



Q1 NEWSLETTER

RICHMOND'S WRITING AND COMMUNICATION
NON-PROFIT FOR YOUTH

WINTER ENDS WITH THE BLOOM OF SPRING PROGRAMS

BY CANDACE WEATHER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Winter didn't bring any snow, but it did bring us an amazing session with our Podium youth! We hosted 5 high school and 6 middle school programs, including our newest pilot with The Well in Hopewell City. We increased our meetings at Wilder MS from monthly to weekly and wrapped up a two session run of Common Cent\$ at Lucille Brown MS. Podium mentors are so proud of the practical financial literacy skills our students learned while with us! At Henderson Middle School, we helped Higher Achievement scholars prepare for their Poetry Out Loud competition; the raw talent at that school is astounding! We also hosted parent engagement nights -- one at George Wythe HS encouraging families to create recipes with each other and one at Highland Springs High School where we helped families create self-care plans. Check out our winter 2023 publications [here](#)!

Flowers are blooming and so are our spring programs. We are so excited to wrap up the school year hosting 5 high school and 3 middle school programs! On March 31st, we closed our second college scholarship application season. Now, we begin the very difficult selection process of selecting our 2023 Anne F. Waldruff Excellence in Education scholarship recipients. Join us on Mon, June 5th as we honor 3 returning scholarship winners with their second year awards and announce 5 new Podium scholars: [RSVP Today](#)!



FAMILIES WRITING DURING PARENT
ENGAGEMENT NIGHT AT HIGHLAND SPRINGS HS

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YOUTH WITH THEIR PODIUM MENTOR AT
THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

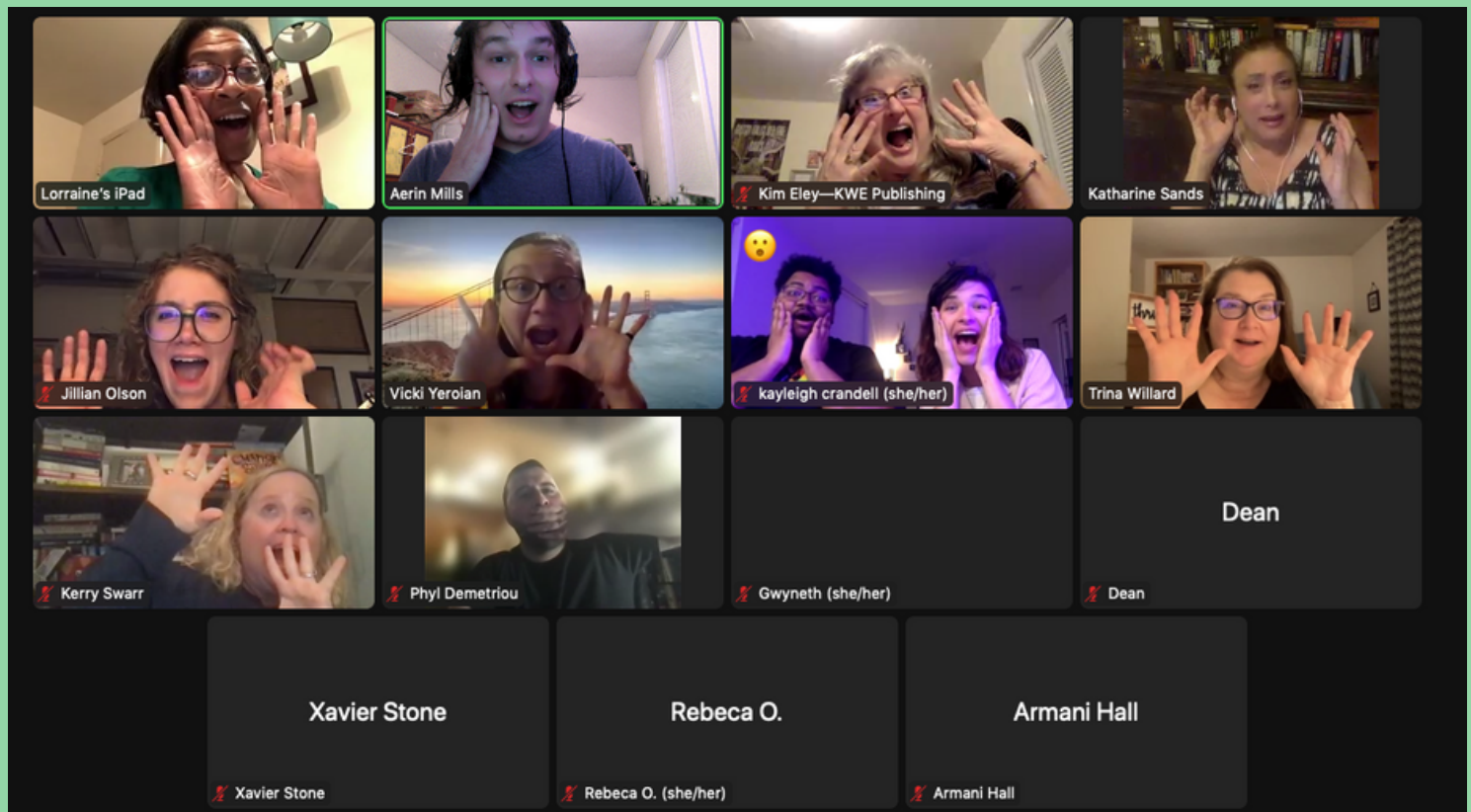
VERY SCARY FEB. FLASH FICTION COMPETITION

BY AERIN MILLS, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS DIRECTOR

On February 23, 2023, Podium RVA hosted our Very Scary February Flash Fiction Competition, and we are still riding the high! A special thank you goes out to Prosperity Financial Services and KWE Publishing for both being sponsors of the night. The evening was nothing short of wonderful. With almost 20 people in attendance at this virtual event, and more than \$1,300 raised, YOU helped us by supporting 11 different after-school programs this Spring! Thank you to all who came out to watch, partake in, and judge the competition!

Podium gives a massive congratulations to Xavier S. for being our 1st place winner of the flash fiction writing competition. Xavier wrote an incredible piece of science fiction that is available for reading in the [Winter 2023 Middle School Zine](#). Read this, and many more publications, on our website at www.podiumrva.org/publications! Congratulations also to our second place winner, Rebecca O.!

This was our first event of the year; keep reading to find out what Podium was up to in March and what to look forward to in the future!



AN EVENING OF TERRIFYING TALES AND FRIGHTENING FABLES!

PI DAY TRIVIA NIGHT

BY AERIN MILLS, COMMUNICATION & EVENTS DIRECTOR

On March 14, 2023, Podium's Young Professional Board hosted a trivia giveback night at Starr Hill Brewery! It was an awesome evening filled with friendly people, good times, drinks, and fierce competition! Thank you to everybody who came out that evening, and thank you to Starr Hill Brewery for being such incredible hosts. Congratulations to our 1st and 2nd place winners of the evening as well! 2nd place winners received an awesome Podium swag bag with t-shirts, journals and more. Our 1st place prize was another swag bag generously donated by Richmond Kickers! Missed trivia? Stay tuned to Podium's socials to hear more about our giveback events.



OUR WONDERFUL MC AND JUDGES OF THE EVENING.



FIERCE COMPETITION UNDERWAY!



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SHOWED UP TO SUPPORT PODIUM!

Podium's Young Professional Board is a group of dedicated young people who meet monthly, plan Podium events, and prepare members for working on a formal Board of Directors. If this interests you, you can learn more at www.podiumrva.org/young-professionals-board!

HEROES & HUNTS, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

BY VICKI YEROIAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On Sat., May 20th, join Podium RVA in its Spring Fundraiser, the RVA Citywide Scavenger Hunt. Sponsored by Village Bank, this two hour series of twists and challenges across Richmond has something fun and exciting for everyone involved! The competition starts and ends at Main Line Brewery where live music from the School of Rock will welcome our teams back!

Are you looking for the BEST team building and bonding event this year in Richmond? Look no further!

Teams of 2 - 3 and 4 - 5 will compete for first and second place trophies. Form a team with family and friends (21+) or have your company sponsor a team. While the judges tally up everyone's points, eat, drink, and check out raffle and auction prizes provided by Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, the VA Rep Theatre, Ashby, BBGB Books, Rest In Pieces, James River Writers, Kendra Scott, and more!

Scavenger Hunts have a hearty history at Podium, starting out in 2016 as an annual staff celebration concluding with a humble potluck. Today, Podium staff, its Young Professionals Board, and Board of Directors collaborate to offer this opportunity to have fun and connect with Podium's mission to the larger community. For more info and to purchase your tickets, click [here](#)!

Check us out online at www.podiumrva.org



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THE PODIUM RVA EVENTS COMMITTEE
HARD AT WORK AT MAIN LINE BREWERY