

It's Trivia Time!

Are you smarter than a 5th grader? Well, we won't have Jeff Foxworthy to tell us, but we will have Quizmaster Simon from Simon Time Trivia returning for another year of trivia fun. Let's see how smart we are as we answer his trivia questions at our first luncheon of the new year on January 15.

We will work in teams by table, so unlike your high school cafeteria days, you may want to sit with the nerds, geeks or brainiacs in our club. There will be prizes for the trivia winners and our usual 50/50 and free luncheon drawings.

So get out those textbooks, tune in to *Jeopardy* and brush up on your facts and figures. Let's see who's smarter than a 5th grader. See you in 2026.



LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on January 8, 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 January 15

Carrabba's Restaurant
5820 Red Bug Lake Rd., Winter Springs, FL 32708
Gather at 11:30 a.m. Lunch at Noon

January Menu

Entrée Choice

Tuscan-Grilled Chicken
Wood-grilled and Seasoned with
Mr. C's Grill Baste, Olive Oil and Herbs
Or

Tuscan-Grilled Sirloin
Wood-grilled and Seasoned with
Mr. C's Grill Baste, Olive Oil and Herbs
Topped with Your Choice of
Spicy Sicilian Butter or Marsala Sauce
Or

Spaghetti
Topped with Bolognese Meat Sauce or Meatballs
Or

Vegetarian Option
Spaghetti
Topped with Pomodoro Sauce

Sides

Choice of Caesar Salad or Soup
Fresh Bread with Herb Mix and Olive Oil

Dessert

Mini Cannoli

Beverages

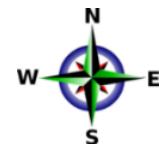
Alcohol-Free Beverage of Choice

LUNCHEON COST: \$30

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

Directions to Carrabba's:

5820 Red Bug Lake Rd. Winter Springs, FL 32708
Carrabba's is located at the Northeast corner
of Red Bug Lake Rd. and Tuskawilla Rd.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Friends!

As I contemplated what to write for this month's President's message, I turned the page on my daily calendar to the current date and encountered this Bible passage:

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."
- 1Peter 4:10.

This was quite fortuitous as I remembered that it was time for us to think about our Newcomers Board slate for 2026-2027. Thus far, we will have the following open positions: Reservations chairperson and Game Day chairperson. In addition, we may have an opening for VP Membership along with vacancies for board members who wish to step down or transition to other roles next year.

The best thing about being a member of the board is that you have a say in what happens in the club. Most of the current board members have been with the club for several years and have served in various roles. Everyone on our board brings their unique talents and perspectives to their roles and we work very well as a synergistic family. The responsibilities and scope of the various board positions are clearly outlined in the Membership Directory so you can assess each one based on your abilities and availability.

My advice to those considering a board position is that you don't underestimate what you are capable of accomplishing. While the commitment can be challenging, the board members are very supportive of each other. I personally feel like I'm working among friends and that makes all the difference.

We will have more information in the future about open board positions. Please let us know if you are interested in taking a position or assisting the board in any capacity.

That being said, I thank you for all you have contributed as members to make our events so enjoyable and successful this past year.

Ellen



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.)



UPCOMING LUNCHEONS



February 19 Lunch and Learn

Heathrow Country Club

March 19 Bingo

Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs



WAYS & MEANS

Chair: Robin Roskowski 407-595-4474

Lynda Visco 201-787-9655

Woohoo! Yippee! Congrats! Great job! Give yourselves a hand!
The figures are in, and the November 2025 Holiday Auction Fundraiser broke records in every category!

The auction was held on November 20th at the Hilton in Altamonte Springs. There were 66 attendees who enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving turkey meal while shopping and bidding on auction items. This year we limited the auction to the silent auction items, and feedback has indicated that the result was a much smoother process. We needed tables around the walls to hold all the incredible baskets and gorgeous wreaths!

Here are the (record breaking) results:

102 – items donated. That means 102 items created by our talented members. Top contributors were Bunny Hayden, Trisha Fuston, the Spice Girls cooking club and the book club.

\$3,604 – total (record breaking) money raised. The biggest purchasers were Doris Rosen and Pat Cranford, who both topped \$300. There were numerous purchases of over \$100.

Special thanks go to Ways and Means Chair Lynda Visco and Program Chair Robin Roskowski, who kept the event organized and contributed a number of auction items themselves. The Board of Directors contributed time and energy to keep the event running smoothly. But most of all, thanks and kudos to all of our fantastic club members who participate so enthusiastically in this event every year. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you!



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WINNERS

In November, Joyce Hefke won the free luncheon certificate. Anne Wightman and Helen Hoppmann each won \$61 in the 50-50 jackpot drawing. At the December luncheon, Linda Selby and Tina Parrish each won \$70 in the 50-50 jackpot drawing. The free luncheon was awarded to Tania Kline.



January Birthdays

- 1 Theresa Davie
- 1 Barbara Moore
- 2 Linda Hargreaves
- 4 Christine Lewis
- 5 Elvira Lovaglio-Duncan
- 7 Nancy Small
- 9 Lynda Visco
- 11 Sue Horn
- 12 Rosemary Kubanet
- 25 Claudia Hughey
- 27 Terry Becker
- 28 Freda Keegan
- 29 Estelle Simandl



MEMBERSHIP



Co-Chairs:

Ann White 407-687-4902 auntesther27@yahoo.com
 Michele Marino 612-801-7949 Mmmarino10@gmail.com

Current Membership 122

See member directory updates on page 8.

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

Thank you to all of our generous members for supporting Seniors First Cards For a Cause. At our December luncheon, we collected 39 gift cards and \$180 cash to be presented to the Seniors First representatives who attended the event. These gift cards are given to all seniors who are served by Seniors First during the holiday season. Your donations will bring some Christmas cheer to seniors in our community.

Here's the latest on your pop tab donations: I dropped off 12 pounds of pop tabs at the Ronald McDonald House!

JANUARY: Can We Beat Last Year's Record of 764 Pairs of Socks?

Don't forget to bring children's, women's and men's socks to our **January** meeting. The socks will be donated to homeless shelters and rescue missions in our area. Socks are one of the most needed items in these unfortunate situations.



FEBRUARY

In February we will be collecting new and/or gently used (but clean) bath towels as well as paper towels for an animal shelter in our area.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and willingness to help with these projects. – Barb



INSIDE THE ARTS

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

No Inside the Arts events are planned for January.

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.

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Rock of ABBA —Tribute to ABBA

Where: Ritz Theater

201 S. Magnolia Avenue (in historic downtown Sanford)

Sign-up sheet is now open. Tickets: \$33.50 per person—make checks payable to Linda Gallagher. Non-member guests are welcome. Optional dining TBD.

Rock of ABBA is North America's #1 tribute to ABBA, and its members have been dazzling audiences across the globe for years. Rock of ABBA recreates the magic of ABBA with authentic costumes, spectacular harmonies, and note-perfect musicianship, taking their audience on a musical journey back in time. Feel the rhythm and enjoy such timeless hits as "Dancing Queen," "Mamma Mia," "Waterloo" and "Take a Chance on Me."

Save the Date: Sunday, April 14, 2026, 4 p.m.

What: *Anastasia the Musical* (college production)

Where: Annie Russell Theater at Rollins College

Cost: Tickets are \$20

Sign-up sheet will open in February.



SPICE GIRLS

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

In December, Spice Girls took a break from cooking and appreciated being served at their luncheon at Seasons 52 in Altamonte Springs. After enjoying some time off, we are ready to head back to the kitchen and tackle the next cooking club challenge. In January, the theme goes old school as we prepare popular recipes from the year we were born. Christine Shapin will host, and the attendance is limited to 12.

Recipes for the January luncheon must be sent by email or text to Debbie by January 1. We look forward to seeing you at our Spice Girls luncheon on Thursday, January 8, with your prepared dish, along with any necessary serving utensils, and the printed recipe PDF that will be sent to you via email. Please bring a disposable dish if you would like to take home any leftovers. If you enjoy trying new recipes, sampling new foods, laughter, and fun, please consider joining us!

Stay Spicy everyone! — Debbie

HOOKED ON BOOKS

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



Hooked on Books did not meet 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 6.



WALKING CLUB

Cancelled

After coordinating the Walking Club for several years, Trisha Fuston has decided to step back from this position. The Newcomers' Board wishes to express its gratitude to Trisha for initiating this interest group and for the time and dedication she has contributed.

Don't Forget to Bring Socks...
To the January luncheon



THINKING OF



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.



Exciting News Game Day Is Coming!



Our chairperson, Ellen Bronikowski, is busy working on plans to make our January 30 Game Day the best one yet. For more information, please see 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 6.



BINGO GROUP

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

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 6** 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, January 27

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.



Support the Ronald McDonald House.
Bring your pop tabs to the January luncheon.



Spring Game Day



When: Friday, January 30, 2026

Where: Lutheran Haven Fellowship Hall
1522 Haven Drive
Oviedo, FL 32765

Check-in Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Game Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lunch Break: 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 due by Friday, January 23

(Please make checks out to: Newcomers of Central FL, Inc.)

Includes: Raffles and Door Prizes

Continental Breakfast and Lunch (Catered by Lutheran Haven),
Drinks (Coffee/Tea/Water), Door Prizes

Reservations: Call your individual game chair and give her your \$30 by
Friday, January 23



Games

Bridge: Sue Horn (303) 807-4088

Bunko: Marge Ahearn (407) 592-6438

Mah-Jongg: Brenda Jones (407) 435-3026

Mexican Train: JoAnn Bill (407) 921-9991

Shanghai: DeDe Fluhr (407) 366-9084

HAPPINESS
IS PLAYING



MAHJONG
WITH THE GIRLS



Or: If you are interested in getting a group together to play another game,
please contact Ellen Bronikowski (732-259-2342) to make arrangements.



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

BINGO GROUP

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

When: **Tuesday – January 6**

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

HOOKED ON BOOKS

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

When: 2nd Tuesday – Jan. 13

1:30 p.m.

Where: Dunkin', 3551 Dovera Dr., Oviedo

JAN *The View from Lake Como*
by Adriana Trigiani

FEB *The Correspondent*
by Virginia Evans

CHICK FLICKS

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420

When: Tuesday, January 27

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

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

SPICE GIRLS

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

When: Friday, January 8 at noon

Where: Christine Shapin
1543 Braewick St.
Winter Springs 32708

Theme: Popular Recipes from the Year You Were Born

Limit: 12

Submit recipes and RSVP to Debbie by **Thursday, January 1** at 407-716-3752 or threegifts@hotmail.com


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

www.newcomersclf.org

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



NEWCOMERS

of Central Florida, Inc.



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

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

FRIDAYS

BOARD MEETING

Ellen Bronikowski 732-259-2342
ellenbronikowski@gmail.com

When: **Friday, January 2** (note changes)
10 a.m. – Noon

Where: **The Townhouse Restaurant**
139 N. Central Ave.
Oviedo, FL 32765

Please RSVP to Ellen Bronikowski.

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 – Jan. 16, 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, Jan. 9** at jobill1949@gmail.com

SATURDAYS

COUPLES BUNCO

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.



January 2025 Newcomers' Events at a Glance*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Board Meeting (note change)	3
4	5 Mah Jongg	6 Bingo	7	8 Spice Girls	9 Dicey Bunkettes	10
11	12 Mah Jongg	13 Hooked on Books	14	15 Luncheon	16 Mexican Train	17 Couples Bunko
18	19 Mah Jongg	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Mah Jongg	27 Chick Flicks	28 Ladies Bridge	29	30 Game Day	31

*Event Details are in the *Chatter*