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Learn about Indigenous Cultures, Party with Tupperware, and Munch Cookies with Santa during a Historic December!

This December, holiday spirit is going strong at the Orange County Regional History Center, including a chance to schmooze with Santa and Mrs. Claus themselves at The Historic Holiday Experience. As part of our free Third Thursday event, we're donning our best ugly holiday sweaters and going back to 1980s Orlando in the wacky holiday movie, *Ernest Saves Christmas*. Our monthly History Alive program ventures into the world of Florida's Indigenous people, and Lunch & Learn opens doors to the story of Tupperware's beginnings and the pathbreaking role of home-party innovator Brownie Wise.

It's a festive time of year, and there's no better gift for yourself and your family than a visit to the History Center. Find out more at TheHistoryCenter.org/Events.

The Historic Holiday Experience

Select dates, December 3 – 18, 2024

Looking ahead to December, ticket sales are now open for The Historic Holiday Experience. This interactive and intimate holiday event will include seasonal activities, caroling, storytelling, and a private visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. During the one-hour experience, guests can enjoy decorating ornaments, making festive-themed crafts, writing letters to Santa, and playing reindeer games, all while munching delicious milk and cookies. Bring your cameras and phones to snap the priceless moments when your children share their heartfelt wishes with Santa. Our festively decorated setting offers the perfect backdrop for heartwarming photos and cherished memories.

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Historic-Holiday-Experience/

Lunch & Learn: Let's Throw a Party for Plastic

Friday, December 6, 2024, Noon – 1 p.m.

You probably have a piece of Florida history sitting in your kitchen cabinets! Orlando was the birthplace of Tupperware Home Parties, a symbol of women in business and innovation. Join us as we peek behind the curtain of the early Tupperware empire and uncover the woman behind its success, Brownie Wise.

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, December 5.)

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Party-for-Plastic/

History Alive: Domestic Dwellings

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Have you ever wondered how Indigenous peoples and pioneers lived in these wild wetlands? At this month's History Alive, we'll explore the history and ethnoarchitecture of pioneer homesteads and Indigenous dwellings in Florida. This family-friendly day is packed with activities: examine rare artifacts, build your own homestead to help your family survive the untamed Florida frontier, and more!

Guided museum tours: 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Domestic-Dwellings/

Third Thursday @ The Museum

Thursday, December 19, 2024, 5 – 9 p.m.

The History Center is open late on the third Thursday of each month with four hours of free admission! It's part of a wider event organized by Orlando's Downtown Arts District celebrating arts, culture, and history at various downtown venues through art exhibitions, live performances, drink specials, and more. At this month's Third Thursday, get into the holiday spirit with a festive Ugly Sweater Party and screening of the 1988 movie *Ernest Saves Christmas*, filmed in Orlando (see below). This event is supported by United Arts of Central Florida and the Downtown Arts District.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-Dec/

Retro Reels: Ernest Saves Christmas

Thursday, December 19, 2024, 6 – 8 p.m.

Get into the holiday spirit with a festive Ugly Sweater Party and screening of *Ernest Saves Christmas*. This wacky 1988 holiday comedy, filmed right here in Orlando, follows the bumbling but well-meaning Ernest P. Worrell (played by Jim Varney) as he helps Santa Claus find a suitable successor to carry on the Christmas tradition. Don your most outrageous festive attire and enjoy an evening of holiday cheer! Admission is free as part of Third Thursday, but registration is requested.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Ernest-Saves-Christmas/

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.

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