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Marching forward at the History Center, we'll play legendary golf links, celebrate pioneering women in politics, revisit a lost theme park, and more!

This March at the History Center, we invite the community to join us for fun on the golf course and at the breakfast table during two stalwart springtime fundraisers: our annual Courthouse Cup Golf Tournament on March 10 at historic Rio Pinar Golf and our Women's History Breakfast on March 28. This year the breakfast celebrates trailblazers from recent history who will join us in person: political legends Mabel Butler, Linda Chapin, Martha Haynie, and Glenda Hood, as well as the late Mary Johnson, who'll be represented by family members. In addition, our "History Alive" program features famous Floridians and offers fun hands-on activities for families, along with guided tours, while our March Lunch & Learn revisits the beloved-but-gone Circus World theme park. Mark your calendars and learn more at TheHistoryCenter.org/Events!

History Alive: Famous Floridians

Saturday, March 1, 2025, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

What do author Zora Neale Hurston, artist Bob Ross, and astronaut John Young have in common? They all called Central Florida home! Learn about these famous Floridians and the far-reaching effects of their accomplishments. The event features guided tours and family-friendly activities, including trying your hand at writing on a vintage typewriter, like Hurston; using oil pastels to create your own Ross-inspired artwork; and testing your zero gravity skills using NASA boxes designed to mimic training for real astronauts such as Orlando's own Capt. John Young.

Guided tours: 10:30 a.m., Noon, 1:45 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/History-Alive-Famous-Floridians-2/

Lunch & Learn: The Dazzling, Defunct Circus World Theme Park

Friday, March 7, 2025, Noon – 1 p.m.

With wooden coasters, elephant rides, and a six-story IMAX screen, Circus World Showcase was shaping up to be the Greatest Theme Park on Earth. So, what made this Haines City attraction close its doors in 1986? Step right up and hear all about it from the History Center's curator of education, Kallie Turner. Participate online or in-person (closed captions are available online).

Cost: Free for History Center Members; General Public \$5. Cost with lunch: \$12 for History Center Members; General Public \$17. (Lunch must be ordered by 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 6.)

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Circus-World/

Annual Courthouse Cup Golf Tournament

Monday, March 10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For nearly 70 years, Rio Pinar Golf has been one of Central Florida’s most beloved courses, hosting golf legends such as Lee Trevino, Patty Sheehan, and Arnold Palmer. Now you can swing irons in their footsteps, playing those legendary links for a cultural cause during the Courthouse Cup, a four-person scramble with fun challenges along the course. It will take place at Rio Pinar Golf, 8600 El Prado Ave., Orlando, beginning with a check-in and continental breakfast at 9 a.m. and a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Lunch and awards follow the conclusion of play. The event raises vital funds for the Historical Society of Central Florida which supports the Orange County Regional History Center’s mission.

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Golf/

Third Thursday @ The Museum

Thursday, March 20, 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 through art exhibitions, live performances, drink specials, and more at various downtown venues.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Third-Thursday-the-Museum-2/

Women’s History Breakfast

Friday, March 28, 2025, 8 – 10 a.m.

Our 6th annual Women’s History Breakfast honors Mable Butler, Linda Chapin, Martha Haynie, Glenda Hood, and Mary I. Johnson – the first women to break top leadership barriers in the City of Orlando and Orange County. From the mayor’s office to the commission chambers and more, these trailblazers didn’t just open doors – they redefined the room. Together, we’ll honor their resilience, reflect on their lasting impacts, and continue the journey toward greater representation and leadership in a morning of inspiration.

Proceeds from the event support the programs of the History Center, especially our paid HERstory: Women in History Internship. The museum’s most recent HERstory intern, Keauna Brantley, will join us to share her experience.

Doors open at 8 a.m. with a breakfast buffet, coffee, and conversation; program begins at 8:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$35 each or \$350 for a table (8 people).

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Womens-History-Breakfast-6/

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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