



**April 2025**



# *the* NEWSCOMER

**CITRUS NEWCOMERS CLUB**

## ◀ The President's Message ▶

A few years ago, I wrote my monthly letter based on a book by Malcolm Campbell called "Talking to Strangers." Contrary to what the title may suggest, it was not about how to talk to strangers. Rather, the premise was that conversations always have several perspectives, from the listeners and the speakers. The problem lies in between where each side thinks the other side understands what they are saying. It's similar to a game we all played as children, "Telephone," where you whisper in something in your neighbor's ear, it is passed along to the next person and at the end, when the last listener says what is supposed to be the original message, it has no resemblance whatsoever.

So, we battle our way through perspectives, expectations and plain lies, hoping to find the truth. And, as I reread that first paragraph, I realize that children probably no longer play "Telephone" so how do they learn that lesson of everything you hear is not accurate. What a terrible lesson to miss! No wonder we have wars and ceasefires are so fragile. Now, how does that apply to the Newcomers Club?

We are a club of almost 400 members. Some of you come to luncheons regularly and enjoy our programs and the camaraderie, some of you just join so you can participate in special interest groups or activities. We are happy with both types of members. Everyone needs to choose what they need and expect, according to their own perspective. If you're not happy, the board isn't happy. We just ask that you help us work to make the club better meet your expectations. If we fail to meet your expectations, please contact one of the board members and we will see what we can do to correct the situation.

In closing, I usually ask that you join me in welcoming new members. Today, I want to thank you for your food drive efforts and I'm asking that you join me in thanking the members who came out to the lobby at March's luncheon and helped to get all our food donations into the Blessings truck. There was a lovely lady who was attending as a guest. She walked in from the parking lot with me and I told her to put her donations on the cart sitting by the column. She asked if I wanted her to stay there with the cart and help with other donations. There she remained, working right up until the members were all in. What an asset to the Club! I sure hope she follows through with her membership.

Please join me in welcoming our new members.

Michelle Coan

Mary Ann Gilfillan

Melanie Andrews

Bonnie Groves  
President

[jabongro@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## April Luncheon Thursday, April 17, 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 – 4/10/25**  
**By 4 PM**  
**Cost \$28 / \$33**

Pre-set Rolls w/ Butter (on tables)  
Summer Salad (Mixed Greens, Strawberries,  
Blueberries, Sugared Walnuts, Feta)  
Parmesan Crusted Chicken  
Beef Brisket  
Oven Roasted Potatoes  
Roasted Seasonal Vegetables

**Dessert:** Key Lime Pie

**Beverage Bar** – Coffee & Ice Tea, Water

## May Luncheon (Last of the year) Thursday, May 22, 2025

### Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club

505 E Hartford St,  
Hernando, FL 34442  
DOORS OPEN AT 10:30

**Sign Up Deadline – 5/15/25**  
**By 4 PM**  
**Cost \$28 / \$33**

#### Hot Meal

Salad – Mixed Salad  
Chicken Piccata **or**  
Broiled Salmon with a Lemon Dill Sauce  
Green Beans Almondine  
Oven Roasted Potatoes

#### Cold Meal

Tomato Soup  
Club Wrap w/ Potato Salad

**Dessert:** Chocolate Overload Cake with whipped cream

**Beverage Bar** – Coffee, 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](mailto: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.

**April - Members \$28, Guests \$33**  
**May – 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](mailto:bgreco519@gmail.com)



## FEELING LUCKY?

NOTHING TO BUY.  
NOTHING TO GUESS.  
NOTHING TO DO—except attend BOTH the April and May luncheons!

### What's the prize?



One lucky member will **win their 2025-2026 membership dues!** (A \$30 value)

#### FINE PRINT:



Must attend **both** the April and May luncheons.



If dues have already been paid, the treasurer will issue a refund.



Prize is **non-transferable**.



**Drawing will be held at the close of the May luncheon. Must be present to win!**

Don't miss out—join us for great company, delicious food, and a chance to win!

## 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,**

## April Luncheon

**Cotton Club - Betsy Brims Spring Fashion Show.** Everyone feels good when Spring starts, that is why fashion is so much fun. Pick out that cute outfit or a statement piece like a bracelet, necklace, or cute bag. Come and see what's new in fashion. Cotton Club has something for everyone. Join us and have some fun. **Members attending, please try to wear black, white or pink in keeping with the Parsian theme.**

**May Luncheon – Steve Howard -Citrus County Administrator** – Steve will discuss what is going on with the county and the projected growth over the next 5 years. Everyone has questions, and he will provide some of those answers. The May meeting should be stimulating. Come and learn what's new.

## 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
<b>Tarpon Springs Bus/Boat Trip</b>	Wednesday, April 2nd	Eileen MacKrell <a href="mailto:emackrell@hotmail.com">emackrell@hotmail.com</a>	\$70	Includes boat trip to Anclote Island <b>WAIT LIST</b>
<b>Dinner Bunch</b>	Wednesday, April 9th	Eileen Schweitzer by text to 631-680-9884 or <a href="mailto:Bulldogger_99@yahoo.com">Bulldogger_99@yahoo.com</a>		Sauced Hogs
<b>My Fair Lady</b>	Saturday, April 26 <sup>th</sup> 12:00	Chris Alte <a href="mailto:ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com">ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com</a> 352-228-4218	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
<b>Lunch Bunch</b>	Thursday, May 1 <sup>st</sup> (yes May) 12:30	Ruthie Merk and Sue Beck <a href="mailto:Rmerk8@tampabay.rr.com">Rmerk8@tampabay.rr.com</a> <a href="mailto:Suziebeck88@gmail.com">Suziebeck88@gmail.com</a>		Sammy's, Ocala
<b>Symphony Under the Stars</b>	Sunday, May 11th	Eileen Gross	\$20	Buy tix online, meet at Ocala Golf Club
<b>John's Pass &amp; Mazzaro's Mkt</b>	Wednesday, May 21st	Eileen MacKrell <a href="mailto:emackrell@hotmail.com">emackrell@hotmail.com</a>	\$45	Bus Trip
<b>Earth Wind &amp; Fire Tribute</b>	Saturday, May 24, 12:00	Lisa Kenna <a href="mailto:lkennanewcomers@gmail.com">lkennanewcomers@gmail.com</a> 352-339-6915	\$64	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
<b>Grease</b>	Saturday, October 18th	Chris Alte <a href="mailto:ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com">ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com</a> 352-228-4218	\$69	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
<b>Million Dollar Quartet Christmas</b>	Saturday, November 15th	Chris Alte <a href="mailto:ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com">ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com</a> 352-228-4218	\$69	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
<b>Come From Away</b>	Saturday, January 17, 2026	Chris Alte <a href="mailto:ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com">ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com</a> 352-228-4218	\$69	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
<b>Miss Saigon</b>	Saturday, March 14, 2026	Chris Alte <a href="mailto:ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com">ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com</a> 352-228-4218	\$69	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
<b>Rock of Ages</b>	Saturday, April 25, 2026	Chris Alte <a href="mailto:ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com">ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com</a> 352-228-4218	\$69	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson
<b>Beach Boys Tribute</b>	Saturday, May 23, 2026	Chris Alte <a href="mailto:ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com">ctkaltenevcomers@yahoo.com</a> 352-228-4218	\$69	Suncoast Broadway Dinner Theater Hudson

### What's coming up?

A new season of dinner theater! Contact Chris Alte for tickets to the following:

**Grease is on Saturday, October 18th, 2025, 12 noon.** 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.

**Million Dollar Quartet Christmas is on Saturday, November 15th, 2025, 12 noon.** 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

**Saigon is on Saturday, March 14th, 2026, 12 noon.** 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.

**Rock of Ages is on Saturday, April 25th, 2026, 12 noon.** 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. Feel the pulse-pounding beats and sing along to the anthems of bands like Journey, Bon Jovi, and REO Speedwagon Styx, Whitesnake and more!

### Two new theater events:

**Come From Away on Saturday 17 January 2026, 12 noon.** This is a Best Musical winner all across North America! This *New York Times* Critics' Pick takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 airline passengers stranded in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships.

**Beach Boys Tribute Concert: Saturday, 23 May 2026, 12 noon.** Get ready for a trip to the California coast with **SAIL ON: THE BEACH BOYS TRIBUTE!** This Suncoast Broadway audience favorite group brings the timeless music of The Beach Boys to life with spot-on harmonies, authentic instrumentation, and the infectious energy that made the original band a global sensation. From "Good Vibrations" to "Surfin' USA", "California Girls", and "Wouldn't It Be Nice", SAIL ON delivers all the unforgettable hits that defined the sound of summer. With a deep respect for the original recordings, their performances transport audiences back to the golden age of surf rock. Feel the nostalgia, sing along, and relive the magic of these classic songs in a show that truly celebrates the ultimate soundtrack of an endless summer.

### And in non-theater happenings, we have:

- **Bus trip to Tarpon Springs**, 02 April 2025. Currently waitlisted.
- Bus trip to **John's Pass Village** and **Boardwalk** and **Mazzaro's** Italian market is on Wed 21 May. Enjoy the shopping and grazing opportunities along the boardwalk of John's Pass, then load up on Italian meats, deli items, pastries, bread, wine, etc at Mazzaro's. Bring a cooler and fill it up! Contact Eileen MacKrell to join the waitlist.
- **Symphony Under the Stars:** On Mother's Day, 11 May 2025, come up to Ocala Golf Club for an open-air concert and fireworks! Music runs from 3:00 through 9:00 PM, with fireworks starting at 8:45 PM. There will be food trucks there, or you can bring a cooler with food and drink. Buy your tickets online and look for the American flag banner at the concert to meet up with the Newcomers group.
- **Elements (Earth Wind and Fire tribute concert) is Saturday 24 May.** Contact Chris Alte to sign up.

### **Further Out:**

- We're planning events and bus trips now for fall 2025 and spring 2026. Probable bus trips include **Bok Tower Gardens, Pinewood Estate; Sunken Gardens in St Petersburg and Mazzarro's Italian Market; Selby Gardens** (but probably without the lunch).
- Others on the shortlist that might get added to the schedule: **the Giraffe Ranch, the Amish community in Pinecraft**, down near Sarasota, the **lantern festival** in Sanford.
- **Scavenger Hunt** all over Citrus County, in Oct to link with Hallowe'en, date TBD.

We are always interested in exploring new locations for possible trips. You can reach me at [emackrell@hotmail.com](mailto:emackrell@hotmail.com).

### **Special Interest Group Highlights**

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#### **Canasta players, take note!!!**

#### **Starting in April, the Canasta group will meet at a new location!**

The group will meet at the **Central Ridge Library, 425 Roosevelt Blvd, Beverly Hills, FL from 1:00-4:00.**

Join us for this fun and challenging game. If you don't know how to play, they will teach you.

**Pour Choices wine group event:** Join us for **The Great Grape Tasting on Tuesday April 29th from 4-6 PM** at The Wine Shop & Wine Bar in Crystal River. We'll sample seven different wines, exploring the nuances between Cabernet, Merlot, Zinfandel, and other delicious varietals. A tasty charcuterie board will be available to enjoy alongside the wines. **Cost:** \$25 per person

**RSVP to Jean Summers** - [jesummers142@gmail.com](mailto:jesummers142@gmail.com)

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1st week of the month</b>		<b>Game "night" (Co-ed)</b> 2:00-4:00 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Linda Belanger</i> 860-518-1613	<b>Mexican Train</b> 11:00-2:30 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Barbara Fincher</i> 615-406-4598	<b>Beading &amp; Jewelry</b> 1:00-3:00 Jan Bauer's home Pine Ridge <i>Jan Bauer</i> 352-249-7543 <b>\$5.00</b>	<b>Beading &amp; Jewelry</b> 1:00-3:00 Jan Bauer's home Pine Ridge <i>Jan Bauer</i> 352-249-7543 <b>\$5.00</b>
		<b>Canasta</b> 1:00-4:00 Central Ridge Library, Beverly Hills <i>Eileen Gross</i> 207-286-7226 <i>Marlene Costa</i> 914-388-4013	<b>10,000 Dice Game</b> 1:00 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hernando <i>Linda Todd</i> 407-252-6172 <i>Ann Serafin</i> 973-713-2528 <b>\$5.00</b>	<b>Murder &amp; Munchies Book Club II</b> 1:15-3:00 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Marilyn Felmer</i> <i>MarilynFelmer861@gmail.com</i>	<b>Pinochle</b> 1:00-3:30 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Barbara Pankosky</i> 352-270-8013
				<b>Wine &amp; Dine Book Club</b> 4:00 In people's homes <i>Michelle Seith</i> 301-335-0866	
<b>2nd week of the month</b>	<b>Mahjong Players</b> 1:30 At Pam Depew's home in Citrus Hills <i>Pam Depew</i> 352-249-7031 <b>\$3.00</b>	<b>Canasta</b> 1:00-4:00 Central Ridge Library, Beverly Hills <i>Eileen Gross</i> 207-286-7226 <i>Marlene Costa</i> 914-388-4013	<b>Dinner Bunch</b> 6:00 Dinner at area restaurants <i>Eileen Schweitzer</i> <i>text to 631-680-9884 or email to Bulldogger_99@yahoo.com</i>	<b>Bunco Afternoon</b> 3:00 At Pam Depew's home in Citrus Hills <i>Pam Depew</i> 352-249-7031 <b>\$5.00</b>	<b>Murder &amp; Munchies Book Club</b> 1:00-3:00 In people's homes <i>Carolyn Moss</i> 352-746-6445
<b>3rd week of the month</b>	<b>Kayaking</b> Typically morning launch, followed by optional lunch. Paddle locations vary by month <i>Lina Argote</i> 954-551-0123 <b>\$50.00 per single kayak</b>	<b>Bunco 2.0</b> 9:15 - 11:30 Central Citrus Community Center, Lecanto <i>Kathy Kuehn</i> 908-619-2956 <i>Renee Bullard</i> 850-712-2383 <b>\$5.00</b>		***** <b>CNC Luncheon</b> <i>Location varies;</i> <i>Doors Open at 10:30;</i> <i>Business Meeting begins at 12:30</i> *****	<b>Rummikub</b> 10:15-12:30 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
		<b>Canasta</b> 1:00-4:00 Central Ridge Library, Beverly Hills <i>Eileen Gross</i> 207-286-7226 <i>Marlene Costa</i> 914-388-4013			
<b>4th week of the month</b>	<b>Mahjong Players</b> 1:30 At Pam Depew's home in Citrus Hills <b>(Note: last week of the month)</b> <i>Pam Depew</i> 352-249-7031 <b>\$3.00</b>	<b>Canasta</b> 1:00-4:00 Central Ridge Library, Beverly Hills <i>Eileen Gross</i> 207-286-7226 <i>Marlene Costa</i> 914-388-4013	<b>Garden Goddesses</b> 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	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> Lunch at area restaurants <i>Sue Beck</i> 631-484-0089 <a href="mailto:SuzieBeck88@gmail.com">SuzieBeck88@gmail.com</a> <i>Ruthie Merk</i> 352-341-1731	

**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*







"Here are the nominated officers and appointed positions. You will be voting on this slate at the April meeting."

For 2025– 2026

**NOMINATED OFFICERS**

<b>President:</b>	Joanie Cellana
<b>VP:</b>	Eileen Schweitzer
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Olga Heineman
<b>Asst. Treasurer:</b>	Barbara Greco
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Nancy Gilbert
<b>Asst. Recording Secretary:</b>	Gloria Frank
<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	Bonnie Groves
<b>VP Membership:</b>	Barbara Fincher
<b>Asst. Membership:</b>	Linda Todd
<b>VP of Luncheons:</b>	Cyndi Sheftel
<b>Asst. Luncheons:</b>	Sue Buldiger
<b>VP Programs:</b>	Jackie Boyden
<b>Asst. Programs:</b>	Aileen Scharl
<b>VP Activities:</b>	Eileen MacKrell
<b>Asst. Activities:</b>	Eileen Gross
<b>VP Corr. Secretary:</b>	Jackie Moore
<b>Asst. Corr. Secretary</b>	Cathy Schafer

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

<b>Media Coordinator – Facebook/Website/ Drop Box:</b>	Cathy Uvanni
<b>Publicity</b>	Chris Lyman
<b>Special Interest:</b>	Linda Belanger
<b>Photographer/Historian:</b>	Jan Bauer
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Barbara Hamerling
<b>Share the Wealth</b>	Barbara Hamerling