



**A Message from 2023-2024
Board President,
Linda Lindenmoyer (LJ 2018)**

It is my honor and privilege to serve as Board President for this coming fiscal year, and I am excited to introduce the other Officers who will also serve on the Executive Committee: **Cynthia Griffin** (LJ 2011) - Incoming Board President, **Will Smith** (LJ 2011) - Secretary/Treasurer, and **Michael Howland** (LJ 2012) - Immediate Past President. The new Committee Chairs for this year are **Vicky Basra** (LJ 2017) as Chair of the Governance Committee, **Michael Howland** as Chair of the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee, **Bryan Taylor** (LJ 2021) as Chair of the Development Committee, and **Will Smith** as Chair of the Finance Committee. I look forward to working with our Board and am grateful for their willingness to share their unique talents and perspectives.

I also want to thank Michael Howland as Immediate Past-President for his thoughtful leadership, which resulted in a hugely successful first year with Gracie as CEO as well as a very connected and diverse board.

Together with a talented staff, Gracie as a dynamic CEO, and with the diverse skills of this Board, I am confident and excited about the future of LJ.

-Linda

WELCOME NEW LJ BOARD MEMBERS

The Leadership Jacksonville Board of Directors enjoyed its Annual Meeting on June 12 at The River Club. In addition to acknowledging outgoing board members, we celebrated the incoming board members: **Irvin Pedro Cohen** (LJ 2014), **Kemal Gasper** (LJ 2019), **Sunny Gettinger** (LJ 2012), **Sarah Mannion** (LJ 2023), **Maxine McBride** (LJ 2011), **Tracye Polson** (LJ 2021), **Madelen Salter** (LJ 2021), and **Lynn Sherman** (LJ 2011).



LEADERSHIP
JACKSONVILLE

Leadership Jacksonville 2024 Opening Reception

LJ 2024 met for the first time at the Opening Reception on June 6 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center. We look forward to an exciting program year ahead!



Next Generation 2023 Program Update





NextGen 2023 participants kicked off their summer program on June 2 with the Opening Retreat. Since then, they have enjoyed 'Creating a Caring Community' Day on June 13 and 'Exploring Our Community' Day on June 24. Through discussions and activities, participants have developed an understanding of how crime, poverty, education, and other social influences are interconnected and later brainstormed potential solutions with one another and other leaders in the community. Thank you to all the volunteers and speakers for sharing their time and talents with this passionate group of young professionals.

SPECIAL LJ TEAM NEWS



Congratulations to **Nicole Bryan** on her eight years with Leadership Jacksonville and on her promotion to Programs Director.

Alumni Spotlight
Michael Howland
 (LJ 2012)
 LJ 2022-2023
 Immediate Past
 President



I first heard about Leadership Jacksonville from **Matt Kane** (LJ 2011), while I was living in Indianapolis and when I moved here from Atlanta, **Nina Waters** (LJ 1991) and then JU President **Kerry Romesburg** (NLS 2005) nominated me. LJ gave me some great historical perspective, an appreciation for our strengths and challenges, and a network of friends invested in making Jacksonville a first-class city. I learned the most from Health Day, especially with regard to our world-class healthcare facilities. Seeing **Hugh Greene** (LJ 1991) and **Pat Geraghty** (NLS 2013) debate the Affordable Care Act and then seeing them appear on national broadcasts opened my eyes to the fact that we have national experts right here in Jacksonville.

I later co-chaired Health Day for five years (two years with **Lynn Sherman** (LJ 2011), and three years with **Lynne Elliott** (LJ 2014)), chaired the Leadership Development Team for LJ 2018 and then moved to the Board. I can't imagine not being involved in LJ in some way, and will be until they kick me out. :-)

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as President. Welcoming **Gracie Simendinger** as our new CEO, and making it not just a transition year, but one of great progress, was both fun and rewarding. I cannot stress enough how much LJ is poised to grow our reach and impact under Gracie's leadership. She and **Linda Lindenmoyer** (LJ 2018) as 2023-2024 President will make for a dynamic team at the top.

Get ready for even greater impact in our community in the years to come!

NEW LEADERSHIP CONNECT DATES

Leadership Connect continues to build relationships and foster new alumni connections across YLJ, NextGen, LJ and Honorary members. Upcoming dates include July 12, 21, 27, and August 17 and 22. Sign up for a future gathering [here](#).



2023 EVENTS & PROGRAM DAYS

NextGen 2023 'Exposing Our Community's Culture' Program Day
Wednesday, July 12

NextGen 2023 'Building Bridges for the Future' Program Day
Monday, July 24

LJ 2024 Opening Dinner
Tuesday, August 1

NextGen 2023 Closing Retreat
Saturday, August 5

YLJ 2024 Opening Retreat
Friday and Saturday,
August 25 and 26

2023 LEADERSHIP CONNECT GATHERINGS

Leadership Connect Lunch with
David Clark (LJ 2002)
Wednesday, July 12

Leadership Connect Lunch with
Kristin Keen (LJ 2016)
Friday, July 21

Leadership Connect Happy Hour with
Conrad Jennings (NextGen 2022)
Thursday, July 27

Leadership Connect Lunch with
Janice Donaldson (LJ 1993)
Thursday, August 17

Leadership Connect Lunch with

UPCOMING LJ CLASS SOCIALS

Do you have an upcoming LJ Class social? Please email Manisha Joshi at manisha@leadershipjax.org and we will include it in the monthly newsletter.

LJ 1993 will have their 30th year Class Reunion on October 12 from 5-7 pm. Venue to be announced soon. To get involved in planning, please contact classmate **Janice Donaldson** at donaldsonjanice77@gmail.com.

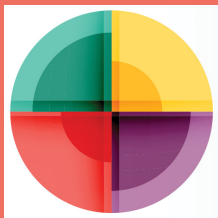
LJ 2021 will have a Happy Hour Meet Up on July 27 from 5:00-6:30 pm at Aardwolf Brewing Company. RSVP to **Madelen Salter** at msalter@oesjax.com.

LJ 2021 class members met for lunch on June 22 at the Sugar Factory.



LJ 2023 gathered for their first class social post-graduation on June 20 at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

Kayla Franklin (NextGen 2023) of Miller Electric will host the classes of NextGen 2022 and 2023 for an interactive presentation with Speaker Alex Willis of Leadership Surge on how we can look beyond DEI to trust and respect others in order to make a difference. The event will take place on Monday, July 17 from 4:30 – 7pm. RSVP to Kayla at franklink@mecojax.com.



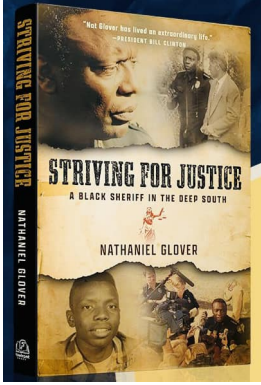
ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Submit your news to
manisha@leadershipjax.org

1988

Quint White (LJ 1988) is retiring from serving as the Executive Director of Jacksonville University's Marine Science Research Institute effective August 1. He will serve in an advisory role for one year.

1989



Nat Glover (LJ 1989) has written the soon-to-be published book, *Striving for Justice*. In *Striving for Justice*, Nat recounts his history-making years in police reformation, the values that fuel him as a leader and American citizen, and what he believes will move this country forward toward hope and healing.

1993

City Council Member **Ju'Coby Pittman** (LJ 1993) was chosen as the new Chair for the City of Jacksonville's Transportation, Utilities and Energy Committee.

2005

City Council Member **Michael Boylan** (LJ 2005) was chosen as the new Chair for the City of Jacksonville's Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health and Safety Committee.

2010

MaliVai Washington (LJ 2010) was honored on April 13 with a new mural painted for the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation on West 6th Street, which celebrated his founding of the nonprofit 26 years ago.

2014

Dana Kriznar (LJ 2014) was named interim Duval County Public Schools Superintendent.

2015

John Aloszka (YLJ 2015) will be joining the new World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) this August as the newly appointed Marketing and Communications Manager in Washington, D.C.

2011

Brooks Dame (YLJ 2011) started a new position at the City of Jacksonville as City Council Member Jimmy Peluso's assistant.

2016

Clare Berry (LJ 2016) was ranked #16 on the Top Residential Real Estate Agents List in the Jacksonville Business Journal.

2017

Mary Pat Corrigan (LJ 2017) retired from her role as Chief Health Officer of the Sulzbacher Center in June.

Lori Smith (LJ 2017) was promoted to Chief Human Resources Officer at Community First Credit Union.

2018

Brett Simon (LJ 2018) joined Fetch Pet Care St. John's as General Manager.

2019

Rachel Back (LJ 2019) joined Barge Design Solutions as a Client Service Leader for Middle Tennessee.

Colleen Bell (LJ 2019) is the Interim Chief Health Officer for the Sulzbacher Center.

City Council Member **Kevin Carrico** (LJ 2019) was chosen as the new Chair for the City of Jacksonville's Land Use and Zoning Committee.

attended the Jacksonville City Council installation ceremony on June 1.



Austin Franklin (NextGen 2019) will be the keynote speaker for the 2023 Billion Dollar Roundtable Summit Induction Ceremony in August. The Billion Dollar Roundtable was created in 2001 to recognize and celebrate corporations that achieved a spending of at least \$1 billion with minority and woman-owned suppliers.

Marcus Isom Jr. (NextGen 2019) graduated from The Florida Bar Leadership Academy.

2020

Kimano Edwards (LJ 2020) was admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) Bar. He has also been appointed to serve on the Florida Bar's Student Education and Admission to the Bar Committee and the Leadership Academy Committee.

2021

David Thompson (LJ 2021) passed the Board Certification Test for Civil Trial Law.

Belline Bonaparte (NextGen 2021) joined Northwestern Mutual as a Financial Representative.

Ashanta Williamson (NextGen 2021) was selected to be a member of ForbesBLK which is a global community of Black entrepreneurs, professionals, leaders and creators that are driving systematic change in business, culture and society.



2022

LJ 2022 Alumni members attended the Blue Zones Kickoff on June 3 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds.

Jacksonville City Council awarded **Sheryl Johnson** (LJ 2022) the Melody Starr Anne Bishop Community Service Award which is given to those with outstanding community involvement, public service, and a commitment to enhancing and improving the quality of life for others.

Congratulations to **Rusty Grim** (NextGen 2022) and his wife Ellison on the birth of their son, Thomas on June 9.



2023

Darrin Eakins (LJ 2023) was the Keynote and Inspirational Speaker at the Ribault High School 2023 graduation ceremony.

Kaley Vontz (NextGen 2023) was promoted to Community Engagement Manager at Operation New Hope.

COMBINED CLASSES & HONORARY

The **2022-2023 Leadership Development Team**, responsible for planning and executing the LJ 2023 program year, enjoyed their End-of-Year Party on June 14 at Fore Score Golf Tavern.



Pictured: **Coretta Hill** (LJ 2019), **David Thompson** (LJ 2021), **Bill Sorenson** (LJ 2015), **Gracie Simendinger** (LJ CEO), **Blake Osner** (LJ 2017), **Nicole Bryan** (LJ Programs Director), **Laura Gonzales** (LJ 2018), and **Ashley Pratt** (LJ 2022).

Not pictured: **Kelly Coker-Daniel** (LJ 2016), **Rudy Jamison** (LJ 2021), **Sunil Joshi** (LJ 2019), **Terri Lewis** (LJ 2018), **Lara Mattina** (LJ 2020), **Lisa Rinaman** (LJ 2017), and **Jeff Winkler** (LJ 2015).

LJ Alumni members **Kim Holland** (LJ 2014), **Rick Plotkin** (LJ 2016), **Sheila Pressley** (LJ 2019) and **Carlton Robinson** (LJ 2021) have been selected for Leadership Florida's 2023-2024 Cornerstone Class.

David Miller (LJ 2008) and his wife Monique will be presenting the 2023 READ USA [Peace in the Pages](#) event on Thursday, September 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at TIAA Bank Field. The following LJ Alumni will be recognized: **Tim Cost** (NLS 2013), **Kevin Gay** (LJ 2015), **Nicole Thomas** (LJ 2013), and **Floyd Willis** (LJ 2001).

The Bold City (FL) Chapter of the Links elected LJ Alumni members **Tia Leathers** (LJ 2017) as Corresponding Secretary, **Ruth McKay** (LJ 1985) as Treasurer, and **Walette Stanford** (LJ 2014) as Secretary for the 2023-2025 biennium. The Bold City (FL) Chapter is one of the two chapters serving the Jacksonville community in the national organization.

The following LJ Alumni members were announced as part of Mayor Donna Deegan's Administrative and Executive Teams: **Parvez Ahmed** (LJ 2018) - Director of Diversity & Inclusion, **Karen Bowling** (LJ 1993) - Chief Administrative Officer, **Anna Brosche** (LJ 2009) - Chief Financial Officer, **Lakesha Burton** (LJ 2019) - Director of Community Initiatives, **Sunil Joshi** (LJ 2017) - Chief Health Officer, **Kelli O'Leary** (LJ 2021) - Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, **Brittany Norris** (LJ 2022) - Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, **Tracye Polson** (LJ 2021) - Director of Strategic Partnerships, **Melissa Ross** (LJ 2013) - Director of Strategic Initiatives and Liaison to the Press, **Lynn Sherman** (LJ 2011) - Executive Director of Health Programs, and **Mike Weinstein** (LJ 1985) - Interim Chief Financial Officer. The following LJ Alumni members will lead the City of Jacksonville committees: **Parvez Ahmed** (LJ 2018) - Constituency and Community Outreach Committee, **Jason Gabriel** (LJ 2017) - New General Counsel Candidate Committee, **W.C. Gentry** (LJ Honorary) - Public Safety Committee, and **Hope McMath** (LJ 2006) - Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Committee.

Honorary

The Downtown Investment Authority extended CEO **Lori Boyer's** (Honorary) contract through June 2024.

Steve Halverson (Honorary) was appointed to the Gilbane Inc. Board of Directors.

STAY IN TOUCH!

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[LJ Alumni Facebook Group](#)

[NextGen Facebook Group](#)

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[**DONATE NOW**](#)

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs that match the charitable contributions made by their employees. Check with your employer for details.

This is a great way to enhance the impact of your giving.

Leadership Jacksonville, Inc. is designated a 501(c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service: as such, all donations are considered tax deductible.
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