

The Woman's Club of Winter Park, Inc.



January 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

President: Chris Bush
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President's Column

Happy New Year! With a new year comes new hopes, new ideas, and new opportunities to make our lives the best they can be. Wishing you strength and determination to achieve what you truly desire in your life.

We have some exciting programs planned for this month. We begin with Scott Maxwell, a well-known columnist for the Orlando Sentinel. Next, come and hear about the Secrets of Orlando from Fox News Channel and 35 Anchor/Author John Brown. The big event is Founders Day. It will be at our regular 2:00 pm meeting time, with no cost to the members. The committee has worked long and hard to make it the special day that it deserves. Read more about it in the Programs section of the newsletter. Finishing up the month, Harry Rinker will present a program on Genealogy. You won't want to miss any of these wonderful programs!

We will be electing three members from the general membership to serve on the Nominating Committee at our business meeting later this month. The Nominating Committee consists of five members, two of which are from the board. Please give consideration to help in this endeavor.

While we were away for the Christmas holiday, repair work was done on the plaster in several locations throughout the club. Upkeep on this old house is an ongoing occurrence.

In the spirit of the New Year, live simply, speak kindly, care deeply, love generously.

All the best,

Chris

Christine Bush, President



Preservation Campaign

The Preservation Campaign is progressing wonderfully — we're already halfway to our \$200,000 goal! Please consider contributing; every gift, no matter the size, will help us reach the finish line! Thank you for your support!



Happy January Birthdays

Cindy Price	1/1
Betty Wasicek	1/1
Kelly DeCastro	1/4
Ali DeMaria	1/4
Kim Griffin	1/5
Patricia Padua	1/9
Emy Rodgers	1/13
Tamika Kearney	1/14
Kay McGee	1/14
Jacqueline Stewart	1/18
Patricia Johnson	1/21
Arlene Bridges	1/23
Mabel Rasmussen	1/23
Collette Davis	1/26
Sue Forman	1/26
Fran Myklus	1/26
Maureen Washburn	1/27
Pat Shenton	1/28



Judi Andrews and Cecelia Slavish, Membership Co-Chairs

Charitable Giving

Holiday Gift Programs

THANK YOU, COMMITTEE AND CLUB MEMBERS:

A Big Thank You to everyone for your generous hearts and or helping with the

- Salvation Army Stocking Project: You filled 75 stockings for teens who otherwise would not have had as bright a Christmas, and
- The Adopt-A-Family Holiday Gift Program: You provided an amazing Christmas for four families at the Winter Park Housing Authority. This included 11 children and gift cards so that the parents could afford to purchase food for a nice Holiday as well.



Charitable Giving Committee Meeting

COMMITTEE MEETING scheduled for **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** at the WCWP, at 10:00 AM.

We will be working on a teambuilding project for "A GIFT FOR TEACHING" from 10:00 AM until about 11:00 AM and then break for a brief lunch which will be provided. Then the committee will begin planning for the remainder of the year.

Please calendar this meeting if you're a committee member and if you'd like to join us, please let Kathy (parhamkathryn@gmail.com) or Debbie (dakucf@aol.com) know you're coming.

Killarney Kids

Please continue to remember the Killarney Kids as you shop for groceries, they continue to be food challenged. Your Peanut Butter donations make a big difference in their lives. Thank You!





Awards to Non-Profits

We are currently accepting applications from local non-profits for funding awards. Information about the awards program and the application for funding is available on the Charitable Giving section of our website. The deadline for receipt of applications is March 2, 2026, with decisions on awards to be made in the mid to late March timeframe. The proceeds from the 2025 rummage sale are the primary source of funding for the 2026 awards to non-profits. If you know of a non-profit organization doing good work in our community (Orange or Seminole County), please let them know about this opportunity.

Valentine's Boxes – Member Outreach

Starting in January through February 4, we will be collecting wrapped Valentine's candy and small packages of cookies to include in Valentine's boxes for our member outreach. Donations (and receipts) can be dropped off at our Thursday meetings or at the office on Monday – Thursday anytime from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm through February 4th. The Charitable Giving Committee will be assembling the Valentine's boxes in the boardroom on Thursday, February 5th prior to the program (time to be determined). Club members attending the program on February 5th are encouraged to stop by the Charitable Giving table before or after the program to pick up a few boxes for delivery to our homebound and other members (delivery from February 5th – 13th). Thank you for helping to let our members know that they are remembered!



A simple **THANK YOU** to our Club Members seems too insignificant for all you've done through this past Holiday Season! You-all have been so generous, caring and helpful to the people the WCWP has supported over the years.

YOU-ALL MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THESE PEOPLE!!

THANK YOU!



Debbie Kirkwood & Kathy Parham, Charitable Giving Committee Co-Chairs

January Programs

Happy New Year!!

Wow, 2025 was such a great year! We can't wait for 2026 – we have so many wonderful events planned – Here's our January Schedule:

Thursday January 8th at 2PM – Scott Maxwell

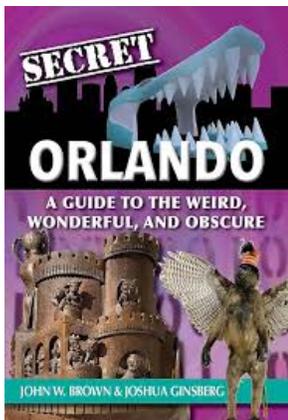
Topic - The Florida news cycle - never-ending and never dull



Scott Maxwell is a columnist for the Orlando Sentinel. Three times a week, his column focuses on the interesting, funny, maddening, and crazy things that make Florida ... well, Florida. He enjoys telling readers stories they wouldn't otherwise hear. (And revealing the behind-the-scenes of machinations that politicians would rather keep hidden.) Scott joined the Sentinel newsroom in 1998, when he covered Orange County. He started penning a column in 2002 and has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Society of Newspaper Editors, and others. Before coming to Orlando, Scott wrote for the Winston-Salem Journal and The Chapel Hill Herald. Scott graduated from the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill's School of Journalism. He and his wife, Cyndee, have two children, both of whom graduated from Florida universities and still live and work in the Sunshine State.

Thursday January 15th 2PM – John Brown from FOX 35



Emmy Award winner, John Brown from Fox 35 will be giving an entertaining talk about the "hidden history" here in Central Florida. His talk is based on his newest book, Secret Orlando. From hidden bars and restaurants, to places that history has forgotten, and some Disney history that you likely have never seen before. This is one speech you and your friends will be talking about for weeks to come. John will be signing additional books following the presentation.



The Woman's Club of Winter Park

FOUNDERS DAY AFTERNOON TEA CELEBRATION

**HELEN MORSE AND THE ERA OF EXPECTATIONS
1910 - 1926**

**January 22, 2026 at 2:00 pm
with tea, champagne and delectables**

Presentation to begin at 2:30 pm

Howard Vincent Kurtz, costume historian and textile curator, highlights the life of Mrs. Helen Morse, The Woman's Club of Winter Park's first President, and the social changes that set the decades in motion.

LADIES ARE INVITED TO WEAR A FAVORITE PAIR OF GLOVES

**Please RSVP with Kim Mould at
kmould04@gmail.com**

Are You Willing To Learn About the Skeleton In Your Family's Closet?

Description: Do you know where your grandparents are buried? Do you know who your great-grandparents were? You would be surprised to learn how many young adults and even members of the Baby Boomer generation do not.

Harry Rinker, a highly skilled amateur genealogist, will demonstrate the first steps to take to unlock your family's closet.. What was once an arduous task is now relatively easy thanks to ancestry programs such as Ancestry and Family Search.

Unlocking the family closet is not for the faint of heart. Every family's closet is filled with skeletons. Once you complete your family tree, you will never have to watch reality television again. The realities of real life are more than enough to make your head spin.

Bio: Although best known for his work in the antiques and collectibles field, Harry Rinker has been documenting his Prosser and Rinker family history since his early teens. He currently has eight file drawers filled with family research. Five years ago, Harry began his work as a SAR registrar/genealogist, becoming the SAR's top registrar/genealogist in his first year. He also does DAR applications.

Harry's obituary will read as follows: "Harry Llewellyn Rinker is dead. His Rinker and Prosser relatives hope all the stories he knows about them and their ancestors died along with him and will not live on to haunt them after his death...."



Lindsay Pelozza and Elaine Ellman, Programs Co-Chairs

Hospitality

Happy New Year Ladies!

Our January calendar has four Thursdays meeting at 2 PM. The third week is Founder's Day and their committee will be taking over except for greeters. Currently we have Liz Morehead as Set-Up Co-Chair and Jane Koubek as Take-Down for the month. They both need Co-Chairs. PLEASE consider helping them for the three weeks.

As a reminder, don't forget to sign in at the Hospitality Table each week and also check the January and February dates where you might volunteer to greet, pour or bring refreshments. If you are willing to lend a helping hand, please text Natalie at [740-503-8057](tel:740-503-8057).



We look forward to seeing you all in '26.

Best wishes,

Natalie Hill and Fran Myklusch, Hospitality Co-Chairs

Ways and Means



Ladies, you generously bought baked goods and crafts, adding \$590.00 to our Club coffers from the December bake/craft sale! Thanks to all who participated, the bakers, crafters, and shoppers. Again, we saw how creative our crafty ladies are and my goodness, the bakers did not disappoint!! By the way, if YOU have an idea for a fundraiser with \$\$ to go to Charitable Giving, please let me know.

Cindy Abeel, Ways and Means Chair

Scholarship



On December 18th, the Woman's Club of Winter Park honored 13 of the 2025 - 2026 Scholarship recipients and their families. Thanks to our very own Deborah Kirkwood for an inspiring Keynote address with words of wisdom and practical advice for students starting their higher education journey. It was the highlight of the night! Special thanks to Elaine Ellman who stepped in to help when we needed her most and Elizabeth Fullington for providing another fantastic music program which set the tone to a beautiful evening. Thanks to All!!

The 2026 -2027 Application is posted on the Scholarship tab of the website - Please spread the word to potential students and their families.

The next Scholarship Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th at 11:30 AM - we will see you there!

Many Thanks,

Patty Munsey and Jane Koubek, Scholarship Co-Chairs

House and Grounds

Happy New Year!

Our House is sparkling in celebration of our New Year. Thanks to the help of your amazing House Team of Roy, Ricky and Chip and many members, walls have been repaired and painted.

We are opening 2026 with a wedding reception on the 1st, and are looking to keep our club schedule full of events for members and rentals. If you know of anyone looking for a venue for their next event, please recommend our Woman's Club.

Thank you to all who make our club house so special.



Katie Campbell, House and Grounds Chair