



**July & August 2010**

## HOOT OF THE MONTH

***Meet Joyce Allen:*** I was born in Ohio and raised on a farm, then moved to the historic town of Lebanon, Ohio. My parents moved to Tampa, Florida when I was 13 years old. I graduated from Hillsborough High School. I met my husband, David, at a church youth fellowship meeting. He was a Tampa Fireman, worked construction and served in the Army National Guard for 44 years. We raised three children—two daughters and a son. I was always a stay-at-home-mother, which made me available to be homeroom mother, help with Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and any other area of need. After my last child started school, I began volunteering at University Community Hospital (UCH) which continued over the course of 32 years. After leaving UCH, I volunteered at a local Pasco County elementary school. My first love is quilting and I have been doing so with friends for 25 years. At the quilt frame, we stitch and try to solve the problems of the world. My second love is gardening. I spend hours tending to my plants and love every minute. I have been a singer with the Friendship Singers for 14 years. Our mission is to bring music and song to nursing homes. I have added the Owl Notes to this mission. I lost my husband nearly five years ago and the OWLS have helped make this adjustment after 50 years of marriage. All of my children and grandchildren live nearby—what a blessing for me.



***"The friendship of the OWLS has filled a void in my life—  
thanks to all." --Joyce Allen--***

**RJ Art Tour from Don Clark:** Upon arriving at Raymond James headquarters in Saint Petersburg, we were divided into three groups. A tour guide took each group to different areas in the four buildings. The vast majority of the **collection is owned by Tom James, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Raymond James Financial, and his wife Mary.** Over **2800 paintings, photos, sculptures and statues are on display on different floors of each building according to style and theme.** We could not see all the pieces, but what we viewed was outstanding. We enjoyed lunch a short distance away at **Antonio's Pasta Grille** where we were joined by Bill & Anne's son, David (who works at RJ), his wife, and granddaughter, Haley. This was a great trip and we need to go back to see more of the collection.

**A Wild Air Boat Adventure from Don Clark:** Despite last minute cancellations and a half dozen who decided to bail out due to a late start on June 17<sup>th</sup> due to a **"bus booboo"** — the 34 wild Owls who stayed with the program were treated to a free lunch at the **Cracker Barrel** in Brooksville. We then boarded our bus, ignored heavy rain showers on the Interstate, and made our way to **Wild Bill's Airboat Adventures** in Inverness. The weather cooperated as we enjoyed an hour on wild rides in two airboats. Owls saw some wildlife (and snail eggs) and learned about the temperature of Withlacoochee River swimming holes. But the excitement was discovering large airboats can skim weeds and quickly turn on a dime as you feel the power push the boat bottom sideways, and hear the roar of the engine.... the ear muffs provided were a plus! And then to **Russell Stover's Candy Outlet** where Owls consumed most of the free samples and many purchased candy delights for themselves or loved ones. Considering how this trip started, the Owls who stuck it out enjoyed an unusual adventure; and the rain storm on the ride home thoroughly washed the Martz bus for our new driver!

**BUFFET LINE REMINDERS**...These ten suggestions help the hostesses that volunteer to serve you during the meeting: 1) Use plastic bags to **take dirty dishes home. We do not have time to wash dishes for you.** 2) **Disposable containers are preferred** as they speed up our cleanup. 3) **Serving forks and spoons are provided**, so we request you don't bring them. 4) **Retrieve non-disposable dishes promptly** after the meeting. 5) Have **your name on carrier, container & lid.** 6) Please **check with us if you're missing a kitchen item.** We have several items that need to find their owner. 7) **Bring food ready to serve.** We are too busy to cut whole chickens, pies, cakes, etc., or to cook your casserole. 8) Food suggestions: **Meats, cold cuts, green salads, fresh fruit, deviled eggs and deli breads are needed** as we often run out of them first. Pasta dishes are often left and desserts are usually plentiful. 9) Don't put candy wrappers, gum or other **items in empty water bottles** and drink what you take. 10) **Place empty bottles toward one end of the table** before you leave so we can recycle.

***Thanks to those who understand and help provide our great meals!***

Please DO NOT TALK, OR WALK AROUND  
during the program part of our monthly meetings.  
Please turn your CELL PHONE OFF... Thank You!