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Special Programs Offer Expert Help for Exploring Family History

Three-Part History Center Series Kicks Off July 23 with Genealogy Focus

ORLANDO, Fla. – June 11, 2025 – Central Floridians can help ensure their treasured family stories are preserved for the future through a new three-part “Preserving Your History” series at the Orange County Regional History Center that begins in July and continues in August and September.

“These programs offer a gateway to connect with the past and uncover captivating family stories,” said Azela Santana, the History Center’s executive director. “Whether someone is starting fresh or enhancing their research, our goal is to empower them with expert guidance and support.”

“Preserving Your History” begins on Wednesday, July 23, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., with a focus on genealogy, as specialists from the Central Florida Genealogical Society help each participant begin tracking down their family legacies and learn how to continue their research on their own.

The second session, on Wednesday, August 27, 1 – 4 p.m., highlights how to make time capsules to preserve photographs, jewelry, fabric, and more, and the third in the series, on Wednesday, September 17, 1 – 4 p.m., turns to oral history as an important tool for passing stories down generation to generation.

The time capsule and oral history sessions include instruction by History Center experts, as well as professional materials from the Gaylord Archival company for participants. At every session, a lightbox will be available for participants to use to photograph family heirlooms.

Registration is now open “Preserving Your History,” with a tuition of \$20 for each individual program or \$55 for the series of three. History Center members receive an additional discount. For full information and to register, please visit TheHistoryCenter.org/Education/Preserving-Your-History-Series.

The “Preserving Your History” series is presented in conjunction with the History Center’s *Orlando Collected* exhibition, which celebrates the 150th anniversary of Orlando’s incorporation in 1875. The exhibition continues on display at the downtown Orlando museum through January 11, 2026.

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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