

C-lyst: A publication of the Junior League of Richmond

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70th Annual Book And Author

The Book and Author Committee is elated to announce their 2015 author line up for their upcoming event, to be held on Wednesday, April 29th! Authors and books include:

- THE PRECIOUS ONE by Marisa de los Santos (3/24/15)
- THE DREAM LOVER by Elizabeth Berg (4/14/15)
- THE BALANCE PROJECT: A NOVEL by Susie Orman Schnall (4/28/15)
- HISSING COUSINS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND ALICE ROOSEVELT LONGWORTH by Marc Peyser and Timothy Dwyer (3/31/15)
- GENIUS RECIPES by Kristen Miglore (4/7/15)

This upcoming spring is especially exciting, as we will celebrate the 70th year of the longest running tradition of its kind in the country! As part of our more recent tradition, author Bob Deans will again serve as our Master of Ceremonies.

The luncheon will be held at The Country Club of Virginia (6301 Saint Andrews Lane, Richmond VA) at 12:30pm and the dinner program will be held at The Greater Richmond Convention Center (403 North 3rd Street, Richmond VA) at 7:00pm with doors opening at 6:00pm.

Luncheon, Dinner, Gallery and other ticket levels on sale today at www.BookAndAuthorEvent.org .

Don't miss out on your chance to win this year's raffle prizes as well - buy a raffle ticket today when purchasing your event tickets! Prizes include a Table of Ten at the 71st Book and Author Event Dinner Program and a beautiful 14 karat white gold diamond pave disc pendant from Diamonds Direct. The pendant contains a total of 0.51 carat of round brilliant cut diamonds and is valued at \$1500. Click [HERE](#) for raffle information.

We hope to see you at the 70th Book and Author Event!



In each C-Lyst issue we will highlight our #1 fundraiser, The Clothes Rack, and update you on news, promotions, and share staff spotlights. In this issue, get to know Emily Cowdrey, and be sure to say hello to her when visiting our stores!

"My name is Emily Cowdrey and I recently graduated from James Madison University with a degree in psychology. While I was there, I gained experience when I volunteered to tutor for an after school program which caters to low-income families. I am now continuing my volunteer work in Richmond with IT4Causes to gain exposure to the marketing industry and network while helping local non-profits like The Junior League.

I am from Richmond, but I spent a lot of my childhood in Charlottesville, Va. My mother and I have always shopped at The Clothes Rack so I was very excited to hear about the job opening when I applied to work here. Once I started, I knew it would be a fun place to work. Many of the customers are just like I was and have been coming to shop for years, so I have been able to build relationships with them. I enjoy working with a small staff for the same reason: everyone knows everyone. In my spare time, I enjoy short hikes around town including Belle Isle, swimming, live music, and photography."

New Member Project

Each year, the New Member class of the Junior League of Richmond chooses a project to complete together. The New Member Project varies from year to year and requires the New Member class to work together to see a project from inception to completion.

This year, the New Member class conducted a khaki pants drive for the children attending the Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School. The new member class raised over \$500.00 in gift cards and more than 75 pairs of new pants for the school's 85

The mission of the Junior League includes 2 key tenets that, as League members, we are all keenly attuned to. The first is developing communities, and the second is developing the potential of women. We address those tenants in many different ways. One of the primary ways in which the JLR addresses them is through service in the community, which maximizes members' skills and abilities. The Training Institute for Leadership Impact (TILI) is squarely focused on the development of women, and how the JLR provides training to better our ranks as volunteers, advocates and community leaders.

Under the direction and leadership of TILI Director Sue Patow, TILI has stepped up the game, with an incredible committee that has not wavered in their commitment to bring interesting, thought provoking and engaging opportunities to the membership for heightened member education and training. Members have shown great interest in developing skills for board leadership inside and outside of the League. In response to that request, and modeled after sister leagues across the country such as the Junior League of New Orleans and the Junior League of Minneapolis, the "Get on Board" program was born.

Fourteen League members spent 3 half-day Saturdays studying the responsibilities of board membership, and developing their own understanding and skill-sets for board leadership. "Get On Board" began with the Partnership for Non-Profit Excellence's Board Basics Course, and concluded on February 7, 2015 with a non-profit networking session for organizations seeking board leaders and to network with those who had completed the course. The curriculum also included time with Sustainers who have served in board leadership roles, and community non-profit leaders who shared their experiences with the group.

"League experience and TILI opportunities are meant to be an incredible training ground for further community engagement and impact, and it is our TILI responsibility to aid our members in that

has recently accelerated its work by striving to provide more opportunities for members. In doing so, members will reap the benefits of being more engaged women in the community, workplace and home.

Richmond Christmas Mother Fund and The JLR

The Junior League of Richmond was a fortunate recipient of the Christmas Mother Fund grant this past year. It enabled children, youth and families in Richmond's East End to feel supported and loved by the community during the holidays through meals and gifts. Funding support allowed us to expand our capacity to serve 47 children and youth within JLR's Kids in the Kitchen program at Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School and the Good Sports program at Peter Paul Development Center.

Kids in the Kitchen participants received a shopping bag filled with fresh food and ingredients for making healthy snacks over the holiday break to share with family, including recipes for fruit salad banana splits and oatmeal raisin cookies. Patreace Thornton, Chair of Kids in the Kitchen, noted that the girls were thankful and "couldn't wait to take the bags home!"

Good Sports provided individualized gifts to 40 girls and boys in grades 2nd-4th. Boys received a matchbox car and a small Lego set and girls received art supplies (a combo of markers or colored pencils and coloring book or sketchbook). Anne Stephens Lloyd, Chair of Good Sports, shared the following on the surprise gifts:

"Some [students] decided to wait to have them for Christmas morning, but once they saw their peers playing with the toys, they wanted in on the fun. The boys immediately opened their Lego sets and our volunteers kept a sharp eye out so that no one lost their pieces in the hubbub. The girls opened their gifts and started drawing with their nice new supplies. The fun really started the day before with our volunteers figuring out how to squeeze as much out of the grant as possible at Target. Just this past Tuesday [2/10/15] at our program, I overheard one of the students telling a volunteer 'you guys bought us Christmas presents!'"

The ability to provide memories like this with the students helps the League to form strong relationships with the children, youth and families served by letting them know we care about them. Additionally, it helps us as an organization to play a small role in Richmond Promise Neighborhood's efforts to build community trust between residents and service providers.

Kids in the Kitchen purchased fruit, baking supplies and flavoring for the take-home recipe bags (\$179) and holiday cards (\$16). Good Sports purchased toys and art supplies (\$305). The gifts were selected to help encourage the students to practice what they had been learning in their respective programs - making healthy decisions and using the pillars of good character through play.

PHOTO CAPTION: The Junior League of Richmond and The Clothes Rack celebrated the Boots to Suits launch on November 18th with a ceremony at the Stratford Hills. The ceremony program included a welcome by Monica Brinkley Davis, JLR President, and remarks from Commissioner John L. Newby, [Virginia Department of Veteran Services](#), Brandi Jancaitis, [Virginia Wounded Warrior Program](#) and Tara Anderson, the [Petersburg Freedom Support Center](#). To show their support, representatives were present from [Give an Hour](#), [VetFit](#), and [Team Red, White & Blue](#).

LEFT TO RIGHT: (top) Commissioner John Newby chats with Mark Gaddis about program donations; Duck Horne, JLR Sustainer, is introduced by Sue Farrell, JLR Sustainer, to Commissioner Newby; Brandi Jancaitis and Virginia Wallingford, JLR Transfer and Veteran; (bottom) Sue Farrell, Brandi Jancaitis, Britt Nelson, Tara Anderson, Commissioner John Newby, Monica Brinkley Davis and Mark Gaddis; Beautiful display of donated ties.

PHOTO CREDIT: Jenny Hartsock, Give an Hour

Boots to Suits: Launching To New Levels

Since the program's official launch on Veteran's Day, November 11th, Boots to Suits has provided 23 veterans with career outfitting as they prepare for job interviews and civilian employment, and 25 more are expected to shop in the next 30-45 days. Boots to Suits veterans are able to visit either Clothes Rack store location to shop for two career outfits at no cost, and are able to make multiple visits over a 60 day period to complete their selections.

Nationwide, there are 22 million veterans with Virginia being home to 781,000 – of which, 107,000 (14%) are female. The U.S. Department of Veteran Services recently shared findings that about half of all Service members transitioning into civilian life have faced a period of unemployment within 15 months of separation. Finding timely employment is key for vulnerable populations of veterans who may otherwise not be economically competitive with their counterparts or with the general population.

"Our soldiers in combat say frequently to each other 'got your six' which is an insider's reference to a soldier covering the back of the other," said Sue Farrell, JLR Sustainer member and program visionary. "Boots to Suits does just that for these deserving men and women by covering their backs with an appropriate new wardrobe."

The Clothes Rack staff have warmly welcomed the veterans into the stores and are providing one-on-one shopping assistance. The men and women assisted have come from careers in the Army, Navy, and United States Marine Corps, and all have come with personal stories of life's challenges. Out of the veterans assisted to-date, a majority of them are unemployed and living in Virginia Supportive Housing apartments, in shelters, or with family and friends.

With the program fully ramped-up, the Clothes Rack has set a goal of assisting 50 veterans a month, which would not be possible without the community's generous donations of men and women's business suiting and ties, as well as, casual attire including khakis, button-up shirts, sweaters, blazers, dresses, skirts, blouses, slacks, belts, and shoes. Corporate donors, including McGuireWoods and MWV, have also contributed to the program. Additionally, over \$12,000 in donations have been made to assist with dry cleaning, purchasing of undergarments and socks, job fair registrations, and marketing.

Sue Farrell, along with help from her Joyner Fine Properties team, including Brenda Wright and Mary Lawson, are helping to get the word out by representing the program at various veteran job fairs, setting up displays at partner sites, and providing presentations to area Rotary and Ruritian clubs. Support has also come from Richmond Times-Dispatch who covered the program's launch, a NBC12 interview with Heather Sullivan (JLR Sustainer), and Lamar's assistance with a billboard installation on I-64 East near the 5th Street Bridge. Recently, the League welcomed the Department of Veteran Services' Virginia Transition Assistance Program, Virginia Employment Commission's Disabled Veteran's Outreach Program, and McGuire VA Medical Center's Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program as voucher distribution partners in order to expand our reach in serving the veteran community.

Interested in supporting the Boots to Suits program? Here's how you can help:

- Give a Gift of a Shift! Your time makes a difference when you volunteer at The Clothes Rack.

you need help with a large donation pick-up.

- Invite Boots to Suits to speak to an organization or club you belong to.



"Show Your Love for JLR" – Campaign Highlights

The Annual Fund Committee is extremely grateful to those of you who shared your love for JLR during the month of February. The League received 78 individual gifts to the Annual Fund totaling over \$2,500. On top of those fantastic numbers, we increased the member participation in the Annual Fund by a whopping 50%!

The "Show Your Love" campaign, which encouraged committees and new member groups to reach 100% participation in the Annual Fund, brought out the competitive nature of our members. A hearty congratulations to the Nominating Committee for being the first committee to reach the 100% participation goal and thereby earning sweet treats from the ladies of the Annual Fund.

If you missed our contest deadline, please know that your donation is appreciated in any month of the year. Give big or give small, our goal is to encourage member participation. The Annual Fund is an important revenue component that enables the League to further its mission. If you would like to make a gift to the JLR Annual Fund, please visit BeAnAnchor.org or round up your dues.



Recruitment

As the 2014-2015 year enters the home stretch, recruitment for next year kicks into gear. Do you know anyone who's been wanting to join the League? If so, let them know about the following dates!

The Recruitment Committee will host multiple upcoming open houses at the Mayo-Carter House on the **March 14, 2015, 11:30am-1pm, April 11, 2015, 11:30am-1pm and May 21, 2015, 6-7:30pm**, for potential recruits to learn more about the League, meet new people and have any questions answered.

If you have a friend who may be interested in joining, please pass this information along to her, and encourage her to consider joining the League!

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Slate!!

At the General Membership Meeting on January 21, 2015, the proposed 2015-2016 slate was approved by a vote of the Active membership. Thank you so much to everyone who self-nominated and congratulations to the remarkable women of the slate!

President-Elect: Joanne Frye
Finance Director-Elect: Sarah Ann Rand
Communications Director-Elect : Alex Scott
TILI Director-Elect: Elisha Wilkins
Fund Development VP-Elect: Katrina Amos
Community VP-Elect: Lorie Coker
Membership VP-Elect: Sarah Gray Innes
Board Member: Ada-Marie Aman
Board Member: Deidre Cox
Board Member: Jayda Justus
Board Member: Sue Patow (1 year term - filling Joanne Frye's unexpired term)
Nominating Committee: Cara Dillard
Nominating Committee: Sibyl FaJohn
Nominating Committee: Laura Jarrett
Nominating Committee: Michelle Miller

2015-2016 Junior League of Richmond Slate Bios

President-Elect: Joanne Frye

Born and raised in southwestern Pennsylvania, Joanne moved south to her grandmother's hometown and attended law school at the University of Richmond. She works for the Commonwealth and lives with her husband Henry, children Hank and Nate (both lifelong fans of Touch a Truck), and Bianca the dog. Since joining the League in 2007, Joanne has chaired the Donor Relations Committee, served as a New Member Advisor, Vice President of Membership Council, and is currently a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Governance Committee. She is humbled and honored to serve the League as the 2015-2016 President-Elect.

Finance Director-Elect: Sarah Ann Rand

Sarah Ann joined the Junior League of Richmond in 2012 and has served on the Finance Committee each year. She is the Assistant Chief Financial Officer with Southside Regional Medical Center ("SRMC") in Petersburg, VA. At SRMC she serves as a member of the hospital's senior administrative team and has responsibilities for the employed physician's financial reporting, the clinic budgets, the hospital's routine capital budget, and various accounting and finance duties. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Middle Tennessee State University and is a Tennessee Certified Public Accountant. She is a member of the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants ("TSCPA"), the American Society of Woman Accountants ("ASWA"), and the Junior League of Richmond.

Communications Director-Elect: Alexandra Scott

Alexandra grew up a die-hard Bulls and Blackhawks fan in Chicago, Illinois. She attended Indiana University, and took a job with Shaw Industries, which moved her to Richmond after college graduation. After a few months of learning her new city, Alex searched for ways to get involved within the community, and joined the Junior League of Richmond. Five years later, as an Active member of the League, Alex has been a part of various committees, including the Recruitment Committee, and has held various positions within the Book & Author Committee, and is Chair of the event this year. Through her company, Alex is part of the Emerging Leaders group and the Women's Innovation Network. She is a part of a two-year workshop focused on leadership development, and she leads a community of co-workers and managers in learning how to grow their careers, how to prepare for opportunities and future success, and focuses on engaging, promoting and growing women leaders at her company. Alex also enjoys volunteering with other Richmond organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Ronald McDonald House Charity. Alex is a newlywed, and she and her husband live in Downtown Richmond.

Elisha transferred to the Junior League of Richmond in December of 2015. Previously, she was an Active member of the Junior League of Greater Orlando (JLGO) since 2000. She was involved in JLGO's Research and Development (R&D) Council serving as the Assistant Chair and Chair of Community Research and Program Development (CRPD), VP of R&D, and appointed 5+ year member to Advisory Planning (2 years). She was also an Active Member Advisor for 2 years. Her involvement in JLR has consisted of the Transfer Committee, Special Events, and TILI. Elisha is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice specializing in the treatment of eating disorders. She is married and the mother of a one-year old daughter.

Fund Development Vice President-Elect: Katrina Amos

Katrina is currently the Vice President, Community Council and joined the Junior League of Richmond in 2008. Her League experience includes Branding, Families First Elementary, and the Mentoring Committee. In her professional life, Katrina is the Director of Membership with the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association. In addition to the Junior League of Richmond, Katrina is a member of the Greater Richmond Tourism Association, Virginia State University's Department of Hospitality Advisory Board and volunteers with YWCA of Richmond's Regional Hospital Accompaniment Response Team. When Katrina is not working or volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her new husband, Anthony.

Community Vice President-Elect: Lorie Coker

Lorie joined the Junior League of Richmond in 2008. Currently, she is the Chair of the Mentoring Committee and has served as Chair of Families First Early Childhood, and been a member of DIAD and TILI. Lorie moved to NYC in 2012 and transferred her membership to the Junior League of New York. She moved back to Richmond in May 2014, is thrilled to be back in Richmond, and loves being a member of JLR. Lorie is the Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond. Previously, she worked for Communities in Schools of Richmond as the Out-of-School Time Program Coordinator at MLK Middle School in the East End when the Mentoring Committee started at MLK.

Membership Vice President-Elect: Sarah Gray Innes

Sarah Gray joined the Junior League of Richmond in 2010. She has served on the Recruitment Committee, Chaired Kids in the Kitchen, and is currently a New Member Advisor. She spends her days as a Manager at Ivy Ventures, LLC, a healthcare consulting firm. She also serves on the board of World Pediatric Project and The Massey Alliance. She is a Richmond native and attended the University of Virginia. She lives with her husband in the near west end. She looks forward to serving the league as the VPE - Membership Council next year.

Board Member: Ada-Marie Aman

Ada-Marie is a Platinum Member of the Junior League, and joined the Savannah, Georgia League in 2004. She transferred to the Junior League of Richmond in 2006, and has served on the Transfer, Book and Author, and Nominating Committees, as an Active Member Advisor and as the Chair of the Transfer Committee. She has been practicing law for 11 years and is about to open her own law practice. Ada-Marie has two daughters and can be found running the roads of Richmond in her spare time.

Board Member: Deirdre Cox

Deirdre joined the Junior League of Richmond in 2001. She moved to Charlotte a few years later and transferred to their league. Upon moving back to Richmond in 2011, she rejoined the Junior League of Richmond to help reconnect with the community. During her time in the League, she has served on the Finance and Communication Committees and is currently one of the Database Managers. Deirdre grew up in southern California and is a graduate of UCLA. She currently works as an ESL teacher in Henrico County Schools. She spends her free time with her husband, Sam and two children, Chris and Elizabeth.

Board Member: Jayda Justus

became Assistant Chair and now Chair of the Donor Relations Committee. She also researched the history of the Mayo-Carter House, which serves as the headquarters for the League, and got in touch with the granddaughter of Agnes Mayo Carter, who was the original owner of the home. Jayda is originally from Kings Mountain, North Carolina and lives in Midlothian. Her husband, Brent, is a partner at McGuire Woods and they have two boys, ages 10 and 6.

Board Member: Sue Patow

Sue joined the Junior League of Minneapolis in 2000. While in Minneapolis, she served as Chair of Books 4 Kids and Training and Leadership Development-Leadership and Latte's. She was active in establishing a mentoring program for junior high girls and fostering relationships with inner-city Minneapolis elementary schools. Originally from Washington, D.C. and a graduate of VCU/MCV, she returned to Richmond two years ago. Sue is currently the Director of TILI. She works at the Innovation Gateway at VCU and lives in the Fan with her husband, Carl. Her son Alex is a senior at Boston University.

Nominating Committee: Cara Dillard

Cara has been an active member of the Junior League of Richmond since 2011. Her first placement was on the Programs Committee where she embraced this role and continued to serve for the next two years in the roles of Assistant Chair, 2012 and Chair, 2013. Currently she serves a New Member Advisor with a group of 15 New Members who are keeping her very busy and engaged in a variety of activities in all parts of the League. Professionally, she spent 15 years in Higher Education and Workforce Development helping others fulfill their potential and achieve both personal and professional goals.

Nominating Committee: Sibyl FaJohn

Sibyl is an 11th year Platinum member of the Junior League of Richmond. She joined the Junior League of Hampton Roads in 2004, and transferred her membership to JLR in 2006. She has served on the Transfer, Community Sampler, KITK, and Bright Beginnings Committees. She has also been a New Member Advisor and Co-Chair of Transfers. Currently, she is the Director of Communications and manages the Communications Committee, is on the Board of Directors, the Management Team, and the Operating Committee. Sibyl lives in Bon Air with her husband Michael, and their Maltese Kirby.

Nominating Committee: Laura Jarrett

Laura joined the Junior League of Richmond in 2007. She has served on Bright Beginnings, Assistant Chair and Chair of Junior Book & Author, Vice President of Events (Now Fund Development), and currently At Large Board Member. Outside of the League, she enjoys spending time with her husband Mark and yellow lab Buckley. Most weekday mornings you'll find her working out with her Seal Team Physical Training teammates and at least one weekend a month includes a local race. Last but certainly not least, as she enters her 22nd year as a REALTOR® she loves helping clients buy and sell residential real estate throughout the Richmond area.

Nominating Committee: Michelle Miller

Michelle joined the Junior League of Jackson in 2006 and transferred her membership when she moved to Richmond in 2007. Michelle has served on the Community Sampler and Transfer Committees, as the Kids in the Kitchen Chair, Assistant Chair and Chair of New Members, Immediate Past President and most recently was a committee member on Touch a Truck. Michelle enjoys volunteering in the Community and is excited to help mentor and develop members into leadership roles while serving on the Nominating Committee. Michelle is Assistant Vice President at Rutherford, A Marsh & McLennan Agency where she has a role in Business Development and manages the Carrier Relationships.