



January 2025



the NEWSCOMER

CITRUS NEWCOMERS CLUB

◀ The President's Message ▶

So, here I am in December, writing the January President's letter. The holiday season is just starting and I'm exhausted and tired of the whole thing. That should not be!

I know we all feel the same way when we see the stores get ready for a holiday before two others have not yet occurred. Halloween candy in August...no Labor Day? Valentine paraphernalia as soon as Christmas and Hannukah are over. What happened to January? The years pass by quickly enough without rushing through two months at a time.

No wonder people snap, can't we just mellow out for a little while? Remember when we were kids, no television commercials throwing Christmas at us all the time, no need to worry about gifts and food preparation. All we felt was a little anticipation and excitement. That was nice and relaxing, wasn't it? Of course, what we didn't realize was that our parents were frantically searching for that one gift we were really counting on. We didn't care. Santa would come through. Food preparation? It just appeared on the table and we were called when the chairs needed to be filled. What a life!

Oh, and I have four birthdays in December, too. Just sent off holiday checks and it's time to write the birthday checks. Hope my bank account holds out until Easter. That will occur right after Valentine's Day, of course.

So, what solution have we come up with. We get on a plane or brave holiday traffic, go to visit family and let them put up the decorations and cook the food. I just go to the table when the food appears and I am summoned. I may even get a special gift that I've wished for all year. Happy New Year, everyone.

In the meantime, please join me in welcoming our new members:

Barbara Anderson
Marjorie Benjamin
Candy Carlyle

Jennette Harper
Karie Lampman
Sandra Mozo

Aria Orris
Robin Rose
Jules Swanson

Elena Tillis
Gayle Weltmann

Luncheon Meetings

We love our Luncheons! With friends, interesting programs, and delicious food, who wants to miss one of these luncheon meetings.

Please, **no denim** and you may want to bring a sweater. **No outside food or beverages are allowed.**

January Luncheon Thursday, January 16, 2025

College of Central Florida

Charles S. Dean, Sr. Educational Center
3800 S. Lecanto Highway
Lecanto, FL 34461-9026

DOORS OPEN AT 10:30

Sign Up Deadline – 1/9/25

By 4 PM

Cost \$28 / \$33

Rolls w/ Butter
Green Salad
Chicken Florentine
Beef Tenderloin
Roasted Asparagus
Pasta Alfredo Sauce

Dessert – Cobbler Cherry w/ Whipped Cream

Beverage Bar – Coffee & Ice Tea, Water

February Luncheon Thursday, February 20, 2025

College of Central Florida

Charles S. Dean, Sr. Educational Center
3800 S. Lecanto Highway
Lecanto, FL 34461-9026

DOORS OPEN AT 10:30

Sign Up Deadline – 2/13/25

By 4 PM

Cost \$28 / \$33

Rolls w/ Butter
Mixed Salad – **Served Family Style**
Gourmet Affair Chicken Cordon Bleu
Rosemary Roasted Pork Tenderloin
Rice Pilaf
Ginger Glazed Carrots

Dessert: Chocolate Cake

Beverage Bar – Coffee & Ice Tea, Water

Reservation and Cancellation Policy:

A reservation is confirmed once your check has been received.

Cancellations:

Cancellations may be made by the Thursday prior to the luncheon date. In such cases, your check will be returned or voided. If a cancellation is made after the deadline, you will forfeit your luncheon payment.

For cancellations, please contact Barbara Greco at 862-293-0339 or bgreco519@gmail.com.

Please do not send a friend in your place—your meal is non-transferable. No-shows will forfeit luncheon payments and meals. Walk-ins are not allowed, and we cannot guarantee seating without a reservation.

PAYMENT REMINDER

Checks must be made payable to:

CITRUS NEWCOMERS CLUB or CNC – The check must include the name of the person attending the luncheon. If paying for an additional member/guest, please provide their name on the memo line. Also, please designate your choice of cold or hot food, as well as any special dietary requirements.

January - Members \$28, Guests \$33
February – Members \$28, Guests \$33

Mail your check to:

Barbara Greco
519 West Olympia Street
Hernando, FL 34442
862-293-0339

For more information contact
bgreco519@gmail.com

SHARE THE WEALTH

Tickets on sale at the luncheons. **7 tickets for \$5.00.** If you buy **\$10.00's worth**, you will be asked to fill out a card with your name and phone number. This raffle will be drawn at the April Fashion Show luncheon and you will receive a Gift Certificate towards clothes.

If your ticket wins Share the Wealth, we ask you to come up to the podium to receive your winnings and take a picture,

January Luncheon

Book – “It was meant to be” - A story of Hope

Let's Celebrate the New Year - Meant to be a story of Hope

Roslyn Franken Author& Presenter

Meant to be is a true story Might, Miracles and Triumph of the Human Spirit.

Roslyn, Is passionate about sharing her parents story and the lessons it holds for audiences of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. It aims to inspire and educate us as listeners. For us, it is a story not to be missed.

February Luncheon

Manatees – Have you ever wanted to hug one?

Speaker: Rhonda Looper

NEW MEMBERS

To all members:

You will notice a new color name tag at the November luncheon. This name tag will represent *new* members that have been or are being introduced at a 2024-2025 luncheon. The color of the name tag will be **salmon**. The new members will have this color name tag for the membership year. At the end of the year, the name tag will change to white.

The different color name tag will identify new members and give you the opportunity to get to know them and make them feel welcomed. It will also give you the opportunity to help them get to know other members and to help them however you can.

ACTIVITIES

You must pay by check, made out to CNC (Citrus Newcomers Club.) You do not have a reservation until your check is received. There will be a sign-up table at all luncheons and details of activities will be listed in the monthly newsletter, or sent out by e-blast, so you can sign up by mail. Members are accommodated before guests. No refunds. Dinner and Lunch Bunch participants must deposit a \$10.00 check, refundable if they attend.

DO NOT DELAY SIGNING UP. IF INTERESTED IN AN ACTIVITY, CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Please consider carpooling to these activities – share the ride and share the cost.

ACTIVITY	DATE	CONTACT	COST	COMMENTS
Ybor City Trip	Thursday, January 9th	Eileen Gross styhom@yahoo.com	\$97	Cheesemaking & Columbia Restaurant WAIT LIST
Dinner Bunch	Wednesday, January 15 6:00 pm	Eileen Schweitzer by text to 631- 680-9884 or email Bulldogger_99@yahoo.com		La Pergola Restaurant

Jersey Boys	Saturday, January 25 th Noon	Chris Alte ctkaltnewcomers@yahoo.com 352-228-4218	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson SOLD OUT
Lunch Bunch	Thursday, January 30 th 12:30 pm	Ruthie Merk and Susan Beck Rmerk8@tampabay.rr.com Suziebeck88@gmail.com		El Mezcal Restaurant Homosassa
Tampa Bay Downs	Friday, February 7th	Carolyn Moss Ckmoss43@gmail.com	\$38	Self-Drive
Phil Collins Tribute	Saturday, March 1st, Noon	Lisa Kenna lkennanewcomers@gmail.com 352-339-6915	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson SOLD OUT
Ybor City Trip #2	Thursday, March 6th	Cathy Herman (sign up at January Luncheon)	\$97	Cheesemaking & Columbia Restaurant
Waitress the Musical	Saturday, March 15 th Noon	Chris Alte ctkaltnewcomers@yahoo.com 352-228-4218	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
Starlight Majesty Dinner Cruise	Friday, March 21st	Chris Harvey Chrisharvey70@gmail.com	\$98	Bus trip, cruise goes out of Clearwater WAIT LIST
My Fair Lady	Saturday, April 26 th Noon	Chris Alte ctkaltnewcomers@yahoo.com 352-228-4218	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
Earth Wind & Fire Tribute	Saturday, May 24, Noon	Lisa Kenna lkennanewcomers@gmail.com 352-339-6915	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson

What's coming up?

- News on the **Newcomers Wine Group**: Jean Summers is spearheading the standup of the wine appreciation group for Newcomers. If you are interested in this group, please **SIGN UP** at the January luncheon. We are exploring different venues for wine tasting events. In the meantime, we will query the people who sign up to see where their interests lie to help guide the group's direction. We also need a name for the group. I'm suggesting **Oenthusiastic Oenophiles**, purely for the alliterative charm. Other suggestions welcome.
- **Date TBD, springtime**: Visit the **Clydesdale horses at Grandview Clydesdales in Dunnellon!** Meet some of these magnificent horses and learn how they are bred, raised and trained; watch them being outfitted to take part in a "hitch" pulling a wagon; have photos taken with the horses. (Lisa Kenna)

Further Out:

- Probably **March or April 2025**: Bus trip to **Tarpon Springs, boat cruise, probably Greek food someplace.** (Eileen MacKrell & Carolyn Moss)
- **March 6, 2025** Lunch at **Colombia Restaurant** in Ybor City, visit cheesemaking facility nearby to make your own mozzarella cheese. Sign-ups at January Luncheon. **This is a repeat of the January 9th trip** due to the enthusiastic response to the first one. (Cathy Herman)
- Our plans for an overnight self-drive trip to **Ringling Museums** in Sarasota are pending due to damage from the recent hurricanes in the area. More to follow. (Aileen Scharl, Jean Summers, & Anita Bullard)
- **Spring 2025** Bus trip to **Bok Tower Gardens, Pinewood Estate**
- **Spring 2025** Bus trip to **John's Pass Village** and **Boardwalk** and **Mazzaro's** Italian market

- Probably **April 2025 Scavenger Hunt** all over Citrus County!!!
- **May 2025 Mother's Day Symphony Under the Stars**, Ocala

Finally: if you found a great new place to visit over the holidays and think it might be something the Newcomers would like to visit, let me know! We are always interested in exploring new locations for possible trips. You can reach me at emackrell@hotmail.com

Kayaking Schedule for the Year

DAY	DATE	TIME	LAUNCH SITE	RIVER RATING	Approx. Paddle Time	Make up Day
Monday	1/20/2025	9am	Chassahowitzka-Manatee viewing paddle	B/I	2-2.5	1/22/2024
Monday	2/17/2025	9am	Rainbow River-KP Hole to Head Springs	B	2-2.5	2/19/2025
Monday	3/17/2025	9am	Potts Preserve	B/I	2-2.5	3/19/2025
Monday	4/21/2025	9am	Bennett's Creek-Yankeetown	I/C	3+	4/23/2025
Monday	5/19/2025	9am	Ozello Tour at Pirates Cove	I/C	2-2.5	5/21/2025
Monday	6/16/2025	9am	Waccassasa River-Inglis	B/I	2-2.5	6/18/2025

River Ratings: Beginner/Intermediate/Challenging

Duration for most paddles is 2-2.5 hours with breaks as needed. Bennet Creek is a 3hr paddle.

If a paddle is cancelled, the make-up day will be the following Wednesday

Contact Lina Argote for more info or to request an outing. inacpa@tampabay.rr.com Mobile: 954-551-0123

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Canasta

The new Canasta group will meet **every** Tuesday at the College of Central Florida Library, from 2:00-5:00. Call or text Eileen at 207-286-7226 if you're interested in learning to play this fun game.

Beading with Friends will not meet for the month of January, but will start up again in February.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st week of the month		Game "night" (Co-ed) 2:00-4:00 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Linda Belanger</i> 860-518-1613	Mexican Train 11:00-2:30 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Barbara Fincher</i> 615-406-4598		
		Canasta 2:00 – 5:00 College of Central Florida, 3800 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto Eileen Gross 207-286-7226 Marlene Costa 914-388-4013	10,000 Dice Game 1:00 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hernando <i>Linda Todd</i> 407-252-6172 <i>Ann Serafin</i> 973-713-2528 \$5.00	Murder & Munchies Book Club II 1:15-3:00 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Marilyn Felmer</i> <i>Marilynfelmer861@gmail.com</i>	Pinochle 1:00-3:30 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Barbara Pankosky</i> 352-270-8013
				Wine & Dine Book Club 4:00 In people's homes <i>Michelle Seith</i> 301-335-0866	
2nd week of the month	Mahjong Players 1:30 At Pam Depew's home in Citrus Hills <i>Pam Depew</i> 352-249-7031 \$3.00	Canasta 2:00 – 5:00 College of Central Florida, 3800 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto Eileen Gross 207-286-7226 Marlene Costa 914-388-4013		Bunco Afternoon 3:00 At Pam Depew's home in Citrus Hills <i>Pam Depew</i> 352-249-7031 \$5.00	Murder & Munchies Book Club 1:00-3:00 In people's homes <i>Carolyn Moss</i> 352-746-6445
3rd week of the month	Kayaking Typically morning launch, followed by optional lunch. Paddle locations vary by month <i>Lina Argote</i> 954-551-0123 \$50.00 per single kayak	Bunco 2.0 10:00-12:00 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Kathy Kuehn</i> 908-619-2956 <i>Renee Bullard</i> 850-712-2383 \$5.00		CNC Luncheon <i>Location varies; Doors Open at 10:30; Business Meeting begins at 12:30</i>	Rummikub 10:30-12:30 Central Citrus Community Center Lecanto <i>Kathy Kuehn</i> 908-619-2956 <i>Barbara Fincher</i> 615-406-4598 <i>Marcia Schunemann</i> 845-224-4042
		Canasta 2:00 – 5:00 College of Central Florida, 3800 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto Eileen Gross 207-286-7226 Marlene Costa 914-388-4013			
4th week of the month	Mahjong Players 1:30 At Pam Depew's home in Citrus Hills (Note: last week of the month) <i>Pam Depew</i> 352-249-7031 \$3.00		Garden Goddesses Typically, 10:30-12:00, followed by optional lunch. Locations vary, depending on the topic of the month. <i>Lori Priselac</i> 352-586-2828 <i>Cathy Hickman</i> 952-913-6074	CCNC Book Club 1:30 Lakes Regional Library Druid Road, Inverness <i>Judy Herron</i> 352-860-0232	

