

## Hello, Friends!

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Planning a Bunco (or girls') date night

While I was preparing several topics for newsletters this year, I was also busy planning to host a Bunco night for some grown-up girls' fun.

(If you never played bunco, here is a website: <https://gameonfamily.com/how-to-play-bunco> )

A group of Fenton ladies named the Orchard Hills - Hills of Tyrone Bunco Club invited me to join them as a sub, several years ago. They have been getting together to play for nearly 18 years.

From my first experience, I felt it was a lot of fun. I joked with the group, saying I was on probation for two years before I was invited as a full-time player — ha-ha!

Here are some suggestions on how to host a Bunco night:

1. Clean your house a few days before the guests will arrive. Even the week-end before is a good idea. You can always give the powder room one last cleaning the night of hosting.
2. Since we have 12 people in our group, I need three sitting areas to play, so most of us hosts have to do a little furniture re-arranging.
3. Decide on a menu. Our group hosts dinner for 12 people, so that is not something you throw together the day of the event. Look for a meal that is easy to prepare and doesn't take a lot of babysitting. This might be a great time to pull out your slow-cooker. When preparing your meal, you may need to keep people's allergies in mind or if someone is a vegetarian or vegan.
4. For our particular group, we play for prizes, such as "most Buncos" (person who has won the most games during the night.) We even have one for the "biggest loser." Prize shopping can be done earlier in the month and if you are like me, I prefer to get these tasks done sooner rather than later. Then when the prizes are put into gift bags, be sure to label your bags so you know who is to get what prize.
5. Dinnerware and silverware — do you have enough for the group?
6. This is a great time to organize your front closet and entrance area, especially if you are hosting in the winter months. You'll need plenty of hangers for your guests' coats.
7. Besides dinner, you'll also have to think about beverages — choosing what your group likes to drink, whether to include alcoholic beverages, coffee, pop, water etc...

Over the years, this group of wonderful ladies have shared a lot through their long-time friendships. We have been through divorces, becoming grandmothers, and new jobs to name a few.

We are there to support and encourage one another, which is so important these days. Over the past few years, we've even taken trips together since most of us have kids in college or who are living on their own. Through these games, we are building wonderful memories together.

I think everyone should have a "Bunco" group — or some type of excuse to get together with your girlfriends, don't you?

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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