

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF WINTER PARK, INC.

MAY 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,

It is my privilege to write this as your new President. It is also a little overwhelming. All I can say is I will do my best. I want to share that I have two goals for our club. I would us to concentrate on our charitable giving and look for ways to help the underserved people and programs in our community. If we could start a fund to give money to a big community project every few years that would be a bonus. I also want to serve our membership, both long time members and new members.

This is your club and I want you to feel welcome and appreciated. We can use your talents whatever they are. Look over our list of committees and think about how you would like to be involved. Also, I invite you and encourage you to attend a board meeting just to see what is discussed and to see the governance of the club in action. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 9:30. So bring a cup of coffee and see what happens. You are always welcome.

As you know, you are members of a truly unique club. We meet every week October – April. I have not heard of another club that currently has weekly meetings. We have something for everyone. And while we all enjoy our teas, programs and luncheons, we are also running a business. Our lovely and talented (and pregnant) administrator, Kyle, is the heart of that business. She is the face of The Woman's Club for our prospective renters and guests. We will certainly miss her when she is out on maternity leave from the middle of July until after Labor Day. During Kyle's absence there will be some renovation to the club, specifically the bride's room, kitchen and Kyle's office. We will also have the floors refinished as we do every summer. If you would like to volunteer to help out in the office for a two or three-hour stint while Kyle is on leave, please let me know. If we have enough volunteers, it will be easy to manage. Kyle has volunteered to give us an overview of her duties. So, as I ask you to think about how you want to serve our club the answer might be as simple as answering the phone.

Finally, I would like to thank our past president, Sandra Blossey, for her untiring effort on behalf of our club. Obtaining our 501(c)(3) status and initiating our Preservation Fund are stellar accomplishments. Sandra deserves a relaxing vacation. I wish her and all of our members a lovely, peaceful summer.

Cynthia

The Woman's Club of Winter Park, Inc.
President's Annual Report – 2013-2015

This annual report shall cover the last two years of activities within our organization. In the summer of 2013, the board of our club agreed on two major goals which we kept over the two year span: 1) to increase membership and involvement of those members and 2) to increase income for paying our operating expenses, preserving of our 94 year old historic house and expanding our charitable giving. The strategies for achieving these goals were 1) to achieve the 501c3 tax status, 2) raise \$300,000 for house preservation and 3) reserve all of our fundraising monies for charitable giving.

I believe that achieving the charitable organization status was the most difficult and most time-consuming. But, we did it! Fundraising was almost pure joy for me, with unimagined support from members, their families, friends, and foundations in the community. The actual fundraising activities could not start until August of last year. Therefore, in less than a year, we have raised \$289,000 of our \$300,000 goal. This success has enabled us to start our preservation projects including a new roof, a new patio, and redesigned parking lots. This summer, we will complete landscaping plans, and begin a remodeled Bride's room, an upgraded kitchen, a redesigned office for our administrator, Kyle Grafton, and painting throughout. In addition, we have acquired new stage curtains, state of the art technology for our programs and rental events, a new awning at the Lyman St. entrance, an Automated Electronic Defibrillator and, soon, a Security System. Furthermore, we hope to have a small reserve to start an endowment for house upkeep and preservation.

Now for the good news: New strategies instituted to increase membership included evening meetings, lunch meetings and JoAnn Palmer's membership recruitment throughout the year. Our numbers increased by 30 last year and 29 this year. Furthermore, the new members became active by attending meetings more frequently and joining committees. Thanks to Ann Hunter, Chair, our excellent weekly programs yielded greater attendance, often filling all the chairs. A very enthusiastic and capable Ways and Means Committee, led by Judy Allen, as well as the 6 Luncheon Committees achieved record - breaking profits. Behind the scenes, the House committee led by Karen Rodda, the Grounds committee led by Maureen Holloway and the Hospitality Committee led by Rose Walleze, Monica Clarke and Eleanor Kaney have made our house, gardens and teas even more beautiful, organized and cost-efficient. With attention to legal detail, Robbi Wilenkin led us in our efforts to make our By-Laws more realistic, useful and compliant with state statutes. Our Scholarship Committee distributed \$36,000 among 15 students. - Now, the best surprise; the hard working committees, just mentioned, helped us raise more than twice what we had budgeted for charitable giving! Monica Clarke, Chair, coordinated our work with Salvation Army, Orlando Rescue Mission, Winter Park Housing, Adult Literacy League, Dress for Success, Beta House, Fern Creek School and others. In two weeks, I have given the gavel over to our new president, Cynthia Gerken, who has already sharpened her skills on marketing, publications and the Woman's Show. She has some excellent ideas for continuing our work. Thank you for allowing me to be your President for the past two years.

2014-2015 Year End Report of Ways and Means Committee

The goal of the Ways and Means Committee was to raise funds for charitable giving, involving as many club members as possible.

The rummage sale, held on August 30, 2014, was quite successful. A profit of \$3,195.74 was realized. We had great membership participation. We were able to select several items that were donated for the rummage sale as prizes for bingo and items to sell at our precious items sale, which was held in March 2015.

The committee as such did not participate in the Antique Show.

The Christmas bake sale realized \$683.00. We began pursuing participation in October with a sign-up sheet at each Thursday program/tea. We also included crafts, which members made or donated.

The committee assisted with the Woman's Show by handing out informational signs on Park Avenue, helping with the bake sale and assisting where needed.

Bingo was held on March 5, 2015. There was no cost to the membership and the prizes had been previously selected from the rummage sale.

The precious item sale was held at the Spring Luncheon on March 19, 2015. We had a profit of \$307.00 from the sale.

We believe that we had a successful year and plan to have the next rummage sale on September 5, 2015.

Respectively submitted,

Judy Allen, Chairperson of Ways and Means Committee

2014-2015 Charitable Giving Report

How our budget money was spent:

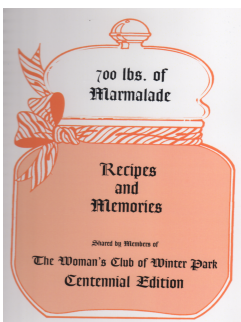
Checks for \$100 each given to Fern Creek School, Adult Literacy League, Harbor House, Need to Feed project, Salvation Army, and Winter Park Housing Authority (\$200 in Publix gift cards to mothers of the 4 families), Check for \$200 to Orlando Rescue Mission.

Donations from Members:

- Gifts for children at Christmas- \$900
- Salvation Army- 50 stockings-\$1,000
- Fern Creek- \$1,900 in clothing and snacks
- Dress For Success- \$600
- 35 purple bags- \$1,000
- Beta Center- linens and clothing-\$300

Money raised on various projects throughout the year for Charitable Giving:

- Checks for \$600 each sent to Beta, Adult Literacy League, Heart to Heart, Pathways to Care, Lighthouse, Eti-Keys, and Southeastern Guide Dogs.
- A check for \$300 to Fern Creek.



The Centennial Edition of our treasured cookbooks has now arrived. They are available for purchase for \$20 in Kyle's office. They have wonderful stories about our history as well as recipes from club members and they make wonderful gifts.

HOSPITALITY

This summer we will be forming a hospitality committee to make plans for the how, who and what of serving refreshments at Thursday meetings next year. Any new or old members who have suggestions or want to help make plans for next year, please contact Cynthia Gerken or Monica Clarke.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Thank you Monica Clarke and the committee members for all your outstanding work. Your dedication to the groups we assist must be as gratifying to all of you as those we serve appreciate it. The more volunteers we have, the more we can accomplish! I'm counting on our current members to stay on, and I'm inviting anyone who would be interested in joining us, to sign on. I am really looking forward to working with all of you in September.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Any members who love plants and have an interest in helping with the Club are encouraged to join the Grounds Committee. Please contact Maureen Holloway at 407-802-2454 or mvh.907@gmail.com for more information!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in joining our membership committee, please contact Chris Bush at 407-628-1452 (h), 321-277-8618 (c), or ctbushx2@earthlink.net

HISTORY

As a result of the 100 year anniversary of our founding in 1915, and a renewed interest in the rich history of The Woman's Club of Winter Park, beginning in July, a new column will appear in the monthly *Highlights* entitled **Did You Know?** In this column, the History Committee will share many of the fascinating stories, fun memories and interesting artifacts documented and stored in our archives. We are also looking forward to updating and modernizing the present archives and are planning a variety of ways to enhance the archival collection through oral history interviews and research projects. If you are interested in working with the committee on this exciting new program please contact Kim Mould at 407-221-8538.

WAYS AND MEANS

Greetings Ladies: I am honored to be acting as your new Ways and Means Chair and look forward to having a variety of activities to raise money for the club's charities. Many of the previous events will be on the schedule- bake sales, craft show, raffles, etc. Toward late summer I plan to meet with those of you interested in being on the Committee with me. I will be in and out of town during May thru Aug and hopeful you can email me your desires and suggestions at natnoles38@gmail.com. Have a great summer!

POSTING OUR PROGRAMS

We have all enjoyed looking at the list of programs every month as posted on the easel in our foyer. This also gives visitors a chance to see the variety of programs offered at the club. Christine Bush has done an outstanding job but she has now moved on to head our Membership Committee. We would like to have someone take over this task.

RUMMAGE SALE

Our rummage sale was a tremendous fundraiser for us last year. Even though it is more than three months away, we are asking that you begin to look through your homes and save things you will want to donate to the rummage sale. The sale will be held September 5th and we will begin collecting items from 9am-1pm Monday, August 31-Friday, September 4th.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know that we are currently on Facebook, Pinterest and have a Twitter Account? Our renters use these tools when they are evaluating venues. We would like to form a committee to look at our website and determine how to best use social media. You do not have to be a high tech guru to be on this committee. Can you write copy for our web pages? Do you know about layout? Do you have ideas about how we should present ourselves in the community? Please let us know if you want to be part of this process.

Woman's Club of Winter Park Board Members 2015-2016

President: Cynthia Gerken
Vice President: Judy Allen
Ways and Means: Natalie Hill
Treasurer: Nancy Miles
Assistant Treasurer: Ginger Campion
Finance: Churchill Thompson
Recording Secretary: Jean Rife
Corresponding Secretary: Jan Miller
House: Karen Rodda
Grounds: Maureen Holloway
Membership: Chris Bush
Scholarship: Barbara Hughes
Charitable Giving: Nancy Vicars
Programs: Carolyn Cooper
Yearbook: Lauren Clark
Historian: Kim Mould
Parliamentarian: Robbi Willenkin



Wishing a Happy Birthday to:

Esther Allen 5/11	Judy Allen 5/27
Mary Forman 5/19	Sharyn Jontz 5/29
Ruth McDaniel 5/15	Nancy Miles 5/26
Kim Mould 5/8	Nita Marie Rizzo 5/18
Kay Simmons 5/12	Lisa Smith 5/25
Sue Springer 5/10	

If you have a May 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 or by phone [407-628-1452](tel:407-628-1452).

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: Fall Antique Show _____ Spring Woman's Show _____ Founder's Day _____
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 _____ Dinner on the Avenue _____

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 _____



Become a SPONSOR on our web site and Facebook page and ADVERTISE your business.

For \$100.00, we will advertise your business on
www.womansclubofwinterpark.com and on our Facebook page for one year!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward the Preservation Project for our house so citizens of Winter Park and surrounding areas may attend social and business events and enjoy our facility for years to come. If you would like to participate, please complete the bottom of this page and send it with a check for \$100 made out to Woman's Club Preservation Project. Send digital copy of logo to info@womansclubofwinterpark.com

Thank you.

Name of Company_____

Contact Person_____Phone_____

Address_____

Date_____

**Send to: Woman's Club of Winter Park Inc. Preservation Fund
P.O. Box 1433 Winter Park, FL 328790**