

Celebration 2011 Honors Washington & White

By Susan Pelter

As names go, “Mal” and “Quint” aren’t exactly run-of-the-mill – but then, neither are MaliVai Washington and A. Quinton White, Jr., Ph.D. In widely divergent areas, the leadership provided by these two men has transformed young lives and moved Jacksonville forward, making their unusual names synonymous with community stewardship.

Stories highlighting Washington’s and White’s service and dedication made for an inspirational program at Leadership Jacksonville’s 16th *Annual Celebration of Leadership* on April 7. The glittering evening also featured its trademark blend of affectionate hilarity, with reunited friends and classmates making the most of the chance to catch up and enjoy one another’s company.

Thanks to a phenomenal job by Event Chairs Connie Phillips and Tricia Cannan, Finance Chair Karen Mayfield and a hardworking Host Committee, the evening wasn’t just enjoyable, it was a resounding success! 432 LJ members and guests turned out to celebrate, and the event raised over \$99,000 for LJ’s high school and college programs. “Best Class” honors this year went to the Class of 2010, which had more alumni in attendance than any other.

After a warm welcome from President Nancy Kilgo, *Celebration* kicked off with



W. Kent Lindsey and Nancy Kilgo



Aaron Badida introduced Quinton White



Sommer Rodriguez introduced MaliVai Washington

the Pledge of Allegiance led by YLJ Class XXI member Jake Mendelson, followed by a musical selection featuring LJ’s favorite songstress, Ju’Coby Pittman, along with Mendelson’s classmates Vernisa Allen, Jacob Higdon, Emily Hubbard and Kierra McCray. Another Class XXI member, Elaine Peete, provided an Inspirational Thought before the crowd settled down to a delectable meal provided by the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

The presentation section of the program was ably hosted by W. Kent Lindsey and also featured members of YLJ Class XXI. Sommer Rodriguez introduced MaliVai Washington, beauti-

fully conveying his many accomplishments along with his warmth, personal values and commitment to at-risk youth. Aaron Badida introduced Quinton White, detailing his roles as a teacher, mentor and environmental advocate while giving an appealing glimpse of the personality behind them.

Videos, created by Kent and Pepper Lindsey of Lindsey Films, provided further insight into the contributions of both men, who were obviously moved by the recognition. Thanks to these distinguished alumni, and to all who helped make *Celebration 2011* a highlight of the LJ year once again!

My New Leadership Summit Experience

By Michael J. Grebe

This may sound dramatic, but I have always considered my attendance at the Leadership Jacksonville New Leadership Summit to be somewhat transformational for me. I had moved to Jacksonville from Philadelphia in 2002. Philadelphia is a very large city, and while I lived there many years, I had never been very involved in community affairs.

The New Leadership Summit opened my eyes not only with respect to the various aspects of our community where I could contribute, but also opened my eyes to the fact that I needed to become a better steward of our community, and just be involved.

I was therefore honored to be asked to join the Board of Directors of Leadership Jacksonville, and very proudly served for



Mike Grebe, John Zell, Sandra Ramsey and Eileen Grebe at Leadership Jacksonville Patron Appreciation Reception, December, 2010

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President's Message

By Nancy Kilgo

Leadership Jacksonville

Board of Directors President, 2010-2011

Leadership Jacksonville is the sum of its alumni, current, future and past, whose memories we cherish. You come from our strong core programs, Leadership Jacksonville (est. 1977), Youth Leadership Jacksonville (est. 1991), New Leadership Summit (est. 2002), and Collegiate Leadership Experience (est. 2005). Our class programs have combined alumni of 3,060; LJ – 1770, YLJ – 948, NLS – 125, CLE – 217. While we might not directly attribute our choices to get further involved in community to LJ, I believe that through exposure to the multi-faceted parts of our community, an impact is made on us by the LJ experience and that indeed LJ impacts our choices for community involvement. That is one of its primary goals and I think it works! For me, it made me think more holistically about our community – its strengths and its challenges – and our citizenry. The experience continues to help me be aware of my many blessings and to think about those less fortunate and how to effect change.

LJ is founded on and thrives from its alumni volunteer support. We continue to be surprised and grateful for the generous gifts of time and talent from our alumni volunteers to planning, programs and events. Program development, program selection and program delivery require countless hours of volunteer participation, and you, our alumni, sustain LJ. We also continue to be ever grateful and humbled by the many individuals and community corporations that express their support of LJ through their financial gifts, also without which LJ would not be sustainable. That financial support is crucial for our continued success. While tuition covers most of the LJ and NLS programs, your combined contributions supplemented the LJ program by 9%. Your gifts also supported 89% of the YLJ program and 55% of the CLE program. Both Youth programs require a greater level of support since we strive to keep tuition affordable

in order to attract diverse, deserving students, enhancing the experience for all participants.

This year at LJ we have in many ways turned inward to strengthen its mission. Through the LJ Class Development Team lead by Laurie Price and Michael Boylan and staff member Barbara Moulding, they have attempted to interweave content to better highlight connections between the many issues facing our community. The other program development teams continue to modify content and delivery to make the most of each class experience. The LJ Board is focused on strategic planning and financial development to be able to sustain LJ's mission for future generations. The Board is thoughtful, outspoken and courageous when needed, supportive when decisions are made and looks only to LJ's further success. We continue to assess and rethink our approaches to development and program support to achieve that sustainability.

Leadership Jacksonville is also served by four wonderful staff members that spend their hours helping create and execute meaningful programs that continue to impact community. I am continually amazed by their talents, skills, energy and resourcefulness to carry out every detail involved in every opening event, opening retreat, program day, closing retreat, class selection process, class communication, and alumni communication and event. They serve along with the Leadership Development and Selection teams for each program, the Celebration Development and Event committees, and staff all Board and Board committee meetings. This year, Isabelle Owen Spence and Meg Folds will mark their ten year anniversaries with LJ and I want to thank each of them for their commitment and service. Whether program, event or board function related, the entire staff makes our experience more rewarding, deepens our commitment to LJ and makes us want to continue to serve LJ, the sum of its alumni.



Our CLE Alumni Making an Impact

As we are about to begin our seventh Collegiate Leadership Experience class, it is exciting to see alumni of the previous classes take their place as leaders in our community. We are fortunate to have many of the alumni, not only participate in alumni activities, but also work with us in selecting and planning the retreats and program days for this year's class. Joining Leadership Jacksonville alumni **John Bottaro, Steve Canty, Deborah Kaye, Shannon Perry, Linda Persandi, Steve Ramsey, Mobeen Rathore, Andrea Rizzi, Karen Stern, Dave Sweeney (chair), Justin Terry and Linda Wilkinson** on this year's Collegiate Leadership Experience Selection Team were CLE alumni **Shauna Canty (CLE '05), Evan Gibbs (CLE '10), Sichao Ni (CLE '09), Hanna Palmer (CLE '09), Derrick Robinson (CLE '09) and Rachael Tutwiler (CLE '06).**

Hanna Palmer (CLE '09) serves on the CLE Curriculum Team with **Jan Brogdon**

(LJ '88), Sandra Brooks (LJ '09), Steve Canty (LJ '05), Debbie Johnson (LJ '11), Crystal Jones (LJ '10), Nick Napoleon (LJ '07), Michael Phillips (LJ '11), Michael Prendergast (LJ '06), Mobeen Rathore (LJ '03), Andrea Rizzi (LJ '09), David Sweeney (Chair –LJ '06), Justin Terry (LJ '05) and Quint White (LJ '88). They will be joined during the retreats and program days by volunteers **Jessica Abraham, Peter Blumeyer, Shauna Canty, Gozi Chuku, Chris Folds, Evan Gibbs, Chelsi Henry, Sichao Ni, Derrick Robinson, Travis Schryer, Alyssa Spirato and Rachael Tutwiler.**

Chris Lessafft and **Sichao Ni** inspired their CLE Class of 2009 to come together to recognize the positive experience the class provided by becoming the first CLE class to be Trustee Level donors to Leadership Jacksonville. The class enthusiastically met their goal!

Be on the lookout for our CLE alums such as Neptune Beach Vice Mayor **Kara Tucker (CLE '07)**, Jacksonville Public Education Fund Community Engagement Manager **Rachael Tutwiler (CLE '06)**, Public Policy and Advocacy Assistant for the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida **Chris Folds (CLE '05)**, Supervisor of Soil and Water Conservation for District 5 **Chelsi Henry (CLE '08)**, Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce On-Line Marketing Administrator **Hanna Palmer (CLE '09)**, Senator Bill Nelson Intern **Robert Maldonado (CLE '09)**, co-founder of the organic garden at Clara White Mission, **Derrick Robinson (CLE '09)** and others as they work to better our community.

Our Collegiate Leadership Experience alumni attest that the program is a "once in a lifetime experience" gift. They, in turn, are putting their gifts to work to make our community a better place!

four years. During that period, I was able to connect with numerous community causes. I was able to give back a little by spending time with our young leaders as part of the Youth Leadership Jacksonville and Collegiate Learning Experience. Best yet, one of those connections led to my wife and me serving as

Honorary Chairpersons of the 2008 Row for the Cure, a cause that is very near and dear to my wife and family since my wife is a breast cancer survivor.

The sense of involvement and commitment I have to Jacksonville and my

community, far exceeds the sense I felt in Philadelphia, even though I was born and raised there, and lived there for a total of 28 years. The catalyst for that commitment all started with my initial involvement with Leadership Jacksonville, and for that, I sincerely thank you.

Leadership Jacksonville: An Integral Part of Our Lives

By Peggy and J.F. Bryan IV

Leadership Jacksonville has been such an integral part of both our lives for so many decades, it's hard to translate its effect on us in words. From early Board president to annual presenter on different program days, to developer/facilitator of the New Leadership Summit program, LJ has been a vibrant and meaningful way for J.F. to share his deep passion for Jacksonville with "kindred spirits" in successive classes, and to help new leaders see the whole of Jacksonville as it is and hopefully could be.

For me, the LJ course and Youth Leadership and LJ board participation has been a springboard into the community letting me become involved with children



and community causes I really believed in. Working through and with Leadership Jacksonville has enabled us both to work with bright, energized community trustees who are committed to making a positive and lasting impact on the health and soundness of our city.

Initially, Leadership Jacksonville opens your eyes to the multiple challenges, strengths and complexities of our community; more importantly, armed with that awareness, it imbeds you for life with an invaluable network of like-minded LJ graduates – together the impact is real! I can't imagine our lives without Leadership Jacksonville.

Connectivity and Collaboration

Based on a desire to continually enhance the LJ program, the Leadership Development Team set out to make some significant changes to the curriculum this past year for the Class of 2011. At the base of the change was a desire to better integrate the program day content from program day to program day. This was to create better understanding of the interrelatedness of issues. The LD Team met in May of 2010 to begin the planning. After brainstorming what the logical crossovers were, the curriculum was divided into some major groupings. They were Social Responsibility and Sustainability, Health, Understanding Self and Others, Economy, Growth and Preservation and Arts. The program day planning was done in clusters so the themes and content could be interwoven. One example of a change was to shift the housing tour that had been a part of Poverty Day to the day the class visited schools. That allowed them to see the neighborhoods feeding the public schools they toured. On Health Day, part of the program was about a health study done in the same neighborhood as the neighborhood tours they had taken.

Another enhancement was to continue the collaboration with other organizations

in Jacksonville in program planning and delivery. For the past three years, we have partnered with United Way and the Department of Children and Families for Poverty Day. This year we expanded to work with Project Breakthrough to enhance our Understanding Self and Others program.

We have been gratified by the engagement and enthusiasm of our LJ alumni volunteers in making these changes. Likewise, we have been pleased at the attentiveness and responsiveness of the Class of 2011. Their willingness to engage deeply in issues and challenges and develop strong trusteeship plans has made the program enhancements all the stronger.

New Leadership Summit:

"A Great Crash Course On Jacksonville"

On April 25 fourteen new leaders gathered at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island for the two day New Leadership Summit. It was, as one of the participants stated, a "great breadth of topics discussed by key Jacksonville leaders." The stimulating two day program was presided over by **J.F. Bryan IV**, Past LJ Board President and Honorary Member and **Jerry Mallot, LJ'95**, President Elect of LJ Board and Executive Vice President of Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce.

In attendance were: **Michael Aubin**, President, Wolfson Children's Hospital, **Jennifer Botterbusch**, Vice President, Internal Audit, Rayonier, **Moody Chishom**, President/CEO, St. Vincent's HealthCare, **Peter Denoncourt**, Vice President of Manufacturing, Saft America, Inc., **Mark Doyle**, CFO, St. Vincent's HealthCare, **Blair Fishburn**, Deputy Executive Director/CFO, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, **Jim Hughes**, Executive Vice President/CIO, EverBank, **David Mann**, Chairman, President/CEO, SunTrust Bank, North Florida, **Robert Mason**, Senior Vice President/City President, BB&T, **Marcelle Polednik**, Director, MOCA, **Jay Posze**, Vice President, Human Resources, Rayonier, **Ajay Samant**, Dean of Coggin College of Business, UNF, **Joanie Teofilo**, President/CEO, The Energy Authority, **Keith Urtel**, Managing Partner, Ernst & Young LLP.

Participants overwhelmingly acclaimed the experience as beneficial with statements such as: "This is a very informative, factual, candid look at Jacksonville that any new leader in Jacksonville can benefit from (and should be knowledgeable of)."



Five Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XX students are awarded \$5,000 Scholarships through the generosity of the Meniak Club of Jacksonville. Left to Right: Yi Luo, Paxon School for Advanced Studies; Russell Rollins, Fleming Island High School; Aubrey Smith, Ponte Vedra High School; Tre'Ellis Scott, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts; Matthew Wilhelm, Bishop Snyder High School.

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July 2010 – April 2011

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Youth Leadership Jacksonville Opened My Eyes

By Erich Spivey, YLJ Class

You could call it my first job interview. As a sophomore in high school, in our guidance counselor's office, I got peppered with a few questions about high school, the future and my goals.

That interview landed me in Youth Leadership Jacksonville. Plus, it led to one of my best experiences in high school, a generous college scholarship from the Meninak Club and experiences I'll never forget.

Youth Leadership Jacksonville introduced me to the business world. But it was

more than tours and handshakes. It was the unique experience of kids from each high school across the First Coast coming together that opened my eyes.

Life extends beyond your high school. When graduation day arrives, you'll find that out pretty quick. But thanks to Youth Leadership Jacksonville, the eyes start opening a little bit earlier, preparing young minds to tackle the challenges of the future.

Now, more than a decade later, I'm honored to be on the other side of Lunch with Leaders. For the past three years, I've

attended as a reporter at First Coast News, sharing what I know with YLJers thinking about a career in journalism.

I'm amazed each year by the continued enthusiasm these high school juniors show. They are excited about all the possibilities. Plus, they give me a boost too, showing me the future in their hands is bright.



CLASS NOTES

1989

Nathaniel Glover LJ'89 has been installed as the 29th president of Edward Waters College.

1992

The American Board of Trial Advocates inducted **William Corley LJ'92** as a member.

1997

Frank Mackesy LJ'97 received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the University of North Florida's 14th Annual Distinguished Business Leaders Awards.

1999

Reverend **Davette Turk LJ'99**, Florida's first female Episcopal priest, recently celebrated her 25th anniversary as priest in the Jacksonville-based Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

2000

Rick Ferrin LJ'00 has joined the Jacksonville office of TranSystems as vice president.

2001

Art Graham LJ'01 has been reappointed to the Public Service Commission by Governor Rick Scott and will serve as chairman through 2012. He has also been appointed to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Water.

2003

The Beaches Museum & History Center has selected **Maarten van de Guchte LJ'03** as executive director.

2004

Kevin Cannon LJ'04 has been hired as a commercial relationship manager by SunTrust Bank, North Florida region.

2005

Gwen Griggs LJ'05 was honored as the 2011 Pioneer of the Year by the Women Business Owners of North Florida at the 2011 Women in Business Awards.

2006

Brunet-Garcia Advertising has hired **Rebecca Schwam LJ'06** as public relations manager.

2007

Karl Sanders LJ'07 was rated AV Preeminent in the list of 2010 Top Lawyers in the Jacksonville area as identified by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell.

Warren Grymes LJ'07 has been selected as president of the Rotary Club of Arlington.

Sandy Golding LJ'07 was highlighted in the 2010 WJCT documentary 'Jacksonville Beach: Against the Tide' for her involvement in the passage of the height referendum in Jacksonville Beach.

2008

Herschel Vinyard LJ'08 has been selected Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Acosta Sales & Marketing has announced the promotion of **Vilma Consuegra LJ'08** to vice president of corporate communications.

Michael Lancashire LJ'08 has been promoted to senior vice president, claims and integrated customer solutions at Main Street America Group.

2009

Anna Brosche LJ'09 is one of four winners of the 2010 Women in Business award presented by Women Business Owners of North Florida.

2010

Cleveland Ferguson LJ'10 has been named commissioner for the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission.

Dawn Emerick LJ'10 and **Gary Brose LJ'10** were named to the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce board of governors.

Mary Goldsmith LJ'10 has been named to the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Joe Camerlengo LJ'10 was appointed by the President of the Florida Bar to serve on the Statewide Special Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

Erta Livingston LJ'10 has announced his engagement and pending marriage June 4th to Debbie Thomas.

Ryan Tiedeberg LJ'10 has joined Branch Banking and Trust Co. as vice president, commercial banking group.

Daniel Bean LJ'10 has been elected president of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association.

2011

Congratulations to **John Thompson LJ'11** and his wife Renee on the birth of their daughter Lucienne 'Luci' Lavallee.

Honorary

Baptist Medical Center has named **M.C. 'Ceree' Harden III, LJ Honorary** as chair of its board of directors.

New Leadership Summit

Michael Grebe NLS I has been appointed to the Baptist Health Foundation board of trustees.

Alvin Brown NLS I has been elected mayor of the City of Jacksonville and becomes the city's first African-American mayor.

Various

Character Counts in Jacksonville named **Lewis Hunter LJ'90** as president and **Kimberly Barnes LJ'01** as vice president of its 2011 board of directors.

MaliVai Washington LJ'10 and **Quinton White LJ'88** were honored as community trustees by Leadership Jacksonville at the 16th annual Celebration event April 7.

OneJax has announced honorees of the 2011 Humanitarian Awards: Gold Medallion recipient **Delores Barr Weaver LJ Honorary**; Silver Medallion recipients **Martha Barrett LJ'81**, **Nathaniel Glover LJ'89**, and **Mark Green LJ'96**.

Girls Scouts of Gateway Council has announced the following as 2011 Women of Distinction: **Robin Albaneze LJ'96**, **Betty Asque Davis LJ'81**, **Davalu Parrish LJ'88**, **Laine Silverfield LJ'95**, and **Cindy Stover LJ'99**. **Delores Barr Weaver LJ Honorary** will be presented with the Lois T. Graessle Community Impact Award.

The Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women has announced the 2011 Women's History Month honorees including **Debbie Buckland LJ'09** and **Shahla Masood LJ'03**.

HandsOn Jacksonville has announced the following 2011 winners: **Wayne Wood LJ'77**, Art of Caring; **Sandy Golding LJ'07**, HandsOn Earth; and **Joann Manning LJ'00**, HandsOn Health. **Davette Turk LJ'99** received the Edward R. Hayes Unity in Action Award.

The Jacksonville Business Journal has announced **Joe Camerlengo LJ'10** and **Jackie Perry LJ'11** as 2011 Diversity Award winners.

Martha Frye Baker LJ'97 and **Ryan Schwartz LJ'09** have joined the board of The Community Foundation in Jacksonville.

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to the family of **Elizabeth Means LJ'87** who recently passed away.

Sympathy is extended to **Gwen Yates LJ'90** and her family on the death of her mother.

Heartfelt sympathy goes out to **Jane Condon LJ'90** on the death of her husband.

Condolences are extended to the family of **Cynthia Runnion LJ'96** who recently passed away.

We extend sympathy to the family of **Margaret "Susie" Phelan LJ'96** who recently passed away.

Condolences are extended to the family of **T. Edward Austin LJ Honorary** who recently passed away.

Sympathy is extended to **Mary Bland Love LJ'89** and her family on the death of her father.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Mallory Cooper LJ'00** and her family on the death of her father.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Dezmond Waters III LJ'98** who recently passed away.

TELL US YOUR LJ STORY!

What has your LJ experience meant to you? How has LJ impacted what you have done to strengthen our community?

Send your LJ story to: izzy@leadershipjax.org.



LJ Class of 2011

Garden Idea Grows from Meeting at CLE

By Janet Reagor

A recent email from Derrick Robinson, CLE '09, says it all. His sign-off reads "Future Leader in America." Giving credit to getting a second chance in life in 2005 and a rewarding summer in LJ's Collegiate Leadership Experience (CLE), Robinson is pursuing his passions which, fortunately for Jacksonville, include helping those in need in our community.

Robinson is the force behind an organic farm at the Clara White Mission. One of his undergraduate research study areas was examining the effects of macroeconomic policy on poverty which led to discussions of the importance of food security to these populations and how it could tie in with environmental and economic sustainability for impoverished populations. Translation: he wanted to start an urban garden. "We didn't just want to start one anywhere, but somewhere where it was a direct need, from an environmental, economic, and public health standpoint," he notes.

After attempting to start the project through other avenues, a visit to the Sulzbacher Center during one of the

CLE program days led to meeting "all these local non-profit leaders. I knew someone would partner with me. We had lunch at Clara's at the Cathedral, and I realized this culinary arts program would be the perfect match. We would be providing an additional skill set to an already successful program," said Robinson.

Enter the Clara White Mission and Ju'Coby Pittman-Peele, LJ Class of '93. Apparently the idea grew on her as well since the original area she committed to the garden was 4'x16', which quickly became a 40'x50' plot, and has now expanded to 75'x50'.

The other critical partner has been UNF. With a location secured UNF economics professor and Robinson's mentor Christopher Johnson, applied for and received a Transformation Learning Opportunity grant from the university. The program sponsors out-of-class, community-oriented projects that bring together students from various disciplines. A Seed Grant from UNF's Environmental Center was also awarded and used for student recruitment, to purchase books, soil testing and garden planning.

Robinson credits CLE with giving him "a network of people who are local and about something. The people I met during the experience that were just doing things because someone needed to do it, and the happiness seen in some of the benefactors of these programs made me realize that I had the ability to do these things too. I have always had confidence, focus, ability, but CLE helped me mold those together with some inspiration to realize that the sky's the limit. Even the small things like the Myers-Briggs; it helped me to understand me. It was so dead on with me and who I am; I just had never been shown who I was, in a nutshell, before. And I'm glad to be one their graduates and I hope to keep raising the bar for the future grads."



Maybe it is time for Robinson to change his motto to: "Leader in America."

Staying in Touch with Your LJ Classmates

By Snowden McFall, class of 2010



As we all know, one of the greatest benefits of Leadership Jacksonville is the opportunity to get to know such wonderful people and form new relationships. Keeping that contact going after your year concludes can be tricky. The class of 2010 has done an extraordinary job maintaining contact with each other.

Here's how.

1. Several classmates arranged outings at their workplaces or places of interest. Gary Brose, our class liaison, who does a fantastic job keeping us up to date on each others' good news, encouraged the class to visit both NAS Jax and Mayport for tours with him. Jay Monahan was kind enough to have a special event for us at the TPC. I invited the class to my latest book signing and Chris Oakley had us all tour the Federal Reserve. Mal Washington,

one of this year's honorees at Celebration 2011, hosted tours of the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation. Crystal Jones invited us to celebrate Teach for America's achievements.

2. The most exciting reunion took place in NY State at the Darien Lake Resort, courtesy of Randy Drew and ParcManagement. More than a dozen class members and their families visited the park, attended the John Mayer concert and connected with classmates.
3. Two class members have planned weddings since graduation and several of us attended Monique Gillins' celebration. Erta Livingston will be married in June.
4. Gary Brose and Maggie Hightower set up a Facebook page for our class, where we post photos and news updates for everyone.
5. Patti Adeeb and her husband recently hosted a reunion event at Beaches Diner in Atlantic Beach.
6. Some class members schedule lunches with those they did not get to know well during the class and that helps them continue to build relationships. And some are actually working together on various community service projects in the greater Jacksonville area, which continues the community trusteeship from LJ's teachings.

Staying touch requires desire, focus and commitment. We are fortunate that our class members enjoy each other and want to come together whenever we can. And we are grateful to have organizers like Gary and Maggie help keep us in touch.

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