



Happy Holiday Happenings

What is 26 years old, has 14 heads, 28 arms and legs, and creates beautiful holiday music? The Silvertones

chorus—that's who! Throw in a piano, saxophone, guitar and the occasional harmonica, and you have the complete picture. The Silvertones will entertain us at our holiday luncheon on Thursday, December 18 at Heathrow Country Club. Chorus members are seniors, including three who are members of our Newcomers club. The Silvertones perform at senior care facilities and for community groups in our area. Their set will include several holiday favorites—with optional sing-alongs.

In keeping with the generosity that accompanies the holiday season, we will be collecting \$20 Publix or Walmart gift cards for the Seniors First "Cards for a Cause" drive. We will also welcome a representative from this charity who will speak to us about its mission. Gift card donations will bring joy and remind seniors they are remembered.



We will have a delicious lunch and our customary 50/50 and free lunch drawings—all while enjoying the festive decor at one of our favorite venues. Luncheon attendees will also receive a holiday gift from the club.

All in all, our December 2025 luncheon should be a "can't miss" event. We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on **December 11**, the **Thursday before the luncheon**. No walk-ins allowed.

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. Paula or Belinda 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-K Paula Ritchie 407-222-5205

L-Z Belinda Wadas 847-421-4233

While you may pay by cash, the PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD IS BY CHECK. Please make out checks in advance to Newcomers of Central Florida, Inc. Payments for guests need to be pre-arranged.

LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

December 18, 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

*While checks are preferred,
for cash payments, please use denominations of \$50 or less.*



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 Friends!

How busy are we all at this time of year? Despite all the decorating, shopping, wrapping, cooking and entertaining, we love our holidays, don't we? So, if you'll forgive me for my time limitations this month, I have to confess to a little plagiarizing in my President's Message. Looking back at past president Sue Horn's excellent message in December 2024, I realized that she gave much deserved "props" to our wonderful *Chatter* compiler and editor Carol Smith. To echo Sue, it strikes me how critical the *Chatter* is to the process of ensuring that you are aware of all the events, activities and groups that are available to you. While Board members focus on planning the monthly luncheons and key functions like Game Day, the Fashion Show and Community Outreach, only about half of our members attend these activities.

We have another faction of our membership who participate mainly through our interest groups, such as games (Bingo, Couples Bunko, Dicey Bunkettes, Bridge, Mah-Jongg, Mexican Train dominoes), 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. They do, however, get exposure and publicity in our newsletter, the *Chatter*, which provides critical information about their meetings.

The *Chatter* is the one vehicle that pulls all the working parts 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 and emails it to our members. 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 newsletter. On that note, please remember to read the *Chatter* every month so you don't miss out--and share it with any friends who want to know more about our club.

All the best as we are all blessed!

Ellen



UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

January 15

Simon Time Trivia
Carrabba's, Winter Springs

February 19

Planning Ahead — A Reality Check
Heathrow Country Club



We are deeply saddened to share the news of Susan Pierce's passing. Her contributions to our Newcomers Club and the special place she holds in our hearts will always be cherished.

In accordance with our bylaws, a donation of \$25 has been made to the Old English Sheepdog Rescue Network of the Southeast, Inc.

Your Help Is Needed!

Corresponding Secretary
Maryellen McCullagh
Text: 407-461-0362



Please text 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.

Important Date Change

Newcomers Holiday Luncheon
Third Thursday of December
Heathrow Country Club
December 18



(Please note: This is the third Thursday of the month due to a scheduling conflict with the venue.)



LUNCHEON POLICY

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

Waitlist: If you miss the Thursday luncheon deadline, you may call **Paula Ritchie** to be added to the waitlist.

Payment: Please note that cash payments for the luncheon are requested in denominations of \$50 or smaller. (Checks are preferred.)





December Birthdays



2	Katherine Boyd
3	Virginia Gallaway
8	Nicole Henry
17	Jill Saltsman
23	Wendy Curry
24	Linda Gallagher
26	Sharon Riegler
27	Margareth Lauer
27	Joan Shovich
27	Ann White
30	Jean Desany

MEMBERSHIP



Co-Chairs:

Ann White 407-687-4902 auntether27@yahoo.com

Michele Marino 612-801-7949 Mmmarino10@gmail.com

Current Membership 120

See member directory updates on page 7.

CHANGE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:

New member applications should be submitted to Michele Marino.

REACHING OUT WITH OUTREACH



Chair: Barbara Tuson barbara@tuson.us

Cherish Seniors This Holiday Season



In December, we will be joining with Seniors First in their Cards for a Cause drive. Your donation of \$20 Publix or Walmart gift cards will bring the spirit of the holidays to senior citizens in our communities. By providing gift cards, you will enable them to select a gift of their choice and let them know they are not forgotten. We will also host a Seniors First representative who will share information about their programs.



Keep your eyes open for sales on socks. In January, we will collect men's, women's and children's socks for the homeless. This is one of their most needed items.



INSIDE THE ARTS

Ronnie Telzer 407-577-7401

Linda Gallagher 407-592-9573

Friday, December 5 at 3 p.m.

**Fathom Events screening of
Merrily We Roll Along
AMC Altamonte Mall 18**



Watch the film of the 2024 Tony Award-winning Broadway musical revival that starred Daniel Radcliffe, Jonathan Groff and Lindsay Mendez. *Merrily We Roll Along* tracks the lives of three friends navigating the entertainment industry over three decades in reverse chronological order. The show features music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim (including the classic song "Old Friends") and a Tony Award-winning performance by Jonathan Groff.

Purchase tickets in advance from Fandango.com or at the box office. Reserve seats for the 3 p.m. show in or near Row E if you wish to sit with the group. Optional lunch at Jason's Deli, 301 E. Altamonte Drive, in Altamonte Springs at 1:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 10 a.m.

Tables Extraordinaire

at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Maitland

- Explore unique themed tablescapes and party decor.
- Pay for your own \$10 admission—cash or credit cards accepted. No RSVP needed to attend the event.
- Greek lunch and pastries available on-site.
- Please RSVP for lunch on February 4 if you prefer to dine with group members at Bahama Breeze in Altamonte Springs at 11:45 a.m.



Friday, March 20, 2026, 2 p.m.

The Pin Up Girls

At Orlando Shakes (for Winter Park Playhouse)

Sign-up sheet is now open. Make \$23 checks payable to Ronnie Telzer. Dining Options TBD.

Regional Premiere! From The Andrews Sisters to hip-hop and Gershwin to Beyoncé, The Pin-Up Girls sing a cavalcade of hits inspired by letters home from our troops overseas! While singing at the local VFW hall, the ladies stumble upon a huge stash of letters that date back 100 years. Inspired by what they find — funny, sexy, romantic and poignant — they put on a show that celebrates the men and women who fight to defend our country.



SPICE GIRLS

Debbie Browning 407-716-3752
threegifts@hotmail.com

Our November "Friendsgiving" gathering was hosted by Vicki Nidzgorski, whose home and table were beautifully decorated with fall accents and special place settings. Each guest also received a unique Spice Girls apron featuring a different spice as a gift from Vicki. We enjoyed a variety of delicious Thanksgiving-themed appetizers, turkey with all the fixings, desserts, and a special holiday punch. It was a pleasure to introduce Virginia Ponder as our newest member, and we're excited to get to know her better in the coming months.

In December, we will take a break from cooking and enjoy being served as we dine together at Seasons 52 In Altamonte Springs. We will meet on Friday, December 5 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. This luncheon will be limited to current members as this is the time we reminisce about our luncheons of the past year.

We hope that everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season. Stay Spicy everyone! — Debbie

HOOKED ON BOOKS

Carol Smith 407-618-3478
smith4cr@gmail.com



In November, we enjoyed our annual holiday luncheon at Grafton Street Pub in Lake Mary while we discussed *The Evolution of Annabel Craig* by Lisa Grunwald. The book was described as "scientific and personal evolution entwined," and more simply as "an awakening." This was also our meeting to select our favorite book of 2025. The top two selections were: *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston and *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

Hooked on Books will not be meeting in December, but we welcome you to join us in January when we kick off the new year with *The View from Lake Como* by Adriana Trigiani. Hooked on Books is a delightful place to make friends and have intriguing book discussions over coffee and donuts. To join us, 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

Please join me for an enjoyable walk around the water at Cranes Roost Park in Altamonte Springs. The distance around the lake is about one mile. We will meet at 11 a.m. by Café Murano, and parking is available by the AMC Movie Theater. Due to the holidays, we will not be walking on December 21 or 28. You will find all of the details on page 5.

MEXICAN TRAIN

JoAnn Bill 407-921-9991
jobill1949@gmail.com



Our Mexican Train group meets at Carrabba's in Winter Springs on the third Friday of the month at 11 a.m. If you would like to learn the game before playing with the group, contact the group coordinator JoAnn Bill. For more details, please see page 5.



BINGO GROUP

Tina Parrish 757-777-6861
parrish407@bellsouth.net

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 9** at Carrabba's on Red Bug Lake Road in Winter Springs. Plan to meet for lunch (pay for yourself) at noon and play Bingo at 1 p.m. Please bring a wrapped gift with a \$15 value and \$5 to play.

To RSVP, please call Tina Parrish at 757-777-6861 or email Tina at parrish407@bellsouth.net.

CHICK FLICKS

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420

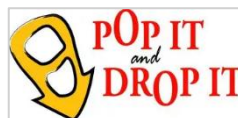


Tuesday, December 30

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 selected movie 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.



**Bring your pop
 tabs to the
 December luncheon.**





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 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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

Bring \$5 in change and your 2025 card.

We will be purchasing lunch at the restaurant, so please plan accordingly.

TUESDAYS

HOOKED ON BOOKS

Carol Smith 407-618-3478

smith4cr@gmail.com

When: 2nd Tuesday – **January 13**
1:30 p.m.

Where: Dunkin', 3551 Dovera Dr., Oviedo

DEC We are taking the month off!

JAN *The View from Lake Como*
by Adriana Trigiani

CHICK FLICKS

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420

When: Tuesday, December 30

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.



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

www.newcomerscfl.org

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

BINGO GROUP

Tina Parrish 757-777-6861

parrish407@bellsouth.net

When: **Tuesday – December 9**

Lunch at 12 noon (pay for yourself)
followed by Bingo at 1 p.m.

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

Bring \$5 to play and a wrapped gift with a \$15 value.

RSVP to Tina at 757-777-6861 or via email:

parrish407@bellsouth.net

WEDNESDAYS

LADIES BRIDGE

Sue Horn 303-807-4088

When: 4th Wednesday
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

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

THURSDAYS

BOARD MEETING

Ellen Bronikowski 732-259-2342

ellenbronikowski@gmail.com

When: 1st Thursday of the month
10 a.m. – Noon

Where: Lutheran Haven
2041 State Rd. 426
Oviedo, FL 32765

Please RSVP to Ellen Bronikowski.

SPICE GIRLS

Debbie Browning 407-716-3752

threegifts@hotmail.com

When: Friday, December 5
11:30 (note the time change.)

Where: Seasons 52
463 E. Altamonte Drive
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

This event is limited to current members.

RSVP to Debbie by **Friday, November 28**
at 407-716-3752 or threegifts@hotmail.com

FRIDAYS

DICEY BUNKETTES

Please Note New Contact

Marge Ahearn

407-592-6438

When: 2nd 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.

MEXICAN TRAIN

JoAnn Bill 407-921-9991

jobill1949@gmail.com

When: 3rd Friday – Dec. 19, 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 JoAnn by **Friday, Dec. 12** at
jobill1949@gmail.com

SATURDAYS

COUPLES BUNGO

Mary Ward 407-222-4446

maryward@bellsouth.net

When: 3rd 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: Sunday mornings at 11 a.m.
(except for December 21 and 28)

Where: Cranes Roost Park
Meet by Café Murano.

Parking: By AMC Movie Theater





December 2025

Newcomers'

Events at a Glance*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Mah Jongg	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5 <i>Merrily We Roll Along</i> Spice Girls	6
7 Walking Club	8 Mah Jongg	9 Bingo	10	11	12 Dicey Bunkettes	13
14 Walking Club	15 Mah Jongg	16	17	18 Luncheon	19 Mexican Train	20 Couples Bunko
21 Walking Club	22 Mah Jongg	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Mah Jongg	30 Chick Flicks	31 Ladies Bridge			

*Event Details are in the *Chatter*