



Talents IN COMMON



Please respect the time of our volunteer presenters and cancel if you are unable to attend the lecture.



Pickleball 101

Learn the basics and strategies of pickleball play- Ed Pieper, life-long teacher and beginner pickleball teacher.

Facilitator: Ed Pieper

Tuesday, January 7th & Thursday, February 13th

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

To register for one or more of these activities please choose one of three options:

1. Log onto www.thecommonsclub.com and select the activities that you would like to attend on the calendar.
2. Email: registration@thecommonsclub.com with the class name time and your name and member number
3. Call (239) 949-3800 to make your reservations.
4. Stop in the Enrichment Center to register for your classes today.

These classes are held in person, at The Enrichment Center, unless otherwise indicated.

Le Cercle En Français

Le Cercle En Français is a weekly one-hour meeting where participants learn and explore the French language and its culture and experience arm-chair travel in France. It does not matter how well you speak French because it is the exposure and experience that matters. And it is fun! Some participants are beginners and others are fluent, but we help each other. We would like to have a French Table at The Rookery on the 3rd Wednesday, January through April. The primary conversations will be in French as you enjoy friends and lunch.

Facilitator: Lisa Baroni

Wednesdays, January 8th to April 16th

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

In Person and on Zoom

Complimentary - Rookery Lunches are a la carte.



The Wildlife of Southwest Florida

Come learn about our feathered, furred, and scaly SWFL neighbors, presented by a CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) staff member

Facilitator: Piper Jones

Thursday, January 9th

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



Talents In Common

2025 SEASON

Romancing the Stone

Romancing the Stone - Terrie Mertens

Since ancient times, stone carvers have sought to set free the forms they see trapped within a stone. It is a careful and unyielding process. The relationship between the sculptor and the stone is not unlike a true romance. There are some gives and takes as well as a whole lot of heart. When carefully and skillfully romanced, stones become extraordinary works of art.

Terrie Mertens is an accomplished artist who works in watercolor, clay, and stone. She currently is pursuing and teaching stone carving at Arts Bonita.

Facilitator: Terrie Mertens

Friday, January 10th

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Complimentary (reservations required)



Essentials & Budgeting For Your Financial Future

A simple format for different approaches to budgeting and the essential information needed to achieve your realistic financial goals. The presentation will also include a discussion on vital information to have available in the event of a life changing event. Please come prepared to take notes and join in the discussion.

Facilitator: Christina Lowery

Monday, January 13th

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

More iPhone/iPad/iOS Tips

You know the basics of iPhone/iPad operation, but you'd like to move on to mastering some more advanced features or you have some feature you just can't get to work for you. This class will move beyond the basics to some of the less known settings and most useful apps and being limited to 8-10 participants, your questions will be answered.

Please bring a notebook & pen for notes.

Facilitator: Bob Deakin

Thursday, January 16th

Thursday, February 20th

Thursday, March 20th

Friday, April 4th

Thursday, April 17th

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Complimentary (Reservations required)



Earl Warren vs. Supreme Court Today

An in-depth look at the Warren Court in the 1960's, how it accepted and decided cases with a close look at Miranda vs Arizona. And a then and now comparison to the current Supreme Court.

Facilitator: Jim Hale

(former law clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren)

Friday, January 10th

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

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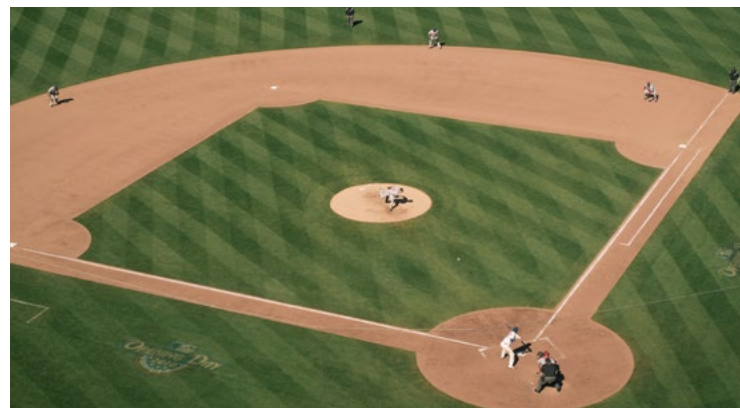
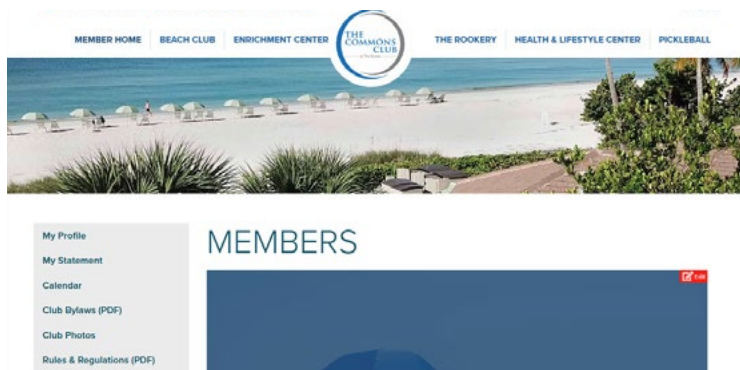
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How to Navigate The Commons Club Website

The Commons Club website is your gateway to the Rookery, Beach Club, Health and Lifestyle Center, Enrichment Center and now Pickleball.

Have you ever wanted to know what events were happening at the Rookery or were you interested in taking a Fitness class but couldn't find the email that had the current month's newsletter? Maybe you need to see your current statement?

Understanding how to navigate The Commons Club website will give you all this information and more.

Join us for this presentation, we will focus on:

- Navigating the overall website
- How to access and complete forms
- How to register for dining reservations, a fitness class or other events
- How to access your statement

Facilitators: Christy Burke and Kathy Socha

Wednesday, January 15th

2:00 am to 3:30 am

Complimentary (Reservations required)

Malta

The smallest European Union country by size and population. With the highest population density of all, and the smallest capital (Valletta). And with one of the richest, most diverse histories. Ruled by the Phoenicians, then Romans, Byzantines, Muslims from North Africa, Normans, Spanish, Order of Saint John, the British, and now independence. The whole of Malta's capital Valletta is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will visit the main island of Gozo.

Facilitator: Paul Pacter

Friday, January 17th

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Let's Talk Baseball!

How do you make it to Major League Baseball? Come and ask questions to TCC member, Janet Whitlock and her son Garrett Whitlock, Pitcher, Boston Red Sox.

This informal presentation will discuss the everyday life and process of becoming a professional baseball player at the Major League Level. Where does it start? How does one prepare for the mental side of being a professional baseball player?

Note: Garrett is willing to sign autographs.

Facilitators: Janet and Garret Whitlock and Clark Bell - Former Sportswriter, Marketing Columnist, and Magazine Editor.

Friday, January 17th

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Suzie's Silk Flower Arranging

Suzie will show you how to decorate a basic candlestick with silk flowers as a beautiful piece of décor for an event or your home.

No skill necessary

A week prior to class a list of supplies will be emailed to each registrant.

Facilitator: Suzie Tjarks

Monday, January 20th

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

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Sports Panel with Former & Current Athletes

What's it like to be a professional athlete? Hear from three former, and still active professional athletes about how their sport has figured into their professional and retired years.

Ryan Vesce - pro hockey player

Claire Batista - a PGA Professional

John Foley - pro tennis player

Facilitators: Claire Batista, John Foley, and Ryan Vesce

Tuesday, January 21st

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Women Owned Businesses Panel

Women owned businesses panel - She's The Boss! - the good, the bad, and the trials and tribulations of 3 women who started and ran their own businesses and served in local government. Join us for the 5 pm Happy Hour function. (Beer and Wine for purchase)

Facilitators: Debbie Russo, Colleen McDonald, and Cathy Melchert

Thursday, January 23rd

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Antarctica- The Last Frontier

Why vacation in the coldest, windiest and most remote continent on Earth? Learn from fellow TCC Members who recently had a two week adventure in Antarctica which included kayaking, hiking on the icy mountains with penguins and taking a submersible ride to the bottom of the ocean! Eighteen countries operate year round scientific research stations to study the effects of the big ice!

A special, frosty Antarctic Freeze cocktail is available for purchase.

Facilitators: Pam Gatz and Patty Kasold

Friday, January 24th

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Holocaust Survivor Presentation

Antisemitism: Past, Present, & Future

Antisemitism led to the Holocaust in World War II and it still exists in increased abundance today. Irwin Frank, a second-generation Holocaust Survivor, will share details of his own parents' ordeals as Holocaust victims and survivors. Irwin will then introduce you to his 95 year old Uncle, Arthur Gelbart, who survived imprisonment in a number of concentration camps from Auschwitz to Buchenwald, where he was liberated by the US Army after a terrible death march journey. With Arthur is his wife of 69 years, Rose Gelbart, a hidden child during the war, lucky enough to be reclaimed by her mother after the war.

Facilitators: Irwin Frank and Stanley Ruskin

Monday, January 27th

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



Share Your Talents

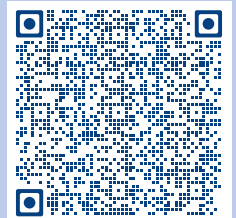
There's something magical about sharing knowledge and experiences that can enrich the minds of everyone involved. So why not share your expertise and insights with fellow members of The Commons Club? Who knows what kind of innovative and creative ideas might emerge from such a collaboration.

Scan this code to contact

talentsincommon@googlegroups.com

Pam Gatz - Co-Chair TIC committee

JoAnn Tutino - Co-Chair TIC committee





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For the Love of Birds

Tom invites a small group of residents to join him on a hike nearby. Other than a respect for nature and a comfortable pair of walking shoes, nothing else is needed. Binoculars and a camera are good but not necessary. The walking pace is slow. The trails are flat. Depending on the weather, some areas may be wet.

8:00 am - Meet at Trails

CREW Flint Pen Strand Trails

15970 Bonita Beach Rd SE, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Wear comfortable shoes, bring binoculars, camera & hat

Carpooling is encouraged

Facilitator: Tom Myles

Tuesday, January 28th

8:00 am to 9:30 am

Complimentary (reservations required) Max of 10 participants

Boating Safety

A brief course on the basics of boating safety is being offered by an experienced boater and USCG Auxiliary certified instructor. This condensed course is not an official USCG Auxiliary boating course.

The course will explain:

How to read a nautical chart using Estero/Naples/Ft. Myers charts.

The basic navigation rules of the road will be explained, including ROW, overtaking another boat, and other rules. Frank will demonstrate the proper use of the marine radio.

This course will be taught by an experienced boater who has held a "six pack" Captain's license, and currently is a certified boating instructor with the USCG Auxiliary.

Facilitator: Frank Connelly

Wednesday, January 29th

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Complimentary (reservations required)

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Power & Pinstripes

Jeff Mangold shares his family history as a child involved in sports. With childhood sports figure heroes, he ended up working with or associating with during my tenures with the Yankees, Mets, University of Nebraska and University of Florida. He shares priceless stories as Head Strength and Conditioning Coach for the New York Yankees. Winning three out of the five World Series Championships are what the attendees enjoy hearing the most and his relationships with the super star players.

Facilitator: Jeff Mangold

Friday, January 31st

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



Fresh Flower Arranging

Have you ever gotten a fresh flower bouquet and thought - Do I trim the stems? What kind of container should I use? How can I make the flowers last?

Come find out - Rene Knudson and Trish Brown from the The Brooks Garden Club will have all the answers.

A week prior to class a list of supplies will be emailed to each registrant.

Facilitators: Rene Knudson and Trish Brown

Tuesday, February 4th

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Day to Evening Makeup

How does that work? Jill is a certified makeup artist and an attorney who has addressed and advocated for the need of sanitary practices and products in the makeup industry.

Facilitator: Jill Glaser

Wednesday, February 5th

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



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The History of Hershey PA and Chocolate Martinis

Please join Bill and Holly Simpson, long time residents of Hershey Pennsylvania, to learn about the life of Milton S. Hershey, (the founder of Hershey's Chocolate), his town, his world famous destination, and the philanthropic school that bears his name. It is one of the greatest stories that many have never heard about.

Bill is the former President and CEO of Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, and Holly was a community leader serving in numerous not for profit activities.

You will also enjoy some goodies from "The Sweetest Place and Earth". What would a discussion about Hershey be without a chocolate martini prepared by the team at the Rookery after the program?! Note: Chocolate Martinis for purchase.

Facilitators: Bill and Holly Simpson

Thursday, February 6th

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Make-Up for Mature Skin

Whether you're a makeup novice looking to master the basics or an enthusiast aiming to refine your techniques, our class offers a personalized and hands-on experience. Join us for an empowering journey of makeup mastery, where you'll not only enhance your skills but also embrace your beauty in a whole new light.

Facilitator: Robin Marcus

Friday, February 7th & Friday, March 7th

11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Conversational Spanish

Join us as you learn some basic vocabulary which could be used whether traveling, going out to eat, or just speaking with a native. Highlights include pronunciation and "short cuts" - without the proper full verb conjugation.

No prior experience necessary - you may know more than you think.

Facilitator: Dianne Giglietti

Monday, February 10th

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

How Target & Dayton Avoided a Hostile Takeover

How Target and Dayton's Department Stores Survived a Hostile Takeover Attempt in 1987 (Of special interest to Minnesotans and anyone else who remembers Dayton's or shops at Target)

Facilitator: Jim Hale, former Executive VP and General Counsel Dayton Hudson Corporation/Target

Monday, February 17th

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Recipe Exchange: Amuse-Bouche

We would like you to join us on February 18th to participate in the Commons Club first 2025 recipe exchange to be held at The Commons Club Enrichment Center.

"Amuse-bouches" will be the theme. In French it means "amuses the mouth". There are bite-sized savory appetizers, hot or cold, served before a meal to awaken the palate.

The first 20 members to register will have to submit their proposed recipes ahead of the event in order to avoid duplication. Each participant will have to prepare and bring 20 samples of their culinary artistry the day of the event, with a maximum of two different recipes.

All participants will have the opportunity to taste the samples and discuss their recipes.

Participants will be provided with a packet of all recipes to take home.

You will be contacted by the person running the event after sign-in to provide your proposed recipe, as recipe packets need to be printed in advance.

Facilitator: Richard Lucki

Monday, February 18th

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

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Color Me Beautiful

Do you know which season YOU are? Do you know what colors will make you appear years younger? Are you wondering which lipstick shade is best for YOU? Color Me Beautiful presents Reinvent Yourself with Color Me Beautiful: 4 Seasons of Color, Makeup, and Style, by JoAnne Richmond.

One attendee will experience JoAnne's "Magic Chair" where we will determine which of the 4 Seasons is YOUR best. We will also raffle off a private consultation as well as a gift. JoAnne Richmond has over 20 years of experience in the image consulting and fashion merchandising fields. Since 1996 she has been associated with Color Me Beautiful as an Independent Color Consultant and in 2001 was selected to become a National Certified Color Analysis Trainer for Color Me Beautiful.

Facilitator: JoAnne Richmond

Wednesday, February 19th

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

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Israel - A long, desperate, crooked, and perilous Road to Lasting Peace

Why was Israel caught off-guard? How could Mossad be fooled? How should Israel respond?

Surrounded by well over 300 million Arabs, Persians, and other potential enemies, Israel is in a most difficult/if not vulnerable position. Hamas, a known terrorist group, conducted a very complex and nuanced invasion of Israel. This war is like no other. Hamas emerged from an elaborate tunnel system, by sea, and by air. The inescapable truth is that there was a massive failure of intelligence resulting in thousands of innocent Israeli civilians exposed to unimaginable horrors. The Israeli Defense Force ("IDF") was too late in responding as terrorists killed 260 concert attendees.

Hundreds of terrorists invaded several nearby kibbutzim and unleashed unspeakable horror on innocent families. Hundreds of Israelis have even been captured and are being held as hostages or shields. What are some of the reasons for all this carnage? A multifaceted invasion on this scale necessitated considerable planning and training. How could Mossad miss it? Could internal political dysfunction be a factor? What is the end game and how do we move forward from it?

Facilitator: Mike Quinlan

Monday, February 24th

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Search Your Family History

Native New Yorker Tom Myles will share information he has garnered in more than thirty years as an active genealogist. Tom's presentation is intended to help you get started. He will speak about how to begin, genealogy software, recommended websites, and tips for staying organized. He will also include personal vignettes about meeting 8th cousins in rural Iowa and 3rd cousins in County Tipperary, Ireland.

Tom has helped many others on their journey. In Jones County, Iowa He has been called "The Legend". After helping one woman get the information she needed to become a Daughter of the American Revolution, she wrote, "You're my hero!"

Facilitator: Tom Myles

Tuesday, February 25th

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Complimentary (reservations required)



Talents In Common

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Stanley's Favorite SWFL Restaurants

You do not want to miss this session. Learn the best deals and menu special options from a professional diner Stanley Ruskin. Stanley and his wife Judy eat out 4 to 5 times a week and know the best places with great deals! This workshop will include Stanley's up to date Restaurant spreadsheet. Take notes and ask questions on how to make reservations during the season!

Facilitator: Stanley Ruskin

Tuesday, February 25th

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Navigating Turbulence

Understanding Boeing and our Defense.

The Boeing 737 Max 8 crash sent shockwaves through the aviation industry, resulting in tragic loss of lives and profound repercussions for Boeing's reputation and market standing. What systematic flaws in the design and certification processes contributed to these accidents - regulatory oversights, inadequate pilot training, flawed software implementation? The lesser-known yet significant issue of the 737 Max 9 Door Plug highlights how seemingly minor oversights can escalate into major operational concerns, leading to delays, financial losses and erosion of consumer trust.

In the Space & Defense domain, Boeing's challenges with the KC-46 Tanker program have been marred by persistent technical issues, delivery delays, and cost overruns. Supply chain bottlenecks, integration complexities, and contractual obligations reveal the multifaceted nature of these setbacks. By contrasting the Commercial and Space & Defense sectors, we discern the nuanced differences in regulatory frameworks, market dynamics and risk management approaches.

Facilitator: Craig Korkoian

Wednesday, February 26th

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Complimentary (reservations required)



South and East of Naples on the Tamiami Trail

We will look at the history and attractions southeast of Naples, including:

Marco Island: Historical Museum; Tigertail Beach

Rookery Bay: Learning Center, Shell Island ((Briggs Boardwalk and Rena Point); Keewaydin

Ochopee: Big Cypress National Preserve (Welcome Center and Oasis Visitor Center); Kirby Storter Park; Turner River, HP Williams Roadside Park; the smallest post office in the USA; Loop Road; Clyde Butcher Gallers; Collier-Seminole State Park Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Copeland: Big Cypress bend Boardwalk; Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Building the Tamiami Trail; 1923 to 1928

The start of the Everglades National Park

Facilitator: Paul Pactor

Friday, February 28th

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

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Building Your Balanced News Diet

In today's social media driven world, all of us are consumers and producers of news content.

With the bitterness of the Presidential election behind us, veteran newsman Clark Bell believes it's time for Commons Club members to review their media consumption habits and build a stronger news diet.

Like most things in life, the "healthiest" way to stay informed requires planning, moderation and variety. Bell will outline how to take control of your intake of media consumption with the goal of becoming a more efficient and better-informed consumer of news.

He also will discuss the future of journalism and the trust issues plaguing the news media.

Facilitator: Clark Bell

Monday, March 3rd

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Concerned About Local Water Quality?

Do you enjoy our Gulf beaches? Have you been kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding or fishing in Estero Bay? Are you concerned about reports of fecal bacteria, red tide, algae, fish kills in local waters? Hear some facts, causes and solutions from an expert from RighttoCleanWater.org. This is your chance to learn about, and help to protect, our precious natural resources.

Facilitator: Bob Lienesch

Tuesday, March 4th

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

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Joint Replacement Panel Discussion

"Be Your Own Health Advocate"

Join fellow Members for a "Joint Replacement Panel" highlighting their personal experiences with knee and hip replacements. They will provide a lay "best practices" discussion on how to be your own health advocate. We know many CC members are contemplating joint replacements and this session will provide how the panelists ultimately decided that they could no longer live with joint pain.

Facilitators: Alice Brusky, Nick Bellino, and Norm Wells

Thursday, March 6th

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



A Tour of Edinburgh Scotland

Join us for a video/photo tour of historic Edinburgh. Meet Greenfriar Bobby, walk the Royal Mile, tour the Edinburgh Castle, and visit the National Museum of Scotland, United Kingdom's most popular attraction outside of London.

Facilitators: Debbie & Gary Gotsch

Friday, March 7th

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Travel To...

Interested in traveling? Overwhelmed by the options? Fear of going solo? "Life begins where your comfort zone ends"

Learn and discuss the latest tips and ideas on how to prepare for an enjoyable vacation or trip of a lifetime! Whether it be land tours, ocean or river cruises, etc...

How to pack, iPhone tips, applying for Global Entry, regional cuisines, culture and history.

Personal experiences and class participation make great discussion!

Facilitator: Gloria Gajos

Tuesday, March 11th

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



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Wild Alaska

Experience Mike’s spectacular pictures and fascinating stories about his adventures to wild places around the world as well as here in Florida. Mike will describe what he shoots, why he shoots, and where he shoots to get his visually stunning images. He will also discuss his picture-taking process and the equipment he uses and provide time to respond to questions about his photography.

Facilitator: Mike Johnson

Wednesday, March 12th

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Update on Development in Estero

Estero is booming! Steve Sarkozy & Frank Connolly will cover recent land use development in Estero, the continuing growth of Lee County, environmental issues with growth, the outlook of real estate values, and an update on the former Winn Dixie property. Steve Sarkozy, has been Village Manager of Estero since 2015. He previously has been a professional city manager in several communities. The position of Village Manager is not an elected position, but an appointment by the Village Council to run the Village. The position is not political and does not associate with a political party. Frank Connolly has had a career in Connecticut local government as a Town Planner, Town Manager, and School Finance Director. He is also an author, having written two books on local government. One book is a textbook on Connecticut local governmental operations and the other is a fictional novel on local government.

Facilitators: Frank Connolly & Steve Sarkozy, Village of Estero Manager

Thursday, March 13th

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Complimentary (reservations required)

Veterans Round Table

Would you like to talk about your experiences? Share your thoughts and feelings with other Veterans from all branches? We are having a round table discussion, combat, noncombat, all eras are welcome. Jim Kline is moderating at the table and would enjoy having fellow veterans join him for this panel discussion.

Facilitator: Jim Kline

Tuesday, March 18th

3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Meet the Author: Tim Norbeck

Tim will discuss how he came to write novels after his retirement from a 53-year career in healthcare, but he will also mention his sometimes amusing role in an unprecedented RICO class action lawsuit on behalf of the 850,000 practicing physicians in the U.S. against an egregious managed care insurance industry (2001-2003). It was a most interesting “David vs Goliath” type case, the settlement (which Tim had presided over) being carried live on CNN.

He has published four novels, with his fifth (“Mr. Lawrence”) having recently come out. In his novels, he has weaved into the stories some of the interesting people that he has met during his career—Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Owens, an amusing encounter with Senator Ted Kennedy and Dr. Christian Barnard (first heart transplant surgeon) and many politicians among them, with some interesting anecdotes about them and others.

It should be a lively hour of discussion, and there will be some memorable and cogent quotations and laughs as well.

Facilitator: Tim Norbeck

Wednesday, March 19th

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

(Happy Hour/Beer and Wine for purchase)

Complimentary (reservations required)

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African Safari & How to Get There with Free Air Tickets

Jon and Melody visit South Africa 1-2 times a year for safari and over the past 15 years they have added side trips to Victoria Falls, Krueger Park, Cape Town, Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Mali, Madagascar and more... They will show you a 20 min movie with an overview of what a 10-14 day trip would look like to Cape Town and a safari.

Melody calls herself "the frequent flier queen". She will end the presentation with all the tricks for how to find a "free" air ticket to Africa or anywhere else in the world.

Facilitators: Melody and Jon Dill

**Friday, March 21st
4:00 pm to 5:15 pm**

(Beer and Wine for purchase)

Complimentary (reservations required)



Destination Canada

Learn more about our gracious neighbors to the North from our Canadian fellow Brooks Member. He will provide you with an overview of some Canadian "coast to coast to coast" destinations & travel ideas for some of the best places to visit and tour based on their personal experience. You will not want to miss this special presentation on planning your getaway from Florida (or wherever you may be in the off season) to experience Canada!

Facilitator: Gary Renaud

**Monday, March 24th
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm**

*"Happy Canadian Cocktail" available for purchase
Complimentary (reservations required)*

60 Household Tips in 60 Minutes

Come join Joan Merritt for one hour to hear her household tips to make your day go easier. Please bring a tip of your own to share with others.

Facilitator: Joan Merritt

**Tuesday, March 25th
10:00 am to 11:00 am**

Complimentary (reservations required)

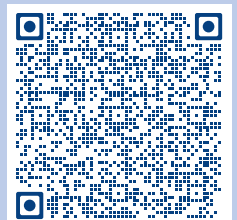
Share Your Talents

There's something magical about sharing knowledge and experiences that can enrich the minds of everyone involved. So why not share your expertise and insights with fellow members of The Commons Club? Who knows what kind of innovative and creative ideas might emerge from such a collaboration.



Scan this code to contact
talentsincommon@googlegroups.com

Pam Gatz - Co-Chair TIC committee
JoAnn Tutino - Co-Chair TIC committee





Talents In Common

2025 SEASON

Family Favorite Recipe Exchange

Still looking for some cooking inspiration? Please join us for our spring recipe exchange! This time the focus will be favorite family spring-time recipes. Whether it's a gem passed down through generations or something you've discovered that you love to cook for those you love, please consider sharing it with all of us.

In addition to the written recipe submitted in advance, participants should provide bite sized tasting samples for 20 people the day of the event. Each of us will have the opportunity to taste the samples and discuss the recipes. Participants will be provided with a recipe packet of all 20 recipes to take home.

ou will be contacted by the person running the event.

Facilitator: Maggie Franklin

Tuesday, March 25th

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



To register for one or more of these activities please choose one of three options:

1. Log onto www.thecommonsclub.com and select the activities that you would like to attend.
2. Call (239) 949-3800 to make your reservations.
3. Stop in the Enrichment Center to register for your classes today.

These classes are held in person, at The Enrichment Center, unless otherwise indicated.



From Pets to Predators: Python Population Explodes Out of the Everglades

The Burmese python, a nonvenomous constrictor native to Southeast Asia, has long been popular in the pet trade. Between 1996 and 2006, roughly 100,000 pythons were imported into the United States as pets. Owners found that their new pet – a 20 inch “hatchling” – could grow into an 8-foot predator within one year. Many were released in South Florida. More importantly, the destruction of a large breeding facility during Hurricane Andrew released an extensive breeding population into the Everglades. Today, the population is expanding dramatically. As they multiply, they expand their territory, decimating the mammal population as they go. Experts have extensively explored methods to capture and remove pythons, but so far, there are no easy solutions. Don't miss out on this fascinating presentation about this rapidly expanding invasive species and its impact on the Florida ecosystem.

Facilitator: Bruce Croft

Tuesday, March 25th

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

Libby the Free Library App

Meet Libby! It's the free library app that allows you to browse, sample, and download hundreds of e-books and audiobooks from the library. From the comfort of your home—anytime of the day or night you can instantly find your favorite books and authors. All you need is a library card, an iPad or iPhone or Kindle. Welcome, all book lovers!

Facilitator: Mary Lou Smith

Wednesday, March 26th

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



Talents In Common

2025 SEASON



A Writer's Inside View of Hollywood

Have you ever wondered how a writer sells a project to Hollywood? Or how one breaks into Hollywood as a second career? Do you have a story you think would be of interest to Hollywood?

Author Paula Blackman will share insider's secrets of how agents and producers identify projects by reading only a few pages of a script. She'll walk us through how a prospective movie, series, or documentary moves from submission, to option, to greenlight, to screen.

Film school professor, Kate Wright in "Screenwriting is Storytelling" used Paula as the example of how a second career writer can break into Hollywood. Paula's stories have been optioned by Sony Pictures Television. "Night Train to Nashville" is being adapted into both a televised series and documentary film. Bring your questions (or your stories) to Paula during her presentation on a writer's inside look at the industry.

Facilitator: Paula Blackman Iacampo

Wednesday, March 26th

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)

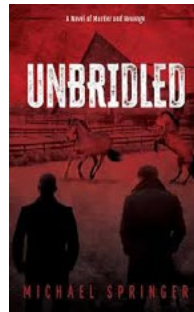
(Happy Hour Beer and Wine for purchase)

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Meet the Author - Michael Springer



Michael Springer, a resident of Spring Run, recently published his first book, UNBRIDLED: A Novel of Murder and Revenge. Loosely based on a true story, this is the first book in a planned trilogy about the deadly Equestrian Mafia of Chicago. Following a series of careers as a screenwriter, editor, and publisher, Michael has now begun a new chapter as a novelist.

What is the story behind his story of writing and publishing a book?

Learn about the novel UNBRIDLED: A Novel of Murder and Revenge, as well as what goes into writing a novel and getting it published.

Facilitator: Michael Springer

Friday, March 28th

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)



Costa Rica - Pura Vida!

This is an ecologically-focused look at Costa Rica. After a general look into to this beautiful country, we will visit Camo Negro Refuge Wildlife Refuge, Arenal Volcano National Park, and the forests of San Gerardo de Dota. We will find an amazing array of birds and wildlife on nature hikes and while cruising the Rio Frio and the Rio Tarcoles. For example, the toucan, macaw, quetzal, agouti, coati, caiman, and crocodile. Before finishing in the capital, San Jose, we will stop at spice and coffee plantations.

Facilitator: Paul Pacter

Monday, March 31st

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Complimentary (reservations required)