



August 2020

# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

LJ 2021 \* 2020 CENSUS \* ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT \* CLASS NOTES \* LEADERS WANTED

## Dues Reminder

It is our annual custom to ask our alumni to support Leadership Jacksonville's much needed leadership programming by making a dues payment and considering an additional contribution. The annual dues period is July 1 to June 30. Take a moment to reflect on your own LJ or NLS experiences- the knowledge gained, the connections you have made because of the alumni network and the inspiring moments you can't seem to forget.

Your financial support sustains Leadership Jacksonville in the following ways:



Enables programs that prepare future future generations of leaders to build and strengthen our community. This happens in our programs for high school and college/professionals as well as in our LJ and NLS programs.



Provides scholarships for program participants with financial need to ensure access and equity

This year your financial support is needed more than ever! We appreciate your annual contributions.

[SUPPORT LJ](#)



## Class of 2021 Evening of Opening Introductions

LJ 2021 enjoyed their opening introductions on July 21. The virtual gathering was filled with laughter, flare, creativity and energetic presentations! There is no question that this class is going to have a lot of fun - even virtually - and the LJ staff and Leadership Development Team is looking forward to working with LJ 2021!

Thank you to Michael Howland (LJ 2012) for being the emcee for the evening and Bruce Fafard (NLS 2016), President for welcoming LJ 2021.

Due to the pandemic, Leadership Jacksonville has a fluid plan in place for the LJ 2021 program year. LJ 2021's virtual Opening Retreat will be held on August 14-15, 2020.

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## Spread the Word: 2020 Census

In Florida, the Census can have a big impact in our communities by affecting funding for schools, roads, hospitals, and much more. Participating in the 2020 Census helps ensure

everyone is counted and can play their part in the future of our state and community. The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding every year, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade.

**You can make a difference by completing the Census online, by phone or mail.**

**Spread the word about the importance of 2020 Census visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).**

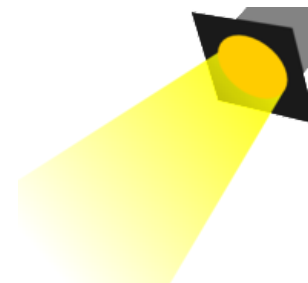
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## Alumni Spotlight



### **Shiya Scott** **Next Generation** **Class of 2019**

Shiya Scott has stayed involved with Leadership Jacksonville because going through NextGen expanded her views, network and horizon. Shiya Scott is a Jacksonville native and the founder of Project Fed Up, a nonprofit that focuses on making opportunities more accessible that support the socio-economic needs of individuals in Northwest Jacksonville. She is inspired by witnessing her fellow class members' political and professional career growth. She is still learning from her peers and stays connected to her life-long friends virtually. Shiya graduated from the Next Generation program with a better perspective on what the city of Jacksonville has to offer. With newfound knowledge and by stepping outside of her comfort zone, Shiya was able to move into action to start Project Fed Up.



Alumni Spotlight features short interviews with Leadership Jacksonville alumni.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Virtual Parent Orientation for YLJ 2021**  
Monday, August 3, 2020  
5:30-6 p.m.

**Virtual Board of Directors Meeting**  
Monday, August 10, 2020  
5-8 p.m.

**Virtual LJ 2021 Mandatory Opening Retreat**  
Friday-Saturday, August 14-15, 2020

**Virtual YLJ 2021 Mandatory Opening Retreat**  
Friday-Saturday, August 28-29, 2020

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## CLASS NOTES

### **1992**

**Lucy Giardino Cortese** published a children's picture book with her writing group **The Twinkys**. "Do You Know Me? Poems About The Sea" is a collection of poems, illustrations, science facts and a glossary about marine life. This book combines poetry and science, learning and fun in a creative read for youth and the young at heart. It is available on **Amazon** and in local book stores.

### **1993**

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s 2020 Honoree for Politics is **Ju'Coby Pittman**.

In March **Sherry Magill** stepped into the role of chair of the Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC) advisory board. Sherry took over as chair from **J.F.**

**Bryan** (Honorary). J.F. will continue to serve on the board as an emeritus member.

### 2005

**Gwen Griggs** was recognized in the 2020 edition of Florida Trend Florida Legal Elite, in the Business Law Category. This award recognizes 1.4% of active Florida Bar members and is selected by her peers.

### 2006

**Mary Fisher**, Founder/CEO of **Fisher Design & Advertising** joined forces with Savvy Outsourcing, a nationally recognized digital marketing firm.

### 2008

**Troy Smith** has been named the 2021 tournament chairman for The Player's Championship.

**Kyle Reese** has been named executive director of OneJax effective July 1.

### 2010

Congratulations to **Joe Camerlengo** who was recently elected chair of the American Association for Justice Bus Litigation for for a 2020-21 term. Joe is also an officer for the American Association for Justice Trucking Litigation Group.

Congratulations to **Daniel Gilham** and his wife on the birth of Wilder James Gilham on July 13.

### 2011

**Shannon Nazworth** has been named a finalist for the Florida Times-Union's Eve Award for her work at Ability Housing to open Village at Hyde Park, a low-income apartment community on the Westside of Jacksonville.

### 2014

**Karen Estella Smith** is the Development Manager with Volunteers in Medicine. She is serving on the board of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

### 2015

**Bill Laird** has been named Co-Chief Investment Officer for DHG Wealth Advisors. From this role he will move into the role of Chief Investment Officer in June 2021.



George Barton Sirota, son of **Mark Sirota** (LJ 2017)

### 2017

**Mark Sirota** and his wife, Janice welcomed George Barton Sirota into the world on May 16, 2020 weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces.

### 2018

**Terri Lewis Rosenbaum** is now working as the Chief Human Resources Officer for OneCall.

### 2020

**Cyndy Trimmer** is the 2020-21 President of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association.

**Jamie Rosseland** is no longer at the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center but is doing some great things, including enrolling to start full-time classes in the fall for her next degree. She has been appointed to the Department of Juvenile Justice's State Advisory Group, is more involved in community activism and is taking on contract work that is exciting to her.

### New Leadership Summit

**Michael Spigel** (NLS 2006) is the CEO and President of **Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network**.

**Monica Whiting** (NLS 2013) has accepted a job with APS and will be moving to Arizona in the upcoming months.

**Cindy Reynolds** (NLS 2019) will be relocating to Virginia to be close to family.

### Youth Leadership Jacksonville

**John Aloszka** (YLJ 2015) is the Creative Director at Folio Weekly Magazine.

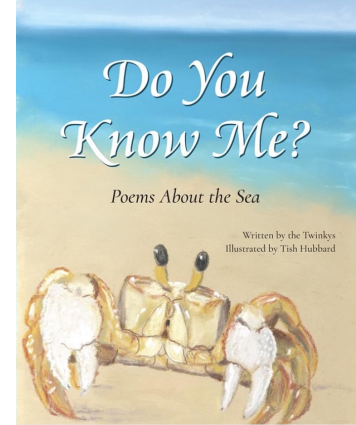
**Emma Towler** (YLJ 2018) is serving as a virtual summer intern for the Office of the State Attorney and has become very involved at the University of Florida. She is the Student Government Student Services Executive Secretary, Bob Graham Center Director of Outreach and a Campus Diplomat. Emma is studying Political Science and plans to attend law school.

**Jordan Sabo** (YLJ 2019) and **Sheila Hodges** (YLJ 2019) were honored at St. Johns Country Day School's 2020 graduation. Jordan was named class valedictorian, with the highest high school grade point average in the graduating class. Jordan plans to attend the University of Florida. Sheila received the Edwin Paul Heinrich Award given for strong personal integrity, community responsibility, development of individual self and a true spirit of excellence. Sheila plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

**Sam Davis** (YLJ 2020) was named to the 2020 Best of all First Coast Preps for Golf.

### Various

**Aundra Wallace** (NLS 2014) is a 2020-21 At-Large Member of the board for Leadership Florida. **Jim Gilmore** (LJ 1981) is past chair of the board.



Lucy Giardino Cortese (LJ 1992) children's book cover with her writing group The Twinkys

**Harold Crow** (LJ 2018) and **Andi Williams** (LJ 2019) participated in a UNF Sports Management Panel on Examining Issues of Diversity and Race in Sports.

**Whitney Harper** (LJ 2012) and **Gwen Griggs** (LJ 2005) are co-founders of ADVOS legal which was recognized as Inc 5000 Series Florida: Top 250 Most Successful Companies in Florida.

**Betty Carley** (LJ 1977), **Barbara Darby** (LJ 1993), **Helen Jackson** (LJ 1995) and **Andrea Williams** (LJ 2019) were panelists on July 16 for the Jacksonville Women's Network Voices of Influence virtual event focused on how they have been affected by social justice issues.

Governor DeSantis has reappointed **Patrick Kilbane** (LJ 2013) and **Robert Harris** (LJ 1993) to the 4th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission.

**Brian Bucher** (LJ 2020, NLS 2018), **Tim Johnson** (LJ 2019, NLS 2017), and **Brian Wolfburg** (NLS 2019), have joined the board of trustees for the Museum of Science and History. **Christian Hardin** (LJ 2015) has been named chair, **Coley Jones** (LJ 2014) vice chair & chair elect, **Richard Lovelace** (LJ 2016) growth strategy chair, **Lisa Rinaman** (LJ 2017) governance chair and **Parvez Ahmed** (LJ 2018) immediate past chair.

Jacksonville Bar Association announced its 2020-2021 Board of Governors: **Michelle Barnett** (LJ 2012) President, and board members **Cyndy Trimmer** (LJ 2020), **Brian Coughlin** (LJ 2016) and **Asghar Syed** (LJ 2018).

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## NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Our condolences to **Noah Henderson** (LJ 1983) and his family upon the death of his brother Anthony Henderson on April 19, 2020.

Condolences to **Steve Rawlins** (LJ 2015) on the passing of his father Donald Rawlins on May 29, 2020.

Condolences to **Ed McCarthy** (LJ 1995) and his family upon the passing of his father Edward McCarthy, Jr. on July 1, 2020.

Our condolences to **Julie Handley** (LJ 1992) and her family upon the death of her mother Bettye Withers Barnes, age 100, on July 6, 2020.

Condolences to **Angela Corey** (LJ 1997) and her family upon the passing of her father, Thomas S. Corey, Jr. on July 7, 2020.

Our Condolences to **Linda Ingham** (LJ 1993) and her family upon the passing of her mother, Virginia (Ginny) Wenz Cobb on July 14, 2020.

Condolences to **Jane Arnold** (LJ 1986) and **Sabrie Arnold Edmonston** (NextGen 2012) and their family upon the death of Jane's mother and Sabrie's grandmother, Ann Jeter on July 17, 2020 at the amazing age of 103.

Our condolences to the family of **Frank Surface** (Honorary) upon Frank's passing on July 17, 2020. Frank served as Leadership Jacksonville's 5th board president in 1982. Frank practiced law for many years and for the last twenty-five years served as chairman and CEO of Vesta Property Services, a company that he co-founded and led to become one of the largest property management companies in Florida. In addition to Leadership Jacksonville, Frank's numerous leadership contributions included: Rector (Chairman) and Rector-Emeritus of Washington and Lee University, founding board member of St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, the Jacksonville Zoological Society, Enterprise Florida and Central Jacksonville, Inc. Frank also served on the March of Dimes Campaign, the Jacksonville Charter Revision Commission, The Bolles School, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Foundation and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce boards.

Condolences to **Octavius Holliday** (LJ 2017) and his family upon the passing of his brother, Tavares Rickerson on July 27, 2020.



## Leaders Wanted

Girls Inc. of Jacksonville is seeking new board members due to the increased need and interest in programming and services for "at hope" girls who attend Title 1 schools. The organization is currently seeking women and men to serve on the Board of Directors.

The mission of Girls Inc. of Jacksonville is to inspire girls in grades K-12 with the skills they need to be Strong, Smart and Bold in three key areas - healthy living, academic achievement, and life skills development.

For more information, contact **Twyla Ashman** (LJ 2020) at [AshmanT@Bolles.org](mailto:AshmanT@Bolles.org).

## MAKE A LJ DONATION

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs that will match the charitable contributions made by their employees. This is a great way to enhance the impact of your giving. Check with your employer for details.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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