



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Explore Your Roots with Black History Month Events at the West Oaks Branch Library

Discover your own unique history with these workshops and presentations

(Orlando, Florida) As part of Black History Month, The West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center will be hosting events in partnership with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society designed to help uncover your family history, share the history of the Gullah Geechee people and give insights into specific genealogy research cases.

In addition, the West Oaks Branch will be celebrating the four-year anniversary of its grand re-opening as the West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center with a Family History Fair. Whether you're just getting started or are an experience genealogist, get connected with new resources and members of the local genealogy community.

The West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center houses the Orange County Library System's genealogy collection, which now contains more than 20,000 books and bound periodicals, 10,000 microfiche and over 15,000 reels of microfilm, and was started in 1923 as a gift from library founder and avid genealogist Captain Charles Albertson. The library also offers genealogy classes and workshops, provides access to digital resources and offers a wide variety of technology classes and children's events. For more information about the West Oaks Branch, visit www.ocls.info/westoaks.

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) was founded in 1977 in Washington, DC by a small group of historians and genealogists who felt a need to share resources and methodology for pursuing historical and genealogical research. For more than 35 years, their members have worked together to trace the historical ties that bind us one to another, mold the present and shape the future. AAHGS operates as a national organization with local affiliate chapters, including the Central Florida Chapter. For more information, visit www.aahgs.org

Family History Fair!

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Celebrate the four-year anniversary of the grand re-opening of the West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center at our Family History Fair. Explore your roots! If you are a beginner, this event can help you get started researching your family history. Experienced genealogists can learn tips about additional resources to aid in your research. The Central Florida Genealogical Society, local lineage and family history societies, and library staff will be available to share information on how to research and document your family history in the 21st century.

Genealogy for African-Americans

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Wednesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Learn more about African-American genealogy and research. Members of the Central Florida Chapter of Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) will share information, tips and techniques on researching African-American history, heritage and genealogy.

An Introduction to the Gullah Geechee People

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Sunday, February 17, 3 p.m.

Learn more about the Gullah Geechee people. Rose Jackson from the Central Florida Chapter of Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) will share stories on the history, heritage and traditions of the Gullah Geechee people.

Finding the Birth Parents of an African-American Adoptee: Who Were the Biological Parents of Pansy McGee?

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.

Learn how DNA and the paper trail can intersect to help discover the biological parents of a woman adopted in Pennsylvania in the 1920s.

Finding the Family of an African-American Adoptee: Pansy McGee Redux, Continuing the Journey

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Wednesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for this exciting case study that furthers the research into the biological family of Pansy McGee on her paternal line. See how creative search techniques discovered a family's previously undocumented name change.

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