

# The Woman's Club of Winter Park, Inc.



## March 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

President: Natalie Hill  
CO-VP: Chris Bush  
CO-VP: Linda Rinker  
Club Office: 407-644-2237

[info@womansclubofwinterpark.com](mailto:info@womansclubofwinterpark.com)

### President's Column

Sorry, no vintage photos this month, just a quick review of the past and future club events. Due to the switch of **Founder's Day**, we only had three programs, one of which had been cancelled and was filled in with Elaine Ellman substituting a lesson on roses. Also, there was no Tuesday evening gathering. The Founder's Day Dinner had presentations by Kim Mould and Nancy Miles honoring Past President Sandra Blossey for her outstanding contributions for the Preservation Fund and recognizing The City of Winter Park for the Historical Marker they placed on the corner of Lyman and Interlachen. Nancy also provided a video of our early beginnings. Karen Rodda saw that the clubhouse decor for the evening was spectacular in peacock blue and gold.



The month of March will bring us Mrs. America, a Fashion Show, Girl Scouts and Rabbit Care. Because the **Fashion Show and Luncheon** is my special event, I shall report the following. Fran Myklusich offered early to be my co-chair and what a creative lady she is. She has been coming up with the table decoration, theme, and door prizes, while I have focused on the menu with Shelley, who catered our October and December luncheons. I have also enlisted 12 members of the club to be the models for this annual event. Attached will be a Registration form and we urge everyone to join us for "Fashions for Your Vacation".

March will also bring us the Tuesday evening "Paint and Sip." So, you see we have plenty of interesting Tuesday and Thursday programs. In order for our Chairman, Lindsay Pelosa to fill the calendar for the 25-26 year, she has formed a survey which was handed out in February to members on Thursdays, plus one is attached to this newsletter. Please fill out one and get it turned in, so we know of your suggestions and choices.

Hope we see you during this month and remember to wear Green on the 17<sup>th</sup>, B'Gorra!

Natalie Hill, President

## Happy March Birthdays

Sue Busby 3/2  
Sandra Blossey 3/4  
Sue Grafton 3/7  
Jane Koubek 3/11  
Judi Andrews 3/14  
Madelda Thompson 3/14  
Betty Gilleland 3/18  
Debbie Kirkwood 3/23  
Nancy Ludin 3/23  
Barbara Danagher 3/29  
Jean Jackson 3/29  
Nancy Flaherty 3/30  
Aimee Kakos 3/30



Corrections to the Membership book:

Jane Koubek cell phone 813-215-7563

Madelda Thompson birthday is 3/14 , in the book it is listed as 8/14

**Chris Bush, Membership Chair**

## Ways and Means

It's never too soon to be thinking about our annual **Rummage Sale, August 29th and 30th**, the biggest fundraiser of the year, which depends upon YOU to make it happen and make it successful. As you are going through household items in the next few months, please set aside the ones you are no longer in love with or need, to save until they may be brought (or we will pick up) to the Clubhouse the week before the sale. **If you cannot store items until the week before the sale or If you have space in your garage or home to store such items ahead of time, please let me know.** We don't want to miss out on any great donations! **Set aside time from August 23rd through 28th** to help with set up and **August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>** to work at the sale. Contact me with any questions or information.

Cindy - [zsuzs1@earthlink.net](mailto:zsuzs1@earthlink.net) 407.690.0086

**Cindy Abeel, Way and Means Chair**

## Scholarship.

We are continuing to reach out to the high school guidance counselors to make sure they know about our scholarships and the deadline is March 3.

**Sue Grafton & Patty Munsey, Scholarship Co-Chairs**

## Charitable Giving

### Valentine's Boxes - Member Outreach

Thank you to all who donated candy, assembled and delivered Valentine's boxes for our member outreach project. Your efforts were much appreciated!



### Fill-The-Pantry

We're continuing to fill the pantry for over 105 homeless students from Killarney Elementary.

The pantry is currently in need of 8 - 16 ounce jars of peanut butter. Used clean plastic bags are still needed. Please bring your donations and receipts to the club meetings.

### Charitable Giving Committee Meeting

The next Charitable Giving meeting is on March 7th at 1pm at the club. All are welcome.

**Lucy McDonough, Charitable Giving Chair**

## Historian

### Did You Know?

On July 29, 1937, Mrs. Mary Lee DePugh founded The Ideal Woman's Club of Winter Park, an organization comprised of "ambitious community women" dedicated to reviving both the spirit and pride of the African American community and of the Black clubwoman. Mrs. DePugh, a domestic in the employ of Mrs. Maud Kraft, an active member of The Woman's Club of Winter Park and in Evanston, Illinois, established The Ideal Woman's Club in Hannibal Square in the Westside of Winter Park as an organization that would integrate Christian ideals with social and community service activities. When Mary Lee arrived in West Winter Park from Evanston, Illinois, she quickly saw the need to create a community space where women could join together to address the needs in the community and enjoy social club activities and comradery.

## Mrs. Mary Lee DePugh



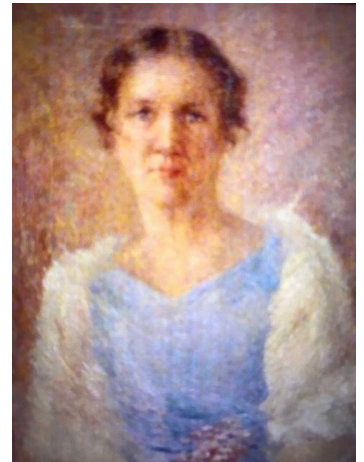
A resolution that originally hung in the foyer of The Woman's Club of Winter Park's historic clubhouse, but now safely stored in an archival box in the Club's Archives, commemorates the role played by The Woman's Club of Winter Park in the formation of The Ideal Woman's Club. Maud, as both a fellow clubwoman and Mary Lee's friend, played a crucial role in helping Mary Lee fulfill her vision. When Maud learned of The Congregational Church's intent to remove the old Hooker Memorial House

from church property, she approached church leaders about the possibility of purchasing the building and moving it to the Westside for the use of The Ideal Woman's Club. At a meeting on December 13, 1939, the church donated the building in exchange for Maud financing the move. She generously paid the five hundred dollars expense and, until the completion of their new clubhouse in 1997, The Ideal Woman's Club continued to use the historic building as its clubhouse. In a Woman's Club of Winter Park scrapbook dated 1938 – 1943, a letter printed in the local newspaper expresses appreciation for “the giving and moving of the Hooker Memorial Building” and to “the Woman's Club for the donation of chairs and other necessary articles.”

For decades, American clubwomen, in Winter Park and across the country, have often pursued their goals in a parallel, largely segregated manner. Upon occasion, some progressive clubwomen have looked beyond the color of their skin and sought personal and societal enhancement through interracial alliances.

In recognition of Women's History Month, on Wednesday, March 26, at 4:00 pm, historians Kim Mould and Fairolyn Livingston will be speaking at The Rollins College Olin Library about these two remarkable Winter Park clubwomen and their respective clubs. To learn more about Mrs. Kraft and Mrs. DePugh and the compelling, often complex relationships between White employers and their African American domestics, please read **Mrs. Maud Kraft and Mrs. Mary Lee DePugh – Winter Park Clubwomen** researched and written by Kim Mould, the 2001 recipient of The Rhea Marsh and Dorothy Lockhart Smith Winter Park History Research Grant sponsored by The Winter Park Public Library and The Rollins College Olin Library.

## Mrs. Maud Kraft



**Kim Mould, Historian**





The Woman’s Club of Winter Park’s glittering **Founder’s Day** Dinner on February 20<sup>th</sup> was a fabulous success. The colorful peacock and candle lit décor transformed the Helen Morse Hall into a warm, but formal and elegant dinner setting in which to socialize with friends and guests, to recognize past club presidents in attendance, to pay tribute to Past President **Dr. Sandra Blossy**, to thank **Jeff Briggs** and The City of Winter Park for our beautiful new Historic Marker, and to enjoy a special video presentation by Past President **Nancy Miles**. The fascinating video

shared historic photographs from our 110 year history, but also highlighted many of our significant successes in the last 10 years. The video also included plans for near future clubhouse preservation needs and wishes, and the importance of continuing to support our Preservation Fund. An insert placed in the attractive program (special thanks to **Kathy Parham** and **Roy Clement**) and provided at each table setting noted these specific preservation projects. A special shout-out to **Lucy McDonough** who worked so incredibly hard despite her fresh skiing injury!



From **Karen Rodda** and **Kim Mould**, Founder’s Day Committee Co-Chairs, a **huge, heart-felt thank you to everyone** who contributed their donations, their time and skills, and their energies to making this event so enjoyable...a true night to remember.



## March Programs

March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM



MEET: Robert Ross - He is a Winter Park-based artist who is known for his oil paintings of interiors and urban landscapes. His work is characterized by strong composition, light, and color. Ross's paintings have won awards at art festivals in Florida, including Winter Park. He has been honored with a one-man exhibit at Daytona Beach Museum of Art and Science and his paintings included in an exhibit at Polk Museum of Art. He is represented by Arts on Douglas Gallery in New Smyrna Beach and ARTicles Gallery in St. Petersburg. He will do a

demo as he speaks at the Club.

March 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM

*Fashion Show and Luncheon*

*Fashion from Versona of Winter Park*

**Thursday, March 13th 2025**

*\$25 per person, RSVP Required*

*Whether you're an armchair traveler*

*or You are really going places.*

*A Well dressed lady traveler will*

*Spring into Action &*

*Bring the Fun*



**March 20<sup>th</sup> 2 PM**

History of the Girl Scouts



Presenter **Lydia Sealey** is presenting a History of the Girl Scouts of America.

**Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2 PM**



Orlando Rabbit Care and Adoptions, Inc. (ORCA) is an animal welfare corporation focused on rescue of domestic rabbits and raising awareness of the need for helping these animals – the third-most found animal in shelters. Originally formed as a social and educational entity, ORCA began rescue operations in 2016 and is one of the larger rabbit-focused rescues in the state of Florida. Locally, they partner with other animal rescue organizations, most of which do not serve the rabbit community. Being 100% foster-based, volunteers are key to their success.

Representing ORCA will be Alicia Koch and Kathy Harter. They will provide some background on the needs of domestic rabbits and address the comment that everyone has – “a rabbit rescue? I didn’t know there was such a thing!” And yes, there will be bunnies!!!

**MEET: Alicia Koch.** Alicia began volunteering with ORCA in May 2020 after spending 15 days catching a loose rabbit in St. Cloud. She currently serves on the Board of Directors as Foster & Adoption Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator. Prior to moving to Florida, she volunteered at Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary in Michigan. She shares her home with her husband,





Sweetie (10-years old from Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary), Wallee (5 years old, ORCA rescue), Clover the cat (Candy's Cats rescue).

MEET: **Kathy Harter**. Kathy joined ORCA as a volunteer in 2006 when she began performing accounting duties. Her initial efforts included getting ORCA designated as a 501(c)3 non-profit. In the past she has held several Board of Directors positions – President, Vice President and Treasurer. Current volunteer efforts are focused on educating government officials on the need to protect domestic rabbits. Kathy lives in Oviedo with her husband, Chippy (6 years old, ORCA rescue) and Paul the Cat – a former stray who has joined the family.



### How can you help?

Amazon Wish List:

[www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RV6ACBSEMTNE/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_1](http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RV6ACBSEMTNE/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1)

Donate here:

<https://orlandorabbit.org/how-to-help/donate>

Chewy Wish List:

[https://www.chewy.com/g/orlando-rabbit-care-and-adoptions-inc\\_b78522269](https://www.chewy.com/g/orlando-rabbit-care-and-adoptions-inc_b78522269)



### Mark your calendar: Paint n' Sip has changed!

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM

– there will be a sign up sheet at the Thursday meetings –

Please let Lucy, Lindsay, or Elaine know if you would like to attend

– Cost is \$25 – which includes all supplies – food, tea, lemonade and wine



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