



THANK YOU to all who participated in our successful Wine, Women, and Wardrobes! The club was transformed into a fashion runway, and we even had a celebrity sighting. We are so happy to provide support for Pace Center for Girls. See more pics on the following pages!



## President's Welcome:

As we welcome April, our club continues to stay busy and engaged in meaningful ways. Many of our members will soon be participating in the BWC/Rotary Service Cruise—thank you to all who are going and representing our spirit of service. We look forward to sharing more about the important work being done during this trip in next month's issue.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who helped make our recent fashion show such a fantastic success. It was a wonderful event filled with energy, style, and purpose—and we are proud that a portion of the proceeds will support Pace Center for Girls.

There is still time to make an impact! You can support Pace by purchasing a duck and joining us for the Lucky Ducky Race on April 11. It's a fun and meaningful way to give back.

Thank you all for your continued dedication and enthusiasm. Together, we are making a difference.

For the good our hands can do,



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 6

**Duck Slapping Night for Pace**  
contact Kellie Hoffmeister if attending

Saturday, April 11

**Manatee Ave Cleanup 9am**  
AND

**Lucky Ducky Race for Pace 11am**  
Bradenton Riverwalk

April 13 & 27

**Social Butterflies 5:30pm**

"work from home" for Honor Flight mail call for those who can't attend in-person

April 15-16 Noon-Noon

**2026 Giving Challenge**

[https://www.givingchallenge.org/donate?campaign\\_id=245886](https://www.givingchallenge.org/donate?campaign_id=245886)

Monday, April 20

**BWC Membership Meeting**

Doors open 5pm - Snacks/social 5:30  
Meeting starts at 6pm

Saturday, April 25

DeSoto Parade

Contact Shannon Scarfino if attending

Monday, April 27 @5:30pm

**Membership Orientation**

5:30-6pm Snacks

6-7pm Presentation / 7pm Tour BWC

**RSVP: [bradentonwc.membership@gmail.com](mailto:bradentonwc.membership@gmail.com)**

Saturday, May 16 @9am

**District 14 Meeting @BWC**

Sunday, May 17 @1-4pm

**Clubhouse Cleaning Day**

## Sign Ups:

**Environment CSP reminds you to Save your Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House!**

**Manatee Ave Cleanup @9AM**

Sign up to help meet at the VFW at 51<sup>st</sup> St & Manatee Ave W



Join us for **GFWC Florida**

**Convention** - May 1-4 in

Orlando. Early bird

deadline ends April 7.

**[www.gfwcflorida.org/convention2026](http://www.gfwcflorida.org/convention2026)**

**BUY A DUCK for Pace Center for Girls, Manatee**



# Member Spotlights



|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Liz Streb        | Apr 1  |
| Sherri McNeely   | Apr 3  |
| Theresa DiNapoli | Apr 7  |
| Kim Koepsel      | Apr 12 |
| Tammy Kesky      | Apr 23 |
| Pam Helmen       | Apr 26 |
| Lynne Griffin    | Apr 28 |
| Cheryl Statzer   | Apr 30 |



Tabetha Baldwin  
Ann DeMers  
Roe Duncan  
Bea Sampedro  
Lori Weber  
Joan Winant

## New Club Sign!!!!

It must've been the luck of the Irish because look what got installed March 17th! We are so excited about our LED digital display marquee sign courtesy of Cox Chevrolet! HUGE thank you to Cox for your donation--and thank you to the Manatee River Rotary Club, who helped us connect with Cox to make this happen!



THANK YOU to our club members who came to the Bradenton Market to help put the word out about our fashion show and club membership!!! What a beautiful day, and it is ALWAYS a hoot under the tent!



## A Tribute to Rose Vickers - BWC President (1994-1996)

By Melanie Koester, BWC Parliamentarian/Environment CSP Chairman  
and President, Manatee River Garden Club

The Bradenton Woman's Club was saddened to learn of the passing of Rose Vickers, BWC President (1994-1996) and longtime member, in August 2025, just shy of her 98th birthday. Rose's GFWC journey began as early as 1955 with the Bradenton Junior Woman's Club. Over the decades, she served BWC in numerous roles, including First Vice President and Membership Chair, and even provided meditations for club programs. She delighted members with presentations on her treasured collections—porcelain figurines, music boxes, and Madonnas—shared with both BWC and the former Palmetto Woman's Club.

A true trailblazer, Rose petitioned Manatee County in 1957—independently—to establish a gas station east of Palmetto on US 301, at a time when women rarely held financial autonomy. She and her husband, Bill, shared a 76-year marriage until his passing in 2021. Together, they built and operated Vickers Trucking in Palmetto until retiring in 2012; the site now houses HCA Florida Palmetto Emergency.

Deeply rooted in rural life, Rose and Bill maintained their pasture and cattle well into their later years and were active in the Horsemen's Association during the 1960s. In 2000, they partnered with the City of Palmetto to annex a portion of their land.

Rose's love of the land blossomed into a lifelong passion for gardening. A dedicated supporter of the Manatee County Fair, she earned countless blue ribbons in horticulture from the 1960s through the 1990s. Her commitment extended to the Manatee River Garden Club, where she served as President (1980-1982) and remained active at local, district, and state levels. She completed all four National Garden Club Schools—an achievement attained by fewer than 5% of members—and later served as President of Florida Flower Show Judges (2005-2007).

Throughout her life, Rose cultivated not only gardens but community. The home she and Bill owned since 1931 at 2210 5th Street West in Palmetto became a lush oasis overlooking the Manatee River toward Hooker Point—a welcoming setting for countless teas, garden parties, and gatherings for BWC, MRGC, and other civic groups. Her legacy of beauty, service, and quiet determination will continue to inspire for generations to come.



1955 photo- Rose with outstretched arm.

### Bradenton Woman's Club Inc.

President: Rose Vickers  
Address: 2204 Fifth St. W., Palmetto 34221  
Phone: 729-1138

Number of members: 65  
Meets: 1:30 p.m. third Friday (October-April)

at 1705 Manatee Ave. W.

Other officers: Bertha Kahler, first vice president; Jackie McKinzie, second vice president; Kathleen Gilpin, recording secretary; Beth Richardson, treasurer

Purpose: To form a united effort toward the higher development of humanity, in our home, church and community.



Bradenton Herald  
Community Club  
Directory  
Sept 24, 1995

# PRESIDENT'S PROJECT- GFWC FLORIDA FLIGHT OF HONOR



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE AND WELCOME HOME OUR GFWC FLORIDA WOMEN VETERAN HEROES FROM THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!

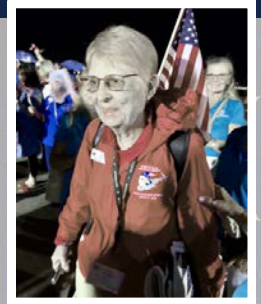
## WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

FLIGHT ARRIVAL TIME 7:45 PM  
ARRIVE EARLY • GATES OPEN AT 5:30 PM

LAKELAND LINDER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
SUN n' FUN SIDE AT THE WARBIRD RAMP  
3890 LAIRD BLVD • LAKELAND • FL • 33811

BALLOON ANIMALS, FACE PAINTING, FOOD TRUCKS, DJ, AND MORE!  
WEAR YOUR RED, WHITE, AND BLUE  
BRING THE KIDS



Six members took the privilege of attending the welcome home celebration for the GFWC Florida Flight of Honor in Lakeland, welcoming back 131 Florida veteran clubwomen who were part of the historic all-female flight. The plane arrived to cheers and heartfelt gratitude from the hundreds in attendance. One by one, the veterans stepped off the plane through an arch created by a large American flag suspended from the ladders of flanking fire trucks. Flags and pom poms waving, signs of greetings, and lots of hugs and tears of excitement lined the walkway.

There was truly magic in the air- a powerful mix of American pride, appreciation for their service, and the strong bond of sisterhood shared with these remarkable women. We are so proud to call two of these veterans members of our club, Diana Chia & Carole Briggs. Thank you for your service and welcome home!



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - SHOWING OUR PATRIOTISM

In honor of Women's History Month, the Bradenton Woman's Club was honored to receive a meaningful gift from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Manatee Chapter—two American flags symbolizing our shared commitment to service and patriotism. One flag will remain inside our clubhouse, while the other now flies proudly on our outdoor flagpole for the community to see. This flag holds special significance, as it was flown over DAR Continental Hall in Washington, D.C.

Our organizations share deep historical roots. Both Daughters of the American Revolution National Headquarters and the GFWC General Federation of Women's Clubs were founded in 1890, and locally, we are connected through Blanche Hendrickson—our Club President in 1939 and later the organizing Regent of the Manatee Chapter (1951-1954). As we look ahead to America 250, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we are proud to stand united in honoring our nation's history, and the women who have helped shape it.



BRADENTON WOMAN'S CLUB IN THE  
**COMMUNITY**  
 THE GOOD OUR HANDS CAN DO



What an unforgettable day at our 4th Annual Wine, Women & Wardrobes Fashion Show! Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event such an incredible success. Because of your support, we were able to raise meaningful funds for the Pace Center for Girls, Manatee and other local causes that are changing lives right here in our community. What a treat to have our special guest emcee, Renee Baio alongside her daughter Bailey Baio bringing energy and heart to the day. Plus... a surprise none of us saw coming—actor and teenage heart-throb, Scott Baio stopped by straight from the golf course, delighting everyone in attendance!



Special thanks as well to Laurence Chia for capturing the day so beautifully, and to Christi Haley, Development Director for Pace, for stepping in as our backup photographer. And let us not forget our incredible members who volunteered countless hours in setup and then working this awesome event to ensure everyone had a fabulous time! From start to finish, it was a day filled with "Sip, Shop, See, and SUPPORT"—and we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.



Thank you to our sponsors!

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <br><b>Worley</b><br>Elder Law & Estate Planning | <br><b>Jess</b><br>JEWELLERS                                  | <br>Signature Estates<br>Real Estate Services, LLC               |
| <br><b>COX</b><br>CHEVROLET                      | <br><b>State Farm</b><br>Heath Marston, Agent<br>941-758-1200 | <br>Becky McLean - Financial Advisor                             |
| <br>Sales & Leasing<br>409-409-4038              | <br>The Center for the City of<br>Bradenton                   | <br>Florida Surgical & Laser<br>LEFT COAST SOL<br>J's Aesthetics |



# BWC in the Community/COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS (CSPs)

## #MEMBERSHIP

### Mingle Mondays

We had another fantastic turnout for our 2nd “Mingle Mondays,” with 27 members and guests in attendance! These social gatherings will take place on the \*fourth Monday of each month\*. We encourage you to invite your friends and guests to join us for this open-house style event. It's a great opportunity to discover available opportunities and connect with both new and experienced members, all while enjoying provided snacks and wine!



Wonderful evening supporting Habitat for Humanity at their “Raise the Roof” Gala - we had a full table representing BWC, and Laura Diffendal did a live art painting that was auctioned for the great cause!



## BUSINESS after HOURS

Grow Your Network One Connection at a Time



Always a fun time meeting new people and making connections at Manatee Chamber Business After Hours!



*Please join our Club's PhotoCircle and add all your 2026 service photos here.*

BWC 2026  
Join my circle by scanning the QR Code above



*Record your service hours here!!*



# Upcoming Events!



Lucky Ducky Race for Pace  
~ JOIN OUR FLOCK ~  
Adopt a Duck...HELP a Girl!!



## It's Back GFWC Florida!

Don't miss the chance to revamp your collection with this classic. All proceeds benefit the Path with Purpose.

**\$25.00**



SHOP NOW

<https://choobilee.company.site/products/florida-state-of-mind-gfwc-shirts>

## MEMBER ORIENTATION



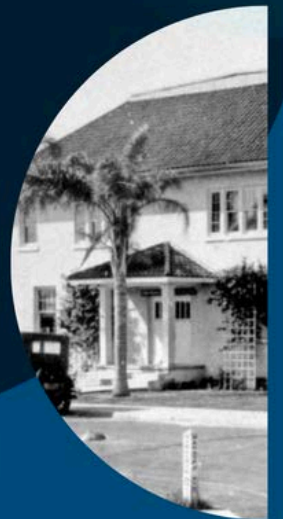
Open to all...new and seasoned members - get more connected to BWC!

You will gain a deeper awareness of the opportunities available to you as a member, better understand the history of BWC, and the role it plays within our community today.

Plus, meet other new and longtime members - and plenty of time for Q & A!

**MONDAY** | 6pm - 7pm  
**APR 27TH**  
\*light snacks & drinks 5:30pm

Please RSVP to Laura  
[bradentonwc.membership@gmail.com](mailto:bradentonwc.membership@gmail.com)



## Save the Date!



Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

**APRIL 15-16, 2026**  
NOON to NOON

Celebrating the 10th Giving Challenge



BRADENTON WOMAN'S CLUB

COMMUNITY

BRADENTON WOMAN'S CLUB

941-747-6222

[BradentonWomansClub.com](http://BradentonWomansClub.com)

1705 Manatee Ave W  
Bradenton, FL 34205