

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WINTER PARK, INC. AUGUST 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Club Office: 407-644-2237

Email: info@womansclubofwinterpark.com

President: Cynthia Gerken

President Elect: Judy Allen



President's Message



Dear Ladies of The Woman's Club of Winter Park,

Renovations at the club house have begun in earnest. There is a lot of clatter, the smell of paint and there are drop cloths over the furniture. Several of our members have volunteered to return phone calls and answer emails in Kyle's absence. She was kind enough to teach us how to do this remotely from our homes so no one has to endure the noise and inconvenience of the construction. Again, thank you to all who have volunteered. I think the volunteers are learning more about the business

side of the club which is a good thing. While we certainly miss Kyle, I know she is enjoying these first weeks with Liam who arrived July 15.

I want to remind you to "Like" us on our Facebook page and also to visit our new beautiful website. We are going to make a more concerted effort to be visible on social media this year by posting our programs and events and we hope to have the support of the membership. See more about our Website in this Highlights.

Our Membership Tea is on September 17, and there is a flyer at the end of the Highlights that you can print and pass along to your neighbors and friends. While you are inviting ladies to our Membership Tea, don't forget to remind them about our rummage sale on September 5.

Enjoy these hot summer days! See you in September.

Cynthia

Congratulations are in order

We send warm wishes and congratulations to Kyle and Will Grafton on the birth of their son, Liam. And it appears that Liam is sending greetings to us! Our clubhouse is about to get a lot livelier.



A Special Invitation

We have been invited to the Southern Winds Theatre for "Women's Club of Winter Park Night" for a production of "Women Playing Hamlet," on Monday, **September 21 at 7:30 PM**. Tickets are \$25 and a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception will follow the play. And of course husbands and family and friends are invited. This event is being staged by David A. McElroy and Marilyn McGinnis who entertained us as Charles and Helen Morse at our Founder's Night Celebration in January. This is a wonderful opportunity for a group activity. If you would like to attend but do not wish to drive, we will arrange transportation. Carpooling to the theatre at 511 Virginia Dr. is also an option. There will be more about this in the September Highlights but please **SAVE THE DATE!** To reserve your seat now please contact Sandra Blossey, scblossey@cfl.rr.com or 407-740-7758.

News from our Historian

Did You Know?

In 1915, two years after the General Federation of Women's Clubs voted to give woman suffrage its official endorsement, the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs officially endorsed suffrage at the November convention. As an active member of the Florida Federation, the Woman's Club of Winter Park became an extension of one of the most powerful organizations for women in Florida and provided members of the Woman's Club of Winter Park the exciting opportunity to work for suffrage at the local and state level.

The national Suffrage Movement's primary focus on obtaining the ballot and its general lack of proper respectability and acceptance in the South often reduced its appeal to Southern women. In Florida, however, joining a woman's club was still the socially acceptable "thing to do." Thus many dedicated suffragists utilized the moderate club environment as an additional platform for their suffrage work. One of the most influential suffragists in Florida was Jacksonville resident Mrs. May Mann Jennings, wife of Governor William S. Jennings and the President of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. In Winter Park, Mrs. Susan Dyer, Woman's Club of Winter Park President from 1918 until her death in 1921, played an active role in the Suffrage Movement. A special suffrage edition of *The State* newspaper, dated 1914, lists Mrs. Susan Dyer as President of the Equal Suffrage League of Winter Park.

As a direct result of the highly visible and valuable work American women were performing in support of the Homefront during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson changed his stand on women's voting rights and in 1918 actively sought support for woman suffrage. Encouraged by this shift at the Federal level, Susan Dyer formed a Woman's Club of Winter Park committee focused on suffrage and sent to the Florida State Legislature a petition "requesting municipal suffrage for women." A copy of the June 12, 1919, edition of *The Winter Park Post* newspaper, found in the Winter Park Public Library Archives, includes a fascinating article submitted by club member Grace Edwards outlining the Municipal Suffrage Bill, explaining who could vote, property owners over 21 years of age, and how to register. In her words, "Go personally to the Town Hall during the above hours, smile sweetly and tell the Clerk that you desire to register. Then take the pen firmly in hand and as legibly as possible inscribe your name in the book, breathe a sigh of relief, smile again sweetly and make room for the next voter." She also noted that when club members canvassed the town, some confronted difficulties as "opponents of the measure had tried to stir up feeling in the matter especially among the 'colored' voters giving them to understand it was for "white women only." On July 8, 1919, in what was referred to as "an innovation in municipal affairs," women, including several club members, voted for the first time in Winter Park in a municipal election.

The January 8, 1920, issue of *The Winter Park Post* noted that the "Woman's Club has unusual meeting" with "Mrs. Dyer's strong appeal to women voters to take a real and intelligent part in the coming town election." Club archival records indicate when equal suffrage was granted...the first to register [to vote] were Club members," and "to further commemorate the 'coming of age' of women, the Civics Committee of the Club hosted a party at the Town Hall to which all women voters were invited."

In the years following the granting of voting rights for American women, the 19th Amendment of the Constitution was ratified at the Federal level on August 18, 1920, the Woman's Club of Winter Park continued to support the work of the League of Women Voters by urging women to register and to vote in all elections. For most club members, however, the fight for suffrage and its application of voting rights remained a secondary endeavor with, instead, a traditional

woman's club agenda of social, intellectual, and civic pursuits remaining in the forefront. An interesting side note...most Southern states actively and adamantly opposed giving women the right to vote, in fact, the Florida Legislature did not formally ratify the 19th Amendment until May 13, 1969!

For an interesting look at Winter Park during this time go to the Winter Park Public Library online copies of *The Winter Park Post* <http://www.wtpl.org/wphistory/wppost1920.html>

Rummage Sale

The Woman's Club of Winter Park is known in the community for its charitable giving and scholarships. Last year we brought back this fundraiser that was one of our activities in the past. It was hugely successful for the club. Those of you who were at the opening of the rummage sale last year will remember the line down the block. Set up for the rummage sale will begin Monday, August 31st. If you can help with set up, sorting, pricing, passing out flyers or the bake sale, please contact Judy Allen, judyallen244@gmail.com. A lot of help is needed to make this fundraiser a success so please consider donating items and baked goods, volunteering a few hours, a day, or several days. All monies raised will be designated for our charitable giving. There is a flyer at the end of the Highlights. If you can help publicize the rummage sale, feel free to print copies and pass them out to friends, family and businesses.



Happy Birthday to the following members:

Jacqueline Davis 8/17
Linda Heint 8/29
Carol Livera 8/2
Bonnie Mizell 8/5
Joyce Munsie 8/2
Elizabeth Murray 8/22
Jean Rife 8/22
Ginny Stuart 8/19
Frances Tomcavage 8/24
Carleta Wilson 8/5
Arlene Wroblicky 8/1

In the event you have not yet renewed your membership, please use the form provided. We would like to have all renewals before the Membership Tea on September 17, 2015. Kudos to former President Linda Castle. After all of the testing was done, she was the first member to renew her membership on line from our website.

An Invitation!

We invite you to visit and explore our new website: www.womansclubofwinterpark.com. Learn about our club and our history, pay your dues online, find our monthly programs, and see photos of our activities and events - and much more!

Sign in to view our online Directory, which you will find under the heading "Membership".

The login is:

User: womansclubwp

Password: wpmember

After you log in, look for our SECRET WORD! Remember the word and enter it in a raffle at the Membership Tea, Thursday, September 17th at 2pm. There is a prize for the winner!

Getting to know you....

As you know renters pay our bills and we are generally busy every weekend year - round with weddings, parties, dinners, cotillion, and luncheons. We are having more event rentals during the week as well.

The Woman's Club of Winter Park is very fortunate to have some men around to help us with the 'heavy lifting.' Freddy Gutierrez has been helping us out for some time. You may know that he is Gonzalo's uncle. Freddy helps to keep our clubhouse ready for viewing at all times. Since Freddy has a regular job, he helps us on evenings and weekends with event set up and clean up. You may see Freddy around the clubhouse if you attend a weekend event.

In June we hired Tom Glennon as our Building Coordinator and Technology Specialist. He has an extensive background in technology. Tom will be able to help our speakers set up for their presentations as well as set up for our programs and rental events. We are very fortunate to have found someone with his expertise. Welcome Tom to the Woman's Club family.



Freddy Gutierrez



Tom Glennon

**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WINTER PARK, INC.
P.O. BOX 1433, WINTER PARK, FL 32790**

Your Name _____ Today's Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Birth Month _____ Day _____

Please check if you do **not** want your information published in directory: Phone ___ Cell ___ Email ___

Please list professional experience and volunteer interests:

It has been our custom that each member participate 2 or 3 times each year on the Hospitality Committee for our teas: greeters, kitchen help, pourers, cookies, sandwiches, centerpiece, etc.

Please indicate your interest in other committees:

Ways & Means: Spring Woman's Show _____ Founder's Day _____ Rummage Sale _____
Bake Sale _____ Auctions _____ Bingo _____ Raffles _____

Community Service: Adult Literacy _____ Salvation Army _____ Orlando Rescue Mission _____
Winter Park Housing _____ Dress for Success _____ Other? _____

Programs: Music _____ Art _____ Literature _____ Travel _____ Health _____ Drama _____ Other? _____

Lunches: Fall _____ Holiday _____ Fashion Show _____

Scholarship: Review applications, Interview Candidates & Make Decisions _____

Publicity: _____ Website & Facebook _____ Finance Chair or Treasurer _____

Fundraising Committee _____ **House Preservation Committee** _____ **Club History** _____

Membership Committee _____ **House** _____ **Landscaping** _____ **Legal Issues** _____

Holiday Parade _____ **Holiday Tree in the Park** _____

Please add check for your dues -----(\$95)

New member initiation (one time)----- (\$25)

Voluntary donation-----

Total _____



SATURDAY 09/05/2015
9AM – 4PM
Rummage Sale

All Proceeds to benefit charities:

In 2015 we contributed to Adult Literacy League - Beta Center – Southeastern Guide Dogs – Eti-Keys Training Group – Lighthouse Central Florida – Fern Creek Foundation – Housing Authority of Winter Park



Woman's Club of Winter Park is putting on a Rummage Sale!

You can't miss the variety of items we have to sell!

Free Admission!

Benefits Charities!

Lunch Available from *George's Gourmet to Go!*

The Woman's Club of Winter Park

419 S. Interlachen Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32790-1433
(407) 644-2237

womansclubofwinterpark.com

Sept. 5, 2015 9 am – 4 pm

*An Invitation
The Woman's Club of Winter Park, Inc. Membership Tea
Thursday, September 17, 2:00 pm*

*I hope you can join me at the Winter Park
Woman's Club Membership Tea on
September 17th at 2:00 p.m.
Our historic clubhouse is at
419 S. Interlachen Ave. (corner of Fairbanks).
You will get to meet many of our members
and hear about our many programs
and charitable giving opportunities. Please let
me know if you can attend.
I look forward to seeing you.*

