



## An Old-Fashioned Christmas

Have you ever wished you could visit the Dickens Christmas Village you set up on your mantle? Our December luncheon will provide a taste of that

timeless holiday charm. The Company Players, a husband-and-wife duo featuring singers John and Theresa Segers, will entertain us with traditional holiday carols while dressed in Victorian attire. Be sure to mark your calendars for this wonderful seasonal event—our only monthly luncheon scheduled for the **SECOND THURSDAY** of the month—December 14.

The Segers have extensive backgrounds in entertainment. Theresa Segers sang with the Orlando Opera for 16 years, and John Segers directed the Orlando Gilbert and Sullivan Players.

Plan now to enjoy a festive holiday celebration at Heathrow Country Club. Wear your favorite holiday outfits and accessories, and take home a special party favor. Hope to see you soon in all your holiday finery!



### LUNCHEON RESERVATION PROCEDURE

**Reminder: Luncheon Cost is \$30**

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 7, the Thursday before the luncheon. Anyone who cancels after the deadline will reimburse the club. No walk-ins allowed.**

## LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

December 14, 2023

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 ½ 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 55C. 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

Greetings Ladies,

As the year winds down and we prepare for the holidays, let's take a minute to reflect upon the past year. This is a good time to review what our Newcomers club has accomplished and take

some time to appreciate those things. Despite all the challenges of the past several years (Covid, lockdowns, rising luncheon prices, for example) we have persevered and emerged stronger and more committed to our friendships and time together than ever.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Officers and Committee Chairs who have worked hard to keep our luncheons interesting, fun and affordable while adding numerous new Inside the Arts events and working on new interest groups. Despite being short a few members, your Executive Board continues to work to find things that appeal to all our members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, our members, who share your ideas and support all of our events. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to provide the settings for the real reason for our existence: meeting new friends and spending quality time with them.



Happy Holidays!

*Sue*



### Newcomers Guest Policy

There has been some confusion recently regarding guest attendance at our luncheons and our events. Our board recently voted to clarify our guest policy as follows:

A guest is any prospective member of the club who **has never before** been a member. Guests

may attend two events of their choice. After that, they must join the club before attending any additional events. If a person has already been a member, they cannot come to a luncheon or interest group meeting without rejoining the club and paying the full-year cost of current annual dues. The only exception is for visitors and former members who have moved out of the Central Florida area. They are welcome to join us without restrictions (per the visitor policy outlined in our by-laws and published in our Directory).

Two of our most popular club events--the Fashion Show and Game Day--are now officially exempt from any limitations on attendance. Everyone (including past members) is welcome to attend either or both of these events as often as they like. Attendance at these events **will not count** toward a guest's lifetime (not annual) two-event limit.

Please contact Newcomers' President Sue Horn if you have any questions about the club's guest policy.

## UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

**Please Note:** December's luncheon will be held at **Heathrow Country Club** on the second Thursday, **December 14**. Reservations must be made by 5 p.m. on **December 7**.



**January 18** Simon Time Trivia at Cocina 214 in Winter Park

**February 15** Art Auction at the Hilton Orlando – Altamonte Springs



## INTEREST GROUPS

Contact: Carol Smith  
[smith4cr@gmail.com](mailto:smith4cr@gmail.com)

Time for an update on our Interest Groups. Since our August luncheon, we have added three new groups, and have the possibility of four more.

Here are our new groups – you can find details of these groups in the calendar on page 5.

- **Walking Club** – Trish Fuston is leading this group which meets on Sunday mornings to walk the one-mile loop around Cranes Roost Park in Altamonte Springs.
- **Crochet/Knitting Club** – Paula Ritchie has organized the initial meeting for Friday, December 1. Please let Paula know if you will be attending.
- **Mah Jongg Lessons** – Loretta Kowalski has started giving lessons. For more information, please contact Loretta at [loretta.kowalski@att.net](mailto:loretta.kowalski@att.net).

In the next few weeks, I will be sending an email to the ladies who indicated their interest in the groups listed below. The next step to getting these groups going will be for someone to step up and coordinate an initial meeting.

- **Day Trip Group**
- **Line Dancing**
- **Volunteering**
- **Travel Club**

If you would like to be included in the email list for any of these groups, please contact Carol Smith.

## LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

**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 due if you are unable to attend and no one takes your place. Please call **Paula Ritchie at 407-222-5205** to cancel or to be put on a waitlist.



## December Birthdays



- 3 Virginia Gallaway
- 8 Nicole Henry
- 16 Valerie Bush
- 17 Jill Saltsman
- 24 Linda Gallagher
- 26 Sharon Riegler
- 27 Ann White
- 27 Joan Shovich



### MEMBERSHIP

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

**Current Membership: 113**

#### Membership Directory Changes

**T. Kay White – email correction**  
[whitetkay@gmail.com](mailto:whitetkay@gmail.com)



### CHICK FLICKS

Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420

**Tuesday, December 19**

**CALL 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 club 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!



### REACHING OUT WITH OUTREACH

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

In December, we will be helping Seniors First and their "Cards for a Cause" campaign by collecting \$15 and \$20 gift cards for Publix, Target or Walmart. Seniors First is an important safety net for our senior population. To see the variety of ways they provide support for seniors in our community, visit their website at [www.seniorsfirstinc.org](http://www.seniorsfirstinc.org).

In a perfect world, every senior would be loved and cared for, but the reality is the holidays can be a lonely time for seniors. By providing gift cards, our seniors will be able to select their gift of choice, and you'll let them know they are not forgotten!

You can bring your gift cards to the December luncheon, or you may make a cash donation.



### WAYS & MEANS

Co-Chairs: Linda Gallagher 407-592-9573  
Ronnie Telzer 407-577-7401

This year's November basket auction and holiday market fundraiser proved to be both popular and successful. We raised a grand total of \$1,559 for the club. We had an incredible array of 51 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 greeting cards and Christmas earrings to exquisite watercolor paintings, floral arrangements, baby blankets, and jams/jellies. For those of you who took the time to donate these wonderful items (as individual contributors or interest group members), we thank you for your creativity and generosity.

We were pleased by the great variety of items at all price points. For items that were available through silent auction bidding, we raised \$1,370. We also raised \$130 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 50 attendees). Tina Parrish, Linda Gallagher and Doris Rosen were our three biggest purchasers, while Joyce Hefke donated the most items (from an individual). Cooking Club, Outreach, Book Club and Mah Jongg groups also contributed to the basket tally. We could not have achieved this success without your support.

On February 15, we will hold our next fundraiser for Ways & Means, which helps fund club operations and helps us keep down luncheon costs. This fundraiser at the Hilton Orlando-Altamonte Springs will focus on arts and crafts, so please keep us in mind if you want to change out some of the framed or unframed works of art in your home – or feel inspired to create something that showcases your special creative talent. Paintings, sculptures, handicrafts, knitted and crocheted items, decorative art, floral arrangements, art supplies, and even empty picture frames are welcome. Bring your donations to the February luncheon or contact us if you are unable to attend that day.

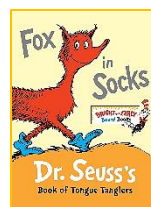
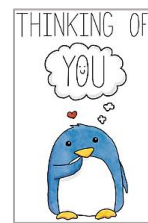
One final note...we greatly appreciate all the support we received from the Newcomers board who helped us put this event together and made it run as smoothly as possible. Your help was invaluable. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Ronnie Telzer and Linda Gallagher*

### YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED!

Corresponding Secretary Pat Cranford requests your help. Please contact Pat if you know of a member who is ill, lost a loved one, is celebrating a "Milestone" birthday, or just needs to know that we care so that she can send a card. You can contact her by email at [patcran613@yahoo.com](mailto:patcran613@yahoo.com) or text/call her 407-616-8891.



### Don't Forget!

In January, Outreach will take part in Knock, Knock Give a Sock by collecting socks for the homeless. Children's books will be collected in March as part of A Gift for Teaching's Ready to Read Book Drive.



## INSIDE THE ARTS

Chair: Sheri Dyer 407-766-1804  
[Sheri@imadyer.com](mailto:Sheri@imadyer.com)

### NO DECEMBER EVENTS

### JANUARY EVENTS

**What:** Breaking Up is Hard to Do  
**When:** Friday, 1/19/24 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Winter Park Playhouse  
**Sign Up Deadline:** January 4, 2024



This nostalgic musical comedy celebrates the timeless songwriting magic of the legendary Neil Sedaka! Set at a Catskills resort in 1960, this humorous and heartwarming musical follows two friends from Brooklyn in search of good times and romance over one wild Labor Day weekend. This show features 20 of Sedaka's most popular songs including "Laughter in the Rain," "Where the Boys Are," "Sweet Sixteen," "Calendar Girl," "Love Will Keep Us Together" and the chart-topping title song!

#### REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS for ALL EVENTS

RSVP to Sheri by email or text, then *mail* your check to Sheri Dyer at 2410 Huntingdale Lane, Oviedo, FL 32765. Please make your check out to Sheri Dyer.



### HOOKED ON BOOKS

Carol Smith 407-618-3478

In November, our Tuesday book club discussed *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. Christine Shapin

was able to describe our cozy mystery in just seven words, "Bored retirees meet to solve cold cases." Actually, she did it with only six words but with a little help from Helen Hoppmann the challenge of seven words was met. At times the book got a little confusing due to the myriad of characters but thanks to Brenda Jones and her googled character list, we were able to sort it out. The best description of this meeting only needs three words, "Lots of laughter."

The group decided to celebrate the holidays in December by holding our discussion over lunch. This meeting will be limited to current members as we will also be reminiscing about the books we have read over the past year. Our meeting will be held at The Vineyard Wine Company in Lake Mary on December 12 at 11 a.m. We will be discussing two books, both titled *A Christmas Memory*, one by Richard Paul Evans and the other by Truman Capote. For more details, see page 5.



## "Cards for a Cause" Cherish Seniors This Holiday Season

Outreach will be supporting Seniors First holiday gift card campaign. You may contribute \$15 or \$20 Publix and Walmart gift cards, or you may make a cash donation at the December luncheon.

### COOKING CLUB

Vicki Nidzgorski 813-395-3611



We may have started a new tradition with our Pajama Party Friendsgiving theme in November, minus the pajamas. Members thought the pajamas were too over the top, but they were good sports about it! Some members had funny sayings on their PJ tops. Some wine bottle PJs, fuzzy slippers and curlers also made an appearance. Photos are on the website. We enjoyed different sides, pumpkin, apple and pecan desserts and seasonal entrees. We topped it all off with crockpot Pumpkin Lattes. Like most months, some recipes were better than others, but we always have fun.

For December, we are leaving our pots at home and heading out! On December 1st, you will find us at The Tap Room at Dubsdread in College Park, a favorite of the group. One of our members loves their Key Lime Martini. We will be discussing themes and recipes from the past year; what recipes were our favorites and if we made someone else's recipe from Cooking Club. Be thinking of your answers! This is a closed event to members who have attended at least one month during 2023. The Cooking Club is growing – we now have 15 members! We look forward to new members joining us in January. Happy Holidays!

### CROCHET/KNITTING CLUB

Paula Ritchie 407-222-5205  
[psritchie@gmail.com](mailto:psritchie@gmail.com)



The kickoff meeting of the Crochet/Knitting Group will be held at Dunkin' in Oviedo (the one in front of Lowe's on Red Bug Lake Rd.) on Friday, December 1 at 1:30 p.m. Paula looks forward to getting together and learning everyone's skill level. The plan is to meet monthly on the first Friday of the month. Please let Paula know if you will be attending the meeting.

### 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. It is about one mile around the lake. We will meet by Café Murano, and parking is available by the AMC Movie Theater.

We meet every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. We will skip the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. See page 5 for all of the details.



**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)

**Note: Time change in December**

When: December 12 at 11 a.m.

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

Reservations are closed for December.

DEC *A Christmas Memory*  
by Richard Paul Evans  
and by Truman Capote

JAN *The First Ladies*  
by Marie Benedict

FEB *The Kitchen House*  
by Kathleen Grissom

### CHICK FLICKS

**Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420**

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

When: Tuesday – December 19

Where: Regal Oviedo Mall Movie Theater

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

**CALL Trisha at 407-789-9420 to RSVP**

## WEDNESDAYS

### SCRABBLE

**Sheri Dyer** [Sheri@imadyer.com](mailto:Sheri@imadyer.com)

Scrabble is currently on hold.

### 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.

### COOKING CLUB

**Vicki Nidzgorski 813-395-3611**

**Note: Date and time change in December**

When: FRIDAY, December 1

11 a.m.

Where: The Tap Room at Dubsdread

549 Par St.

Orlando 32804

Theme: Holiday Luncheon

Reservations are closed for this event.



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>

## FRIDAYS

### CROCHET/KNITTING CLUB

**New!**

**Paula Ritchie 407-222-5205**

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

Let Paula know if you will be attending.

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month

1:30 p.m.

Where: Dunkin' (in front of Lowe's)

3551 Dovera Dr., Oviedo

### 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 BUNGO

**Gail Boudreaux 407-678-3341**

[flcajun2@cfl.rr.com](mailto:flcajun2@cfl.rr.com)

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

**New!**

**Trisha Fuston 407-789-9420**

Call Trisha to RSVP

When: 10:30 a.m.

Sundays starting November 5  
(except for Nov. 26, Dec. 24 and 31)

Where: Cranes Roost Park

Meet by Café Murano

Altamonte Springs

Parking: By AMC Movie Theater