



NEWS OF THE ACADEMY AT GLENGARY AND ACADEMY AT BRADENTON

November 14, 2025







TWICE AS NICE

by Rima Ghalieh



(L to R) Erika Schlunk and Rima Ghalieh in Sarasota

I have the good fortune of being able to attend both the Academy at Glengary and Academy at Bradenton on separate days. Sometimes it's hard to decide where to go. It has doubled my enjoyment and experience of wellness. I learn something new at Sarasota and Bradenton Campuses every time I attend, and I have made a lot of friends at both campuses. Wellness

workshops are my passion. I also enjoy doing tours and talking to visitors about both Academies.

What it boils down is this: Before I attended the Academy, I was trapped in my mind with problems and felt there was no way out. I come from a dysfunctional family and was sheltered since I was a child. Then I lost my mom who I was very close to. I was depressed for several years, staying home doing nothing. Then one year I decided to see a therapist who told me about Academy. I started attending the Academy and began participating in Wellness workshops, doing socials and making friends. I lost 65 pounds in a year and a half by participating in all the Academy workshops.

Today the Academy gives me a purpose. I am a new person after making a lot of changes in my life. My bad past is behind me and I have learned to cope with life and be fearless and strong, to be myself and not compare myself to others - and to be happy with what I have in life.



(L to R) Joseph Lewis and Rima Ghalieh in Bradenton

WARM WELCOME TO JEANETTE JONZA

by Jeanette Jonza

Hello, my name is Jeanette Jonza, but I go by JJ. I'm so happy to have a place like The Academy at Bradenton where I can be sociable and get out of my house. I am very thankful to Mason Rahman for introducing me to the Academy because it has truly changed my life for the better.



My work history includes 15 years in the Manatee County school system. I've also been an assistant manager at a roller rink. Both jobs helped me overcome my fear of public speaking.

My immediate family includes three children. My oldest son has passed away, but my two younger children live in Washington. My daughter and her family include my son-in-law, my grandson, 8, and my granddaughter, 4. My youngest son lives there as well. I visit them every year on August 20th, the day my oldest son passed away, so we can celebrate his life together.

The Academy of Bradenton is continuing to change my life for the better. I am able to learn new things in technology, which is my passion. There are so many nice people here who have welcomed me with smiles and openness.





(L to R) Regina Ilaria, Bailee Steury and Loriann Smith



(L to R) Bailee Steury, Deb Studebaker and Trevor Houlroyd

THE ACADEMY COLLECTION

by Loriann Smith

I have exciting news! We now have a merchandise store at the Academy at Glengary called The Academy Collection. We are able to display all our Academy merchandise and available to members and visitors at a suggested donation.

When I was asked to help prepare our store, I was a little leery. How to put shelves together? How to display all our products? But I have to say as a team, both members and staff we pulled it together. We even had volunteer Deb Studebaker to help prepare our store.

Soon our store will be open, and our members can be proud to learn about the retail business in our Academy setting. I'm excited to see how everything goes. Please come and support this new endeavor.

100 YEARS OF HISTORY



(L to R) William McKeever, Honorable Gilbert Smith, and Paul Hennekes

This past week, we were honored to host Judge Gilbert Smith, of the Twelve Judicial Circuit in Manatee County, who stopped by to see the display of his shadow box, which contains 100-year-old artifacts from the original building where the Academy at Bradenton now stands. His thoughtful gift is showcased on our "Wall of Fame" - a pictorial timeline of our remodeling process of this amazing historical building. We are also pleased to announce that Judge Smith has become an Academy Ambassador. Welcome aboard Judge Smith!



SARASOTA CAMPUS

1910 Glengary Street Sarasota, FL 34231 (941) 921-9930



BRADENTON CAMPUS

601 12th Street West Bradenton, FL 34205 (941) 929-2800



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