



July 2020

# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

Sponsored by

JACKSONVILLE  
**Record & Observer**

2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS \* CELEBRATION RECAP \* LEADERSHIP CONNECT  
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT \* CLASS NOTES \* LEADERS WANTED

The Leadership Jacksonville office will be CLOSED on Friday, July 3  
in observance of Independence Day.

## FRIDAY, JULY 10 is the deadline for the 2020 Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award

Don't miss the opportunity to make an **online nomination** of an LJ program alumnus for the 2020 Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award.

Five criteria for selection include:

- Current dues-paying alumnus
- Remains active in LJ through event attendance, nominating new members and volunteering
- Exemplary community service
- Produced outstanding results with projects/efforts (community or LJ)
- Demonstrates components of Leadership Jacksonville core values

Visit the Leadership Jacksonville **website** to view past award recipients and review the nomination form. Contact Yvonne Moore at (904) 396-6263 x4 if you have difficulty submitting the online form.



Tillie K. Fowler

# Leadership Jacksonville Board of Directors

Officers and new board members for 2020-2021 were introduced at a virtual meeting on June 23.



President: **Bruce Fafard** (NLS 2016)  
President-Elect: **Kathy Miller** (LJ 2015)  
Secretary/Treasurer: **Ron Pellum** (LJ 2012)  
Immediate Past-President: **Chuck Hedrick** (LJ 2006)



Bruce Fafard

Welcome to our new board members:

**Mary Fisher** (LJ 2006)  
**Helen Jackson** (LJ 1995)  
**Debbie Johnson** (LJ 2011)

**Mincy Pollock** (LJ 2020)  
**Sandy Ramsey** (LJ 2001)  
**Mark Sirota** (LJ 2017)

We said farewell to our departing board members whose terms have expired.

**Jennifer Chapman** (LJ 2008)  
**Steve Kowkabany** (LJ 2016)  
**Amy Lingren** (LJ 2009)  
**Clark Robertson** (LJ 2012)

**Michael Spigel** (NLS 2006)  
**Mike Wachholz** (LJ 2011)  
**Quint White** (LJ 1988)  
**Andi Williams** (LJ 2019)

Our continuing board members include:

**Mark Bennett** (LJ 2017)  
**Lori Day** (LJ 2017)  
**Michael Freed** (LJ 2008)  
**Lisa Hayes** (LJ 2013)  
**Michael Howland** (LJ 2012)

**Linda Lindenmoyer** (LJ 2018)  
**Maria Ruiz Quesada** (NextGen 2017)  
**Paul Stallings** (LJ 2017)  
**Ryan Wannemacher** (LJ 2018)  
**Sherri Worman** (LJ 2004)

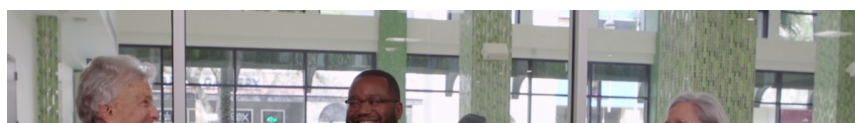
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## Celebration 2020

Thank you for joining us for the Celebration 2020 virtual premiere on Thursday, June 11! There were nearly 130 devices tuned into our show including our honorees, **Cindy Edelman** (LJ 1989), **Coley Jones** (LJ 2014) and **Linda Wilkinson** (LJ 1998).

To date more than 580 have viewed Celebration 2020 on YouTube. If you missed Celebration 2020 - [click here to replay the virtual premiere](#) or [click here to watch the honorees](#) discuss their contributions to LJ and our community. During the replay, you will be able to see how the chat box is filled with excitement and congratulatory remarks!

You can support the 30th year of Youth Leadership Jacksonville and the mission of LJ by making a [donation](#).





Linda Wilkinson, Coley Jones and Cindy Edelman

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## Leadership Connect

Join your peers and LJ alumni for a virtual Leadership Connect. Leadership Jacksonville is providing a space for civil dialogue and learning using the **Race Cards**, developed by 904WARD. "The goal of the Race Cards is to facilitate honest, authentic discussion around race in a way that is accessible to everyone." This event is open to all NLS, NextGen or LJ alumni - not just those who have previously signed up for Leadership Connect.

**Register to join us on Thursday, July 23 from 12-1 p.m. via Zoom.**

[REGISTER](#)

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## Alumni Spotlight

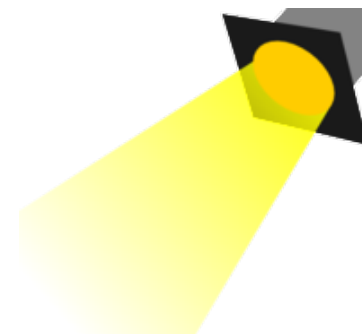


### **Mobeen Rathore** **Leadership Jacksonville** **Class of 2003**

Mobeen Rathore believes the sense of community and kinship with his class and LJ alumni is impactful and extremely important.

"This experience isn't in a brochure!" Mobeen is the Professor and

Chief of Pediatrics/Infectious Disease with the University of Florida. He volunteered on the LJ Board for nine years, served as Board President, program selection committee chair, and continues to contribute to LJ and YLJ program days. After learning through his LJ experience, Mobeen has become more meaningfully involved with LJ and throughout the community. "My contributions allows others to get the same benefits as I did." His inspiration motivates him every day. Mobeen believes that LJ is a hidden gem of Jacksonville and the organization is a resource for community and future leaders.



Alumni Spotlight features short interviews with Leadership Jacksonville alumni.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LJ Office Closed for Independence Day**  
Friday, July 3

**Nominations CLOSE for Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award**  
Friday, July 10, 2020

**LJ 2021 Virtual Opening Dinner**  
Tuesday, July 21, 2020  
7 p.m.

**Virtual Leadership Connect**  
Thursday, July 23, 2020  
12 p.m.

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## CLASS NOTES

### 1987

**Brian Davis**, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida Judge, received the Meenu T. Sasser Outstanding Jurist Award from the Florida Bar. This award honors a jurist "with an outstanding reputation for judicial decisions and an unblemished record of integrity as a lawyer and a judge." In addition to his active participation in Bar related activities and work mentoring students and young lawyers, Brian is a regular volunteer for Youth Leadership Jacksonville.

### 1989

**Gregory Owens** established the **Janet G. Owens Neighborhood Engagement and Community Development Memorial Fund** to honor his late wife, **Janet's** (LJ 1992) lifelong passion for improving her community.



**Adam Snowden** (YLJ 2016) and **Harrison Snowden** (YLJ 2017) joined with their grandmother **Linda Wilkinson** (LJ 1998) to enjoy the Celebration 2020 premiere where she was honored.

**Lori Day** is President and Board Chair at Women Business Owners of North Florida.

**Pegine Echevarria** has been selected to join the Global Board of Directors for Athena International, an organization whose mission is to develop women leaders from classroom to boardroom.

### 2018

Congratulations to **Jonathan Hanson** and his wife Jessica upon the birth of Luis Arthur Hanson on June 4, weighing 7 lbs 10 oz and 16 inches long.

### 1997

**Richard Danford** is serving on a Jacksonville Historical Society Task Force that is helping to bring a small music venue and museum to the former Florida Casket Company building near the Vystar Veterans Memorial Area. The plan for the facility is to celebrate the birth of Southern rock and roll in Jacksonville.

**Michael Munz** received the 2020 Leadership Florida Chair Award for his work rebranding Leadership Florida.

### 2006

**Steve Sherman** has been named to Forbes "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" 2020 list.

### 2011

Congratulations to **Greg Burton** on his retirement on June 25 from Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

### 2014

**Joe Grass** is now Director, Middle Market Banking at Synovus.

### 2017



19 inches long.

**Keith Marks** is on the board of The New England Presenters Association.

### 2019

**Twyla Ashman** was appointed to the board of directors of Girls Inc. of Jacksonville.

### 2020

**Mincy Pollock** received Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business Certification for both of his companies.

### Youth Leadership Jacksonville

Congratulations to **Mallorie Sievert** (YLJ 2019), a graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, who was selected as one of 161 Presidential Scholars in the United States. She will be attending Elon University majoring in Musical Theater. The prestigious award is based on academic achievement, artistic and technical excellence, leadership and community service. The recipients are chosen by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, which is appointed by the president. The Presidential Scholars Class of 2020 will be recognized for their outstanding achievement this summer, as public health circumstances permit.



Luis Arthur Hanson, son of **Jon Hanson** (LJ 2018)

**Michael Chen** (YLJ 2019), a graduate of Ridgeview High School will be attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Michael's story was featured in **Clay Today** and he recently received an Earth Day Scholarship that will assist with college expenses.

**Lauren Wilkerson** (YLJ 2019) received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Achievement Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. Lauren is one among eleven of Jacksonville's highest ranking African-American students from Duval County Public Schools that was recognized by Gamma Beta Boulé, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, DCPS and the University of North Florida.

### Various

Leadership Jacksonville alumni serving on the 2019-20 Board of Directors for Dreams Come True include: **Laine Silverfield** (LJ 1995) Retired Chairman; **Kristi Aiello** (LJ 2020), **Bill Dixon** (LJ 2014), **Randy Goodwin** (LJ 2001), **Becky Moore** (LJ 2013), **Jennifer Plotkin** (LJ 2017), **Clint Pyle** (LJ 2017), **Rick Catlett** (LJ 1982) Honorary Member, **Delores Barr Weaver** (Honorary) Honorary Member, **Chuck Hedrick** (LJ 2006) Advisory Member and **Eric Sandler** (LJ 2015) Advisory Member.

**Attorney At Law Magazine** highlighted as 2020 Women in Law: **Teri Sopp** (LJ 1984), **Jeanne Miller** (LJ 1999)

Several Leadership Jacksonville alumni have been named to the 2020 Host Committee for the Republican National Convention: **John Rutherford** (LJ 1995), **Michael Corrigan** (LJ 1997), **Daniel Davis** (LJ 2015), **Nat Ford** (LJ 2014), **LeAnna Cumber** (LJ 2017), **Rick Morales** (LJ 1996) and **Aundra Wallace** (NLS 2014).

Jacksonville Public Education Fund's ONE by ONE Advisory Board includes **Cleve Warren** (LJ 1985), **Warren Jones** (Honorary), **Allishia Bauman** (NextGen 2012), **David Miller** (LJ 2008), **Sel Buyuksarac** (LJ 2019), **Alberta Higgs** (LJ 1993) and **Ale'ta Turner** (NextGen 2012).

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## NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Our condolences to **John Wallace** and his family upon the death of his father Wesley Wallace on June 5.

Condolences to **Anna Lopez Brosche** (LJ 2009) and her family upon the passing of her father Marcial Lopez on June 17.

## Leaders Wanted

**Kemal Gasper** (LJ 2020) Cultural Council Board of Directors Development Committee Chair

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville (the Cultural Council) is looking for nominations for new board members. The Cultural Council's mission is to enrich the Jacksonville community by investing in arts & culture. Each year the Cultural Council grants over \$2 million to organizations in Greater Jacksonville area. For more information please visit [www.culturalcouncil.org](http://www.culturalcouncil.org).

Please send your nominations (contact info and bio/resume) to Amy Palmer, Governance Committee Liaison, ([apalmer@culturalcouncil.org](mailto:apalmer@culturalcouncil.org)) by Tuesday, July 14. The Governance Committee will review nominations at a meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 16.

Also, to nominate an artist, or art advocate, company or individual, who has made a difference in Jacksonville in making the arts more accessible and present, [click here](#).



## 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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