

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WINTER PARK, INC.

# OCTOBER 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



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## President's Message



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

October is the official beginning of our weekly programs for our 101<sup>st</sup> year! Doesn't that sound impressive? It makes me wonder if Helen Morse and the sixteen women who attended that first meeting at Osceola Lodge ever envisioned this possibility. I think they envisioned something permanent because the ladies raised the money to build our club house which was completed in 1921 at a cost of \$40,000. We will visit Osceola Lodge in November and celebrate our official 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in January.

With the beginning of our programs we also welcome all of our members back to the club at the Fall Luncheon. If you were able to attend our wonderful Membership Tea in September, you saw the end result of our summer renovations. I heard so many lovely comments about the new look of our interior. If you recently joined our club, I want to welcome you. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions, have something special to contribute or are especially interested in one of our committees.

All members are invited to the New Member Orientation October 8th at 1 PM. The more you know about our club, the more comfortable you will feel joining in our activities. It is also an excellent way to meet new friends.

Last year we had a program by member Barbara Bergstrom about the non-profit, Eti-Keys. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm there will be a fundraiser at the club to benefit Eti-Keys. Pianist Tim Conyers will perform selections from Broadway, the American Songbook, Jazz and more. Tickets are \$25 on the website: <http://www.timconyers.com/>. It will be a fun evening to benefit a great cause. Click on the link to learn more about Eti-Keys: <http://etikeys.org/>.

The holidays will be here before we know it. If you have a special talent for crafts, sewing or needlework, please keep in mind that along with our Holiday Luncheon in December we have a bake sale and craft show as a fundraiser. It is not too early to start making something to contribute.

The fall is a busy time of year and I hope you enjoy all of the programs and activities our club has to offer.

*Cynthia*

## October Programs

### **October 1 Fall Luncheon 11:30am – UCF Homeless Project and Orlando Health Travel**

We will enjoy a brief introduction to the UCF Homeless Project. Next, we will hear from Barbara Mills. Barbara is the owner of Life's a Trip Tours. She has been in the travel business since 1983. Early in her career she planned events and trips for major fortune 500 companies from her Miami base. For the last 20 years she has focused on the mature traveler. Orlando Health Travel focuses on the mature traveler. Founded in 2005, Life's a Trip Travel provides exciting and entertaining trips at affordable rates.

### **October 8 New Member Orientation 1pm - Tea 2pm- AED Training**

Winter Park Fire Department...presents a brief Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) overview and training on the use of the club's new Automatic External Defibrillator (AED.) We will hear from Tim D. Millard. Tim is a 26-year employee of the Winter Park Fire Rescue Department. He is a Fire Engineer/Paramedic in charge of Engine 61 and has been the City of Winter Parks' CPR and First Aid coordinator for 21 years.

### **October 15 11:30am Lite Lunch- 83 Years of Annie Russell**

Students from the Rollins College Department of Theatre and Dance will share about their historic theatre's 83rd season. Come get a glimpse at a day in the life of a talented Tar! There are roughly 60 students in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Rollins, and many more working on stage and behind the scenes on productions in the Annie Russell and Fred Stone Theatres. Rollins believes that theatre artists can transform the communities in which they live, work, and serve. Their students are thrilled to show us how.

### **October 22 Tea 2pm- Orlando Shakespeare**

Melissa Mason Braillard, Director of Marketing and Anne Hering, Director of Education will discuss Orlando Shakespeare Theater's 27th Season and its commitment to serving the Orlando community through various community programs. As the Director of Marketing at OST, Melissa led the creative team that developed and executed Les Miserables Flash Mob at the Mall at Millenia. As an actor, singer, and director in Central Florida for more than a decade, she's worked with Mad Cow Theatre, Walt Disney World, Central Florida Community Arts, Orlando International Fringe Festival, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, and more. Anne Hering's recent OST acting credits include last seasons' Bad Dog, A Christmas Carol, and Les Miserables. Additional credits include Boston Marriage, The Real Thing, and The Little Prince with Orlando Theatre Project.

### **October 29 Tea 2pm - Maria Bryant Jazz**

Get ready for an afternoon of inspiration with Maria Bryant, singer, performer and instructor. Maria grew up right here on the west side of Winter Park. She graduated from Rollins College in 1993 and her singing talent allowed her to tour Europe on a gospel tour. She was a vocalist for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Currently she teaches in OCPS and has her own musical theatre company.

#### **A Quick Note...**

Our first lite lunch meeting of the year is on Oct.15 at 11:30. Some members have suggested making a favorite dish that we might enjoy-from their own recipes, or from the Woman's Club cookbook. If anyone is interested in preparing something for our luncheon, please contact Monica Clarke or Jan Miller.

## Save the Date..

To Celebrate and Honor  
Our 2015  
Scholarship Recipients

Scholars' Reception  
December 17, 2015  
6-8 P.M.  
Woman's Club

### Ways & Means

WANTED: Talented ladies who knit, sew, quilt, crochet, etc. for donations for the December 12, Craft and Bake Sale. As far as the bake department, we will be looking for Christmas decorated cookies, cupcakes, brownies, and creative yummys. You have plenty of time to produce some masterpieces for our club's charities. While vacationing in Pennsylvania with my sewing machine, I have begun my projects: wall hangings, table toppers, runners, totes bags and BBQ apron sets. Will be back for November activities and lots of names on the sign up sheet.

Till then, Happy Creating,  
Natalie Hill

**The Membership Tea** was a great success due to the participation and cooperation of all the members.

First, thank you to all the members that attended; second, thank you to all those that brought guests. We had 59 members present and 23 guests for a total of 82 ladies. We had 10 of those guests become members.

And lastly, it couldn't have been a tea without all the members who brought food, worked in the kitchen, greeted guests, and poured. Thank you to the cookie ladies: Cynthia Gerken, Churchill Thompson, Lauren Clark, Sandra Blossey, Nancy Vicars, Kim Mould, and Maureen Holloway. Thank you to the sandwich ladies: Jan Miller, Judy Allen, Ginger Campion, Nancy Miles, Barbara Hughes, and Chris Bush. Our greeters were Jean Rife, Judy Allen and Robbie Willenkin. The Tea Assistants were Jan Miller, Monica Clark and Kathryn DiMauro. The pourers were Jane Watkins, Barbara Bergstrom, Sandra Blossey, and Maria Bonnet. Thank you all so very much!

### **Grounds Committee**

I am looking for two members who enjoy planning landscape design to join me on the Grounds committee. It's an ideal place for a person who loves gardening but lives in a condo and wants to implement ways to improve a beautiful yard (The Woman's Club), maintained by a good landscape company. We don't have meetings because most things are done by phone and email, and before or after regular meetings.

Any member who is interested, can call me at [407-802-2454](tel:407-802-2454) or email me at [mvh.997@gmail.com](mailto:mvh.997@gmail.com).

Maureen Holloway

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**'FIRST NAME' PROJECT SUCCESSFUL**

Each year, our Woman's Club of Winter Park, Inc. yearbook is dedicated to our Past Presidents: "We recognize the following women who gave their time, talents and leadership skills as Presidents of this organization..." by listing their names in its front pages. Who are these women who led our organization during the past 100 years? Nearly 70% of our 56 past presidents were only identified with their husband's first name or initials and surname. Your Board wanted everyone to know these women leaders by their first names. We wanted to identify them as a living history of our nonprofit organization. We acknowledge that in 1915 at the year of the Club's establishment and throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was still common for a married woman to be formally addressed, both in writing and by introduction, by her husband's first and surname. There was no place for a married woman's identity.

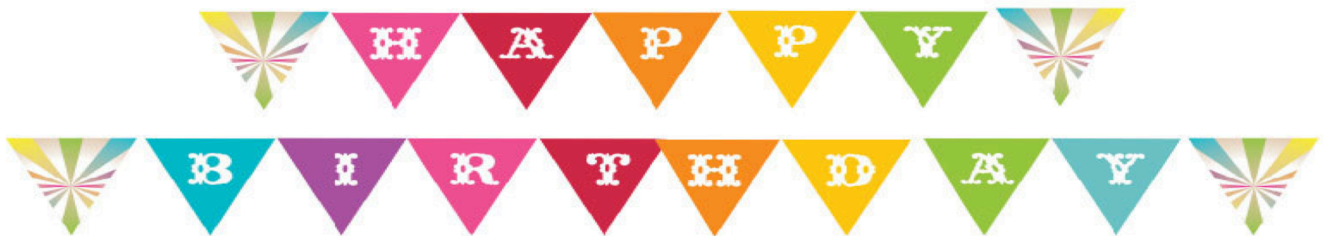
In your new 2015-2016 Yearbook, you will see a change: now all 56 of our women Presidents will be identified by their first and last names.

I would like to thank the following women in alphabetical order who made this "First Name" project successful.

Sandra Blosssey; Carol Card, Carolyn Cooper; Cynthia Gerken; Clarissa Howard, City of Winter Park; Linda Kulmann, Archivist Winter Park History Museum; Molly Magee; Kim Mould; Joyce Muncie; Ann Hicks Murrah; Karen Rodda; Eileen Schiavo; Rose Walleze; Barbara White, Archivist Winter Park Public Library and Barbara Williard.

Roberta (Robbi) Willenkin

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Wishing a Happy Birthday to:

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Carolyn Arnold 10/26    | Carolyn Bird 10/23         |
| Bette Blanchfield 10/29 | Drew Brooks 10/21          |
| Carol Card 10/20        | Joan Bennett Clayton 10/27 |
| Kathleen Ihrig 10/26    | Sherry Levy 10/20          |
| Sue Luongo 10/8         | Kay Odell 10/21            |
| Loretta Powell 10/23    | Karen Rodda 10/9           |
| Mary Vice 10/8          | Barbara Williard 10/19     |
| Janet Womble 10/1       |                            |

If you have an October birthday and don't see your name listed here, it is because we don't have your birth date. Please contact Chris Bush [ctbushx2@earthlink.net](mailto:ctbushx2@earthlink.net) or by phone [407-628-1452](tel:407-628-1452).

Soon October will be upon us and with it comes a hint of fall, cooler temperatures and most importantly "Breast Cancer Awareness Month". By now most of you have seen throughout Winter Park's landscape the pink flamingos that represent the many survivors and those who have been stricken with this dreaded disease. We here at the Woman's Club are no strangers to this disease. Quite a few of our members are survivors and no one member has not been touched by a friend or family member who has been challenged by this disease. It's truly affects us All.



Once again, the American Cancer Society will be hosting "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk to be held Saturday October 31st at Lake Eola. It is a great campaign to be part of. The energy is renewing and the stories of survivors and their families and friends will overwhelm you plus it is supported by most major organizations. Lots of free goodies and snacks and drinks are provided plus great fun. If you would like to take the walk please contact Sue Luongo. If not, please consider a donation to "Making Strides". Three years ago the club and its members donated close to \$500.00 to this worthy cause. Let's celebrate all of our survivors and those not as fortunate and make this a battle we can all fight together with our support and donations.



Kyle returned to her duties in September and we welcome her back to her new office. It will be so much fun to have Liam in our club and to watch him grow.

### ***Did You Know?* By Kim Mould**

Temperance, as defined by the Greek philosopher Xenophon, is "moderation in all things healthy; total abstinence from all things harmful." As a grass-roots crusade against the consumption of alcohol and domestic abuse to women and children, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), founded in 1874 and led by its powerful second President Frances Willard, can be considered "the first women's mass movement." For the first time, American women found in the WCTU an organization that aggressively, as author Theda Skocpol explains, expressed "women's will to reform society on moral lines congruent with their maternal and domestic values." Temperance societies provided a respectable communal forum through which disillusioned women could work towards illuminating and eliminating the destructive moral and social instability caused by "male" drunkenness.

In 1888, the WCTU was organized in Winter Park. By 1892, the branch was incorporated and moved its reading room to the Earl Building on Park Avenue, which in later years would be considered part of the Morse Block and where the Winter Park Land Company resides today. The members of the WCTU were successful in encouraging the Winter Park Town Council, in 1903, to pass an ordinance under which “the sale of intoxicating liquors was prohibited in Winter Park except under physician’s prescription.”

According to Woman’s Club of Winter Park President Claire L. MacDowell in her fascinating book *Chronological History of Winter Park* (1950), the infamous anti-alcohol crusader Carrie Nation even came to Lyman Gym on the campus of Rollins College to give one of her rousing speeches!

By the time the Woman’s Club of Winter Park was founded in 1915, several of its organizers and charter members had worked with the WCTU, including Mrs. C. H. Ward who was elected President of the local WCTU in 1905. The WCTU members circulated petitions against “a pool and billard” room and continued in its efforts to educate the youngest residents of Winter Park about the evils of drinking. The first President of the Woman’s Club Mrs. Helen Morse, and her husband Charles H. Morse, even stipulated in a warranty deed dated April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1920 that for “the sum of one dollar and other good and valuable considerations” for the property conveyed to the Woman’s Club for its clubhouse that among other “conditions, covenants and agreements” that “no...saloon...of any kind shall be erected or maintained by the said party.”

In 1920, Mrs. Susan Dyer was re-elected President of the Woman’s Club and on January 16, 1920, under the terms of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, America went “dry.” The Volstead Act of the previous year prohibited the sale of alcohol, but, as the coming years were to prove, the Federal government, along with Local and State governments, severely lacked the resources to enforce the law. With true and honest intent, however, Winter Park clubwomen continued to embrace the ideals of the WCTU, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, and the ideology of “true motherhood” in their efforts to act as the moral authorities in their homes and communities by condemning liquor, jazz, and immodest dance and attire.

Prohibition, as anyone familiar with American history knows, was highly controversial and counter-productive, encouraged organized crime and hypocrisy, and had a staggering negative economic impact on America. Bootleggers continued to make moonshine and used “souped up” cars to outrun the law...the beginnings of NASCAR and the Daytona 500. Speakeasies and “juke joints” were open secrets in the high octane world of the Roaring 1920’s. Florida’s close location to Cuba and other rum producing countries made it a valuable distribution point for “demon rum runners.” The medical community even lobbied for repeal as millions of dollars were lost to physicians who previously made a handsome profit off the sale of tonics heavily laced with whiskey. American men wanted to escape the horrors of World War I and live life in a glorious cocktail haze, as author F. Scott Fitzgerald would write about in such books as *The Great Gatsby*. American women bobbed their hair, shortened their skirts, smoked, danced, defied their parents, and drank. “Youthful excess” and hedonism defined the generation.

In 1930, the Winter Park Police Department, according to Claire MacDowell, did their part to enforce Prohibition. She notes that “the police held a ‘liquor party,’ pouring down the sewer in front of City Hall a lot of confiscated liquor seized in raids in Winter Park.” The gracious ladies of the Woman’s Club of Winter Park continued to hold meetings, engage in thought provoking classes, organize events, and socialize embracing the highest levels of decorum and etiquette, though even the General Federation soon recognized Prohibition as more political than moral.

Prohibition, the great American social experiment in regulating morality, ended on December 5, 1933 when the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment was repealed and the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment ratified. The Florida State Prohibition Law was repealed shortly after in 1934. By then, Winter Park and the rest of the country was in the desperate grip of the Great Depression.

A special and sincere thank you to Joan and Ed Gfeller for their generous contribution to the official Woman’s Club of Winter Park Archival Library of an original edition of Claire Leavitt MacDowell’s book *Chronological History of Winter Park Florida* (1950). As any serious, or even casual, Winter Park historian is aware, this resource is a truly valuable gift.

