

September 2026

The Connection

Volume 50, Issue 44

BRANDERMILL



WOMAN'S CLUB

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

JOANNE BUCHANAN

Dear extraordinary members of the Brandermill Woman's Club,

I write to you as the new President, and I thank you for the unique honor of serving you alongside an entirely new Executive Board! We have been meeting and buzzing via email, text, and phone calls since the day after our May luncheon. The Board and the new Committee Chairs hope to provide an exciting year of surprises, opportunities for friendship, some old standards, and the prospects of sharing with each other and the community. My motto this year is "Hearts in, Hands on," as along with the Board and all of you, we seek new ways to serve our community through strengthened volunteerism. We are a club of many

talents, with women from all fields of science, the arts, education, business, medicine, and for many, the important job of motherhood. In addition to enjoying each other's company through social interaction, let's also look to working together outside of our club activities.

Just yesterday, five members – Susan Morales, Michelle Scott, Donna Elder, Betsy Lewis, and I visited Crenshaw Elementary School, where we passed school supplies (donated by others) to students during an Open House. I know that we each felt uplifted to see those eager smiles!

I hope your summer was magical, restful, and allowed you to explore new places with friends and family as you made new memories. It was challenging to enjoy the usual summer harvest of fruits and vegetables with so many recalls and health notices. I experienced my own food borne illness and do not wish to relive those moments anytime soon. I am optimistic that you and your family have been able to stay healthy this summer.

Our first general meeting is just around the corner, and I welcome you to take the best seat in the house! I hope that you can join us at 10:30 a.m. at The Brandermill Church on Wednesday, September 16th. Doors will open at 10:15! Come in, grab a cup of coffee and a sweet snack or two at our Hospitality table, (*cont.*)

MEETING:

BRANDERMILL CHURCH
4500 MILLRIDGE PARKWAY
MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23112

BRANDERMILLWOMANSClub.COM

SCHEDULE FOR 2026-2027:

Sept 16
Oct 21
Nov 18
Dec 16 (Luncheon)
Jan 20
Feb 17
March 17
April 21
May 19 (Luncheon)

MEETING REMINDERS

MEETINGS BEGIN AT 10:30

No admittance before 10:00

BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK TO ALL MEETINGS!

**Daytrippers, special events, raffles,
happily accept cash or checks.**

**PARKING: PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN
THE FIRST TWO ROWS OF THE CHURCH.**

**We do not want to interfere
with Pre-school Pickups.**

chat with old friends, greet a new one, and stop by our Membership table with your checkbook. Dues remain at \$35.00 this year.

In January 2027, we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary! Our 50th Anniversary Committee has been working for over a year to make this awesome milestone a memorable and joyous one! Whether you have been a BWC member for 50 years, or this is your very first year, we hope you will feel welcomed as an integral part of our celebration! Special speakers, lunches, gatherings, a Ball (yes, a Ballroom Ball!), and other remarkable moments will be featured throughout 2027. Please read the 50th Anniversary Committee's article that includes notice of an off-site meeting on Wednesday, September 23 for more information!

Our Daytrippers' Event schedule, headed up by Caroline Zong and Yvonne Ricciardelli is shaping up to be a phenomenal year as well! Sign-ups will await you on September 16 for several trips, including the very first – a chartered trolley through the *Hollywood Cemetery* on October 28th. Don't be "ghoul-able," and go on any other tour! Take this one with your BWC friends and enjoy the ride and a "to die for" lunch afterwards.

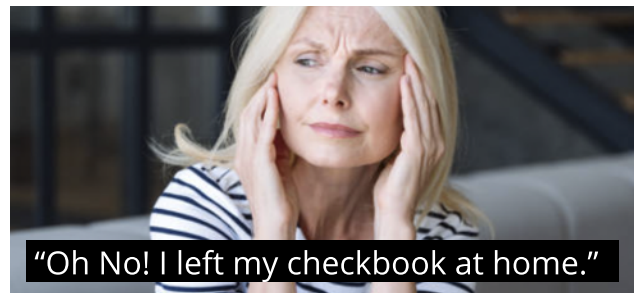
Did we miss your birthday? Do you know of a member who is ill and would delight in a note of support from the club? Marie Repp is our Sunshine Chair and she would like to know! You may contact Marie or myself, and I will pass it on.

It is time to start thinking about a charity where you have a particular interest in receiving support from BWC, as we will vote on a few selectees in just a couple of months. If you have some ideas right now, please email them to me at jokayjul18@gmail.com. In addition to these charities, we will continue our tradition of providing at least two college scholarships for Clover Hill High School students. You will hear more about that as the year progresses from our Scholarship Committee. One of our first fundraisers for this will be held on Saturday, November 14 when we welcome crafters and artists to participate in our Candy Cane Craft Festival (aka Maker's Market). More details on this will follow at our October meeting and in the October CONNECTION.

Last, dear membership, I wish to acknowledge the loss of Diane Masters on July 28, 2026. Diane served this club for many years and was Activity Chair these last few years. Diane opened her home daily to club members for games and discussion. Those closest to her remember her talent for conversation, her "I've got this!" commitment, and her love of animals, as Diane supported several animal assistance organizations.

My wish today is for all of you to enjoy the rest of the summer weather, stay well, and have a safe journey to our meeting. Bring a friend. Bring a neighbor. Bring your best self, because that is who you already are! I will close with this quote from Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*

"There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves; it is not my nature."



Please remember your checkbook to enable you to pay membership dues, a Daytrippers' event, or try your luck at a raffle prize!

As ever, Joanne

Joanne

MEMBERSHIP

MICHELLE SCOTT

I will be the new Membership Chair for the coming year. Diane Bridge will be my assistant behind the scenes. Our annual dues are \$35 and you can pay by cash or check. I look forward to seeing old and new faces in September. Enjoy the last lazy days of summer!

Questions?

Michelle Scott: mlscott1560@gmail.com -or- 703-798-4074

SCHOLARSHIPS

JO HAYDEN

In just a few weeks, your Scholarship Committee will be collecting your dollars for fun prizes and a 50/50 Raffle at our September Meeting to help our club and scholarship contributions grow! Be sure to visit the Scholarship table before the meeting to make your purchase. If you have questions, please be sure to ask! We will be the women wearing the festive green ribbons that identify us as committee members! See you soon and my fingers are crossed that you will be a winner!

On behalf our your Scholarship Committee,
Jo Hayden

Questions?

Jo Hayden: johayden.hayden@gmail.com -or- 804-763-9162

SUNSHINE

MARIE REPP

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Betty Bailey, Lori Hobbs, Joanne Dyer, Robin Knouse, Kathy Gilchrist, Elinor Owen, Nancie Hamilton, and Marion Petraude.

Questions?

Marie Repp: 804.263.8649 -or- geraldrepp8704@comcast.net

PROGRAMS

CAROL STEARNS

Hello Ladies!

September - This year will begin with our General Meeting on September 16th. No speaker this month as we will have the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones with a fun ice breaker! We will be voting on the budget for our new year as well. Get ready to sign up for some of the many Activities and Daytrips offered. Please bring a friend to join us this year so we can continue to grow our club.

October - Continuing with our country's 250th anniversary, our October our speaker will be Mr. James Triesler, Education Director for The Virginia War Memorial. He will be speaking on the American Revolution and displaying interesting artifacts as well. If time permits, Mr. Triesler will also touch on the Civil War.

Questions?

Carol Stearns: carols1995@gmail.com -or- 804-986-1265

DAYTRIPPERS

CAROLINE ZONG & YVONNE RICCIARDELLI

I am Caroline Zong, your new Day Trippers' Chairwoman. It is my honor to follow in the footsteps of Yvonne Ricciardelli, who led this group with such enthusiasm and devotion! I have big shoes to fill! She has offered to stay on as co-chair, so you will continue to enjoy spending time together on these trips.

From October to April the club hosts day trips with lunch. I am excited to announce our first trip will be a privately guided trolley tour through Hollywood Cemetery! Wednesday, October 28th. Hollywood Cemetery is one of the most historic and visually striking cemeteries in the US.

A blend of presidential history, Civil War legacy, dramatic James River views, and Victorian garden designs! We'll visit some of the most renown sites including presidents, Lewis Ginter's tomb, the Civil War historic section, and more!

\$38 covers the cost of the trolley, driver, and guide. Lunch is additional and optional at El Cielito Lindo Mexican restaurant.

Payments always need to be made in cash or by check the day of sign-up. Please have that ready to save your seat. Look for the sign-up clipboards at the monthly meetings!

Here's a preview for some of this year's trips:

Hollywood Cemetery, Michaels' holiday craft, Dooley Mansion, Chief Justice Marshall's home, University of Richmond private tour.

Really looking forward to visiting inspiring venues with you and having a lot of fun and friendship bonding!

Questions?

Caroline Zong: zong.caroline@gmail.com -or- 703-282-1035

Yvonne Ricciardelli: ym.ricci@gmail.com -or- 804-239-5161

TREASURY

NANCY ACUTO

Treasurer Note: We are voting on our 2026-2027 BWC Budget at our September Meeting.

Total Budget - \$9,200

Budget Lines

Scholarship \$250, Membership \$50, Luncheon \$1000, Speakers \$500, Hospitality \$50, Sunshine \$600,

Community Outreach \$500, General \$1,000, Anniversary \$1,000, Daytrippers \$250, Scholarships \$2,000, Charities \$2,000

Questions?

Nancy Acuto: nancyacuto@gmail.com -or- 607-7424-437

BWC ANNIVERSARY

The BWC 50th anniversary committee needs volunteers. Please join us at Harbour Pointe Clubhouse, Wednesday, September 23, at 12:30-2:30. We are passionate about the BWC's golden jubilee, and celebrating this historical milestone.

Come share your skills, experiences, and energy with us. WE need You to make this party happen. Please give BWC your time :) Thank you!

The 50th Anniversary Committee

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

BETSY LEWIS

The ad hoc Bylaws Committee, established last year, has completed its review of the Club's Bylaws (attached), with changes designed to make the Bylaws as easy to understand as possible for our members. The Committee will provide a quick recap of these edits at the September meeting and then take a vote to accept the updated Bylaws at the October meeting.

Standing Rules - the Committee made some updates to these, too. The Standing rules don't need to be voted on, but they provide a good reference to who is serving on our Club's Executive Board and Committees this year.

Thanks to members who provided feedback on our Bylaws along the way, and thanks to the members of the Bylaws Committee for their work in getting this task accomplished!

Questions?

Betsy Lewis: betsinga@aol.com -or- 678-640-9477

BWC Executive Board 2026 / 2027

President: Joanne Buchanan

VP of Programs: Carol Stearns

VP of Membership: Michelle Scott

Treasurer: Nancy Acuto

Secretary: Donna Elder

Parliamentarian: Betsy Lewis

President Emerita: Jo Hayden

Appointed Positions 2026 / 2027

Activities: Susan Basl

Daytrippers: Caroline Zong & Yvonne Ricciardelli

Connection: Erin Melton

Scholarship: Jo Hayden

Hospitality: Mary Ann Owens & Tina Fries

Sunshine: Marie Repp

Website: Caroline Zong

Community Outreach: Michelle Scott

Ways & Means: Jenn Inman

50th Anniversary (AdHoc): Lori Hobbs

Publicity: Open Position

ACTIVITIES

SUSAN BASL

The updated BWC Activities schedule for 2026/2027 is attached to The Connection.

Questions?

Susan Basl: nsrbasl31@gmail.com -or- 781-572-2523

WAYS & MEANS

JENN INMAN

Ways and Means is designed to help the club with its fundraising efforts. This year we are going to have several opportunities to support BWC by feeding yourself and/or your families with BWC nights at a local restaurant and a CANDY CANE CRAFT FESTIVAL on November 14th at the Harbour Point Club House.

Our Makers Markets in the past have had jewelry, wreaths, holiday ornaments, art, cards, resin figurines and much more. If you have a craft business that you would like to share by selling it at this event, please let me know. The cost to participate will be \$30. More details are forthcoming.

If you would like to help plan these events, I'd love to talk to you! The more we work together, the more we can do for our club.

Questions?

Jenn Inman: jennifersellsrva@gmail.com -or- 804-833-7002

OUR CLUB WEBSITE IS OFFICIALLY UP AND RUNNING! CHECK IT OUT AT
<https://brandermillwomansclub.com>

MISSION... Our mission is to encourage friendships, social activities, and solidarity in our community. We promote a common interest in civic, cultural, educational and social welfare of the community.

BWC ACTIVITY SHEET					
BWC Activity Groups	CHAIR: Susan Basl		781-572-2523		
GROUP	Days	Time	Location	Chair	Phone
Bookies 1	3rd Friday	10 AM	Woodlake United Methodist Church	Beverly Carlson	804-739-2539
Bookies 2	3rd Tuesday	TBA	TBA	Mary Guarnieri	443-803-3456
Bowling	4th Friday	11AM	Uptown Alley	Lori Hobbs	804-201-0000
Bunco			TBA		
Dominoes	2nd Tuesday	1PM	5405 Creek Heights Dr	Danielle Jimerson	804-639-3160
Hand/Foot	2nd & 4th Wednesdays	1PM	4944 Long Shadow Dr	Marilyn Schlim	804-277-5010
Hand, Knee & Foot	1st Tuesday	1PM	5410 Creek Heights Dr	Susan Basl	781-572-2523
Mahjongg	3rd Monday	1PM	4910 Terrace Arbor Circle	Barbara Teats	703-395-5177
Marbles	1st Wednesday	1PM	Magnolia Green 17700 Twin Falls Dr	Margaret Mann	919-740-1964
Movie Critics	4th Tuesday	TBA	TBA	Yvonne Ricciardelli	804-234-5161
Rummikub	2nd Friday	1PM	15113 Fox Branch Ln	Pinkki Walia	804-937-8095