



# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

December 2015

NOMINATIONS \* GIVING TUESDAY \* LJ RELOCATION \* CLASS ART \* PROGRAM PHOTOS  
CALENDAR \* CLASS NOTES \* DONATE

The Leadership Jacksonville Office will be **CLOSED** for the holidays and moving of the office, Thursday -Wednesday, December 24-30, 2015 and for New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2016



## Nomination Deadline December 18 for LJ Class of 2017!

### Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2017

Don't miss the opportunity to nominate a great candidate. Nominations are open (on-line only) through **December 18**. Please take a minute to explain our program to your candidate and make sure they are interested before nominating.

[Click here to begin your LJ nomination.](#)

## #GIVINGTUESDAY™

**Today, December 1**

You might have received emails from various nonprofits about #GivingTuesday. Amid the year end and holiday hustle, #GivingTuesday is a "created" (like cyber Monday or Black Friday) national day of giving when communities rally in support of the causes they care about most. The #GivingTuesday reach is so profound that nonprofits raised a staggering \$45.7 million last year in one day!

We work hard to honor our commitment to avoid sending you excess emails - The Lead Story is our main communication. For that reason we haven't separately mailed out #Giving Tuesday solicitations. But please know that your contributions to Leadership Jacksonville are important and greatly appreciated by the adults and youth who can participate in our programs as we work to keep costs down and provide financial assistance to those in need. Please consider making a #GivingTuesday contribution to Leadership Jacksonville.

**DONATE HERE**

## Leadership Jacksonville is Moving



Yes, the time has arrived. Leadership Jacksonville is excited to be relocating to the newly renovated Jessie Ball duPont Center in downtown Jacksonville.

Our move is scheduled to occur between December 23 and 30. During the move email and phone access will be limited and responses to inquiries may be delayed. But we will be all set to start the new year in style. Drop by for a visit and see our new office!

Please make a note of our new address:

40 East Adams Street, Suite 230, Jacksonville, Florida 32202. Email and phone numbers will not change.



We still have a few framed pieces of "Class Art" that won't be able to accompany us in our move and have not yet found a loving home. If you are interested in being the caretaker of your class art call Jill Dame (904-396-6263). Class years include 1979, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

## November program days were busy ones for LJ and YLJ class members.

### LJ Class 2016



Wen Raiti and Johanna Nestor



Kate Mesic, Rachel Bechtel, Vicki Waytowich,  
Kristen Keen and Chris Hoffman



Mark Tumeo and Tina Wirth

Our thanks to UF Health Jacksonville and UF Health Proton Therapy Institute for the use of their facilities during Health Day on November 19 and to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida for sponsoring a lovely lunch.



**YLJ Class XXVI** examined the criminal justice system, the impact of crime on its victims and explored ways to become part of the solution.



Thank you to Firehouse Subs for donating lunch during "Inside the System" day on November 12.

## Upcoming events:

### YU XXVI Program Day

Thursday, December 3, 2015  
"Are We Our Brothers'/Sisters' Keeper?"

### LJ 2016 Program Day

Thursday, December 10, 2015  
Justice Day

### LJ Office Closed

Thursday - Wednesday, December 24-30, 2015  
Holiday and Office Move

### LJ Office Closed

Friday, January 1, 2016  
New Year's Day

### CELEBRATION 2016

Tuesday, April 26, 2016  
6 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center

## Class Notes

### 1978

**Doug Milne** has joined the board of directors for City Rescue Mission.

### 1985

**Cleve Warren** has been elected to serve as chair of the board of trustees for Florida A&M University.

### 1991

The Friends of Adult Day Services Corp., which provides financial aid for seniors, disabled adults and veterans unable to afford day care assistance, awarded **Hermoyone Williams Walker** its Pioneer Award for her work as co-founder and longtime CEO of the KeepSafe Center, which played a groundbreaking role in expanding and creating adult day services in Jacksonville's African-American community.

### 1995

The Public Affairs and Government Section of the Public Relations Society of America presented **Lauri-Ellen Smith** with the Lloyd B. Dennis Award for Excellence in Public Affairs for 2015.

### 2000

**Mallory Cooper's** last day on the Fourth Circuit Bench is Friday, December 18. She will still be seen around the courthouse as she picks up work as a senior judge.

### 2007

**Brian Franco** has been hired by Stellar as vice president of business development in its commercial group.

Congratulations to **Toni Porterfield** who recently retired from The Main Street America Group.

### 2009

Congratulations to **Ryan Schwartz** who was named the 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Ryan was nominated by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, Cummer Museum and the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

## 2011

**Justin Spiller** has relocated to Miami and is working as an investment agent with Marcus & Millichap.

## 2012

Congratulations to **Jennifer Gornto** and Jason Ryan who were married on November 14.

## 2013

**Melissa Ross** has been asked to fill in for PBS's Diane Rehm on December 9, 10 and 11. Diane is a public radio icon and this is a huge honor. Be sure to tune Melissa in on your local NPR stations.

## 2014

Mayor Lenny Curry has appointed **Ben Davis** to the Jacksonville Planning Commission. Ben was incorrectly noted as a member of LJ 2015 in the November issue.

**Meredith Lego** is now vice president, business transformation at Acosta Sales & Marketing.

## 2015

Congratulations to **Matthew** and Cameron **Garman** who were married at Jekyll Island Club on October 31, 2015.

**Donnie Horner** has filed to run for the Florida State House of Representatives, District 11. Donnie is running to replace term limited Rep. Janet Adkins in a district that generally includes Nassau County and the Duval County beaches.



Matthew and Cameron  
Garman

**Leila Sundstrom** has joined the board of trustees of Episcopal Children's Services.

## 2016

**Jeffrey Bernardo** has been appointed by Jacksonville City Council President Greg Anderson to fill a seat on the city's General Employee Pension Plan.

**Chris Hoffman** has filed for re-election to Seat 1, Jacksonville Beach City Council.



Berkeley Rae Willie

Congratulations to **Darryl** and Erica **Willie** on the birth of their daughter Berkeley Rae on November 17.

### New Leadership Summit

**Keith Urtel** (NLS IX) retired from Ernst & Young on September 30.

St. Johns Country Day School Headmaster **Edward Ellison** (NLS X) was chosen to serve on the board of directors of the Florida Council of Independent Schools.

**Tim Cost** (NLS XI) was inducted into the Florida Council on Economic Education's First Coast Business Hall of Fame.

### Honorary

**Helen Lane** and **Gary Chartrand** will be honored in February by Episcopal Children's Services as "Children's Champions."

**Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr.** was among a group honored in November by Edward Waters College during the school's American Education Week ceremony as a "living legend."

Mayor Lenny Curry has appointed **Warren Jones** to the Jacksonville Electric Authority Board.

### Various

**Jacqueline Rudloff** (LJ 2015) and **Doug Milne** (LJ 1978) recently volunteered for the Fifth Annual Nonprofit Organizations Legal Services Forum to assist area nonprofits with their legal concerns.

**Felice Franklin** (LJ 1998) and **Wilene Dennis** (LJ 1996) are co-founders of People Reading for Inspiration, Discussion and Enjoyment Book Club (P.R.I.D.E.). P.R.I.D.E. just celebrated its 22nd anniversary and is the oldest and largest book club for people of color.

Many LJ alumni were recognized as 2015 Table Honorees, nominated by area nonprofits for their philanthropy, at the Association of Fundraising Professionals Florida First Coast Chapter National Philanthropy Day Luncheon. Table Honorees and their nominators included: **Mike Diaz** (LJ 2009) Baptist Health Foundation, **Trish Kapustka** (LJ 2007) Children's Home Society of Florida, **Mike Drexler** (NLS XII) and Deutsche Bank by LISC Jacksonville, **Delores Barr Weaver** (Honorary) The Police Athletic League of Jacksonville, and **Delores Barr Weaver** and Linda and **David Stein** (Honorary) by The Arc Jacksonville.

The newly announced JAXChamber Board includes LJ alumni: **John Bottaro** (LJ 1993), **Debbie Buckland** (LJ 2009), **Rose Conry** (LJ 2010), **Tim Cost** (NLS XI), **Rena Coughlin** (LJ 2004), **Daniel Davis** (LJ 2015), **John Delaney** (LJ 1986), **Ray Driver** (LJ 2007), **Heather Duncan** (LJ 2007), **Roseann Duran** (LJ 1998), **Nathaniel Ford** (LJ 2014), **Fred Franklin** (LJ 1998), **Nat Glover** (LJ 1989), **Eric Green** (LJ 1983), **Dane Grey** (LJ 2014), **Abel Harding** (LJ 2013), **Robert Hill** (LJ 2007), **Ashley Smith Juarez** (LJ 2012), **Matt Kane** (LJ 2011), **Eric Mann** (NLS X), **Paul McElroy** (NLS V), **Hope McMath** (LJ 2006), **David Miller** (LJ 2008), **Lynn Pappas** (Honorary), **John Peyton** (LJ 1991), **Ann Sabbag** (LJ 2016), **Jamie Shelton** (LJ 2013), **Leslie Slover** (NLS XII), **Greg Smith** (NLS V), **Kerri Stewart** (LJ 2006), **Cindy Stover** (LJ 1999), **Tom Van Berkel** (NLS I) and **Terry West** (LJ 2008).

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## Note of Sympathy

We were saddened to recently learn of the passing of **Melanie Cross** (LJ 1995) in February 2008. Melanie had a long list of service throughout the community. She worked as a grants writer for Catholic Charities, executive director of Citizens for a Scenic Florida, and executive director of the Spina Bifida Association. Melanie also worked with the Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority, helping establish standards for historic lights and pavers, was involved in the formation of the Sulzbacher Center and worked on the Mayor's Performing Arts Committee. Our belated condolences to her family and friends.

## 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.

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