

President's Message

As always, I remain gratified to be your chapter President, and I am excited about what continues to lay in store for everyone! We have a lot of big things happening, so I want to bring your attention to the following events and initiatives.

- **Deep Dive: Real Returns Series** – We kicked off our Deep Dive series about Investing in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) on Tuesday, January 13. We did Part One with a case study related to multi-family properties. This series runs on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm ET with Part Two focusing on office properties, and Part Three focusing on retail properties. We look forward to continuing to explore the diverse world of commercial real estate and how you can participate as a better investor! You can register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/6551642796290680157>

- **Annual Meeting and Education Fair** – On Saturday, March 7 at 9 am, we will hold our annual meeting to elect a slate of Directors and Volunteers. At 9:30 am, we will have an Education Fair featuring two of our own: Carmen Dudley and Dr. Randall Buss. We are thrilled to host these excellent presenters so they can share their knowledge and help you expand your investing toolkit and skills! The event is virtual, so you can attend from anywhere. You can register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3559171267481861976>

- **Membership Support** – We have been hard at work building a path to enhance our membership support for the chapter. In the coming months, we will roll out a program to focus on what is going well for you, to learn what we could be doing better, and to provide guidance for any specific “pain point” you may be experiencing as a club or individual member. We look forward to engaging further with our clubs and individual members so we can continue to strengthen your investor skills and club operations.

- **BetterInvesting® National Convention (BINC) 2026** – And last, but certainly not least, BINC 2026 will be in Chicago from April 23-26, 2026. This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn and network with clubs and chapters from across the county. Sessions for all experience levels will be available throughout the conference. There will be a little bit of something for everyone. I will be presenting two topics at BINC, so please come say hello if you get a chance to attend! *Sofia Bitela, President, South Florida Chapter*
More info here: <https://www.betterinvesting.org/binc2026>



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INVESTORS

BETTER INVESTING™

Educating Investors Since 1951

South Florida Chapter (SFLC) Newsletter

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<https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/south-florida>

Sofia Bitela, President

Barbara B. Cobb, Editor / Mark Klein, Guest Editor

Philip "Phil" Keating, CFA (Founding Director, 1987)

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INTRODUCTION: GUEST EDITOR, MARK KLEIN

Mark started learning about stock investing in middle school when his Dad also pushed him to learn advanced math concepts. His first big investment of \$2,250 was in Twentieth Century Growth mutual fund the Friday before Black Monday of 1987. He continued to follow funds, learn about stocks, and especially screening while in grad school and assumed management of his personal stock portfolio in 2001. After working as a Doctor of Pharmacy for a handful of years, Mark retired to trade options for a living at the age of 36. With that ongoing, he maintains the strongest belief in long-term equity investments thereby leading him to BetterInvesting® in 2022.

Mark fully embraced the BetterInvesting® (BI) philosophy and methodology. He regularly attended the South Florida Chapter Model Investment Club meetings, and set a personal goal to learn the BI methodology through First Cut Report submissions. Mark submitted more than 100 First Cut Reports in one year, leading Headquarters to revisit and amend chapter recognition rules. Fully understanding the BI philosophy and embracing the opportunity to serve BI membership, Mark joined the South Florida Chapter in 2023 and completed the South Florida Chapter New Volunteer Orientation and Development Program. Mark is now in his second year serving as the chapter secretary. [Editor's Note: Mark became a BI member to learn how to size up stocks, and that's exactly what he has done. He has shown exemplary skills in using the Stock Selection Guide (SSG), maintains an interest in helping youth learn the BI methodology, and is committed to learning and serving others.]

Volunteer Spotlight



Randall Buss, MD, FACS

Dr. Randall Buss, a Columbus, Ohio native says, “thankfully my family had the good sense to move to Orlando, Florida, when I was four years old. Florida has felt like home ever since.” During high school and college, he worked weekends and holidays at Disney World—an experience he’ll always cherish. His favorite role was in the Haunted Mansion, where he perfected the art of delivering the classic line: “Kindly step in... step all the way in.” Randall believes, “timing, precision, and a little drama are useful skills in many areas of life.”

Randall graduated from Auburn University, where he fell in love with Auburn football Saturdays. To him, there’s nothing quite like the energy of Jordan-Hare on game day. He earned his medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. During medical school, Randall discovered his passion for cardiac surgery and knew he had found his calling.

Randall’s surgical training included five years of general surgery at Southwestern Medical School followed by two years of cardiothoracic surgery training at the University of Michigan. After completing his training, Randall began his practice in Rome, Georgia. As Randall reminds us, “all roads lead to Rome.”

After a year in practice, a friend invited Ran-

dall to join the BetterInvesting® (BI) Blue Chip Investment Club. He resisted at first, but his friend persisted. Randall is grateful he did. From Randall’s very first meeting, he fell in love with the disciplined process of investing in high-quality growth stocks. Randall’s father, a brilliant mathematician and MIT graduate who taught probability at the local college, had instilled in him an appreciation for making decisions with favorable odds. To Randall, BI reflected that same philosophy: investing with a high probability of success.

Randall eventually served as President of the BI Blue Chip Investment Club before moving in 1998 to Fort Myers, Florida. He absolutely loves Florida; whether it’s backwater fishing at sunrise or taking a peaceful stroll along the beach, this is where Randall’s heart feels most at ease.

About five years ago, the South Florida Chapter started a Model Investment Club with lonnie McNeill as President and Randall as Vice President. He now serves as President and says he “truly enjoys teaching new investors.” Randall has also helped start another BI investment club in Fort Myers, the Healing Heart Investment Club: appropriately named since many of its members work on the heart team at the local hospital.



Volunteer Spotlight Randall Buss, MD, FACS

Continued...

Randall is now retired from surgery, which has allowed him to dedicate more time to teaching and mentoring others in BI principles. He says, "these principles are the bedrock of my personal portfolio, and I have made great strides by faithfully following them."

Randall firmly believes that when you retire, you should retire to something, not from it. Randall's retirement plan is teaching BI principles while enjoying Auburn football, Florida

sunshine, quiet fishing waters, and long walks on the beach, is his retirement plan. He says, "he couldn't be happier." *(Editors' Note: Randall joined the Learn to Earn team as a guest presenter in February 2025 and has been presenting with them since September 2025. He will complete the BetterInvesting® New Volunteer Development Program March 2026.)*

Randall Buss, Chapter Associate Director,
President South Florida Chapter Model
Investment Club

BETTERINVESTING CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!!!

The BetterInvesting® National Convention (BINC)

April 23-26, 2026

Marriott Chicago O'Hare Hotel

8535 West Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631

Book Hotel Reservations: 800-535-4028, or online

<https://www.betterinvesting.org/binc2026>

Educational sessions for all levels of investors
Learn how to grow the return on your investments
Talk face-to-face with nationally recognized experts
Learn how to improve your finances and retirement

Learn from Financial Experts and Investing Educators

David Gardner, co-founder of The Motley Fool, Keynote Speaker / Rule Breaking Stocks Chat
Sofia Bitela, President South Florida Chapter, Reading Annual Reports / Tariffs and your SSG
BetterInvesting® Nationally-Recognized and Respected Experts: **Suzi Artzberger**, **Doug Gerlach**, **Jackie Koski**, **Carol Theine**, **Kim Butcher**, **Kevin Gillogly**, **Ken Kavula**, **Cy Lynch**, **Christi Powell**, **Mark Robertson**, **Kathleen Richards**, **Matt Spielman**, **Robin Ware**, **Robert Wynn** and many others presenting more than 60 classes

Volunteer Spotlight



Carmen Dudley

Carmen Luz Dudley has been a BetterInvesting® (BI) member since 2017. She has been a member of two investment clubs in Columbus, Georgia, and is currently an active member of the South Florida Model Investment Club. For the past few years, Carmen has been mentored by Kathleen Richards and the Model Wheeler Dealer Investment Club of the Northeast Ohio Chapter. She enjoys taking full advantage of BI educational opportunities. She has attended several Georgia investor fairs, the most recent BetterInvesting® National Conventions (BINC) in Dallas and Chicago, and several virtual BINCs. An enthusiastic long-term investor, Carmen watched the 2021 Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting on television and has attended every year since in Omaha, Nebraska, with her husband.

Born in Santiago, Chile, Carmen earned an undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Santiago where she also played on the university volleyball team. In 2002, she completed her MBA at American University in Washington, DC. A United States citizen since 2001, she accompanied her husband, James Dudley, on diplomatic assignments in Nicaragua, Mozambique, Spain, and Brazil before the couple retired to Columbus, Georgia, in 2013.

Throughout her career, Carmen has worked in multiple countries and across diverse fields including mining, retail, higher education, and international and governmental organizations. She is fluent in Spanish and English and speaks some Portuguese. Carmen is actively involved in two women's study clubs both with histories spanning more than 100 years. During the COVID era, she took up tatting and continues to enjoy the craft. She is also active in the Columbus exercise community and has participated in several road races across four continents. Carmen and James share their home with their dog, Murry.

Carmen is daughter of the late Miguel Barría and Rosa Escobar and sister to Miguel and Carolina of Chile. She has been married to James for 28 years, and they are the proud parents of son Michael, age 22, who works as a financial analyst for Wells Fargo in Charlotte, North Carolina. Michael joined them at the Chicago 2024 BINC convention. Carmen and James look forward to attending this year's convention in Chicago.

***Carmen Dudley**, Chapter Director, Active Partner & former Vice President South Florida Chapter Model Investment Club*

Join Us for BINC 2026

Your member discount is waiting. 60+ sessions. Chicago, April 23-26.

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Extracting Stock Prospects Using BetterInvesting Tools

Looking for stocks to study? The BetterInvesting@ website makes hunting simple. Click "Find Great Stocks" to open a portal to a treasure trove. Click "Stock Screening" and see several pre-defined screens that may be checked periodically for new ideas. Select any pre-defined screen and click the second "Preview Data" button on any row to scroll quickly through the entire list with the "Next" and "Previous" arrow buttons.

As a way to make use of any article or presentation that one may find, consider the Morningstar article "33 Stocks to Buy While They're Still Undervalued" (Susan Dziubinski, January 4, 2026) suggested to me by fellow Chapter Director Barbara Cobb. The article includes the economic moat category (none, narrow, or wide) for all 33 stocks. Wide economic moat serves as a promising quality filter. The stocks on which to focus are the 12 of 33 having wide moats.

The process then is as follows. Go to the BetterInvesting@ home page and enter ticker symbols one at a time in the field below "Online Tools" (where words "Launch SSG -- Enter Ticker Here" are seen). Clicking the green "Go" button then opens a new browser tab showing the stock. Are the lines up, straight, and parallel? If so then add the ticker symbol to a prospect list. Close the tab and enter the next ticker symbol. Repeat until all 12 have been inspected.

I found nine of the 12 stocks to be mostly "up, straight, and parallel." That's nine solid prospects for further study in 10 minutes or less. Can't be much more efficient than that!

Mark Klein, Guest Editor, Director, South Florida Chapter Secretary

NEW INITIATIVE!!!!!! Membership Support Program

The South Florida Chapter has been working since 2024 on improving membership services. A team was organized to assess the chapter support and to brainstorm ideas. In 2025, the Membership Support Team developed a three-year pilot program, and identified participants to serve on the Membership Focus Group. This group is tasked with assessing the program and provide feedback before program launched. The program shall launch this year. Stay tuned for the upcoming announcement!

The South Florida Chapter Membership Support Team: Sofia Bitela, Barbara Cobb, Pat Daniels, and Cherylanne Thomas. Confirmed so far for the Membership Focus Group: Jennifer Haynes, South Florida Chapter Model Investment Club, Sheryl Patterson, President D. C. Regional Chapter, and Cherylanne Thomas, Individual Member.



Investor Education Fair and Elections Meeting (Virtual)

Saturday, March 7, 2026 / 9 am - 12 pm ET / FREE

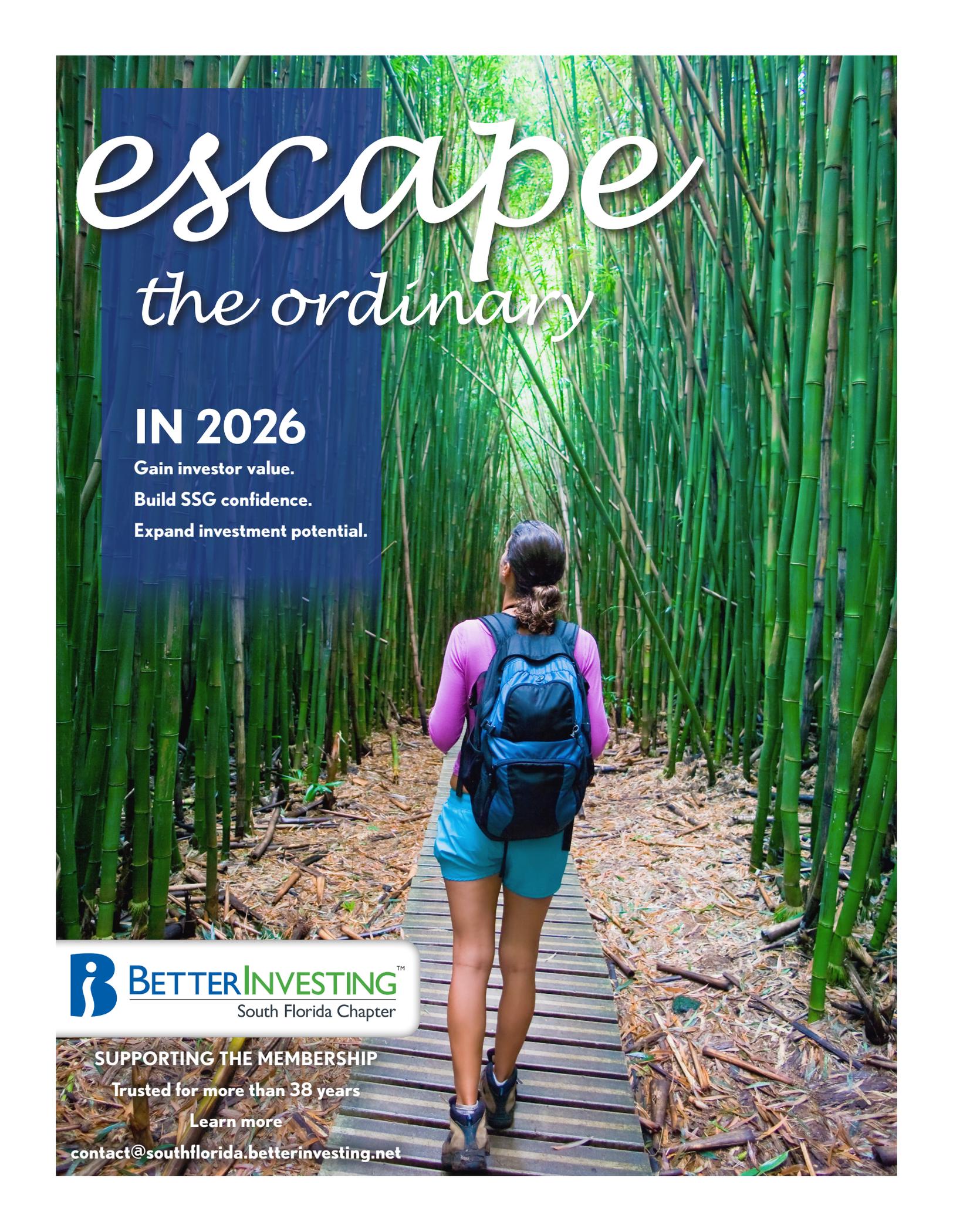
<https://www.betterinvesting.org/chapters/south-florida/local-events/investor-education-day>

Portfolio management and searching for stocks to study are particularly important to the BetterInvesting® (BI) investment clubs and individual members. Being an informed and disciplined investor is the first step to success. Discover or master successful investing by attending the South Florida **Chapter Investor Education Fair/Elections Meeting**. Two experienced BI investors and South Florida Chapter volunteers, **Randall Buss and Carmen Dudley**, will satisfy your quest to better investing through their knowledge, presentation styles, tips, and techniques on portfolio management and stock screeners.

South Florida Model Investment Club Portfolio Review 2020-Present - Learn the reasons for and the process of conducting portfolio review using BetterInvesting® portfolio reports and myClub reports. The South Florida Model Investment

Club's current portfolio performance since 2020 inception will be presented. The presentation concludes with recommendations for action based on the review. **Carmen Dudley, South Florida Chapter Director and Model Investment Club Partner**

Screening for High-Quality Growth Stocks - Harness the power of stock screeners to make informed investment choices. Randall will show how a better investor screens for high-quality growth stocks for good, long-term returns using his search, filter, and analysis process. Discover or master your search for stocks to study. **Randall Buss, South Florida Chapter Associate Director and Model Investment Club President**



escape the ordinary

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