



February 2025



the NEWSCOMER

CITRUS NEWCOMERS CLUB

◀ The President's Message ▶

I've lived in Florida, or spent winter here, since 1996. I don't ever remember a winter with such a long cold spell. It is so funny to go to a store and you know immediately who is from the North and only visiting, as they are in shorts and tee shirts. I may have spent more than half of my life in the North but I've given in to the cold since then. Quite frankly, the grocery stores are so cold that you need a coat in them for most of the year. I do refrain from wearing a hat and gloves, however.

I think that one of the differences is that "really cold" in the North means very dry air. Here, cold usually is accompanied by dampness that soaks right in to your bones. And, don't get me started about tile floors and their properties in the cold weather. The cold just radiates up through the slabs and tiles. You can feel the temperature drop as you go into a tiled room.

I made sure to use the relative warmth on Friday and Saturday after our January luncheon for checking out my landscaping. I pulled a few weeds and filled a few squirrel diggings. I assume I'll have a few more frost results to cut out when winter is over.

Isn't that the way with life? You take the worst of each season of your life and make the most of it all. You enjoy the best that is given to you with pleasure, you cope with all that is thrown at you, you take what you've learned as you go and try to apply it to the next phase of your life. We try to manage the weeds, get rid of them and enjoy the blooms when they occur. If we're wise and brave, we are willing to discard the frosted parts.

If you were present at the January luncheon, you will recognize my more simplistic version as the same lesson our speaker, Roslyn Franken, gave us. Her parents' challenges of WWII were so extremely difficult that we will hopefully never encounter such hardships, but the lessons are always the same. Don't let life run you over and persuade you that you can't prevail. Keep believing that life can get better, that there is good in the world and that kindness and brotherly love can carry you on.

Please join me in welcoming our new members.

Janet Amati
Lori Burke

Marlene Costa
Maureen Luiszer

Annabelle Marchello
Lucy Rios

Maria Vasichek

Bonnie Groves
President
jabongro@gmail.com

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.**

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

March Luncheon Thursday, March 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 – 3/13/25

By 4 PM

Cost \$28 / \$33

Mixed Salad – Family Style
Rolls w/ Butter
Chicken Marsala
Pork Scaloppini
Scalloped potato
Peas & Pearl onions

Dessert – Carrot 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.

February - Members \$28, Guests \$33

March – 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,

February Luncheon

Hug, a Manatee, Rhonda Williams is a speaker and volunteer at Crystal River Wildlife Refuge Program. The Florida Manatee population has grown to a minimum of 8,350 animals today. As a result, the species was reclassified from endangered to threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act in May 2017. Rhonda and the volunteers work hard to keep these wonderful animals safe. Learn how you can help with this inspiring program by hugging a manatee.

March Luncheon

Photography in the Wild. Gary Kuhl is an award-winning photographer who displays his work at the Franklin Anderson Gallery of Arts in Crystal River. He photographs wildlife in Florida and other areas. If you want to take a picture of a bird, butterfly, or something in the wild, ask Gary; he will be sharing his secrets.

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
Glass class: Make a Nightlight	Tuesday, Feb. 4th; Monday, Feb. 10 th , Monday, Feb 17 th , Tuesday, Feb 25th	Eileen MacKrell emackrell@hotmail.com	\$30	Filling Fast!!!!
Dinner Bunch	Wednesday, February 12 th 6 pm	Eileen Schweitzer by text to 631- 680-9884 or Bulldogger_99@yahoo.com		Stumpknockers on the Square, Inverness
Tampa Bay Downs	Friday, February 7th	Carolyn Moss Ckmoss43@gmail.com	\$38	Self-Drive

Clydesdales #1	Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 1:30 PM	Lisa Kenna kennanewcomers@gmail.com 352-339-6915	\$50.85	Visit/tour, meet horses, optional lunch before visit WAIT LIST
Lunch bunch	Thursday, February 27 th 12:30 pm	Ruthie Merk and Sue Beck rmerk8@tampabay.rr.com suziebeck88@gmail.com		Wallace's at the Greenhouse
Ybor City Trip #2	Thursday, March 6th	Cathy Herman	\$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 WAIT LIST
Clydesdales #2	Tuesday, March 18 th 1:30 pm	Lisa Kenna kennanewcomers@gmail.com 352-339-6915	\$50.85	Visit/tour, meet horses, optional lunch before visit
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
Tarpon Springs Bus/Boat Trip	Wednesday, April 2nd	Eileen MacKrell emackrell@hotmail.com	\$70	Includes boat trip to Anclote Island
Selby Gardens Bus Trip	Tuesday, April 8th	Jean Summers	\$130	Includes lunch and tour at the garden
My Fair Lady	Saturday, April 26th	Chris Alte ctkaltnewcomers@yahoo.com 352-228-4218	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
Earth Wind & Fire Tribute	Saturday, May 24, Noon	Lisa Kenna kennanewcomers@gmail.com 352-339-6915	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson

What's coming up?

A new season of dinner theater! Chris Alte is working with the Hudson to book tickets for several shows this year. Here is what we are looking at for the coming year:

1) GREASE, requesting either Oct. 18th, 2025 or Oct 25th, 2025.

The world's best-loved musical is back! The original rock'n'roll musical, GREASE is packed with explosive energy and a vibrant 1950's pop culture, featuring all the unforgettable songs from the hit movie including "You're the One That I Want," "Summer Nights," "Hopelessly Devoted to You," "Sandy," "Greased Lightnin'," and many more.

2) MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET CHRISTMAS, Nov. 15 or 22nd, 2025

Celebrate the holiday season with a rockin' twist in Million Dollar Quartet Christmas! Based on the true story of the legendary December night when Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins came together for an unforgettable jam session. Million Dollar Quartet smashed box office records with its 2019 debut at Suncoast Broadway. Now, the boys are back with a re-imagined follow-up combining timeless rock 'n' roll tunes paired with holiday favorites like "Run Rudolph Run," "Blue Christmas" and so many more!

3) NEW SHOW, To be announced March 15th. because it is still touring the country. Jan. 17th, 2026

It's so new and exciting that its award-winning original Broadway production is still touring the nation. In order to secure this premiere production, we can't reveal the title until March 15th, but you can add it to your season and secure your favorite seats today!

4) MISS SAIGON, March 14th, 2026

From the creators of *Les Misérables* comes the breathtaking musical *Miss Saigon*, a powerful tale of love and sacrifice set during the Vietnam War. Winner of three Tony Awards, this critically acclaimed production has captivated audiences worldwide with its sweeping score, spectacular visuals, and emotionally charged story. Step into a powerful tale of love, loss, and resilience set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War as you follow the journey of Kim, a young Vietnamese woman, and Chris, an American soldier, navigating the turmoil of war and the depths of human connection.

5) ROCK OF AGES, April 25th, 2026

It's Broadway's biggest party! Get ready to rock through an electrifying journey back to the epic era of '80s rock! ROCK OF AGES is a high-octane, nostalgia-packed musical that guarantees a thrilling and hilarious ride filled with iconic 80's radio hits, larger-than-life characters, and non-stop energy. Set on L.A.'s iconic Sunset Strip, this electrifying musical follows the story of a small-town girl, a big-city dreamer, and their fight to save the legendary rock club they love.

And in non-theater happenings, we have:

- **Bus trip to Selby Gardens in Sarasota**, 08 April 2025. Visit a beautiful oceanfront garden which specializes in orchids and air plants. Trip includes a walking tour through the Gardens, an excellent lunch in the Green Orchid Garden restaurant and an exhibition of George Harrison's gardening life (yes, THAT George Harrison). Signups at the February luncheon. (Jean Summers)
- **Newcomers Wine Group**: If you signed up, you already received a survey to solicit your desires for the group's activities. **FILL IT OUT!** More to follow. (Jean Summers)
- The CNC trip to the Phil Collins tribute concert was cancelled due to lack of interest.
- **Elements (Earth Wind and Fire tribute concert) is Saturday 24 May**. Signups available now.
- **Resin classes by Eileen Gross** now taking signups! Classes are on 6 Feb, 12 Feb, 24 Feb and 26 Feb.
- **Bus trip to Sunken Gardens in St Petersburg and Mazzarro's Italian Market** is in the works for this spring. Eileen Gross is leading this trip to another gorgeous garden, with a stop at a humongous Italian food market (think pastries, coffee, pasta, wine, bread, GELATO) afterwards. Signups soon!
- **Glass classes by Eileen MacKrell** are on 4, 10, 17 and 25 Feb to make a nightlight with a "seasonal tree" – a tree in spring, summer, fall or winter colors. A few seats remain – contact Eileen to sign up.
- **Bus trip to Tarpon Springs**, 02 April 2025. Visit the Greek-heritage coastal town of Tarpon Springs. Includes a two-hour narrated ecotour by boat into the Gulf to Anclote Island, a great spot to look for shells or look at birds. Lunch on your own - there are several good Greek restaurants in town and plenty of other options as well. Not to mention you just may be able to buy a natural sponge or two...
- **Grandview Clydesdales** will be February 18th and March 18th (second date added to accommodate high demand). Feb 18th is currently sold out and waitlisted, but the March 18th date still has room. Tour starts at 1:30pm both days. For those interested in lunch prior to the tour will be having lunch at Front Porch Restaurant in Dunnellon. Please email Lisa Kenna if you want to join for lunch and/or interested in carpooling.

Further Out:

- We've moved the bus trip to **Bok Tower Gardens, Pinewood Estate** to the fall, so as to enjoy the holiday lighting and décor there.
- Bus trip to **John's Pass Village and Boardwalk** and **Mazzaro's** Italian market also moved to fall 2025
- Probably **April 2025 Scavenger Hunt** all over Citrus County!!!

- **May 2025 Mother’s Day Symphony Under the Stars**, Ocala
- **Horseback Riding...Eileen Gross is organizing a casual riding day near here.** Date TBD, contact her if you are interested.

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	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

Beading with Friends will resume this month, on Thursday, February 6th and Friday, February 7th.

We've added the **Lunch Bunch** and **Dinner Bunch** to the Special Interest Group schedule, merely as a convenience, so members can more easily manage their calendars. The information on the restaurant destination each month will continue to be under the **Activities** section of this newsletter.

Groups with random schedules:

Couples Home Supper Club - We share meals in members' homes. Each group of 3 couples determines the date, time, and place for suppers. Cyndi Sheftel 860-541-1795.

Singles Group – Meet other Newcomers to attend activities, game nights, lunches and more. Bonnie Groves 352-527-3577

Pinochle or Mahjong Lessons – at Chris Harvey's home. Chris Harvey 352-228-9501

Group Coordinator: *Linda Belanger 860-518-1613*

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	Beading & Jewelry 1:00-3:00 Jan Bauer's home Pine Ridge <i>Jan Bauer</i> 352-249-7543 \$5.00	Beading & Jewelry 1:00-3:00 Jan Bauer's home Pine Ridge <i>Jan Bauer</i> 352-249-7543 \$5.00
		Canasta 2:00 – 5:00 College of Central Florida, 3800 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto Eileen Gross 207-286-7226 Marlene Costa 914-388-4013	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 9:15-11:30 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Kathy Kuehn</i> 908-619-2956 <i>Renee Bullard</i> 850-712-2383 \$5.00	Dinner Bunch 6:00 Dinner at area restaurants Eileen Schweitzer Text to 631-680-9884 or Bulldogger_99@yahoo.com	CNC Luncheon <i>Location varies;</i> <i>Doors Open at 10:30;</i> <i>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	Canasta 2:00 – 5:00 College of Central Florida, 3800 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto Eileen Gross 207-286-7226 Marlene Costa 914-388-4013	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	Lunch Bunch Lunch at area restaurants Sue Beck 631-484-0089 <i>Suziebeck88@gmail.com</i> Ruthie Merk 352-341-1731	

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership form for the 2024-2025 membership year is available on our website at www.citrusnewcomers.org under the "Join" tab.

Also, you can view the up-to-date Membership Directory under the "Meet Us" tab. The Directory requires a password that has been previously sent out by email. If you do not have the password, please contact Membership VP Lorie Miller at loriesmiller@gmail.com. In addition to viewing the Membership Directory on our website, a printable PDF of our directory is emailed to members once a month. **IMPORTANT: Please share the Password with current Club Members only. Our directory is not to be used for other organizations, businesses, or solicitation purposes**

Please contact Cathy Schafer, Asst. Corresponding Secretary at 352-586-6875 or sunshineladynewcomers@gmail.com if you know of a member who is ill, recuperating, etc.

Cathy would be happy to send them a card from the club.

Citrus Newcomers Club on Facebook

The Citrus Newcomers Club Facebook page is a closed group. Everyone on Facebook can see the group name and members, but only group members can see posts in the group. The site administrator must approve all requests to join. Check us out on Facebook. For more information, contact Cathy Uvanni at citrusnewcomersfacebook@gmail.com



Website: www.citrusnewcomers.org

Editor: Cathy Uvanni at citrusnewcomersfacebook@gmail.com

