



**ACADEMY**  
AT GLENGARY

**FALL 2022**

941-921-9930  
www.AcademySRQ.org  
1910 Glengary St., Sarasota, FL 34231

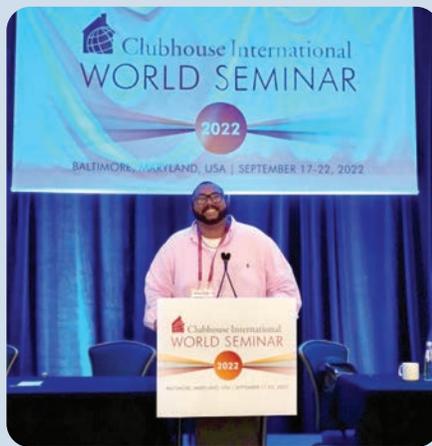
# RECOVERY IS A TWO-WAY STREET



*(left to right) Ben Burnside and Jerry Clancy proudly present their certificates for completing Fountain House Training*

When member Jerry Clancy returned from a two-week training at the flagship Clubhouse, Fountain House in New York City (we like to call it “the mothership”), he and Culinary staff Ben Burnside were bursting with energy and new ideas. Their training consisted, in part, of daily round-table discussions on Clubhouse philosophy. Present were colleagues from Norway and the United States. Upon return, Jerry said, “it was cool to learn from so many different clubhouses, and then to bring new ideas back to the Academy.”

At the Academy, we take every opportunity to seek new perspectives and learn from others. There is always so much to take away! In the six years that we have been open, members and staff have visited other Clubhouses as far away as Canada and Europe. The global perspective provides context to what we are carrying out on the local level. Just last month, member Cayman Seiffert told his moving personal story to a global audience of over 600 people at the Clubhouse International World Seminar in Baltimore, Maryland. For days following his speech, he was like a rock star; strangers from all over the world wanted to shake his hand and thank him for inspiring them. When he toured



*Cayman Seiffert presents at World Seminar*

B’More Clubhouse in Baltimore, it was his turn to be inspired. From their funky aesthetic (a renovated firehouse with many original features; even the fire pole remains!), to the warmth and hospitality of their members and staff (aptly representing “charm city”), he was teeming with ideas to take back to the Academy. Indeed, after five days of workshops and plenaries on myriad Clubhouse topics, our whole team arrived home full of inspiration to introduce new initiatives to the Academy.



*(left to right) Jerry Clancy and Ben Burnside take part in one of the round-table discussions during Fountain House Training (NYC)*

Beyond the obvious benefits these experiences have on us, they also serve to deepen our ability to educate others. When member Michael Silverman recently spoke at Centerstone, a local mental health provider, he had, not only his personal testimony to share, but also, the impact of his peers’ stories. In fact, he recounted that Cayman’s testimony gave him the courage to tell his own story. In this way, recovery is a two-way street. When members speak at a community event or on our campus, they have a broader framework and awareness. Be it inspiration or information, our members’ stories are richer and more relevant to their audience because of their broader experience.

We know that recovery does not happen in a vacuum; it is interactive and interdependent. As we stay committed to providing members with opportunities to diversify their recovery experiences and meet fellow members and staff from all walks of life, our members in turn use what they learn to enhance their own recovery, to inspire those around them, and perhaps even change the world.



The Academy at Glengary

**AcademySRQ.org**

# VALUES-BASED

Values inspire our journey and guide the pathway to recovery.

## ON THE WORLD STAGE

Wow, what an experience! In late September, six of us from the Academy traveled to Baltimore, Maryland, to attend the 2022 Clubhouse World Seminar, joining over 600 attendees from 15 countries. We enjoyed six days of inspiring and challenging experiences with colleagues from across the globe. We attended workshops and plenaries on best practices in the Clubhouse Model, while also offering presentations on our Academy programs. Our team consisted of Academy Board member Steve Meier, Academy members Cayman Seiffert and Paul Hennekes, and Academy staff Dariel Paredes, Jodi-lee Weiss, and me.

It was an honor for us to be invited to present our approaches to mental health recovery, all while sharing the podium with national and international colleagues. Our very own Cayman was chosen as the first member to give a plenary speech on the topic "Contributing our Talents and Skills: A Cornerstone of Clubhouse Recovery." He joined Clubhouse members on stage from Finland, Ohio, and Michigan. Later the next day, we partnered with Fontenehus, Norway, to offer a workshop titled "Making Clubhouse the Best Known Solution (not the best kept secret!)." In all, we were invited to offer six workshop sessions. We finished the World Seminar fulfilled, better informed, and just a tad bit exhausted.

As thrilling as it was to be on the world stage, our return home brought back into sharp focus our true priorities. It's the day-to-day effort and collaboration, often in subtle ways, that is the key to transforming the lives of our Academy members here on **our home stage**. As we increase membership in Sarasota and expand services with the Academy at Bradenton (see back page), we must always stay true to our values. Our pursuit of excellence means striving to raise the bar of expectations each and every day—for ourselves, our members, and our staff.



Director



(left to right) Jodi-lee Weiss and Paul Hennekes presenting at the World Seminar in Baltimore

## OUR AMBASSADORS

The Academy Ambassadors fill a vital role by sharing our mission and helping us build strong roots in the community.

Peter Abbott • Rob and Ruth Anderson • Steve and Barbara Armstrong  
Jon and Kris Berg • Ed Bertha • Stewie Bitterman • Kim Bleach • Veronica Brady  
Kim Burns • Warren and Cecile Collmer • Linda Cournoyer • Phil Delaney • Larry Eger  
Scott Eller • Robert Geyer • Al and Polly Giuffrida • Ric Gregoria • Hal Hedley • Michael Klauber  
Tom Knight • Sharon Lerner • David Maglich • Pat Mahoney • Brian Mariash  
Robert Meade • John Overton • Reverend Bruce Porter • Mike and Mary Quillen  
Rich Segall • Jeff Steinwachs • Paul Steinwachs • Sharon Steinwachs  
Debbie and Dave West • Joan and Brian Wides • Honorable Charles E. Williams

COMMUNITY • WORK • QUALITY • FRIENDSHIP • RESPECT • WELLNESS





Cayman Seiffert

# MEET CAYMAN

My life would be so different without the Academy. The best way I can sum up my experience would be that it's been a life changing experience (and that's putting it mildly). The Academy has given me a chance to improve my wellbeing, in part, by providing opportunities for me to inspire others by sharing my personal story. The Academy has given me a voice that I had lost so long ago (or lost the courage to use). By offering me these opportunities to provide testimony to the impact of the Academy on my life, my own mental health continues to strengthen. I've now starred in a video that was played at a fundraiser, hosted our 4th Annual Telethon, and told my story to more than 600 people at the Clubhouse International World Seminar. These opportunities have broadened my horizons and improved my own mental health recovery.

I know this for sure: If it wasn't for the Academy, I wouldn't be in the place that I'm at today. I've essentially been given a new lease on life by being shown my value and what I have to offer. The Academy gave me that, and I will be forever grateful.

**“These opportunities have broadened my horizons and improved my own mental health recovery.”**



Michael Silverman

# MEET MICHAEL

When the Academy's Program Coordinator Jeffrey Jean asked me to speak at the Centerstone VIP Reception prior to the Life;Story Suicide Prevention Walk, I was initially ambivalent. Public speaking is nerve-racking! But the more I thought about all the ways in which Centerstone has impacted my life, the more I wanted to lend a hand. I've learned so much and broadened my horizons through my participation with Centerstone, and here I was, being given an opportunity to give back, and perhaps educate or enlighten others about mental illness. With support from Academy staff, I wrote a speech that spoke from my heart. The room was packed full

of members of the mental health community. There were doctors, nurses, police officers, and many others. While I spoke, it seemed like the audience was really listening. It felt powerful to have their attention in a way that gave weight to my experiences. If my story impacted just one person in that room to view mental health challenges in a more compassionate light, then all of the nervousness of public speaking was well worth it.

**“...I was being given an opportunity to give back...”**



**SS • SERVICE • KINDNESS • PURPOSE • ACCEPTANCE • STRUCTURE**



## 4TH ANNUAL “LIVE FROM THE ACADEMY”

We are sure that many of you remember Jerry Lewis, who became the inspiration of our annual Telethons. Following nearly three months of



(left to right) Cayman Seiffert, Jodi-lee Weiss and Jeff Jean

preparation, that included creative storyboarding, sharpening of technical skills and preparation of our emcees, we went live on the Internet with our 4th Annual Telethon. The Telethon was viewed live by over 500 viewers, and, thanks to extraordinarily generous matches by the Steinwachs' Family Foundation, the Giving Generously Fund, and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, we exceeded our fundraising goals. If you missed it, you can view the recording at [www.AcademySRQ.org/live](http://www.AcademySRQ.org/live) Make some popcorn and enjoy our one-hour show!

## WALKING ALONGSIDE NAMI

Our local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Sarasota-Manatee, is one of our closest partners in the recovery



(left to right) Ian Churchill, Idanes Paredes and Rebecca Wolfson

movement. This past October, we joined hundreds of NAMI supporters for their annual NAMI WALKS YOUR WAY event at Payne Park. It was a day of mental health solidarity and camaraderie. We are pleased to raise our voices in support of NAMI and the valuable resources they provide to peers, families and local mental health providers.

## ACADEMY AT BRADENTON IS GROWING

We are very excited about our expansion into Manatee County with the opening of Academy at Bradenton. Members and staff are currently operating a work-ordered day in a rental property right across the street from our new location, which is undergoing a remodel. Full speed ahead!



(left to right) Vanessa Alcantara, Jeff Jean, Michael Silverman, Jose Campos, William McKeever, Lazaro Rodriguez, Tandi Maxwell and Cayman Seiffert,

## IN SUPPORT OF SUICIDE PREVENTION

Our members, staff and families joined in support of Centerstone's annual Life;Story Suicide Prevention Run/Walk at Benderson



(left to right) Tim Phillips, Aaron Collmer, Naomi Treece Greg Agnacion, Vanessa Alcantara, Ben Burnside and Leah Brown

Park in September. Since our inception, we have been honored to partner with Centerstone's expert clinical team both with the Academy at Glengary and the Academy at Bradenton, in support of mental health recovery. During the walk/run event, we set up an exhibition table where we described Academy services to hundreds of runners, walkers, and other attendees. Congratulations to Centerstone on an amazing day in support of suicide prevention.

DONATE today and become part of the solution in mental health. Please visit:

**AcademySRQ.org**

The Academy at Glengary, Inc., is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Academy at Glengary is registered with the state of Florida (CH56160). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services at [www.fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices](http://www.fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices) or by calling toll-free 800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



*Want to learn more?*

The first step is to take a tour!

Families, applicants and community providers are welcome.

To schedule a tour, or for more information, please contact 941-921-9930 or [Info@AcademySRQ.org](mailto:Info@AcademySRQ.org).

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



*The Academy at Glengary is accredited by Clubhouse International and is made possible by a Public-Private Partnership.*

*Designed and printed on-site by members and staff of the Academy at Glengary.*

