

Hello, friends,

I want to thank everyone for attending the meeting on Friday, and welcome so many new faces. It was a lively group, and I'm glad to see so much participation. I hope this is a place we can feel free to share our thoughts and feelings, and know we're understood.

First things first, so much to be thankful for:

- A heartfelt thank you and a big shout out to Linda Quagliaroli for her generosity to those who came to the luncheon after the December meeting. Not only did she pick up the tab she went out of her way to purchase tablecloths, and Christmas ornaments for everyone and made it a very festive and friendly event. Thanks, Linda, you're the best!
- Thanks to Dianne Church for sharing at the December meeting all the wonderful things her group does for so many Ocala charities. I hope some of you will take an interest in her group, *Give Back to the Community*, and join her in her efforts. If you want to help, please contact Diane Church, 352-873-3471. The club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at the Island Club from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- A huge thanks to those who went to distribute wreaths at Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell. It was a deeply rewarding experience, and interesting to see the ages and groups who participated. Kids in scout groups, bikers, a Jeep club, families who brought young children. The program also provided wreaths for local cemeteries in Ocala. I plan to make this an annual event, so think about participating next year. Oh, did I mention that we managed to fit in beer (for the non-driver!) and burgers before we came home? Maybe that will entice you...
- Thanks to those who provided rides to see the holiday lights at both the World Equestrian Center and the Ocala United Methodist Church. These were two enjoyable evenings that sprung up on short notice. Maybe next year we'll plan a little further out and be able to take more people.
- And a big thank you to all of you who continue to support this group and make it work!

At the lunch in December, Linda mentioned that she sometimes models for a shop in the Villages and asked if our group would like to go. **The fashion show will be January 27<sup>th</sup> at Patchington in Spanish Springs at the Villages. The show will begin at 1:00 pm, and we'll have lunch nearby afterwards.** If you'd like to go, please let Shelley know as soon as possible so we can arrange transportation. Since it will be a late lunch, you may want to have a late breakfast or have a snack before we go. When you RSVP, please indicate if you need a ride so we can coordinate and take as few cars as possible. We'll leave about noon. Details will follow to those who sign up. Riders, please share the cost of gas and any tolls with your driver.

Several people have asked that we consider meeting twice a month. The group discussed possibilities and we have a plan we're going to try out. It was mentioned that there is music every Thursday at the Royal Oaks restaurant. We will try to set up dinner on one Thursday a month to enjoy music and each other's company. **We will meet this Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** and enjoy the music under the pavilion or inside, depending on the weather. We will work to find one Thursday a month that works for most of us. **If you are interested in going this Thursday, please let me know, or call Ann Roberts at 352-237-3381** so we can get an accurate count.

In addition to meetings and Thursday dinners, we will continue to look for fun things to do each month. If you have any ideas or would like to pick a month and set something up, please let me know. Likewise, if you have any suggestions for meeting topics or guest speakers, please share them. Some possibilities for meetings or outings are:

- Speaker from Hospice of Marion County to discuss pet bereavement.
- Demonstration of how the Sudden1y One website works and how to access information from previous meetings.

- Field trip to the Butterfly Exhibit in Gainesville.
- Visits to the World Equestrian Center. Their February calendar is here [Events - World Equestrian Center](#).
- Florida Horse Park always has events, and there are polo matches held there. You can check out their February calendar here [Calendar of Events \(wpcomstaging.com\)](#).
- Meeting and/or walk in Sholom Park.
- Folk music every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday from 2-5 pm at the Train Station in Dunellon. Tickets are sold at the door for \$10. Bring your own snacks.
- Tour of Grandview Clydesdale Farm (Dunellon)

Some upcoming events you might be interested in:

- February 2: Oak Run will have an open house at the Palm Grove club to showcase their various clubs. This is a great opportunity to see what the groups have to offer all under one roof. I will have a table for Suddenly One, so anyone who would like to stop by, please do. The event is from 9:00 to 1:00 on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- February 4-6: Grandview Invitational at the Florida Horse Park. This is a spectacular showcase of Clydesdale horses pulling wagons (think Budweiser commercials). It's a competition for the best of the best. The horses and hitches are magnificent. I already have tickets for Sunday, February 6 to go with a small group. We can add you into this group, or I'd be willing to go another day also if you want only Suddenly Oners. Or you are welcome to set up your own plans here: [Grandview Invitational | Florida's Draft Horse Show - Feb 4 - 6, 2022](#).

Now for the icky stuff: we discussed the topic of tax time and how it might affect you this year. If you lost your spouse in 2021, you may have a different way of filing your taxes this year. Attached is a partial list of places that offer free tax filing. The two with asterisks are in-person filing, but they don't have their schedules established yet. For both, you will likely need an appointment, so keep this in mind if you contact them. The others are online. None of these are specifically being endorsed, but are provided to give you a starting place to look for guidance in getting your taxes done, if you don't have a CPA already lined up. Please be careful when you do anything like this online.

SCAM ALERT: People have reported getting calls from someone stating they are from the IRS or the Social Security office. The IRS will never contact you by phone or ask you for personal information over the phone. Neither will the Social Security office. If you get a call like this, JUST HANG UP. Never give personal information to anyone that you did not call.

Also attached is a sheet with information about claiming exemptions you may be eligible for. Many of you probably have the Homestead exemption and maybe the VA exemption already, but did you know you can also qualify for a widow(er)'s exemption? If you call the tax office listed in red at the top of the form, you can get more information, and request that they mail you the forms. You may also be able to do this online. It will take \$500 off the value of your home (*not the total taxes*). That may not seem like much, but if you're on a tight budget, everything helps. Call them to discuss if you haven't already filed any of these exemptions.

The latest membership roster is attached. For those of you who don't have email addresses, Ingrid Crane will deliver this message and any attachments to your home. *If you don't plan to return to the group, or don't want to receive this information, please let me know, and I'll remove you from the list.*

The next meeting will be **Friday, February 11th at 10:30, in the Card Room of the Orchid Club.**

Thank you, and I hope to see you next month.

Shelley  
210-410-0090