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## **Start the New Year at the History Center with Famous Floridians, 46 Years of Highland Games, and more!**

Visitors to the Orange County Regional History Center in January 2024 can learn about some of our most famous Floridians, take a wee journey through 46 years of Central Florida's Highland Games, and join Florida Humanities in launching a new book of timeless essays about our state's arts, culture, and history. As usual, the museum is open free in the evening of the third Thursday of the month.

For many History Center events, registration is recommended due to limited capacity. Note that Lunch & Learn, usually a first-Friday event, takes place this month on the second Friday. Learn more at [TheHistoryCenter.org/Events](http://TheHistoryCenter.org/Events). Here's a look at January's programs.

### **History Alive: Famous Floridians**

***Saturday, January 6, 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.***

Every month, visitors can engage with history through interactive experiences and themed hands-on activities the whole family can enjoy during History Alive. This month we'll highlight the lives of some of our most famous Floridians, from groundbreaking scientists to world-famous boy bands and more. *Activities are included with museum admission.*

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Alive-Famous-Floridians](http://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Alive-Famous-Floridians)

### **Hint of History Workshops: Sunshine State Settlers**

***Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 1 – 4 p.m.***

The History Center's monthly Hint of History drop-in sessions allow families to customize their learning experience and participate in activities at their own pace. Our program is geared towards children ages 5 to 11 years old and is ideal for homeschool students, but all ages and families are welcome to join in the fun and learning. In the January session, learn about some of the different groups of people who have settled in Florida and shaped our history.

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Education/Home-School-Days](http://TheHistoryCenter.org/Education/Home-School-Days)

### **Lunch & Learn – Kilts and Cabers: Scottish Highland Games**

***Friday, January 12, 2024, Noon – 1 p.m.***

Hosted annually by the Scottish-American Society of Central Florida, our local Scottish Highland Games celebrate centuries-old athletics, traditional dance, music, art, and food while supporting local businesses and organizations. Join us for a wee journey through 46 years of Highland Games! Participate online or in-person. (In-person guests may order lunch through the History Center or bring their own.)

Cost: Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$9 for History Center Members; General Public \$14. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 11.)

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Scottish-Highland-Games](http://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Scottish-Highland-Games)

**Brechner Speaker Series: Once Upon a Time in Florida**

***Sunday, January 14, 2024, 1:30 – 3 p.m.***

Join Florida Humanities and the History Center to celebrate the book *Once Upon a Time in Florida: Stories of Life in the Land of Promises*, which marks the 50th anniversary of Florida Humanities with 50 timeless essays from the organization’s award-winning magazine, *FORUM*. Speakers include historian Gary Mormino, writer and artist Andrea Brunais, and NPR journalist Eric Deggans. A reception with light snacks will precede the free panel presentation.

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Once-Upon-a-Time-in-Florida](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Once-Upon-a-Time-in-Florida)

**Third Thursday @ The Museum**

***Thursday, January 18, 2024, 5 – 8 p.m.***

The History Center is open late on the third Thursday of each month with three hours of free admission. Third Thursday @ The Museum is part of a wider event at various downtown Orlando venues organized by the Downtown Arts District celebrating arts, culture, and history through art exhibitions, live performances, drink specials, and more.

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-The-Museum](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-The-Museum)

**Sensory Sunday: Florida’s Artistic Wonders**

***Sunday, January 21, 2024, Noon – 4 p.m.***

Explore how crunchy shells, squishy clay, and vibrant colors can be used to create art in this day inspired by Florida’s vibrant arts and culture. We’ll have a day filled with exploration, creativity, and inspiration as we celebrate the Sunshine State’s diverse artistic heritage. *Sensory Sundays are presented in partnership with the Autism Society of Greater Orlando and include free admission for ASGO members.*

More information: [TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Floridas-Artistic-Wonders](https://TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Floridas-Artistic-Wonders)

**The Orange County Regional History Center**, housed in a historic courthouse at 65 E. Central Blvd. in downtown Orlando, features four floors of permanent and special exhibitions. The museum is a Smithsonian Institution affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Community & Family Services Department under Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and the Board of County Commissioners. The Historical Society of Central Florida Inc. is supported by United Arts of Central Florida and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. For more information, visit [TheHistoryCenter.org](https://TheHistoryCenter.org).

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