



Q3 NEWSLETTER

RICHMOND'S WRITING AND COMMUNICATION
NON-PROFIT FOR YOUTH



THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING DISH!

BY COMM MANAGER, AERIN MILLS

It's been several days since the RVA Celebrity Dish, and we are still riding the high. The night was nothing short of a resounding success. With more than 100 people in attendance and almost \$30,000 raised, we smashed last year's numbers and had a wonderful night of roasting, toasting, great food, and great company. Through the beautiful dedication of awesome people like you, Podium raised over \$1,000 with our raffle and auction items. Items included one-of-a-kind pieces of art, generous gift certificates to famous local establishments, designer fashion accessories, and much more!

What can we say besides thank you? Thank you to the evening's sponsors of McGuireWoods and Canal Capital Management. Thank you to all the amazing networks and families who purchased tickets to join us, and thank you to The Hippodrome for being a spectacular venue.

McGUIREWOODS



CANAL
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

WHAT'S INSIDE?

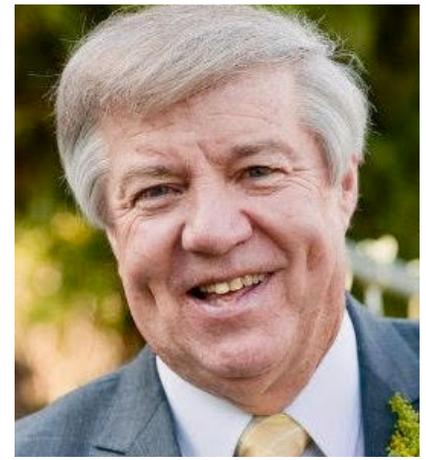
- 01 *Thank You For An Amazing Dish!*
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- 04 *Thankful For Our Supporters, New and Returning!*



GEORGE MARTIN



THE HONORABLE ANNE HOLTON



DAVE ROBBINS

The evening was in honor of Legendary Local Lawyer George Martin, The Honorable Anne Holton, and Coach Dave Robbins. Thank you to our honorees for being great sports and getting roasted in the name of Podium. Shoutouts are also reserved for Desiree Roots, our evening's emcee, the Tribute choir, and to our spotlighted Podium Alum, Reco Charity, and the five additional alumni present to celebrate with us.

Thank you to all in attendance who made the night possible. You are the force that helps to make Podium what it is. Like our Board Chair Jerry Howard said, "You are Podium. You are the mentor, you are the spokesperson, and you are the inspiration to the next generation." Thank you for making the evening an absolute success, and thank you for being a critical investor in the youth of your community!



CHANGING SEASONS AND CHANGING PROGRAMS

BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VICKI YEROIAN

Fall is here, and Podium has both new staff and new programs to celebrate. First and foremost, everyone at Podium enthusiastically welcomes back Candace Weather as our new Programs Director. Being Podium's previous Programs Director, I found it such an honor to interview candidates and select our newest addition to the Podium team! Candace was a previous intern at Podium while in her undergraduate studies at VCU and has since served as a Virginia Beach Public School teacher and local food bank coordinator. With programs starting on Mon, Oct 4th, Candace's arrival to the team could not have come at a better time.



**CANDACE WEATHER, PODIUM'S
NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

In our last newsletter, we shared that summer programs returned to an in-person format. This summer, Podium served 164 youth in five different programs. We are excited to report that the majority of Podium's writing and communication programs will remain in-person this fall as well! What does that mean?

In person programs provide youth with a unique opportunity to engage in both group and individual writing skill development. Mentorship in-person allows youth to practice editing their work, public speaking, and being a positive support for others. While most of our programs are in person this fall, to ensure we reach as many youth in need as possible, Podium also offers virtual programs for middle-school-aged youth. Check out our fall program schedule here, and to request a Podium program in your local school or youth community center, please connect with us directly at: podiumrva.org/request-program/



**SCENES FROM THE TEEN
PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE 2021**

Podium Fall programs return!

| monday | tuesday |
|---|--|
| <p>4:30-6:30pm: Power of the Pen - John Marshall HS</p> <p>5-6pm: Prep The Next Step with NextUp RVA - VIRTUAL</p> | <p>3:30-4:30pm: Prep The Next Step - Henderson MS</p> <p>4:30-6:30pm: Power of the Pen - George Wythe HS</p> <p>5-6pm: Teen Scene - Southside Boys & Girls Club</p> |
| wednesday | thursday |
| <p>3:30-4:30pm: STEAM Machine - Henderson MS</p> <p>4:30-6:30pm: Power of the Pen - Armstrong HS</p> <p>5-6pm: Prep The Next Step with NextUp RVA - VIRTUAL</p> | <p>3:30-4:30pm: Prep The Next Step - Henderson MS</p> <p>5-6pm: Power of the Pen - Boys & Girls Club Teen Center</p> |

THANKFUL FOR OUR SUPPORTERS, NEW AND RETURNING!

BY COMM MANAGER, AERIN MILLS

We wanted to take a moment to highlight longtime Podium supporter John Jay Schwartz, his story, and the reasons he supports the youth involved in Podium. Below is an excerpt from his article in *Jewish Richmond*. With this, we also welcome the end of the year and with it, a campaign that will launch on Giving Tuesday this year, November 30th 2021. We look forward to sharing this campaign with you soon!

The foundations of my life started at a very early age. For me, it was living from age 3-12 years at my Dad's (Of Blessed Memory) neighborhood grocery store, "Manny's Market" at 1301 North 27th Street at S Street in Church Hill. Although we were surrounded by other small businesses owners on the corners in that area, my family was maybe the only one of the few that lived at the family business. Being Jewish and white, all my neighbors, Dad's customers and my bests friends were Black. I frankly never noticed a difference and live by that today. We just never had a label for our friendships other than friends and neighbors. Some of those friends over 6 decades ago are still today my friends for life.

Though I do not ever remember asking my parents or getting an answer, I suspect as a curious little guy I did ask, "why do my neighbors (black) friends not go to the same school, as me"? I went to Helen Dickerson Elementary on 21st Street just north of Fairmount Avenue. Consider this, I would walk home from my elementary school to my home at "Manny's Market," a 10-block stroll. Can you imagine, I was 6-11 years old walking home alone! Amazing memories walking by porch sitters waving and customers saying, "there goes Manny's son." With those eyes on me my safety was never in doubt!

Again, my life's people education continued. Two lifetime friends, Vernon and Ron, come from those years. We all worked together because we all needed to help at home in so many ways. We are still friends today. In today's world, those lifetime memories and experiences and friendships have helped shape who I am. I cannot thank all those who gave me time and paid attention to my growing up with wonderful memories. We are all part of the bigger world today. I am blessed with so many friends who all help to improve the world for us all.

"THAT IS MY STORY, AND I AM STICKING TO IT! WHAT IS YOURS?"

- John Jay Schwartz, johnjay@TheManwithSquareFeet.com

[Check us out at podiumrva.org!](http://podiumrva.org)



Standing on the corner of North 27th Street and S Street in Church Hill recently, John Jay Schwartz holds the special graphic image of "Manny's Market." The image of the Market was re-created by Richmond artist Eliza Askin and now hangs in the community room at the 25th Street Market. Contributed Photos



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