



## Holiday Mystery Theater

*'Tis the night before Christmas and all through the house,  
Someone is lying. Someone's a louse.  
The stockings are hung by the chimney with care.  
But wait...there lies Santa! What's he doing there?  
We'll have to postpone our holiday glee.  
Cause someone killed Santa. Oh, who could it be?*

The Newcomers of Central Florida Mystery Theater will present 'Who Killed Santa?' at our December holiday luncheon. The backdrop to our presentation will be the Heathrow Country Club. Our suspects will introduce themselves and clue us into their history with the victim. We'll also hear police and medical reports. Then we'll put on our detective hats to take a "stab" at guessing the murderer.

Despite Santa's demise, holiday cheer will ensue with prizes for the winning sleuth(s) and gifts for all luncheon attendees. Happy Holidays!

### LUNCHEON RESERVATION PROCEDURE

Call for reservations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. according to the first initial of your last name. To leave a message, spell your last name, say your phone number and indicate your choice of entrée unless it is a buffet luncheon. Paula or Toni will call you back to confirm your reservation. Remember, you must be confirmed. Reservations by email will not be accepted.

#### PLEASE, NO CALLS AFTER 5 P.M. OR ON WEEKENDS

**A to K Paula Ritchie 407-222-5205**

**L to Z Toni Thoms 217-620-7745**

You may pay by CASH (exact change is appreciated) or CHECK made out in advance to Newcomers of Central Florida, Inc. Pick up your name tag at the welcome table. Please pre-arrange payment for guests.

**Reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on December 5, the Thursday before the luncheon. Anyone who cancels after the deadline will reimburse the club. No walk-ins allowed.**



### HELPING HANDS

Co-Chairs:

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420

Toni Thoms 217-620-7745

Need help at a Newcomers' Luncheon? Please give Trisha or Toni a phone call and let them know how they may assist you.

### LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

December 12, 2024

Heathrow Country Club

1200 Bridgewater Drive, Lake Mary, FL 32746

Gather at 11:30 a.m. Lunch at Noon



## December Menu

### ENTRÉE CHOICE

Grilled Salmon with Dill Champagne Sauce

or

Sliced Marinated Sirloin with Red Wine Demi-glace

### SIDES

Heathrow Cranberry Salad  
with Mixed Greens, Cranberries, Blue Cheese,  
Candied Pecans and Sherry Vinaigrette

Dauphinoise Potato

Seasoned Green Beans

Rolls and Butter

### DESSERT

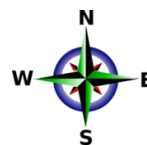
Turtle Cheesecake  
with Whipped Cream and Chocolate Sauce

### BEVERAGES

Regular and Decaf Coffee

Iced and Hot Tea

LUNCHEON COST: \$30



### Directions to Heathrow Country Club:

1200 Bridgewater Drive  
Lake Mary, FL 32746

- From I-4: Take exit 98 – Lake Mary. Turn west onto Lake Mary Blvd. Turn right onto International Parkway; proceed about 0.5 mile then turn left onto Bridgewater Drive. The Heathrow sign is on the stone wall.
- From FL-417: Drive toward Sanford to the end of 417 and take Heathrow exit 55B. Turn left onto International Parkway and proceed about 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Bridgewater Drive – just after AAA headquarters building on the right.

**If you need a golf cart for assistance from the parking lot to the door, you must tell reservations when you call.**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays, Ladies!

As your Board members were working this month on our plans for the end of 2024 and beyond, it struck me how critical the *Chatter* is to this process to make sure you will be aware of all that is available to you. Your Board members focus on the organization of the monthly luncheons and key functions, like Game Day, the Fashion Show and Community Outreach. Roughly half of our members attend these activities.

Another integral part or Newcomers is our interest groups, such as games (Couples Bunko, Dicey Bunkettes, Bridge, Mah-Jongg, Mexican Train), Chick Flicks, Hooked on Books book club, Spice Girls cooking club and the Walking Club. These groups get no financial backing from the club and are independently run by our members. What they **do** get is publicity in our newsletter, *The Chatter*. Approximately half of our members only participate in our interest groups, so they represent an important segment of our Club, and information about their meetings is critical.

*The Chatter* is the one vehicle that pulls all the pieces of the Club together. It includes information on everything that is available to all our members. Carol Smith organizes all this information and single-handedly publishes the *Chatter* monthly. The behind-the-scenes work that is involved, such as editing, blocking, reminders that articles are due and

uploading the finished product is technical and requires both skill and dedication. This month let's celebrate all the people who contribute to our monthly *Chatter* and Carol Smith, who puts it all together into the final *Chatter* newsletter.

Thank you!

*Sue*



## LUNCHEON RESERVATION INFORMATION



**Waitlist:** If you miss the Thursday luncheon deadline and want to attend, you may call [Paula Ritchie](#) to be added to the waitlist.

**Cancellations:** If you are unable to attend the luncheon, please call to cancel your reservation. Remember, payment is owed if you are unable to attend and no one takes your place.



Call [Paula Ritchie](#) at 407-222-5205 to cancel or to be put on a waitlist.

## UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

**Please Note:** December's luncheon will be held at Heathrow Country Club on the **second Thursday, December 12**. Reservations must be made by 5 p.m. on **December 5**.



**January 16** Simon Time Trivia at an exciting new venue  
The Wedding Barn, Oviedo

**February 20** Kevin's Magic at Heathrow Country Club



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long-time member and club founder Marilyn "Lynne" Quick Snowden on October 23, 2024. Lynne served as

president of Newcomers several times, held almost every position at the club, and frequently returned to our installation luncheons in her capacity as past president. In recent years, she lived in Leesburg, Florida, where she was active in her community and served on the welcome committee. Lynne enjoyed line dancing (both as a participant and instructor), made beautiful jewelry, and loved gardening and fashion. She was predeceased by her husband, Bill.



## HELP NEEDED



Corresponding Secretary Maryellen McCullagh requests your help. Please contact Maryellen if you know of a member who is ill, lost a loved one or just needs to know that we care so that she can send a card. "Milestone" birthdays will also be recognized if Maryellen is made aware of them. You can text her at 407-461-0362 or contact her by email at [MMMRNQLTMKR@aol.com](mailto:MMMRNQLTMKR@aol.com).

## LUNCHEON WINNERS

November luncheon winners included Claudia Hughey who won \$99 in the 50-50 drawing. Sue Horn was the recipient of the free luncheon certificate.



*Can You Solve the Mystery?*

Join your Newcomers' friends at the December luncheon as each table works together to figure out whodunit! Prizes will be awarded to the successful sleuths.



## December Birthdays

- 2 Kathy Boyd
- 3 Virginia Gallaway
- 8 Nicole Henry
- 8 Mary Beth Moss
- 17 Jill Saltsman
- 24 Linda Gallagher
- 26 Sharon Riegler
- 27 Margareth Lauer
- 27 Ann White
- 27 Joan Shovich



### MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Diana Engling  
407-256-3592 [englingd@yahoo.com](mailto:englingd@yahoo.com)

### Current Membership 114

Please add these members in your newest directory:

#### Returning Member

##### Maria Alba

108 Goshawk Terrace  
Cell: 407-927-0449  
Birthdate: April 4

Winter Springs, FL 32708  
Email: [maria.alba4646@gmail.com](mailto:maria.alba4646@gmail.com)  
Originally from: Cuba



### WAYS & MEANS

Chair: Robin Roskowski 407-595-4474

This year's November Holiday Basket Auction and holiday market fundraiser proved to be both popular and very successful. We raised a grand total of \$2431.50 for the club. We had an incredible array of 72 themed baskets filled to the brim with eye-catching and appealing items. In addition, we had a variety of other goods for sale ranging from hand-made jewelry, pillows, kitchen goods, homemade cookies and so many more items. For those of you who took the time to donate these baskets and wonderful items (as individual contributors or special interest groups), we thank you for your creativity and generosity. Special shout out to the Spice Girls and the Book Club for their donation of a dozen baskets between them.

We were pleased by the great variety of items at all price points. For items that were available through silent auction bidding, we raised \$2,194. We also raised \$237.50 at the flat rate tables with merchandise that sold for \$1, \$3 or \$5. We would like to acknowledge and thank the many buyers at the November luncheon (which had 60 attendees). Doris Rosen, Tina Parrish, and Joan Orlowski were our three biggest purchasers, while Bunny Hayden, Trish Fuston, Joyce Hefke and Robin Roskowski donated the most items. We could not have achieved this success without your support.



One final note... we greatly appreciate all the support we received from the Newcomers board who helped us put this event together and made it run as smoothly as possible. Your help was invaluable.

My personal thanks to all of the club members who participated in so many ways to help make our basket auction such a success.

Sincerely, Robin Roskowski

### INSIDE THE ARTS

Ronnie Telzer (407) 577-7401  
Linda Gallagher (407) 592-9573



Thursday, December 19, 6 p.m.

#### 5th Annual Asian Lantern Festival

Join our group at the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford for the 5th Annual Asian Lantern Festival. We have reserved 25 spots for Thursday, December 19, at 6 p.m. The event runs rain or shine. You will be dazzled by the wonderful, illuminated sculptures from dragons to wild animals. This special nighttime event is open to your friends and adult family members too. \$20 per ticket (including tax). Make your check payable to Ronnie Telzer. There will be food concessions open at the zoo. Important note: everyone in our group must enter the Festival at the same time--so please make sure you are on-time. Parking is free. The last day to RSVP with your check payable to Ronnie Telzer is December 12.

Friday, January 24, 2025, 2 p.m.

Sorry this event is sold out. Please check the Winter Park Playhouse website for last-minute \$23 ticket availability. After the show, we will dine at Bar Italia in Winter Park Village.



February 12, 2025, 2 p.m.



#### Cabaret

Orlando Shakes Theater Senior Matinee

Check with Ronnie or Linda for last-minute ticket availability. Dining option TBD. Group size is 23!



Friday, March 14, 2025, 2 p.m.

#### Gigolo

Winter Park Playhouse Preview Matinee

Gigolo uses a collection of iconic Cole Porter songs to tell the tale of an international playboy and his relationships with four beautiful women. Sign up at the December luncheon or by mail with your \$23 check payable to Ronnie Telzer.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 9, 2025, 2 p.m.

#### Route 66

Winter Park Playhouse  
Preview Matinee

15 tickets available, \$23







## SPICE GIRLS

Vicki Nidzgorski 813-395-3611  
[vanum77@aol.com](mailto:vanum77@aol.com)

Spice Girls enjoyed an End of Year luncheon on November 15 at Enzo's on the Lake in Longwood. The ladies appreciated the company, food, charming fireplace and view of Lake Fairy from their private dining room. If you haven't had a chance to try this Longwood gem, we highly recommend it!

This luncheon gave us an opportunity to review our recipes and themes from the past year. Our favorite themes included Mardi Gras, Tried and True, Make Ahead and Honey, Honey. Our least favorite theme was Green Eggs and Ham, although everyone agreed Karyll Shaw, our hostess that month, did a fabulous job decorating with the theme. Our theme of Flamingle was voted Most Creative.

Most Favorite Recipes included Salted Honey Dinner Rolls (to die for), Goat Cheese Roll/Spread with Basil Pesto, and Shrimp and Grits. Several recipes fit in the "Recipes that Spice Girls have made again" category, including the most favorite recipes plus Honey Garlic Butter Roasted Carrots, Honey Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Apple Cheddar Scones, Crockpot Chicken Gumbo, 10-Minute Honey Garlic Shrimp, Honey Whipped Goat Cheese with Marinated Olives, Maurice Salad, and Sicilian Eggplant Caponata.

Spice Girls will be taking a Holiday Break in December, wishing all our members a happy holiday season.

## MEXICAN TRAIN

Coordinator: Ann White  
407-687-4902 [auntesther27@yahoo.com](mailto:auntesther27@yahoo.com)

Friday, December 20



Our Mexican Train interest group will meet at Carrabba's in Winter Springs on Friday, December 20, We will begin at 11 a.m. and take a lunch break at around 12:30 p.m. with each person paying for her own lunch. If you would like to play Mexican Train, please RSVP to Ann White by Friday, December 13 by emailing Ann at [auntesther27@yahoo.com](mailto:auntesther27@yahoo.com). For details, please see page 5.

## CHICK FLICKS

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420

Tuesday, December 17

CALL or TEXT Trisha at 407-789-9420 to RSVP



Everyone is welcome to join our group of lovely ladies to enjoy a movie and dinner afterwards at BJ's Restaurant. Our goal is to have fun and make new friends. All members will be notified by email of the movie selected and the meeting time on the weekend before the Tuesday movie. We will meet at the Regal Oviedo Mall Movie Theater box office area 20 minutes before the movie's starting time. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or text Trisha directly at the number listed above. See you at the movies!

Please RSVP by phone or text so that Trisha has a head count for BJ's Restaurant.

## HOOKED ON BOOKS

Carol Smith 407-618-3478  
[smith4cr@gmail.com](mailto:smith4cr@gmail.com)



An octopus, an elderly woman, and an immature young man took us on an adventure in our November book *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Uplifting and filled with joy are the words members used to describe the tale. Several of our ladies revealed that they had discovered a love for octopuses as Marcellus the octopus taught us how amazing these creatures are. Carmen Bizjack shared the link to a Netflix documentary, *My Octopus Teacher*, and several commented that they started looking for more information about these sea animals.

In December, our current members will continue our tradition of discussing a holiday-themed book over lunch at The Vineyard Wine Company in Lake Mary. This year's book is a collection of short stories by Maeve Binchy titled *This Year It Will Be Different*.

Hooked on Books is a delightful place to make friends and have intriguing book discussions over coffee and donuts. To join us in January, contact Carol Smith to be added to the email list. For more details, please see page 5.

## WALKING CLUB

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420  
[tfuston@aol.com](mailto:tfuston@aol.com)



Please join me for a nice walk around the water at Cranes Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. The distance around the lake is about one mile. We will meet by Café Murano, and parking is available by the AMC Movie Theater.

We will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. We will not be walking on December 15 or 29. See page 5 for all of the details.



## REACHING OUT WITH OUTREACH

Chair: Barbara Tuson [barbara@tuson.us](mailto:barbara@tuson.us)

Thanks to the wonderful members at our November luncheon, we collected \$800 for Seniors First's Cards for a Cause program. Katherine Brown, Director of Communications and Special Events for Seniors First, was on hand to receive our donation of \$340 in Publix and Walmart gift cards and \$460 in cash which will be given as holiday gifts to their clients. Katherine explained how her organization is helping to meet a variety of needs for senior citizens in our local community and shared the story of how one gentleman used his gift card last year. She extended her thanks for our help in working to better the lives of seniors.





### NEWCOMERS of Central Florida, Inc.

There are no strangers,  
just friends we haven't met!

P.O. Box 620384, Oviedo, FL 32765-0384



## MONDAYS

### MAH JONGG

**Brenda Jones 407-435-3026**

When: Mondays

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Tremont in Oviedo

Bring lunch, a beverage and \$5 in change.

## TUESDAYS

### HOOKED ON BOOKS

**Carol Smith 407-618-3478**

[smith4cr@gmail.com](mailto:smith4cr@gmail.com)

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – December 10  
11:30 p.m.

Where: The Vineyard Wine Company  
1140 Townpark Ave., Lake Mary

*RSVP by December 3 to Carol Smith.*

*December meeting is limited to current members.*

DEC *This Year It Will Be Different*  
by Maeve Binchy

JAN *The Hazelbourne Ladies  
Motorcycle and Flying Club*  
by Helen Simonson

FEB *James*  
by Percival Everett

### CHICK FLICKS

**Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420**

When: Tuesday, December 17

Where: Regal Oviedo Mall Movie Theater

**TO RSVP: Call or text Trisha at 407-789-9420**

Members will receive an email to inform them of the movie title and meeting time the weekend before the screening.



## WEDNESDAYS

### LADIES BRIDGE – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

**Sue Horn 303-807-4088**

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Macaroni Grill  
7123 Red Bug Lake Rd.  
Oviedo, FL 32765

Anyone interested in playing should contact Sue Horn at the number above.

## THURSDAYS

### BOARD MEETING

**Sue Horn 303-807-4088**

[swfhorn@aol.com](mailto:swfhorn@aol.com)

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month  
10 a.m. – Noon

Where: Perkins Winter Springs  
701 E. State Rd. 434  
Winter Springs, FL 32708

Please RSVP to Sue Horn.

### SPICE GIRLS

**Vicki Nidzgorski**

**813-395-3611**



Spice Girls will not meet in December so our members can do their holiday baking.

See pictures from our November events on our Facebook page or our website.



[www.newcomerscfl.org](http://www.newcomerscfl.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/NewcomersofCentralFloridaInc>



**CHATTER** articles are due **December 16**. Please email articles to Carol Smith at [smith4cr@gmail.com](mailto:smith4cr@gmail.com)

## FRIDAYS

### MEXICAN TRAIN



**Ann White 407-687-4902**

[auntesther27@yahoo.com](mailto:auntesther27@yahoo.com)

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday – December 20  
11 a.m.

Where: Carrabba's Restaurant  
5820 Red Bug Lake Rd.  
Winter Springs, FL 32708

Lunch: Break for lunch around 12:30 – Pay for your own lunch.

RSVP to Ann by **Friday, December 13** at [auntesther27@yahoo.com](mailto:auntesther27@yahoo.com)

### DICEY BUNKETTES

**Diana Engling**

[englingd@yahoo.com](mailto:englingd@yahoo.com)

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month  
10:45 a.m.

Where: Outback Steakhouse  
5891 Red Bug Lake Rd.  
Winter Springs, FL 32708

At the corner of Red Bug Lake and Tuskawilla Rds.

If you are interested in joining the group, please email Diana, putting BUNKO in the subject line.

## SATURDAYS

### COUPLES BUNKO

**Mary Ward 407-222-4446**

[maryward@bellsouth.net](mailto:maryward@bellsouth.net)

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 6 p.m.

Where: Hosted by participants

Each couple brings an appetizer to share. The host couple will provide soft drinks and dessert.

## SUNDAYS

### WALKING CLUB

**Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420**

Call Trisha to RSVP

When: 10:30 a.m.

Sundays

(except for December 15, 29)

Where: Cranes Roost Park

Meet by Café Murano,

Parking: By AMC Movie Theater