

Newcomers Club of Scottsdale gave East Coaster a fresh start



Your Turn

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Guest columnist

Imagine leaving your hometown, where you were raised, lived your entire life, built your social-support network and forged your career. That's what I did!

I was firmly rooted in Scarsdale, New York, for 65 years — it was the town where I grew up and practiced dentistry for 41 years.

I was involved with Scarsdale's Rotary Club, BNI, temple, dental society, Crossfit studio and most recently was secretary of the Scarsdale Family Counseling Service (which I adored!).

Nothing ever changes, but then suddenly it does. I unexpectedly lost all of my immediate family members and I ended up selling my dental practice and my condo.

I needed a fresh start, and Scottsdale seemed like the perfect place. I uprooted myself from all of my social and professional connections in New York, and I drove there. It was the boldest thing I had ever done.

I arrived in Scottsdale "stone cold." I had no relatives here and knew only a few friends and colleagues. I was completely unaccustomed to having so much free time! (I hope to continue my career here.) I questioned whether I should have come at all.

In retrospect, I made a great decision. Unlike most places, Scottsdale is a very easy place for newcomers to connect. Almost everyone here is a transplant from somewhere else — and it seems like everyone has a unique story to chronicle how they landed here.

Connecting with people in Scottsdale turned out to be as easy as "click, click, click." With only a few mouse clicks, I landed in the Newcomers Club of

Scottsdale. My introduction to the club began with an "informational coffee," a cozy gathering held at a club member's house.

This informal event is held monthly to welcome the newest of the newcomers. I was warmly greeted and given a name tag. Several officers showcased the club's numerous and varied events.

The Newcomer's Club literally has something for everyone! There are social events, restaurant outings, museum visits, field trips, sports like golf and hiking, movies, concerts, discussion groups, cards, mah-jongg, charity events — you name it!

The non-profit club traces its roots back to the 1960s and is run entirely by volunteers. It is currently led by Nicole Abbott, president; Peggy Faseler and Laura Nunnelley, vice presidents; Robin Wargo, treasurer; Ruth Couse, secretary; and special directors Carly Bryant and Ellen Halsted.

Since that first informational coffee I have been to numerous events — men's club breakfasts, happy hours, parties and luncheons. There are a lot more outings on my bucket list that I have yet to try.

But now that I have a few events under my belt, I am actually connecting with club members. I have even socialized with a few outside of club events.

I can say with conviction that the greatest gift that the Newcomer's Club of Scottsdale has to offer is community. For nominal dues what members receive is truly priceless. No one need ever be lonely or bored in Scottsdale! And rest assured, there is no "hazing." Everyone is truly welcome — both new and not-so-new.

Details: newcomersclubofscottsdale.com

Edward Feinberg is a dentist who lives in Scottsdale.