

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

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President: Cynthia Gerken

President Elect: Judy Allen



President's Message



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

September is here and we are asking ourselves where the summer went. Autumn officially begins this month but as usual Central Florida did not get the memo. The heat will be with us a while longer.

While our members were on vacation and keeping a slower pace for the summer, our beautiful clubhouse was undergoing renovation and fresh paint. Many of our members helped this summer but the true stars of this endeavor were Sandra Blossey who continued to write grants so we would have the money to renovate and Karen Rodda who mastered the logistics of the construction schedule. Thank you to all of the ladies who looked at fabric swatches and paint samples and tile and lights and appliances and helped to make decisions large and small. We will have the grand opening of our clubhouse at the Membership Tea on September 17th.

For several years Eileen Schiavo and Joan Russell have taken our reservations for the Membership Tea and for our luncheons. They have decided to turn in their sharpies this year. Thank you ladies for your years and years of dedication to this important job in our club. Carol Nawrocki and Bette Blanchfield have graciously agreed to take our reservations so look for instructions in this Highlights for the Membership Tea. The registration form for the Fall Luncheon is at the end of the Highlights. This is a very popular luncheon and a time when we reunite after a summer of activities and travel. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Finally, after Labor Day we welcome Kyle back to work and Liam too. I know I speak for the entire board, our vendors, renters and wedding planners when I say she was missed. The volunteers who returned phone calls and emails and kept our business running fully realize what a wonderful job she does for us.

With Kyle back in her new office helping us, I look forward to a new year in our club and to seeing everyone at the teas, luncheons and programs this year.

Cynthia

Membership Tea



We hope you invite friends and neighbors to our Membership Tea on September 17, at 2:00 pm. If you are coming and bringing guests, please RSVP to Carol Nawrocki, 407-671-0862, canwpfl@gmail.com or Bette Blanchfield, 386-668-7276. We ask that members wear their name tags. Carol and Bette will be making name tags for our guests.

Thank you to the 132 new and old members who have sent their dues. We truly appreciate your participation. And thank you to all of the ladies who gave a little bit extra. If you have not yet renewed, you may do so on line on our website or by completing and sending in the form in this Highlights.

Members Helping Members

We know that we have some members who would like to attend programs but are reluctant or unable to drive. We also know that our members are tremendously giving and generous with their time. If you are a member who would like a ride to club meetings or if you are willing to provide a ride to a member in your area, please contact Chris Bush: ctbushx2@earthlink.net or 407-628-1452.

A Note from Charitable Giving

Recently, Sue Luongo, Judy Allen, and I met with Danielle Warren, a representative from the UCF to set goals for establishing a clothes closet and food pantry for the homeless students at the University. We invite and encourage the entire club membership to participate at any level in this worthwhile opportunity to help these students. There is a continuing and urgent need for non-perishable food items, adult clothing, and personal products like dental supplies, deodorants, etc. Any help you can give will be gratefully appreciated. We will be providing boxes at the meetings for donated items. If you have any questions or suggestions, Sue Luongo is our go-to person and chairs this project. Thanks for caring! Nancy Vicars

News from our Historian

Did You Know? By Kim Mould

On August 4, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson and the United States declared its neutrality in the escalating conflict engulfing Europe and the Balkans. In Winter Park, Florida, and across the country, Americans universally expressed a deep resolve to stay out of what was regarded a regional issue, and American clubwomen worked diligently and vigorously to support the peace effort. Peace activists, such as Jane Addams and Carrie Chapman Catt at the national level or Woman's Club of Winter Park members at the local level, worked tirelessly to promote

peaceful dialogue as a means of keeping America out of World War I, the “War to End All Wars,” or as historian G. J. Meyer argues “history’s filthiest and most utterly pointless war.”

By April, 1917, however, strict neutrality had proven impossible as a climate of hate fueled by propaganda, a fervent sense of nationalism and militarism, and a technological arms race had demanded the United States join with France, England, and Russia to break the bloody stalemate of trench warfare. The sinking of the luxury civilian ocean liner *Lusitania* in 1915 by German submarine U20 horrified Americans with its audacity and helped swing American outrage against Germany and its allies, but it was not until two years later on April 2, 1917 did President Wilson finally speak to Congress in a special session to seek a Declaration of War. His powerful words resonated with Americans: “The world must be made safe for democracy...We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind...It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming in the balance...to such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything we are and everything we have...for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured.” And Americans, men and women, responded.

Immediately, in Winter Park, men enlisted and clubwomen rose to the challenge. *The Winter Park Post* newspaper, dated April 5, 1917, tells of the “first meeting of the women of Winter Park for Red Cross work.” Mrs. Lucy Blackman, Woman’s Club of Winter Park charter member and wife of Rollin’s College President Blackman, “showed samples of surgical dressings which it is proposed the women will make.” The National War Relief and Surgical Dressing Department relied heavily on the work done on the American home front which provided, as noted in the August 23, 1917 *Winter Park Post*, over “16,000,000 surgical dressings for use in over 1,500 hospitals on the continent of Europe”...particularly in France. Making hospital clothing, comfort bags, and knitting warm garments for soldiers and refugees became critical as supplies depleted rapidly and the upcoming winter would be harsh and fuel shortages pervasive.

Food shortages on the war front demanded sacrifice and restrictions for Americans nationwide. Winter Park clubwomen, for example, sent a shipment of 700 lbs. of marmalades to wounded soldiers in France, as a direct result of donations of funds and supplies made by the community and Woman’s Club of Winter Park members. A *Winter Park Post* article dated April 26, 1917 notes that Mrs. Helen Morse, first President of the Woman’s Club, herself donated \$5.00, one kettle, one large stone jar, four dozen paper receivers, and two lots of fruit. Jam kitchens and backyard gardens were popular ways American women could do their patriotic part.

In Florida, Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs President Mrs. May Mann Jennings led the state branch of the federal Woman’s Committee of the Council of National Defense in planning and implementing a variety of critical initiatives including “food production, food conservation and home economic” programs, civic education programs, and even, as reported by Ida Clyde Clarke in *American Women and the World War* (1918), supporting “the movement for women to carry their own purchases, and enable merchants to release men for service.” Of particular importance was the effort by Florida clubwomen to organize and raise vast sums through Liberty Bond sales which directly financed the war effort. For the vast majority of women, this was their first experience in investing in securities. Woman’s Club of Winter Park members embraced the challenges with enthusiasm.

By September, the Winter Park home front efforts were in full swing. Lucy Blackman was appointed to the Library War Council for Florida and funds from Woman’s Club members were

collected to assist in the French relief effort by adopting a French war orphan. Winter Park clubwomen multiplied their efforts in supporting Red Cross programs dedicated to easing the horror and suffering inflicted on the civilian war front populations, while patriotically supporting American military men fighting for democracy. Until the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, Woman's Club of Winter Park members joined with multitudes of American women by rallying their talents, resources, and patriotic zeal towards alleviating as best they could the tragic human fallout of what could be argued "the most decisive event of the modern age." (World War I by H. P. Willmott)

For a compelling look at the sinking of the *Lusitania*, please read the book Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania (2015) by bestselling author Erik Larson.



Drop off your donations for the rummage sale August 31 – September 4 from 9:30 – 1:30. Don't forget to patronize our rummage and bake sale Saturday, September 5 from 9 – 4. George and Alice will be catering from our newly remodeled catering kitchen. Club Members may get a preview and shop on Friday September 4 from 1pm – 3pm. For further information on the rummage sale contact Judy Allen: judyallen244@gmail.com. Drop off baked goods on Friday, September 4 or bring them Saturday morning. To donate baked goods or for information about the bake sale contact Ann Hunter: AHunter611@aol.com.



Let's Go to the Theatre Together

We have been invited to the Southern Winds Theatre for "Woman'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. **SAVE THE DATE!** To reserve your seat now please contact Sandra Blossey, sblossey@cfl.rr.com or 407-740-7758.

Have you visited our new Website?

Please visit and explore our new website: www.womansclubofwinterpark.com. It's up to date and you can find our programs for the upcoming year, renew your membership and pay online, read our Blog, link to FaceBook, see Photos of our activities and events, and read our History – 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!



Happy Birthday to the following members:

Barbara Bergstrom 9/7

Virginia Seel 9/7

Maureen Holloway 9/7

Jean Pinder 9/14

Claudia Breese 9/23

Nancy Vicars 9/24

Ellen Kristensen 9/26

Nora Schell 9/27

Programs

Finally, in looking over our programs for this year I congratulate Carolyn Cooper and her Program Committee for planning a variety of informative and entertaining programs and a few local field trips. The Program Calendar is at the end of this Highlights and is posted on our website. As you look over the programs be thinking about friends, relatives and neighbors who may be interested in the topics. Be sure to invite them to the Membership Tea or bring them to our weekly programs when they begin in October.

**MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
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 _____



*Please join us for our Fall Luncheon October 1, 2015
in our newly renovated Club House
Social Hour 11:30 am
Lunch Served at 12 noon
\$25.00 per person
Guests welcome*

Come to lunch, bring your friends and welcome our new members as we begin our 101st year of programs and charitable giving at The Woman's Club of Winter Park.



Name: _____

Guests: _____

Seating Request: _____

Total Payment: _____

Please RSVP to Carol Nawrocki 535 North Interlachen, #202, Winter Park, FI 32789 with this form and check payable to The Woman's Club of Winter Park by September 25, 2015.

Program Calendar 2015 - 2016

OCTOBER 2015	1 11:30 a.m. Fall Luncheon UCF Homeless Project Orlando Health Travel	8 1:00 p.m. New Member Orientation 2:00 p.m. Senior Programs/AED Training	15 11:30 a.m. Lite Lunch 83 Years of Annie Russell	22 2:00 p.m. Orlando Shakespeare Theater Melissa Braillard, Dir Anne Hering, Dir	29 2:00 p.m. Maria Bryant Jazz Afternoon of Inspiration
NOVEMBER 2015	5 2:00 p.m. Osceola Lodge/ Knowles Cottage Tour * Dr. Gail Sinclair	12 2:00 p.m. Holiday Decorations Illuminated Tree Balls (Advance Signup)	19 11:30 a.m. Lite Lunch Creaide Art Center Peter Schreyer	26 Thanksgiving No Meeting	
DECEMBER 2015	3 2:00 p.m. Phil Eschbach Travel Photos & Tips	10 11:30 a.m. Christmas Luncheon	17 6:00 p.m. Scholarship Event	24 No Meeting	31 No Meeting
JANUARY 2016	7 2:00 p.m. Winter Park Public Library Jeff Jontz, President Board of Trustees	14 2:00 p.m. Women's Healthcare Through the Ages Dr. Susanna Holmes	21 6:00 p.m. Founders Event	28 2:00 p.m. Bob Williams, Author The East Side of Town	
FEBRUARY 2016 Woman's Show 2-20-16 (9-4)	4 2:00 p.m. Capen House Tour Polasek Museum *	11 2:00 p.m. Nanoscience UCF Dr.Sudipta Seal, PhD	18 11:30 a.m. Lite Lunch WPHS Belle Chanson Choral	25 2:00 p.m. Winter Park Update Commissioner Carolyn Cooper	
MARCH 2016	3 2:00 p.m. Mayanmar Ann Hicks Murrah Dr Chong (Rollins)	10 2:00 p.m. Orlando Science Center Past, Present & Future JoAnn Newman, Pres./CEO	17 11:30 a.m. Fashion Show & Luncheon	24 2:00 p.m. Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust Holly Mandelkern, Author	31 2:00 p.m. Meet Your Neighbor Histori Saints Church *
APRIL 2016	7 2:00 p.m. Bingo	14 2:00 p.m. I-4 Ultimate David Parks	21 2:00 p.m. Silver Tea Young At Heart	28 2:00 p.m. Installation Tea	