little creature and think, *"wow, this will make a great picture for my Instagram!"*

Stop...Think again. **Don't Touch That Starfish! XXXX**

What happens when we lift a starfish out of the water for an impromptu photo session?

All over the body of starfish are popules called dermal gills. Carbon dioxide gasses are exchanged for oxygen between the coelomic liquid of the starfish and the water. Essentially, it's how they breath, like having hundred of tiny noses all over your body.

As fresh air is toxic to starfish and they can't hold their breath for very long, each time they're lifted out of the water for a photo op, they are drowning and suffering from a build up of carbon dioxide. It's the equivalent of someone filling your lungs with water for a little while and then emptying them again. It's not a good day out. Starfish are not your playthings. Just because a creature is slow enough to be caught by human hands, that doesn't give us the right to do so, and the social media attention gained certainly does not justify the harm caused to the critter.

This is an act we're all guilty of at some point. What was happening to that animal in the moment didn't cross our minds. But now we know better, so we must do better.

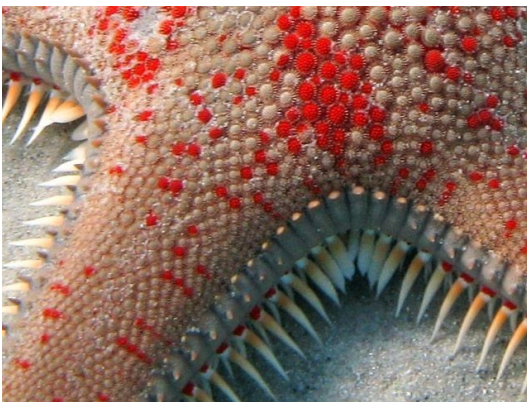


Information shared from
Lahad Datu Tourism Council,
and longtime friend Nita Treasure.
With a big thank you from every
Starfish everywhere

A Few Facts About Starfish

- Starfish are not fish but they need to breathe to live and they can only do that Underwater.
- Starfish suffocate in the air.
- Starfish are prone to mental stress and will react to small changes in their environment. Just imagine what it must do to the stress level of being forced out of the water where they can not breathe.
- Starfish are extremely fragile and have tiny structures all over their bodies that might get hurt by a human's touch. Even a gentle poke can be extremely harmful.
- Starfish can get contaminated with bacteria passed on from the hands of a human. This contamination can cause a slow and painful death.
- Starfish live in the Ocean and they like it there, please respect that.

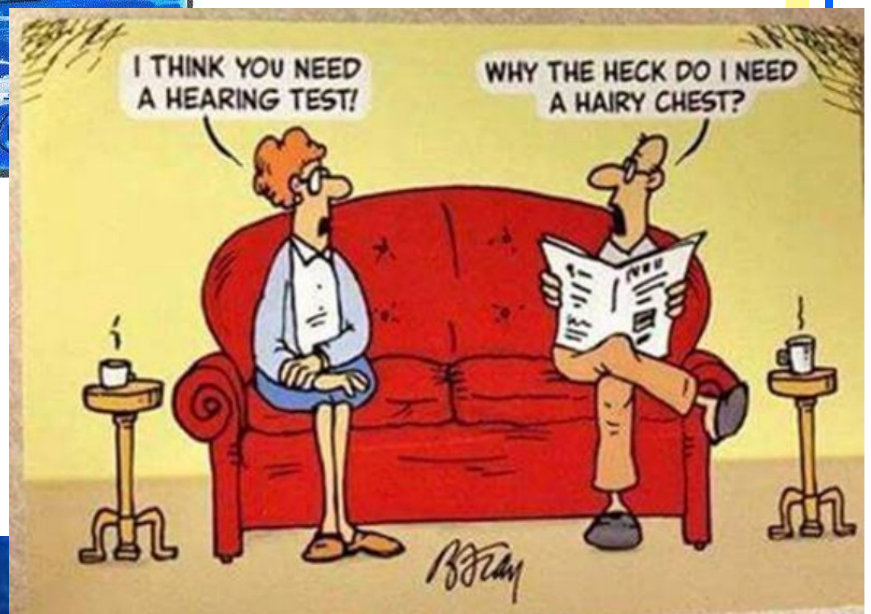
So please, photograph the starfish underwater. It's not impossible to get a good photo of a starfish in it's natural habitat.





If you clean a vacuum cleaner, doesn't that make you a vacuum cleaner?

Seriously?



Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

By Helen Simonson

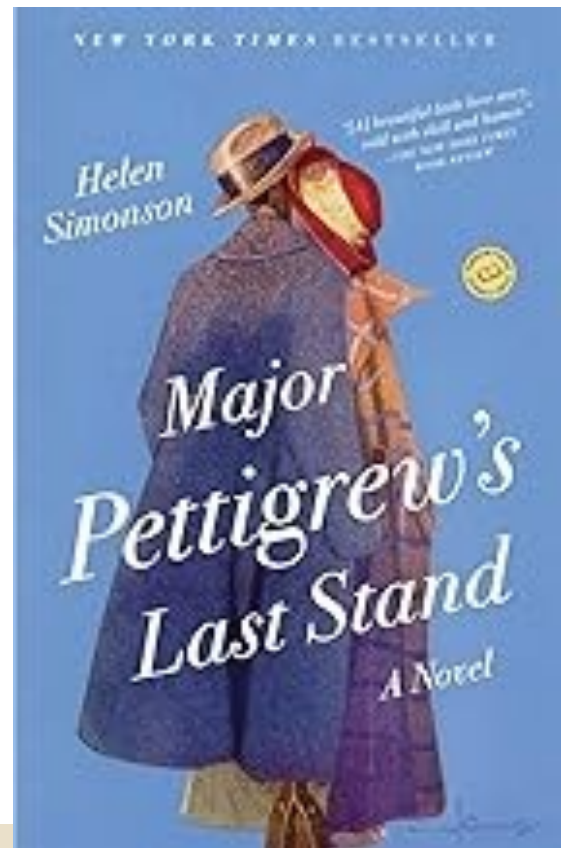
Reviewed by Barb Clark

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson is a charming and witty novel that explores the themes of love, friendship, culture, and tradition in a small English village. The leading character, Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired), is a widowed and army officer who values honor, duty, and decorum. He strikes up an unlikely friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village, who shares his love of literature and his sense of loss. Their friendship soon blossoms into something more, but they face the obstacles of family expectations, social prejudices, and village gossip. Can they overcome these challenges and find happiness in each other's company?

The novel is full of humor, warmth, and insight, as it portrays the clash and harmony of different cultures and generations. The author, Helen Simonson, creates a vivid and realistic picture of life in a rural English community, with its eccentric and endearing characters. The novel is a delightful and uplifting read that celebrates the power of love and the joy of reading.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good romantic comedy or a literary fiction. It is a book that will make you laugh, cry, and think.

It is a book that deserves a place on your bookshelf.



A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says "I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing. Forty five years of misery is enough."

"Dad, what are you talking about?" The son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer" the father says.
"We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her."

Frantically the son calls his sister who explodes on the phone. "Like hell they're getting divorced!" she shouts. "I'll take care of this", and she calls Scotland immediately and screams at her father. "You are not getting divorced, don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow, until then, don't do a thing, do you hear me?!!" And hangs up.

The old man hangs up the phone and turns to his wife, "There we go, they're coming for Christmas and they're paying their own way."



January

Board Meeting
Members Welcome

February

Four Chaplains Awards - 4th

Board Meeting
Members Welcome

March

St. Patrick's Day Party - 17th

Board Meeting
Members Welcome



**We are looking forward to our
Beach House events.**

**We are all here because we have been careful throughout the pandemic.
When we were ill, we kept away from those we love.**

**Please show the same
consideration at all Beach House events.**



Happy Birthday!



January

Alan Pittman — February 22

Pete Maydag — March 16

Greg Somers — April 08

Bonnie Ruth — April 21

Val Sewell — April 27

May

Brenda Welton — June 07

Jim Seymour — July 03

Kerry Zellner — August 23

September

Barbara Clark — October 24

November

Darlene Zellner — December 04

Susan Lanson — December 12

Betty Cooper — December 22





**“Only A Fool Lives In The Water
Yet Remains An Enemy
Of The Crocodile”**

-Indian Saying





St Petersburg Civitan Club Application for Membership

Applicant Name _____ Sponsor Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City & Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (cell) _____ Phone (work) _____

Email _____

Spouse's Name _____ Phone (cell) _____ Children _____

Employer _____ Title _____

Other Organizations & Civic Activities: _____

I hereby request membership in the St Petersburg Civitan Club. I agree to pay the sum of \$25.00 as an initiation fee and to pay the regular membership dues to the club as detailed below. Upon acceptance, I agree to be subject to its Constitution, Bylaws and official policies.

All members are expected to participate in club meetings, Socials and attend volunteer events for Special Olympics and PARC.

Applicant Signature _____

Initiation Fee: \$25.00 in addition to the dues below:

Dues	Check	Credit Card
Yearly before 12/25	\$ 160.00	\$ 164.48
Yearly after 12/25	\$ 192.00	\$ 197.38
Quarterly	\$ 48.00	\$ 49.34

Pay with credit card here: <https://stpetecivitan.org/pay-dues/>

Total Fees remitted \$ _____

Please complete and mail your application with a **check payable to 'St Petersburg Civitan Club'** to:

**St Petersburg Civitan Club
PO Box 3064
Seminole FL 33775-3064**

Or for online application:

<https://stpetecivitan.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Application-for-Membership-v20230705.pdf>



SAFE TRAVELS!

JANUARY 2024



BEACH HOUSE HAPPENINGS at the ST PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB

Thank you for giving us a bit of your time today. It is in remembering the past that we can better serve the future.

Editor: Susan Clark Lanson **Regular Contributors:** Barbara Clark

Copy Editor: Susan Clark Lanson **Historical Editor:** TBD

For all comments, suggestions, photo submissions:

DearFlaBeachHouse@gmail.com

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