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February means lots to love at History Center, from tales of a fiery feud to a historic opera, plus story quilts and more!

During February, the month for lovers, the Orange County Regional History Center offers plenty to love with programs for the whole family. We'll wrap up our latest award-winning exhibition, *Figurehead: Music & Mayhem in Orlando's Underground*, while a program inspired by the Orlando Opera's coming presentation of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* looks at music of a very different sort. A special event in partnership with the Orlando Public Library features the Hannibal Square Story Quilters and includes an optional quilting workshop. Our "History Alive" program offers fun hands-on activities for families, along with guided tours, while this month's Lunch & Learn delves into a famous feud that cast a dark shadow over decades. Get ready to mark your calendars and learn more at TheHistoryCenter.org/Events!

History Alive: Communities Around Orlando

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

From Metro Orlando's early days as a citrus-growing hub to its modern role as a melting pot of cultures, our area has always been shaped by the people who call it home. Learn about communities around Orlando with family-friendly activities and guided tours. Activities include creating your own historic postcard, devising the pioneer wagon you'd choose to traverse the frontier, and learning about the sometimes surprising produce that's been grown in Central Florida, from celery and citrus to pineapples.

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

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Communities-Around-Orlando

From Pinewood to Pillars: Orange County's Historic Courthouses

Saturday, February 1 - Sunday, April 27, 2025

Our newest pocket exhibit features rarely seen artifacts from our collection, showcasing the halls of justice that shaped not only Orlando's skyline but also its history. Downtown Orlando's courthouses have been at the epicenter of the city and county's history for over 160 years, dating back to the area's earliest settlers. As the small frontier town that became the county seat expanded into a bustling metropolis, courthouses grew in size and sophistication to meet the community's needs. From Pinewood to Pillars traces the evolution of Orange County's courthouses, from the rustic, log-hewn buildings of Orlando's pioneer days to the towering, state-of-the-art structure ushering in the new millennium.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Exhibition/From-Pinewood-to-Pillars

The Last Goodbye

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 3 – 5 p.m.

Be part of the official sendoff as we dim the lights forever on our long-running special exhibition *Figurehead: Music & Mayhem in Orlando's Underground*. Luminaries from the local music scene will be on hand for an afternoon of reflecting on music and memories. Included with museum admission.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/the-Last-Goodbye

Lunch & Learn: A Recipe for Revenge

Friday, February 7, 2025, Noon – 1 p.m.

The Barber-Mizell Feud of 1870 marked one of the most significant episodes in Central Florida history. Join William “Billy” Morgan to learn how two influential families, the Barbers and the Mizell’s clashed during the Reconstruction years over cattle, land, and authority, culminating in a deadly conflict that rocked the region and left a decades-long legacy.

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, February 6.)

Details and to register: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Lunch-Learn-Recipe-for-Revenge

Third Thursday @ The Museum

Thursday, February 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 at various downtown venues. This month, we’ll feature a program (see below) inspired by Opera Orlando’s upcoming production of *Treemonisha*.

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

Lineage & Legacy: Scott Joplin’s *Treemonisha*

Thursday, February 20, 2025, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

In preparation for Opera Orlando’s presentation of Scott Joplin’s *Treemonisha* this May, take a musical stroll in the past to see how education has elevated our community in Orlando over the past century and beyond. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the presentation at 7 p.m. As part of Third Thursday, admission to this program is free, but registration is requested. Presented at the History Center in partnership with Opera Orlando and the ZORA! Festival.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Scott-Joplins-Treemonisha

Crafting with the Hannibal Square Story Quilters

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 2 – 5 p.m.

Celebrate the history and artistry of quilting with this special program presented in partnership with the Orlando Public Library. It features the Hannibal Square Story Quilters and showcases the talents and stories of three remarkable quilters: Alema Pamela Watson, Marva Sloan, and Linda Mills Alexander.

The afternoon begins with a lecture in which these artists explore the impact of quilting on their personal journeys and its significance in the broader cultural landscape. After the lecture, staff at the Orlando

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Public Library's Melrose Center will guide participants through an optional hands-on quilting workshop. Pre-registration for this separate event is required as space is limited. This program takes place at the Orlando Public Library and is free with registration.

Details: TheHistoryCenter.org/Event/Quilters

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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Media Advisory: January 31, 2025