

# Bloomington Newcomers & Neighbors News

Bloomingtonnnc.com



## Jan-Feb 2026



### Holiday Party details on Page 3.

**BLOOMINGTON**



**NEWCOMERS & NEIGHBORS CLUB**

Long time member  
Jim Alling passed  
away in November.



# Board Members

## Meeting Facilitator

Paul Lutz  
(812) 322-4669  
[crfan59@yahoo.com](mailto:crfan59@yahoo.com)

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[gigicozz@gmail.com](mailto:gigicozz@gmail.com)

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## Interest Group Coordinator

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(630) 846-8128  
[basketlady329@yahoo.com](mailto:basketlady329@yahoo.com)

## Hospitality

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[jantgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:jantgreenwood@gmail.com)

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(574)-220-2561  
[dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net)  
Charlotte Reitz  
(812) 457-2285  
[charlotte.reitz@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.reitz@gmail.com)

## Publicity & Communications

Ramona Pound  
(813) 517-7505  
[jnrpound@hotmail.com](mailto:jnrpound@hotmail.com)

## Special Events Planners

Linda Burton  
(219)-793-5498  
[brtnlin@yahoo.com](mailto:brtnlin@yahoo.com)

Carolyn Anderson  
(812) 340-1433  
[caanders@indiana.edu](mailto:caanders@indiana.edu)

Visit our page on Facebook:

**Bloomington Newcomers & Neighbors Club**

Debbie Zerr: [dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net)

## Quick Index

BNNC Board and Club Information **2**

Holiday Party **3**

New Members **4**

2026 Membership Campaign **5**

Luncheon Meetings **6**

TGIF Information **7**

Groups and Events Photos **8-13**

Interest Group Info **14**

Good Eating Groups **15**

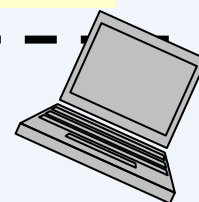
Cards and Games **16-17**

Renewal Form **18**

**BNNC Membership year is June 1 - May 31**

## Bloomingtonnnc.com

- Announcements and RSVP forms
- Current newsletter
- Photos
- Membership Application



**WANTED:** Photos of your group activities. Send to any of the following:

- Debbie Zerr for Facebook: [dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net)
- John DePaemelaere for website and end of year slide show:  
[john.depaemelaere@outlook.com](mailto:john.depaemelaere@outlook.com)

## Publication Deadlines

Send to the **newsletter editor** any general announcements no later than the **15th** of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Please send **requests for special occasion cards** (e.g. Sympathy, Get Well, Wedding) to Jan Greenwood. (No birthdays, please.)

The **Newcomers & Neighbors News** is published for members of the BNNC. Annual membership is \$20. First time members: discounted rate of \$10.



# HOLIDAY PARTY



**Our annual Holiday Party will now be on Saturday, January 10, 2026  
5 PM at the  
American Legion  
1800 W 3RD STREET  
Bloomington, Indiana**

Our buffet menu will be Roast Beef au jus, Fried Chicken, baked potato with butter and sour cream, mixed vegetables and a tossed salad with dressings on the side. Our dessert will be either Fresh Cobbler or Cheesecake. Please remember to take only one dessert per person. Cash bar.

**The cost of tickets is \$28.00 per person.**

**All reservations need to be made by Monday, January 5th.**

**If you made a reservation for the postponed December party, you do NOT need to make another payment.**

## Holiday Party RSVP

***No payments taken at the door***  
***Make check payable to:***

**BNNC**

**Mail RSVP and check to:**

**BNNC  
PO Box 8231  
Bloomington, IN 47407-8231**

**Name(s):**

**Cost: each @ \$28.00 x \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_**

**For Office Use Only**

**Amount: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Check Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_**



# Welcome To Our New Members

Please reach out to our new members. Please make them welcome to our club.

**Keith Solberg 812-272-3101**

1032 E SASSAFRAS CIR BLOOMINGTON, IN 47408-1282

[ksolberg@iu.edu](mailto:ksolberg@iu.edu)

Referred by Janet Justus,

Moved to Bloomington in 2024

Interests: international issues, canasta, book club 1,  
getting to know you dinners, local plays, hiking group.

**Sue Kirkpatrick 317-709-6413** [suekirkpatrick@att.net](mailto:suekirkpatrick@att.net)

**Kirk Kirkpatrick 319-435-5475** [kirkkirkpatrick@att.net](mailto:kirkkirkpatrick@att.net)

2326 E WOODBINE AVE BLOOMINGTON IN 47401-5472

Referred to Newcomers by Ramona Pound

Moved from Avon IN in 2023

Interests: mah-jong, first friday canasta, lunch&movie,  
fun lunch bunch, local plays.

**Rejean Gillen 352-438-9965**

1843 E WATERS EDGE DR BLOOMINGTON IN 47401-8490

[paulgillen1@yahoo.com](mailto:paulgillen1@yahoo.com)

Referred by friends

Moved from FL August 2025

Interests: ladies bunco, lunch & movie, fun lunch bunch,  
local plays, samba (card game).

**Bev & Alan Vicstein 812-558-4445**

2232 S SWEETBRIAR CIR BLOOMINGTON IN 47401-4600

[bvicstein@gmail.com](mailto:bvicstein@gmail.com)

[avicstein@gmail.com](mailto:avicstein@gmail.com)

Referral not indicated

Moved from Muncie IN in 2014

Interests: mah-jong, ladies night out, wine tasting, RR group.

**Paula Raybould 317-373-0982**

9104 S FRONT NINE DR BLOOMINGTON IN 47401-8147

[raybld@comcast.net](mailto:raybld@comcast.net)

Referred by friends

Moved from Fishers in 2019

Interests: crafting club, gardening, ladie's night out,  
local plays, hiking group, sewing/quilting.

**Peggy Fleming 812-320-0710** [peggyfleming6@yahoo.com](mailto:peggyfleming6@yahoo.com)

**Ed Fleming 812-320-0842** [edfleming22@yahoo.com](mailto:edfleming22@yahoo.com)

954 W BAYWOOD DR BLOOMINGTON IN 47403-4834

Referred to Newcomers by Debbie Zerr

Moved from Ft Myers FL in 2023

Home town Cincinnati, OH

Interests: mah-jong, ladies bunco.

# 2026 Membership Campaign

Ramona Pound

[jnrpound@hotmail.com](mailto:jnrpound@hotmail.com)

It may seem early to start talking about the 2026 Membership Campaign, but the truth is, to have a successful Campaign a lot of preparation, planning and communication needs to be done well in advance. Ramona Pound, who has been an active member of BNNC for five years, has offered to head the 2026 Membership Campaign. Ramona's educational and professional background are the perfect match to lead this effort.

In the coming months, Ramona will be conducting individual and group interviews to learn what the strengths and weaknesses of BNNC are and what we need to do to keep and attract members.

The BNNC Board hopes that you will become part of the discussions on how to make our club meaningful and exciting going into the future.

Ramona will be giving updates in each newsletter. Please feel free to contact her at [jnrpound@hotmail.com](mailto:jnrpound@hotmail.com) if you would like to offer help with the Campaign, or to be sure that you are included in the discussion.

## Help Wanted

**Graphic artist and/or a person proficient in working with software** to redesign the BNNC promotional brochure.

**Participants Needed:** Have you been a member of BNNC for one or more years and would like to talk about what we are doing well and what other things you would like to see us do?

**Contact:** Ramona Pound 813-517-7505 or [jnrpound@hotmail.com](mailto:jnrpound@hotmail.com)

## **BNNC meetings have returned to the American Legion!**

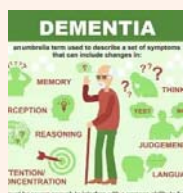
**1800 W 3rd Street. Ample parking at the door.**

**Mark your calendars in January and February for the FIRST TUESDAY at lunch time for exciting events! Please do not arrive before 11:15 AM; program starts at noon. Plenty of time to order and socialize before the presentation!**

**You are welcome to attend without eating; please come and join your friends.**



**On Tuesday, January 6th**, Local Comedian Jan Gudaitis will be our featured speaker (and entertainer) for our Luncheon Program. Jan will discuss her comedy career and will also provide information about the Bloomington Good Evening Toastmaster's Club.



**On Tuesday, February 3rd**, a critical topic will be addressed by Amanda K. Oporta, CDP, CDCM, SSD, CADDCT. She will speak about dementias, including Alzheimer's, and will also provide important information about brain health.

**Please be sure to take photos of your group events! Forward those photos to [john.depaemelaere@outlook.com](mailto:john.depaemelaere@outlook.com) for inclusion in the newsletter.**

## Future TGIF Events

**We need volunteers to host future TGIF events on the 2nd Friday of each month.**

**We still need hosts for most months in 2026.**

**Contact Hollie Lutz if you would like to host TGIF.**

[hlutz4@gmail.com](mailto:hlutz4@gmail.com) (812) 320-8386



## RESOURCES FOR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### WEBSITES FOR EVENT INFORMATION

[visitbloomington.com/events](https://visitbloomington.com/events) – a comprehensive listing of local events

Check out the City of Bloomington website for City events and local governmental information:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/about>

Don't forget to check out events throughout the state:

[visitindiana.com/events](https://visitindiana.com/events)



**New Group Starting!****Knitting for a Cause**

If you are interested in meeting once a month to crochet or knit scarves, hats, socks and blankets for the local women's shelter, please contact Robyn Axelrod at [robyn@axelrod.us](mailto:robyn@axelrod.us) or 812-778-0880. Robyn is open to the day, time, and place that best suits the group. She would prefer a Monday, late morning somewhere on the east side or at the mall by the food court. If you would like to get involved or can lead the group, please contact Robyn.

**3rd Monday Canasta****November 17, 2025**



# Supper Club

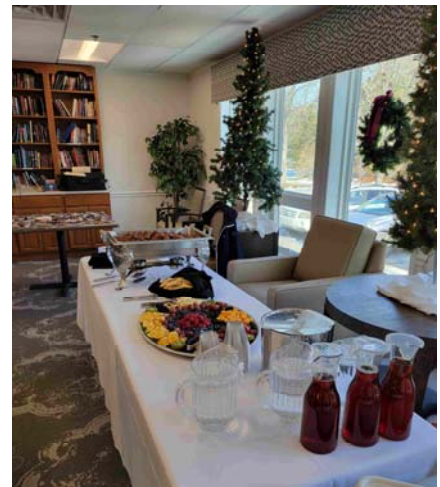
## November 18, 2025

### At Bangkok Thai



# First Friday Canasta

## December 5, 2025



## Wine Club December, 2025



## Supper Club December 10, 2025





## 3rd Monday Canasta

December 15, 2025



## Lunch and a Movie December 23, 2025



## Book Club 1

**Book Club 1** meets every month on the last Wednesday of the month, 12:30, at Bell Trace, in the 3rd floor lounge. New members are Welcome !

Our book club met Wednesday, 17 Dec, to discuss the book ***Birds Without Wings***, by Luis de Bernies, discussion led by Meg Bielski. The story describes the lives of Greeks living in the small village of Kayakoy in southwest Turkey and their expulsion to Greece in 1923, following the Greco-Turkish war, and the Treaty of Lausanne, setting the boundaries for modern Turkey.

On Wednesday, 28 January, the Club will meet to discuss ***The Sun Also Rises*** by Ernest Hemingway, led by Ken Crawford. Expatriates in Paris in the 1920's, the **Festival of San Fermín** in Pamplona, the **running of the bulls** and the **bullfights**. Hemingway's best work.



Book Club meeting in October to select 2026 reading list

### Books Selected for 2026

	<i>Presentation Month</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>
Ken C	Jan	The Sun Also Rises	Ernest Hemingway
Mary R	Feb	The Rent Collector	Camron Wright
Karen W	Mar	Code Name Verity	Elizabeth Wein
Phyllis S	April	Memorial Days	Geradine Brooks
Peggy B	May	The Berry Pickers	Amanda Peters
Susan K	June	The Beautiful Mystery	Louise Penney
Elaine P	July	Who Killed Jane Stanford	Richard White
Phyllis S	Aug	Go As a River	Shelley Read
Connie C	Sept	The Names	Florence Knapp
Meg B	Nov	The Lost Bookshop	Evie Woods
Ken C	Dec	Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting	Clare Poole

# INTEREST GROUPS

***Do you have an interest in a topic that you would like to share? Why not consider being a leader of an interest group? You can meet as often as you like, or when an opportunity comes up!***



**Knitting For A Cause - Robyn Axelrod** [robyn@axelrod.us](mailto:robyn@axelrod.us) (812) 778-0880

***If you are interested in meeting once a month to crochet or knit scarves, hats, socks and blankets for the local women's shelter, please contact Robyn Axelrod. Robyn is open to the day, time, and place that best suits the group. She would prefer a Monday, late morning somewhere on the east side or at the mall by the food court. If you would like to get involved or can lead the group, please contact Robyn.***



**Book Club #1—Ken Crawford** [kcrawford69@gmail.com](mailto:kcrawford69@gmail.com) 661-247-7600

***Meets at Bell Trace 3rd floor lounge at 12:30. See page 13.***

***Always welcoming new members.***



**Book Club #2—Book Club 2** meets on the 4th Friday of each month at Noon, with occasional date changes around the holidays. ***If interested, contact Izzy Beck*** [greavesbeck@gmail.com](mailto:greavesbeck@gmail.com) or (949) 439-8560. ***Participants bring a bag lunch and wine is served.***



**Railroad Group—Paul Lutz** [crfan59@yahoo.com](mailto:crfan59@yahoo.com) (812) 322-4669

**John DePaemelaere** [john.depaemelaere@outlook.com](mailto:john.depaemelaere@outlook.com) (812) 322-2630

***All things railroad, model trains, historic videos, field trips and more.***



**International Issues—Andy Bratton** [a7bratton@aol.com](mailto:a7bratton@aol.com) (732) 236-8543

***Meets 4th Thursday 4:30 PM at Red Lobster. Andy will email the topic a few days before.***



**Local Plays Group**

**LEADER NEEDED**



**Hiking Group--Charlotte Reitz** [charlotte.reitz@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.reitz@gmail.com) (812) 457-2285

***Meets monthly.***



**Meditation Group**

**LEADER NEEDED**

# Good Eating & Beverage Groups!

Page 15



**Fun Lunch Bunch** Meets the 4th Thursday of each month. Call Joan for reservations.  
Joan Lawrence [indycondo19@gmail.com](mailto:indycondo19@gmail.com) (217) 820-5009



**Ladies Night Out**



**Men's Breakfast Every Thursday 8:00-9:30 AM**

**John DePaemelaere** (812) 322-2630.

This group meets at the Lincoln Square, 2160 N Walnut Street.  
Free parking. We hope to see the regulars and new faces.



**Wine Tasting Linda Burton** [brtnlin@yahoo.com](mailto:brtnlin@yahoo.com) (812) 369-4611

This group is currently full.



**Wine Tasting Ruth Simon** [prsimon@gmail.com](mailto:prsimon@gmail.com) (812) 339-8291

This group is currently full.



**Supper Club John DePaemelaere** [john.depaemelaere@outlook.com](mailto:john.depaemelaere@outlook.com)

Contact John DePaemelaere for the next meeting date and location (812) 322-2630.  
RSVP to John.



**Lunch and a Movie DeeDee Bratton** [dianebratt@aol.com](mailto:dianebratt@aol.com) or (732) 2236-8543

We meet the first Tuesday of the month for lunch then your choice of a movie. Deedee will email a list of movies and the name of the restaurant the week before. Call her for lunch reservations.





## Cards & Games



**Mah-Jong**—Ruth Simon [prsimon@gmail.com](mailto:prsimon@gmail.com) (812) 340-4223

*'We play the hybrid military way.'* Please come, observe and play with us. We would be glad to have you.

**Cribbage Group**—Susan Hiller (773) 678-4280  
[greenviewsusan@gmail.com](mailto:greenviewsusan@gmail.com)

Offering instruction and welcoming new members.

**Ladies Bunco**-Debbie Zerr [dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dlzerr321@sbcglobal.net)  
(574) 220-2561 Meets the 3rd Thursday.

**First Friday canasta** meets the first Friday of every month at Meadowood HP Lounge from 1 - 4:30 p.m. 2455 Tamarack Trail, 47408. No RSVP is required, but if you would like a reminder, please be sure that you are on our email list. Contact Ramona Pound, 813-517-7505 or [jnrpound@hotmail.com](mailto:jnrpound@hotmail.com) Beginners are welcome.

**New Canasta Players always welcome.**

**Third Monday Canasta Group** will meet at 1 PM at Bloomington Library-South. Coordinated by Susan Montgomery [montgomery\\_4884@msn.com](mailto:montgomery_4884@msn.com) (812) 325-4611

**New Canasta Players always welcome.** You can play on Monday or Friday! We'll teach you to play!

**Domino Group** - Janet Justus [jjustus24@gmail.com](mailto:jjustus24@gmail.com)  
(321) 276-6080

Will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the College Mall upper deck of the Food Court. We will meet at 12:00 PM for those who want to have lunch together at Azzip. At 1:00 PM the Games begin. The 13 games usually take 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

**Poker Group**





## Cards & Games



### **4th Monday Bridge Linda Burton**

[brtnlin@yahoo.com](mailto:brtnlin@yahoo.com) (219)-793-5498

**Need more players!**

### **3rd Friday Ladies Bridge Linda Burton**

[brtnlin@yahoo.com](mailto:brtnlin@yahoo.com) (219)-793-5498

### **4th Friday Couples Bridge Jane McHenry**

[jmchenry1955@gmail.com](mailto:jmchenry1955@gmail.com) (317) 385-2859

### **3rd Wednesday Bridge--Connie Clark (479) 365-9270**

[conclrk@gmail.com](mailto:conclrk@gmail.com)

### **1st Tuesday Men's Bridge**

**New members welcome!**

**LEADER NEEDED**

### **3rd Thursday Men's Bridge**

**New members welcome!**

**LEADER NEEDED**

### **1st Wednesday Bridge--Mary Rucker**

We meet at 12:30. Please call Mary 812-219-1636 if you have gotten a sub. You may also call the hostess with that information.



BNNC

## Membership Application and Directory Form

**Use this form for both new membership and membership renewal.  
Please print.**

The information is published in a directory and shared with members.

*Circle any information you do NOT want listed in the Directory*

- To participate in any BNNC Interest Group an individual **MUST** be a paid member
- Membership Year: June 1 thru May 31. Annual Dues Per Household: \$20.00.
- **Special discounted fee for first time members is \$10 for the first year.**
- Late payment may result in not being included in the directory.
- Membership is open to any resident of the Bloomington area.

### PLEASE CHECK ONE:

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

bloomingtonnnc.com

<b>Name(s) REQUIRED:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	<b>Birthday (month/day):</b>
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
<b>Address:</b>		<b>Mailing Address (if different):</b>	<b>Preferred Phone contact:</b>
			1.
<b>City and zip:</b>		<b>City and zip:</b>	2.
<b>New Members:</b>		<b>New Members:</b>	<b>New Members:</b>
Moved here from & year moved:		Hometown (if different):	How did you learn about
1.		1.	Newcomers?
2.		2.	

<b>Please make check payable to:</b>	<b>Mail completed form and payment to:</b>
<b>BNNC</b>	BNNC
	PO Box 8231
	Bloomington, IN 47407-8231

<b>For Office Use Only</b>			
Check Date: _____	Check No. _____	Amount: _____	Dep _____
New Member _____	DB _____	Directory _____	

## Interest Group List

Members may join any of the following interest groups. Simply circle those that you might be interested in and your contact information will be forwarded to the group leader. You may select as many groups as you would like. Duplicate the form when there are two members in a household with different interests. You may also download a copy from the website at [www.bloomingtonnnc.com](http://www.bloomingtonnnc.com).

Crafting Club	Wine Tasting
Gardening	Supper Club
Mah-Jong	Local Plays
Ladies Bunco	Ladies Bridge
International Issues	Men's Bridge
First Friday Canasta	Couple's Bridge
Third Monday Canasta	Mixed Bridge
Book Club 1	Railroad Group
Book Club 2	Prompt Writing
Lunch & Movie	Hiking Group
Fun Lunch Bunch	Men's Gin Rummy
TGIF	Men's Poker
Ladies Night Out	Cribbage
Getting to Know You Dinners	Meditation
Men's Breakfast	Dominos Group

The BNNC newsletter provides contact information, details of meeting dates and locations for those groups. The newsletter is sent to all dues paying members.

BNNC is always looking to add new groups.

You can create a group!

Would you like to be a leader?

[btownnewcomersneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:btownnewcomersneighbors@gmail.com)