



May 2022

the **NEWSCOMER**



CITRUS NEWCOMERS CLUB

◀ **The President's Message** ▶

Members,

Every year at Easter, the same event comes into my mind, and I thought I'd share the experience. My oldest daughter, Kelly, loved all holidays and all the magic that came with them. In her tenth December, a neighborhood child told her that there was no Santa Claus. She raced home, very distraught. So, I held her and comforted her, but I couldn't lie to her when asked a direct question. And so, we discussed all the Santa myths and why parents keep those wonderful myths alive. To this day, Kelly calls me every Thanksgiving Day to share the arrival of Santa at the end of the Macy's parade, always with tears in her eyes and voice.

Months later, Spring arrived and, with it, Easter. I decided that Kelly needed a treat to make up for the loss of the Easter Bunny. So, right before Easter, I asked Kelly if she would like to stay up late and help to dye the eggs and put the baskets together. She looked at me like I was crazy and said, "Are you telling me there is no Easter Bunny, either." She was a smart girl, so I thought she'd have made that connection easily. Got that one wrong, didn't I..., now we were back to crying.

Nevertheless, the event has given us a lot of laughs through the years and Kelly has not lost her excitement and wonder about holidays. Her husband has both a Santa Claus and Easter Bunny suit which she takes every opportunity to have him use. Kelly is a regional manager for Lowe's, and he makes the rounds of all her stores, treating employees and child shoppers. And, for those of you who have heard me talk about the son-in-law who gives me crazy gifts, this is the same guy.

It is probably a genetic trait that Kelly and I share, but I try to always find the joy in everything I do. A smile is always good, and a real belly laugh is even better. There are many things in life that don't thrill you but dwelling on the negatives doesn't help and can even shorten your life.

So, join me in looking on the bright side of life and help me welcome our new members.

Debbie Cameron
Linda Cassells
Karen Counts
Barbara Crawford
Jessie Davis
Marcia Flo
Barbara Freeman

Gail Harrison
Cathy Herman
Sonnie Holman
Denise Johansen
Diane Kingman
Kathleen Mercogliano
Sherry Murphy

Paula Pascuzzo
Nancy Phelps
Celeste Ridler
Edie La Sala
Marsha Lopez
Doreen Morrill
Jeanne Obedzinski

Andrea Pastorello
Marcia Schueneman
Maria Rose Shumelman
Kathy Stellingwerf
Kim Van Nieuwland

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.

Our Last Luncheon of the Year Luncheon May 19, 2022

Royal Oaks Golf Club

11220 SW 69th Cir, Ocala

DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 Sign Up Deadline – 5/12/22

Cost \$22 / \$27

Homemade soup for all

Salad Bar

Assorted Greens, Chicken Breast, Sliced Ham, Turkey, Cheeses, Feta, Olives, Tomato, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Assorted Dressings and an additional Homemade salad

Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake

Coffee & beverages

**GLUTEN FREE AND VEGETARIAN AVAILABLE
ON REQUEST**

**Take Home Bags will not be allowed at this
Buffet Luncheon. "Take what you can eat, eat
what you take."**

May's Program – To Bee or Not To Bee

You won't want to miss the May luncheon. Not only is it the last time we get together as a group until September, but it will be fascinating, we promise.

Lee Bush from Homosassa-based **Bush Boys Honey** will be educating us about his bees and the honey they produce.

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.

May – Members \$22, Guests \$27

Mail your check to:

Cyndi Sheftel
1278 N Cherry Pop Dr
Hernando, FL. 34442
860-541-1795

For more information contact

Cyndiksheftel@gmail.com

A reservation exists when your check has been received. Cancellations - May be made by the Thursday prior to the luncheon date. Your check will be returned to you or voided. If a cancellation is made after the deadline date you will forfeit your luncheon payment unless there is a waiting list and we are able to sell your reservation seat. For last minute cancellations please call Cyndi Sheftel at 860-541-1795. No-Shows will forfeit luncheon payments.

Your Program team is currently in the process of booking speakers/entertainers for next year, from September through May. If you have suggestions or topics you'd like to learn about, please send them to Linda Belanger at lindab-jewels@sbcglobal.net. We can't promise all of them will happen, since we only have 9 luncheons and lots of good ideas, but we will consider them all!

Membership 2022-2023

Our membership form for the 2022-2023 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 Cathy Schafer at catschafer@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 be used for other organizations, businesses, or solicitation purposes.**

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 if cancelling after the deadline date. Lunch and Dinner Bunch participants must deposit a \$10.00 check, refundable if they attend.

If carpooling - SHARE THE RIDE, SHARE THE COST

Thursday, May 12, 2022. Last bus trip until the fall. Flappers, Zoot Suits and bathtub gin were the norm during prohibition and alive today in **Al Capone's Speakeasy**. **Cost of \$70.00** which includes bus, lunch, show, beverages and partial gratuity. Contact Barbara Greco at bgreco519@yahoo.com.

Friday, May 20, 2022 – SKYDIVING - 12:00 pm. We will be doing a tandem jump at **SKYDIVE CITY** at noon. **Cost is \$209.00 per person.** Contact Barbara Greco at bgreco519@gmail.com.

Thursday, MAY 26, 2022 -12:30. Lunch Bunch Is headed to **Fish Tales** on the Suncoast in Homosassa. Rumor around town is the Lobster Rolls match anything you can find in Maine. For reservations contact Ruthie Merk at rmerk8@tampabay.rr.com

September - date to be determined - lunch cruise aboard the Calypso Queen in Clearwater.

October - date to be determined - get into the Halloween Spirit. Join Carolyn Moss in a Citrus County Cemetery Scavenger Hunt

Cruising Time:

ROYAL CARIBBEAN GIRLS CRUISE - OCT, 2022

Please join us for the 7-day Eastern Caribbean cruise,

Sunday October 30th to Sunday - November 6th on

Royal Caribbean's HARMONY OF THE SEAS.

Ports include: St. Kitts; St. Thomas; Coco Cay, Bahamas (private island); and 3 days of cruising.

The ship leaves from/to Port Canaveral, roughly 2 hours from Citrus County. Driving and parking at the port are easy. Yankee Trails offers bus service from The Villages with free parking at their office.

Non-members are cordially invited to join us. View the up-to-date health/COVID protocols on the Royal Caribbean website.

We will be booking the cruise with Julie Boulanger-Taylor of Taylor Elite Travel, not directly with RC. They have a group on this sailing and have cabins reserved in each category. Here are some sample per passenger cruise fares including taxes and port fees:

INSIDE CABIN - \$687.66 - OCEAN VIEW - \$1,029.66 - OCEAN BALCONY - \$1,159.32

There are multiple fares within each category and prices can change before booking. The sample fares above do not include any past Royal Caribbean guest discounts or cabin upgrades within each category to which you may be entitled. If you are interested in a cabin alone, the above fares are roughly doubled, less port charges and taxes for one person. Please be sure to ask Julie about travel insurance for your trip. Insurance is based on age and cabin category. TAYLOR ELITE (a Virtuoso travel agency) will provide a \$75 shipboard credit per stateroom, that will be divided on your shipboard account. They will make all dining reservations for us. My plan is for us to dine together if possible. Shore excursions may be booked online.

Because we are going with Taylor Elite, the deposit is completely refundable until final payment in August. A \$250 deposit per passenger or \$500 for a solo cabin locks in the price. If you know with whom you'll be sharing or are going solo, go ahead and call Julie. If you want to go and need a share, please contact me and I'll do my best to hook you up. You will need to give Julie your passport and vaccination information at time of booking. As of April, we have 13 going.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions. Ellen Saunders 352-527-6556 To book, call Julie Boulanger-Taylor, Taylor Elite Travel 754-732-1902 Her email is Julie@tayloreлитetravel/com Please let me know if you book as well.

Harmony of the Seas Overview

Launched in 2016, *Harmony of the Seas* is still one of the world's largest cruise ships. You would be hard pressed to take part in everything on offer on the 5,479-passenger *Harmony of the Seas* in a week. The sheer number of entertainment offerings is bewildering.

The ship is organized into a "neighborhood" concept, with activities grouped into different areas on the ship. There's a Boardwalk; Central Park, with real trees and plants; the Pool and Sports Zone for outdoor activities, and the Royal Promenade for shopping and entertainment.

Highlights include:

- *Adults-only Solarium
- *Ice-skating rink and shows
- *25 restaurants and lounges
- *Stand-up comedy club
- *Broadway at Sea musicals
- *AquaTheater performances
- *14 complimentary dining options

Bike It!! Walk It!! Schedule for the Year

Friday May 13 Floral City to Istachatta CR 476
Friday June 10 Tubing on Ichetucknee Springs

Kayaking Schedule for the Year

Questions or concerns should be address to Lina Argote, Mobile: 954-551-0123
linacpa@tampabay.rr.com.

3rd Monday		Planned Launch Sites	Rating
MON - May 16	9:00 AM	Chassahowitzka- The Crack	I
MON - June 20	9:00 AM	Rainbow River. KP Hole to Head Springs	B

River Rating B= Beginner I= Intermediate C= Challenging

PLEASE SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

If you take pictures for the club, please post on Facebook. No need to contact Janet Bauer



Citrus Newcomers Club
P.O.Box 418
Lecanto, FL 34460