

The Woman's Club of Winter Park, Inc.



April 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

President: Natalie Hill

CO-VP: Chris Bush

CO-VP: Linda Rinker

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President's Column

Alas, the time has come for me to scribe my last column for the 2024-25 year. I feel that the privilege has been mine to serve such an outstanding group of women. We have learned to adjust to change when programs get cancelled and find ways to fill in the gaps. I would like to thank all my steadfast officers for their devotion to their positions on the board.

Our two Vice Presidents, **Chris Bush** and **Linda Rinker** have been so very supportive in many ways, and we look forward to the leadership of Chris for her role as your new president. She is stepping down from her task of Membership chair, a very time-consuming job. Linda plans to co-chair Recording Secretary and Parliamentarian with **Meredith Murphy**, who has done a very conscientious job while combating health issues.



JoAnn Palmer has been our Corresponding Secretary, sending out birthday cards and other "thinking of you" type cards. She will continue in this position next term also. She is also a Past President (2005-7) as is our Treasurer, **Judy Allen** (2017-19) who plans to stay in control of our checkbooks. Assistant Treasurer **Sue Busby** has offered to remain in her position and has kept our donation receipts in order. Thank you, ladies!!

Next comes our two Programs co-chairs, **Lindsay Peloza** and **Elaine Ellman**. These ladies and their committee have provided a wide range of topics and speakers to pique our interest. Both gals plan to continue next year, and we look forward to seeing that new calendar. One of our other officers, **Nancy Miles** (past president 2019-21) is in charge of our Finance Committee of which the Programs depend upon. Thank you, ladies!!

The Grounds and House Chair is **Karen Rodda** who manages to see that our Historical building is kept in tip-top shape. It's over 100 years old and a senior citizen of Winter Park. Speaking of history, we have an outstanding Historian in **Kim Mould**, who is forever finding tidbits of information on our club which she shares at our board meetings.

Thanks go to several other devoted chairs. **Patty Munsey** of Scholarship sees that college bound students get a chance to be awarded monies for their education. Ways and Means leader, **Cindy Abeel** works feverous all year planning and running the annual Rummage Sale on Labor Day weekend. And Charitable Giving leader, **Lucy McDonough**, who has the biggest committee of super stars, has always had projects going to benefit our community. Because of her organizational skills, she will be serving as our Vice President in the coming year. Congratulations to all these ladies.

I would like to recognize my co-chair of the Yearbook, **Barbara Hughes** who did a great job on the 2024-25 book. She is stepping down as the previous chair and forever photographer, **Churchill Thompson**, is returning to that position. Yeah!! I will remain with Hospitality for the coming season. So that's it for this year. Have a great summer!!

Natalie Hill, President

Ways and Means

Rummage Sale – Friday/Saturday, August 29th and 30th!! Set up August 23-28. It's never too early to put these dates on your calendar and plan to help at our yearly highly successful Rummage Sale, proceeds going to Charitable Giving! Look for a sign-up sheet at April meetings where you can indicate your interest in working in either or both areas. New members – this is a fantastic way to make new friends, learn more about the Club, and give back to our community. Any member having storage for those who have donations but cannot keep them until set up, please let me know.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!! What a successful year YOU made for Ways and Means!! Our Rummage Sale netted close to \$14,000, and our bake, and craft sale at Christmas netted over \$600. Another WCWP year is on the horizon, where we will continue to raise monies for Charitable Giving. Please start setting aside, if you are not already doing so, items for the fall Rummage Sale. Please check with family, friends, neighbors, and associates to see if they would be willing to put aside saleable items for you/us to collect at the end of August. If at all possible, please keep your treasures until the sale. However, **we need two or three ladies to step up and help with storage space prior to**

the sale. A member today told me she has a donation she can't store till then. There will be a signup sheet during the month of April for you to show your interest in donating time, planning, setting up and working at this year's sale. **Please let me know by email or in person ideas you have for more FUNdraising events.** We can certainly add to our two events above and provide even more \$\$ for charitable giving.

Cindy - zsuzs1@earthlink.net 407.690.0086
Cindy Abeel, Way and Means Chair

Happy April Birthdays



Janne Lane 4/5
Linda Hobby 4/10
Cindy Barfield 4/11
Donna Miller 4/12
Carol Roofner 4/13
Jane Watkins 4/15
Natasha Latona 4/16
Laura Laboda 4/19
Holly Mandelkern 4/25
Delaney Arroyo 4/30

***Dues for the upcoming year
2025-2026 can be paid now. \$100***

New Members:

Cathy Bronza 3/6
1307 Chapman Circle
Winter Park, FL 32789
407-620-5913 c
clbroonza@gmail.com

Casey Kish 5/8
3606 Foxchase Dr.
Clermont, FL 34711
407-924-4156 c
paintwinterpark@gmail.com

Maureen Washburn 1/27
1248 Sara Ct.
Winter Park, FL 32789
727-677-8566 c
maureenwashburn@gmail.com

Elizabeth Morehead 7/31
1745 Lookout Landing Circle
Winter Park, FL 32789
407-256-6326 c
ejmorehead@me.com

Chris Bush, Membership Chair

Charitable Giving

Fill-The-Pantry

We're continuing to fill the pantry for over **105 homeless** students from Killarney Elementary. The pantry is in need of 8 - 16 ounce jars of peanut butter and used clean plastic bags. Please bring your donations and receipts to the club meetings through **April 24th**.

A Gift for Teaching

We're continuing to collect electronics for recycling.... Proceeds from the recycling program help A Gift for Teaching keep their vehicles maintained.

Examples of items they take include:

Batteries (Cell phone and laptop) • Fax machines • Hubs, Switches, and Routers • Personal computers • Servers and accessories • Cassette tape backup drives • Flat-screen TVs and monitors • Keyboards, Mice, and Speakers • Power cords, strips, and supply units • Stereo equipment • CD players • Game consoles and accessories • Laptops • Printers and copiers • UPS Batteries • Cell phones • Hard drives • PDAs • Projectors • VHS and DVD players



They are not able to accept tube TVs and monitors as well as used ink cartridges.

Please drop off your items at the club by April 24th.

End of Year Thank You

As our 2024-2025 club year comes to an end this month, I to thank our Charitable Giving Committee for their help with the various projects and activities. Thanks, too, to the club members for their support of the club's charitable giving mission. The club's generosity resulted in both in-kind donations and monetary donations for our monthly projects. In addition, thanks go to **Cindy Abeel**, Ways and Means Chair, for her leadership on the annual rummage sale, and the numerous club members who volunteered at the rummage sale or donated items. The proceeds from the rummage sale are the major source of funds available for our annual awards to non-profits. The May Highlights newsletter will include details on the 2024-2025 awards to non-profits.

Lucy McDonough, Charitable Giving Chair

A note from Member Debbie Glaser...

The Winter Park Benefit Shop's Historical Ties To Our Club

You may be wondering about the connection between our Club, The Woman's Club of Winter Park, and The Winter Park Benefit Shop. Women in Winter Park have a long history of identifying and meeting the needs of people in their community. In 1917, Mrs. Morse and a group of women created the Winter Park Welfare Association in her dining room for those who needed assistance and had nowhere to turn. They supplied clothing, financial assistance, medical devices, food and medical care. From initial research in our Club Archives, it appears our Civic



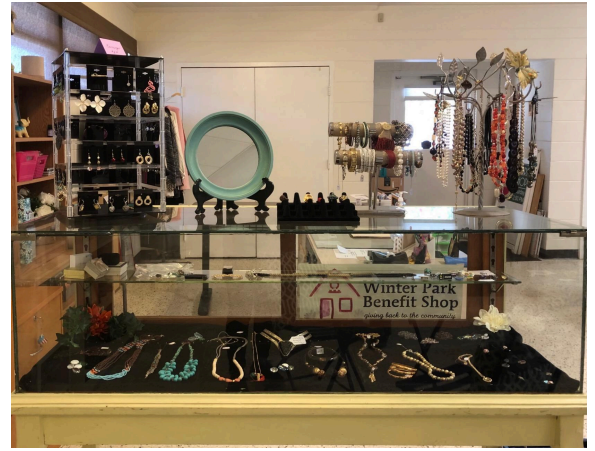
Committee had a part in forming The Winter Park Benefit Shop in 1935. It is the only remaining part of the Winter Park Welfare Association still operating. Mrs. Edward Spurr, a documented member of our Club suggested starting a thrift shop by asking people to donate used clothing and The Winter Park Benefit Shop was born in March 1935. The following month, our Club's Board meeting's minutes record that it was decided that our Club would "be responsible for selling day at The Benefit Shop"! I saw a program card and newspaper article in our Club's archives from 1937 inviting members of our Club to an In-Gathering Tea "to promote interest in The Benefit Shop, with admission being a bundle of old clothes to be added to the stock of the Shop, or fifty cents." Now, 90 years later, The Benefit Shop is once again asking for your help. Any hours you work at The Benefit Shop can be reported to Cindy Abeel and counted towards service hours for our Club, so by volunteering, you can help both organizations!



The new location the City moved us into is at the end of the parking lot for the new Winter Park Library (at 450 Harper Street which used to be the Lake Island Reception Hall). We hope to open in April once our lease with the City is finalized. We are blessed to now have over 2000 square feet of space to display and sell household items, women's, men's, and children's clothing, shoes, purses, craft items, nik-naks, collectables, dishware, linens, picture frames, art work, craft supplies, books, records, DVDs, CDs, and toys. Starting this month, we need volunteers to work shifts on days we are open (Friday and Saturdays from 9 am- 2:30 pm) and days when the Shop is closed to

price, sort, and stock donations (Tuesday afternoon from noon to 3 pm, and Wednesday morning from 9 am to noon). Since The Benefit Shop is all-volunteer, all the money from the sale of donated items goes to the charities designated yearly by the five-person Board of The Benefit Shop. This year's charities include: Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, Christian Service Center, Family Promise of Greater Orlando, Freedom Ride, Harbor House of Central Florida, House of Hope, Orlando Rescue Mission, Russell House for Atypical Children, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Winter Park Day Nursery.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Club member **Debbie Glaser** via text at (703) 618-8960 or by email at debbieandleeglaser@gmail.com . Donations will be taken on days the Shop is open, and the 2 closed days a week listed above when volunteers are working.



Historian

Did You Know?



As a Winter Park landmark since 1921, The Woman's Club of Winter Park's clubhouse gracefully reminds all who pass by the elegant building, or enter its doors as members or guests, of our deep commitment towards the preservation of our Classical Revival Style building as a symbol of the rich history of the American Woman's Club Movement in Winter Park, Florida. With its beautiful interior rooms and archival spaces, The Woman's Club is both a warm home for our vibrant members and a distinctive rental venue.

From the beginning, Woman's Club members, and their spouses, families, and friends, have been exceptionally generous in donating time, energies, monetary funds, furnishings, paintings, prize personal possessions, silver tea sets and inscribed silver bowls, books, and, in the case of Mr. Charles Hosmer Morse, the husband of the Club's first president, Helen Morse, the very land upon which the building resides. According to a brief club history written in 1993 by Rollins College student Haynes Willson, "Mrs. Morse donated several pieces of furniture to the club (table, credenza, chairs, etc.) ...the furniture was put in the north lobby dining room, now called The Board Room, and is still there today" (The Woman's Club of Winter Park Archives). Unfortunately, the student does not clearly document the original source crediting Mrs. Morse for this generous gift. However, according to an official "Inventory of Woman's Club of Winter Park, Inc. as of February, 1993," several substantial pieces of heavy oak carved furniture, including a 7 foot long Court Cupboard, a 4 foot long Oak Server, an Oak Gateleg Table, six Oak Side Chairs, and two Antique Oak Chairs with arms, all circa 1870, are listed. These Jacobean Revival style items, including the Court Cupboard and Oak server each with an interior drawer tag noting the items were "Designed and Made By The Hayden Company, 523 Fifth Avenue, New York," grace our Board Room today in 2025.



In 2016, in an effort to confirm the provenance of these items, I contacted Jennifer Thalheimer, then Curator and Collection Manager and now Museum Director and Chief Curator at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park. Mr. Morse preferred to furnish *Osceola Lodge*, his beautiful lakefront home on Interlachen Avenue, in the Craftsman style Gustav Stickley furnishings popular in the early 1900's. The Museum Archives has no record of the Woman's Club Jacobean Revival Style furniture as having been owned, or donated, by Charles or Helen Morse, however, the Museum Archives has several packing crate labels in its collection from New York City.

My research indicates the strong possibility that the furniture was owned by Helen, shipped to Winter Park upon her marriage to Charles Morse in 1911, and given to The Woman's Club. The Hayden Company, the designer and builder of the Board Room furniture, was founded in 1846 by C. J. and J. E. Hayden in Rochester, New York as a chair and cabinet factory. The second Mrs. Morse, the widow Helen Strong Piffard Morse, was born and raised in New York City and spent the years of her first marriage to Dr. Henry G. Piffard there, thus the possibility remains that the furniture was hers. Helen Morse was well-known for her generosity and, as a Woman's Club of Winter Park "In Memoriam" upon her death notes, dearly beloved for her "unswerving loyalty, a neighbor who loved others as herself and a leader who ruled with kindness, tolerance and charity," and it is a lovely idea that "some ray of that spirit remains enshrined in this building" (Winter Park Herald Newspaper, December 12, 1929).



Kim Mould, Historian

April Programs

As we spring forward into April, we have another month full of exciting events.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!!



Thursday April 3rd 2PM

We are honored to have Miss America 2004 Ericka Dunlap as she shares her inspiring story with us!

Wear your Red, White and Blue



MEET ERICKA DUNLAP

Ericka Dunlap is an award-winning public relations strategist, entrepreneur, community advocate, television host, and celebrated American beauty queen, best known as Miss America 2004. During her junior year at the University of Central Florida, she made

history as the first—and, to date, only—African American woman to be crowned Miss Florida. Later that year, she won the title of Miss America, using her platform to champion Inclusion & Diversity Best Practices. For over 20 years, Ericka has delivered keynote addresses, commencement speeches, and workshops on topics such as self-care, etiquette, diversity & inclusion, and cultural competency.

A dynamic performer, Ericka has graced renowned stages including The Apollo, The Grand Ole Opry, and The Hollywood Bowl. She is no stranger to the world of television, with appearances on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Hollywood Squares, Live with Regis and Kelly, ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, The O'Reilly Factor, E! Entertainment, and The Amazing Race (Season 15). She has also participated in ABC's Disney Parks Christmas Parade and served as co-host of the internationally streamed 100th Anniversary of the Miss America Competition on NBC/Peacock. A fan favorite in the Nashville music scene for over a decade, she also became the first African American on-air host for the CMT Radio Network.



Born and raised in Orlando, Florida, Ericka is the CEO of Crown Communication Group, a multidisciplinary strategic consulting firm based in her hometown. In recent years, she was a contributing author to the #1 best-selling book *Breaking the Glass Ceiling*, and *Keeping it Nice*. Her hosting work on an episode of the web series “Cleverest” earned a prestigious Telly Award, and she was featured in the A&E docuseries “The Secrets of Miss America.” In 2024, Ericka hosted “A Healthier Us,” a nationally distributed talk show for Pfizer’s billion-dollar brand, Advil.

Beyond her professional achievements, Ericka is the visionary behind “A Christmas with Soul,” an annual magical Christmas experience that expanded to multiple cities in 2024. This musical extravaganza features soulful renditions of holiday classics, captivating audiences with its heartfelt performances. In addition to the live show, she has released a beautifully illustrated book of the same name, filled with striking photos and heartwarming memories that encapsulate the spirit of the season.

Ericka’s mission is to inspire others to discover their passion and live with authenticity and enthusiasm. She resides in Orlando, Florida, with her daughter, Mikelle Antoinette.

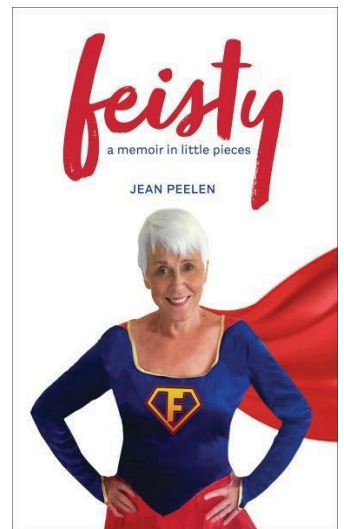
Thursday April 10th 2PM

You don’t want to miss, 84 year old, Author and TikTok influencer, Jean Peelen. She will share her 2nd book “Feisty: Lovers and Others.”

Also, her topic of the day: “Don’t Keep Your Secrets” She will be speaking about the role of secrets in our lives, why we keep them, and how we can let them go.

MEET JEAN PEELEN

Jean Peelen constantly reinvents her life. She has been a wife, mother, civil rights attorney, model, commercial actress, elected official, writer and now, a TikTok influencer paving the way for older women to be heard. She wanted to be a heart-breaker, but turned out to be a path-maker. At 84, Jean lives in a tiny house, in a tiny house community in the mountains of North Carolina where she is writing her second book, “Feisty: Lovers and Others.”



Thursday April 17th 2PM

We will start at 2:10pm – seats will fill up fast



Thursday April 24th 2PM

Silver Tea and Board Installation

This special event is the final program of the club year.

We have high tea with fancy hats. Prizes are awarded.

Refreshments are complementary and guests are welcomed.

Please RSVP by Monday April 21st so that we have an accurate headcount.

We will be installing all the elected Board Members for the 2025-26 year. See you then!

**Lindsay Pelozo and Elaine Ellman,
Programs Co-Chairs**

EXTRA EVENT!! Friday April 4th 5:00 pm



Returning to Central Florida for one week only is the pianist, composer, conductor and lecturer Frederic Voorn from the Netherlands. Frederic last performed for us about five years ago and we found his musicianship inspiring. Because of his schedule involving a symphony performance and other concerts, Frederic will be holding a House Concert for members and friends of the Woman's Club on Friday, April 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the club. The program will feature classical standards as well as some of his own beautiful compositions.

The concert is free to attend and, as it is a House Concert, we hope you will feel compelled to toss some money into the "tip jar" to help cover his travel expenses. We urge you to invite a friend or three. Elizabeth Fullington and I will provide some light munchies and we encourage YOU to bring any beverages that you might like. Most of all, bring a friend, neighbor, fellow music lover! ~ *Nancy Miles*