



# The Civic Courier

The Women's Civic Club  
of Panama City Beach,  
Inc.

Volume XIV- Issue 6  
February 2025



## From the President's Desk

**Nancy Stovall**

Dear Members:

Being prepared means being ready to deal with a situation or having made arrangements to do something. Recent winter storm warnings probably had you rushing to the grocery stores to stock up on food, covering your outside plants and making sure you had back up plans in case of an electrical outage. These actions were preparation for you and your family, however, thanks to your continuing contributions, the club can help many in the community to be prepared.

The School Projects Committee recently put out a request for clothing items, including jackets and stocking hats. With the items collected and delivered to the schools before the storm, think of how many children were protected from the cold. Each time the club contributes money and items to the food pantry, be thankful that many people can prepare a meal for themselves and their family. Our contributions to schools also help prepare our youth for the future. Never underestimate your contribution to the community.

In April 2023, the club was able to give back to the community an additional \$21,000 outside of our normal donations and in April 2024, \$26,550 more was given back to the community. Your continued support to our upcoming fundraising efforts; the Dance and Silent Auction on February 1<sup>st</sup>, PCB Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and Mardi Gras on February 15<sup>th</sup> will allow us to continue these additional contributions.

*"If you dream, you can do it."* Walt Disney

Nancy

## *January Luncheon - An Inspiring Presentation by Dr. Milinda Stephenson, PhD*



**Dr. Milinda Stephenson**

At our recent luncheon, author Dr. Milinda Stephenson, PhD, captivated attendees with her inspiring presentation. She shared the deeply personal and trans-formative journey that led her to discover the heroic life of her great-grandmother, Minnie Clara Brock—a woman who overcame incredible hardships to triumph against the odds.

Dr. Stephenson recounted a family Thanksgiving that sparked her quest for truth. A whispered revelation about a family secret—the suicide of her great-grandmother—set her on a path to uncover her family's untold stories. Although she never confirmed the details of that particular tragedy, her search unearthed the remarkable story of Minnie Clara, a courageous woman who became the heroine of her novel.

Born in Germany and immigrating to America in 1882, Minnie Clara's family struggled to adapt to life in Chipley, Florida. When her father, a former aristocrat and poet, refused manual labor, Minnie Clara, at just nine years old, took charge. Through farming, sewing, and sheer determination, she transformed her family's fortune. Following the death of her mother and the disappearance of her father, Minnie Clara took on the responsibility of raising her siblings.

Dr. Stephenson encouraged the audience to uncover and share the stories of the heroic women in their own families. She emphasized that these stories are vital for preserving history, inspiring future generations, and fostering resilience. Her interactive session prompted attendees to reflect on the storytellers and tales within their own families, sparking a creative journey to document and celebrate the lives of extraordinary women.

The presentation concluded with a heartfelt invitation: write your story, honor your family's legacy, and let the courage of past generations shine through to inspire the future. Unearth the stories from your own "Family Ghosts."

### **Fashion Show: Dressing for Special Occasions Without Breaking the Bank**

A special thank you to our very own fashion stars, Bobbi Griggs, Janet Tettemer, and Rhonda Zartman, who wowed us with their expertise and style. These ladies know how to elevate fashion without breaking the bank!



The show highlighted budget-friendly ways to dress for special occasions, whether planning for an elegant gala, a stylish wedding, or a casual yet chic evening out. Our models demonstrated how to put together the perfect look without overspending.

From savvy shopping tips to expert advice on finding affordable pieces that look high-end, mixing and matching wardrobe staples, and accessorizing for that perfect finishing touch, Bobbi, Janet, and Rhonda inspired us all with their creativity and flair. Their presentation was not only informative but also engaging and fun!

### **Thank You!**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our luncheon! Your presence made the event truly special, and we are so grateful for your support and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces, enjoy delicious food, and share meaningful conversations.

We hope you found the luncheon both enjoyable and inspiring. Your continued support helps us make a positive impact in our community, and we look forward to seeing you at our future luncheons.

### **February Luncheon**

We can't wait to see everyone at our next luncheon on February 6th at Runaway Island, 14521 Front Beach Road. Our featured speakers will be the inspiring team from Backpack Blessings, who will share their impactful work and how they continue to serve our community so faithfully.

Please check your email for your luncheon invitation and be sure to RSVP by the deadline. Your timely response helps us secure your spot and provide the venue with an accurate count. We don't want you to miss out, so we truly appreciate your prompt reply!

For our February luncheon, our Fashion Girls will be featuring Chico's fashions, so if you have a Chico's outfit, be sure to wear it and show off your style!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in February.

*Jane Fillingim*, Lunches and Programs Chair

### **"Mini" Fashion Show February 2025: Chico's**

The February Fashion Show Committee "mini" luncheon will proudly present a familiar and favorite boutique to the Women's Civic Club members, that being Chico's. Chico's has served as a showcase Aimer (French: to like) in the past for our main event in April.

Tammy Ruehrwein, part-time associate at Chico's, will be acting as honored Master of Ceremonies. Tammy's experience at Chico's gives her the opportunity to help women feel fabulous. She says, "If we can't wear trendy outfits, at least we can help others find them!"

Diane Vitale, Sharon Mayberry and Denise Rentz will be modeling the most recent spring collection from Chico's. Diane has been a 10 year member of the Women's Civic Club. During that time she has served as President and continues her support of the organization. As part of her professional career, Diane has a background in fashion and retail. She enjoys maintaining her connection with fashion by participating with the Fashion Show Committee.

Sharon Mayberry has served as a member of the Women's Civic Club for 2 years and enjoys her participation with the Fashion Show Committee because she loves fashion.

Denise Rentz is approaching her two year anniversary with the Women's Civic Club and wanted to try something exciting and new, something out of her comfort zone. She offered to volunteer and participate with the Fashion Show Committee for the Chico's "mini".

This celebration will include an all time Hallmark event "Valentine's Day" theme. Join us by wearing your favorite Chico's collection from your closet and/or valentine attire.

*Bobbi Griggs, Fashion Show Chair*

### **Time to Sign Up for 2025-26 Committees!**

It's that time of year! Committee sign-up sheets for the fiscal year 2025-2026 will be available at the March, April and May general luncheon meetings AND available for print on our website [wccpcb.org/forms](http://wccpcb.org/forms). Please complete and sign the form, attach \$30 dues (cash or check), the Conflict of Interest Form and turn in to the Membership Chair Arlene Klaas. You may also mail your forms and check to Women's Civic Club, PO Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL 32417.

Inactive members must inform the Membership Chair, Arlene Klaas, that they wish to remain inactive, pay the \$30 dues, and submit the Conflict of Interest Form. An inactive member may elect to serve on committees and attend meetings.

Any member wishing to go inactive must complete the Request for Inactive Membership form located on the website [wccpcb.org/forms](http://wccpcb.org/forms), attach the \$30 dues, the Conflict of Interest form and turn in to the Membership Chair Arlene Klaas.

#### NEW FORM

CONFLICT OF INTEREST is a **new form** to be submitted with your Committee Sign-Up Sheet or Inactive form. The form is included in the committee sign up packet. The policy is available to read at [wccpcb.org/forms](http://wccpcb.org/forms). Below is an explanation of the reason for this policy.

For further questions, contact Treasurer Jeanette Poland.

IRS and Department of Agriculture reporting contains a question whether our club has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy. In order to protect both the interests of the Club and the membership, the board agreed at the December 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting that it would be beneficial to have a Conflict-of-Interest Policy. The policy can be viewed on our website [wccpcb.org/forms](http://wccpcb.org/forms). Each member will be asked to sign an annual conflict of interest form as an acknowledgement of receipt and agreement upon renewal of their membership each year.

**PLEASE submit your Committee Sign Up Sheet or Inactive Form, dues, and the Conflict of Interest form no later than the May 1, 2025 general luncheon meeting.**

Thank you all. If you need help with the forms, feel free to contact me.

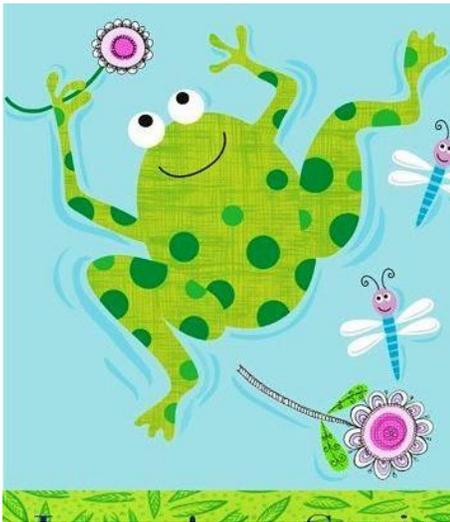
*Arlene Klaas, Membership Chair*

***"Fulfilling Our Mission of Improving Life in Panama City Beach Community"***

***Raising Funds***

**Arts and Craft Show**

Guess what's just around the corner??



**Our annual SPRING FLING!**



Are you ready for this cold weather to go away and to get into that Spring season? Well jump into spring by shopping at our annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 8 from 9-3 at Frank Brown Park. A variety of vendors all with handmade, artisan items for sale - some returning favorites, along with some new items as well! Have lunch at our cafe' and enjoy a spring outing with shopping, fun, and food! Bring your family, friends, neighbors! Help us get the word out by sharing on your social media, at your church, in your condo, and in your neighborhood. Some volunteers will be needed. Look for a sign-up sheet at our February luncheon!

*Julie Sanders and Jayn Collins*  
Arts and Craft Committee Chairs

## Dance and Silent Auction

*It's Not Too Late*  
**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!** *Diamond Jubilee Gala!*



L-R RHONDA ZARTMAN, KIM ESCALLE, JANE FILLINGIM, KELLY BERTIN, TAMMY GALLOWAY

Individual tickets: \$50 per person  
For ticket info, call 850-499-0223  
Purchase online at [wccpcb.org](http://wccpcb.org)

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW AND BE PART OF THIS MILESTONE CELEBRATION!**

Saturday, February 1, 2025  
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Boardwalk Beach Hotel and Convention Center  
9600 South Thomas Drive  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408

We eagerly look forward to your attendance and are thrilled at the prospect of sharing this special evening with everyone. This event is more than just an occasion - it is a testament of the Women's Civic Club mission, a celebration of "Caring and Sharing," and an opportunity to give back to the community.

Prepare your taste buds for a delectable dinner featuring Pesto-Seared Chicken Breast with Parmesan Broth, Garlic Pepper-Crusted Sirloin of Beef with Chianti Demi, Orecchiette Pasta with Pancetta, and Tuscan Grilled Vegetables. For dessert, indulge in Cannoli and Tiramisu. The evening will also include dancing, a 50/50 raffle and unforgettable memories.

The auction committee has been hard at work curating extraordinary items for the silent auction, so come prepared to bid on some amazing treasures. Don't miss the delightful surprises during the live auction - including the chance to "Dance with a Hero" and, who knows, maybe even a visit from Elvis and other special dignitaries.

*Jane Fillingim, Julie Sanders, and Soula Dortch Dance Chair and Co-Chairs, Tammy Galloway and Kelly Bertin, Silent Auction Chair and Co-Chair*

## Silent Auction Items Preview





## Special Beach Events

The Special Beach Events has two fundraising events that are right around the corner. On February 8 and 9 at Aaron Bessant Park we have the opportunity to assist the Food Trucks Festivals of America Organization with their festival. This will need a small group of workers for 3 - 4 hour shifts to check in festival goers. The time will be from 10am - 6pm, and will have several positions available that will be seated.

The second is the PCB Mardi Gras and Music Festival on February 15 also at Aaron Bessant Park. We will be the exclusive beer vendor for this event featuring singer songwriter Chris Jansen. Chris is a proud member of the Grand Ole Opry and a multi-platinum songwriter and artist. Due to the expected crowd for this event we have been asked to staff 2 bars so we will need a large number of staff for 3- 4 hour shifts from 11- 5. Spouses and friends are especially needed at this event to help with the stocking of products.

Both events offer the opportunity to our workers to enjoy the many festivities of the events as well as the opportunity for the WCC to earn extra funds for our charities and support organizations in PCB.

If you are interested in volunteering for either one or both of these events, please contact Sue Jiles, 770-364-5890, or Cheri Leistner, 502-296-3205.

*Sue Jiles and Cheri Leistner, Special Beach Events Co-Chairs*

## "Supporting the Community"

### Community Outreach

#### February Luncheon Collections for Backpack Blessings

- \*\* Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli (single serving cups)
- \*\* Spaghetti & Meatballs (single serving cups)
- \*\* Ravioli (single serving cups)
- \*\* Lasagna (single serving cups)
- \*\* Spaghetti-O's
- \* Campbells Soup (Chicken Noodle, Tomato)
- \*Macaroni & Cheese (single serving cups)
- \* Applesauce or Fruit Cups (single serving)
- \*Instant Oatmeal Packets
- \*Pop-Tarts
- \*Chewy Breakfast Bars
- \*Breakfast Cereal (packages of individual box servings)

**\*\*Most Needed. Chef Boyardee variety pack available at Sams for \$11.98 for 12.**

*Please check expiration dates*

*Dena Roewe, Community Outreach Chair*

## School Projects

Thank you to all of you who donated clothing items, cash and checks for our collection for PCB's elementary schools! With the additional cash we made a trip to Once Upon a Child in Panama City and purchased over 45 items including jackets, long pants and stocking caps. Our school children have certainly been blessed by you all!

We also took this opportunity to present each school with a \$500 check for any special needs that they may have.

Thank you,

*Jeanette Poland, School Project Chair*

### West Bay Elementary



Becky Farmer, Pamela Sanders, Admin Beth Parsons, Pam Davis, Monica Thomas, Jayn Collins

### A. Walsingham Academy



Kelly Bertin, Assistant Principal Meghan Maddie, Tammy Galloway

### Luncheon Collections



Tonia Sampson, Donna McElroy, Jayn Collins, Karen Demeester, Deb Kesinger, Pam Davis, Carol Davis, Jan Schott

### Breakfast Point Academy



Donna McElroy, Principal Bryan King

### Patronis Elementary



Vice Principal Katie McKenzie, Nancy Stovall, Deb Kesinger, Principal Brooke Loyd

### Hutchinson Beach Elementary



Lisa Nicholson, Jan Schott, Tonia Sampson, Admin Cindy Brost, Carol Davis

## *"Spending Time Together"*

### **Member to Member**

Are you ready to ROLL ? The Member to Member committee is sponsoring a Bunco party on Wednesday February 26 at Taylors Restaurant on Thomas Drive. Play will begin at 10 am, so please plan to arrive a few minutes to early to get checked in and to order your drink. Cost is \$20 and includes your play, plenty of laughs, prizes AND your lunch. There is not a set lunch, you instead order from the menu. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. We provide instructions prior to play beginning. This is a great opportunity to meet other members of the WCC as players rotate partners throughout the games.

Hope you can join us in the fun. RSVPs are due by Monday February 24th at noon. Please call Cheri Leistner (502)296-3205 or email at [cheri@advantagesoutheast.com](mailto:cheri@advantagesoutheast.com) to make reservations.

*Cheri Leistner*, Member to Member Chair

## *"Recognizing our Members"*

### **Happy Birthday Wishes!!**

#### **February**

- 10 Sue Jiles
- 17 Felicia England
- 18 Tammy Haight Galloway



*"A birthday is not a day to fear. It is a day to celebrate and look forward to the coming year."*

## *"Upcoming Events"*

- Feb 1 Dance and Silent Auction at Boardwalk, 9600 S Thomas Drive, 6-10PM
- Feb 6 Luncheon Meeting at Runaway Island, 14521 Front Beach Road, 11AM
- Feb 8-9 PCB Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival, Aaron Bessant Park
- Feb 13 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Feb 15 Mardi Gras at Aaron Bessant Park
- Feb 18 Winter Resident Appreciation Day at Boardwalk Beach Hotel & Convention Center, 8-10:30AM
- Feb 20 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Feb 26 Bunco at Taylor's, 1114 Thomas Drive, 10AM
- Feb 27 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 10AM
- Mar 6 Luncheon Meeting at Captain Jack's Family Buffet, 8208 Thomas Drive, 11AM
- Mar 8 Spring Fling Arts & Craft Show at Frank Brown Park, 9AM-3PM
- Mar 13 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Mar 20 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Mar 27 Board Meeting at TBD, 10AM
- Mar 29 UNwineD at Aaron Bessant Park

## *"In Appreciation"*

**From: Girls Inc, Catherine Glover**

I am sharing our most wholehearted THANK YOU -- And on behalf of the hundreds of girls from Girls Inc. of Bay County that you directly support through your very generous donation, we share heartfelt gratitude.

### *"The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, Inc"*

#### **Contact Information**

Mail: P.O. Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL 32417  
Email: [womenscivicclub@aol.com](mailto:womenscivicclub@aol.com)  
Web: [wccpcb.org](http://wccpcb.org)  
Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL  
Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach  
Hashtag: #wccpcb

#### **This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort**

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