



Holiday Gift Boutique and Basket Auction

You have been waiting all year for our annual Holiday Gift Boutique and Basket Auction, and it is finally here! This is our major fundraiser for the year, and it is also one of our favorite

activities. In fact, we have secured the *large* Royal Palm ballroom at the Hilton-Altamonte for our venue to be able to accommodate all of the baskets and our guests. Our crafters have the opportunity to show off their skills, and our shoppers get the opportunity to make purchases to help support our Newcomers club. You may even be able to pick up some gifts for your shopping list and a beautiful wreath for your door! Everyone will have plenty of time to check out the auction items and bid on them. Don't forget to bring cash or checks to pay for your purchases.

For those of you who are donating baskets or crafts (including wreaths), there is vital information for you included in the Ways and Means article on page 4. Please note that in order to streamline the auction, we will NOT have flat rate (\$1,\$3,\$5) or baked goods tables this year.

So mark November 20 on your calendars, make your reservations now to attend the luncheon, and be sure to bring cash or checks for your purchases.

See you at the auction!

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be received by 5 p.m. on **November 13, 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 November 20, 2025

Orlando Hilton – Altamonte Springs
350 S. Northlake Blvd.
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

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



November Menu

ENTRÉE CHOICE

Applewood-Smoked Sliced Turkey Breast
with Homestyle Gravy

Mashed Yukon Gold Potatoes

Carrots and Green Beans

Vegetarian Option:

Pasta Primavera

SALAD AND SIDES

House Salad

with Ranch and Balsamic Dressings

Freshly Baked Rolls with Sweet Cream Butter

DESSERT

Pumpkin Cheesecake

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

Orlando Hilton -Altamonte Springs:

350 S. Northlake Blvd.

Altamonte Springs, FL 32701



- From I-4, take exit 92, go east on SR 436 to Northlake Blvd. Turn right onto Northlake Blvd. (1st street after I-4 exit) for approximately 1/2 mile. The Hilton hotel is on your right.
- From Oviedo or Winter Springs, take SR 436 to Northlake Blvd. Turn left onto Northlake Blvd., go about 1/2 mile and the Hilton will be on your right.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Friends!

Is it possible that we are approaching the end of 2025? We are officially in the holiday season now, so there's no better time to reflect and give thanks for our many blessings. What a year we've had so far! Did you impress your table mates with your knowledge at our Simon Time Trivia luncheon in January? Did you win gift cards or cash during our Bingo luncheons in March and July? Did you have fun "boot scootin" with Lynn Telzer at our Country Line Dancing luncheon in August? Did you win some needed items at our Penny Auction luncheon in September? Did we recognize and celebrate your birthday with beautiful flowers and singing? Did you attend some of the plays and cultural events arranged by our Inside the Arts team? Did you make some new friends this year? Yes, we have so much to be thankful for, and there's more to come. Please remember to check your *Chatter* for upcoming events and related details.

Our club has managed to keep offering fun and interesting events and activities while keeping membership and luncheon prices stable and reasonable. Credit must be given to your Board, who make this happen with dedicated members who volunteer their talents, time and energy. Our club is on a fiscal calendar, which means our budget and our Board positions run from June 1 to May 31. It may seem early to be thinking about the makeup of the Board for the 2026-2027 season, but we need to begin our Board search in January and present a Board slate to the club at our March meeting. While several of our Board members will continue to serve and donate their time, some may not be able to do so, and others would like to give someone else the opportunity to serve.

We always welcome new talent and input so I urge each of you to look at the Organization Chart on page 9 of your *Chatter* or in your directory to see what positions make up the board. The job descriptions for Board positions are under the "About Us" heading on the website. There are several programs, such as Game Day or the Fashion Show, which are only held once a year. We also have positions that require a bigger time commitment and attendance at our monthly Board meetings. Other opportunities include coordinating a special interest group. You can become as involved as you would like to be. If you are interested in any Board position, please let me know. Thanks for your continued support and participation, and God Bless!

Ellen



UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

Please note:

December's luncheon is on the THIRD Thursday.



December 18

The Silvertones Present a Holiday Concert
Heathrow Country Club



LUNCHEON WINNERS

Linda Zarbaugh was the lucky recipient of the free luncheon certificate. Ronnie Telzer won \$76 in the October 50-50 jackpot drawing.

Please Help!

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.)





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Shirley Freet
- 2 Anne Wightman
- 3 Gail Boudreaux
- 5 Mary Ward
- 7 Jean Wilson
- 13 Karyll Shaw
- 17 Vicky Brown
- 17 Kathleen McClanahan
- 22 Charmane Damron
- 24 Dawn Courtright
- 26 Roseanne LaBarge

MEMBERSHIP



Co-Chairs:

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

Current Membership 119

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

October Food Drive Contributions

At our October luncheon, you donated 144 food items ranging from pasta and canned food to peanut butter and jelly. These items weighed in at 164 pounds when delivered to Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida.

Thank you for your tremendous support of our outreach projects.



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, November 14
Preview Matinee at 2 p.m.

Honky Tonk Angels

Our group ticket allotment is full, but please contact the Winter Park Playhouse at 407-645-0145 to purchase \$23 tickets if available. Optional dinner after the show at Cheesecake Factory in Winter Park Village.



Saturday, November 22
7:30 p.m.

My Tribute to John Denver by Carl Bennett

Where: Ritz Theater
 201 S. Magnolia Avenue in historic downtown Sanford

Cost: \$33.50 per person

Make checks payable to Linda Gallagher.

Our ticket allotment is full but you can still order tickets from the box office.

Optional dining at Hollerbach's German restaurant at 4:45 p.m. before the show. Order from the menu. \$10 cash deposit required to confirm your dining reservation. (We will return your cash deposit at the dinner.)



Friday, December 5 at 3 p.m.

AMC Altamonte Mall 18

Fathom Events screening of *Merrily We Roll Along*, 2024 Tony Award winner for Best Musical Revival
 Watch the film of the Broadway show that starred Daniel Radcliffe, Jonathan Groff and Lindsay Mendez.

Purchase tickets in advance from Fandango.com for \$18.74. Reserve seats in or near Row E if you wish to sit with the group.

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 will open in December.



SPICE GIRLS

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

The theme for our October luncheon was Native American Cuisine to celebrate Indigenous Day. Our hostess, Patti Zedo, did an amazing job decorating with tepees, pumpkins, pictures of Native Americans, and more. Patti gave each attendee a drawstring bag with Native American themed bracelets, earrings, and a key chain. We enjoyed Three Sisters Salad, Bison Meatballs, Blueberry & Peach Salsa, Pasta with Pumpkin Sauce, Wild Rice, Maple Butternut Squash, Wild Rice with Root Vegetables, Cherokee Style Succotash, Blue Cornmeal Cake with Honey, Native American Maple Syrup Pie, and Indian Pudding. As always, a great time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

November's theme is "Friendsgiving" hosted by Vicki Nidzgorski. All recipes will focus on Thanksgiving. Please wear Fall or Thanksgiving-related jewelry and/or clothing to help celebrate our theme.

Recipes for the November luncheon must be sent by email or text to Debbie by November 6. We look forward to seeing you at our Spice Girls luncheon on Thursday, November 13, 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



October took us back to one of our favorite authors and genres when we read *The Queens of Crime* by Marie Benedict. Our concise book description this month is "Fictional sleuths try real sleuthing."

In November, we will be enjoying our annual holiday luncheon at Grafton Street Pub in Lake Mary while we discuss *The Evolution of Annabel Craig* by Lisa Grunwald. This event is limited to current members as we will be recapping 2025 and selecting our favorite book of the year.

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. 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

Starting Back on November 2 at a New Time

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 by Café Murano, and parking is available by the AMC Movie Theater.

Beginning November 2, we will meet on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. We will not be walking on November 23 or 30. You will find all of the details on page 5.



WAYS & MEANS

Chair: Robin Roskowski 407-595-4474
Lynda Visco 201-787-9655

Our annual Holiday Gift Basket Auction luncheon is more fun than a barrel (or should I say "basket"?) of monkeys! The event will be held on Thursday, November 20 at the Hilton - Altamonte Springs in the Royal Palm ballroom. Due to the generosity and creativity of our members, this event is our most popular fundraising event. Your basket donations in the past have been spectacular, and the choices get better and more numerous every year.



If you plan to donate baskets, please remember that all donated items must be new, and any food or drink items contained in the baskets must be unexpired. It is imperative that you fill out the Basket Donation form on page 7 of the *Chatter* (one sheet per basket) and bring in the completed forms with your baskets on the day of the luncheon. If you are NOT attending the November luncheon but wish to donate, please contact Ways & Means Chairs Lynda Visco or Robin Roskowski to make arrangements.

At the luncheon, you will have plenty of time to peruse the tables, place bids on gift baskets, and find special treasures for yourself or friends and family members. Please do not forget to bring a check or cash to pay for your basket purchases.



Even if you are not able to donate a basket, you can help support the club with your purchases — and have a great opportunity to jump-start your holiday gift-giving.

We look forward to your attendance and/or participation at this event.

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 **Wednesday, November 12** 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

**November Chick Flicks
is canceled.**





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 – Nov. 11

11:30 p.m. (note the time change)

Where: Grafton St. Pub, Lake Mary

NOV Holiday Lunch for current club members. We will be discussing *The Evolution of Annabel Craig* by Lisa Grunwald.

DEC We are taking the month off!

CHICK FLICKS

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420

**November Chick Flicks
is canceled.**



Newsletter Deadlines

Nov. 7 (December Issue)

Nov. 13 (January Issue)

Please email *Chatter* articles/information to Carol Smith at smith4cr@gmail.com



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

www.newcomerscfl.org

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

WEDNESDAYS

BINGO GROUP

Tina Parrish 757-777-6861

parrish407@bellsouth.net

When: **Wednesday – November 12**

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

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: Perkins Winter Springs

701 E. State Rd. 434

Winter Springs, FL 32708

Please RSVP to Ellen Bronikowski.

SPICE GIRLS

Debbie Browning 407-716-3752

threegifts@hotmail.com

When: 2nd Thursday – November 13

12 noon

Where: Vicki Nidzgorski

111 Wild Holly Lane

Longwood, FL 32779

guard-gated community

Theme: Friendsgiving Limit: none

Submit recipes and RSVP to Debbie

by **Thursday, November 6**

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 – Nov. 21, 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, Nov. 14** 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: 11 a.m.

Sundays starting November 2
(except for November 23, 30)

Where: Cranes Roost Park

Meet by Café Murano.

Parking: By AMC Movie Theater





November 2025 Newcomers' Events at a Glance*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Walking Club	3 Mah Jongg	4	5	6 Board Meeting	7 Deadline for DECEMBER Chatter Info	8
9 Walking Club	10 Mah Jongg	11 Hooked on Books	12 Bingo	13 Spice Girls Deadline for JANUARY Chatter Info	14 Dicey Bunkettes Honky Tonk Angels	15 Couples Bunko
16 Walking Club	17 Mah Jongg	18	19	20 Luncheon - Basket Auction	21 Mexican Train	22 John Denver Tribute
23	24 Mah Jongg	25	26 Ladies Bridge	27	28	29
30						

*Event Details are in the Chatter



Basket Donation Form

Basket Name: _____

Approximate Total Value: _____

Please bring this completed sheet with your basket donation on the day of the November luncheon at the Hilton-Altamonte Springs. If you have a basket donation and cannot attend the November luncheon, please contact Robin Roskowski (407-595-4474). Please set your desired minimum opening bid below, or we will do it for you.

Itemized Contents of Basket: _____

Donated By: _____

_____ Please check here if you want your donated item returned to you in the event that there are no bidders.

Minimum Opening Bid: _____

Bid Amount:

Bidder Name:

- 1. _____ Name: _____
- 2. _____ Name: _____
- 3. _____ Name: _____
- 4. _____ Name: _____
- 5. _____ Name: _____
- 6. _____ Name: _____
- 7. _____ Name: _____
- 8. _____ Name: _____
- 9. _____ Name: _____
- 10. _____ Name: _____

(Please use reverse sheet for additional bids if necessary)