

# THE FORUM

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE



From left to right: officers Morgan Locks, Amanuel Mekonnen, Hannah Tufts, Akhila Ananthram, Ratna Gill, Shannon Berenbaum, and Allison Xu take a break from the craziness of the Spring Meeting to pose for a picture.

## CHRONICLES OF A VJCL DELEGATE

On March 5th, the VJCL officers had their Spring Planning Board Meeting at Mary Washington University. I attended as a delegate for my school to hear more about ideas for NJCL Convention and better understand the inner workings of the VJCL. From wacky ideas to ridiculous inside jokes, the meeting was a blast! This year will be my first Nationals, so I was excited to hear what the officers had thought up. Akhila opened the meeting and the conversations started. After the officers described their individual plans for Convention, trip coordinator and co-chair Ms. Robertson gave a presentation about the tour through Kentucky before Convention. Events like attending the Kentucky Derby Museum and the Muhammad Ali Museum will make a thrilling trip for all attending.

Then, the talk about spirit started. This is what I had truly been looking forward to! With ensuing discussions about chimerical ideas (accompanied with pictures, I might add), the meeting was hilarious. The ideas for this year range from the poetic to the straight-up bizarre, but I can guarantee an entertaining and creative spirit campaign this year. Hearing about the ideas for spirit has made me even more excited about going to National Convention this year! The officers are doing an amazing job on spirit and other activities, and we will have some great leaders at Nationals. GO VJCL!

-- SONYA CHARTOFF, FLINT HILL SCHOOL

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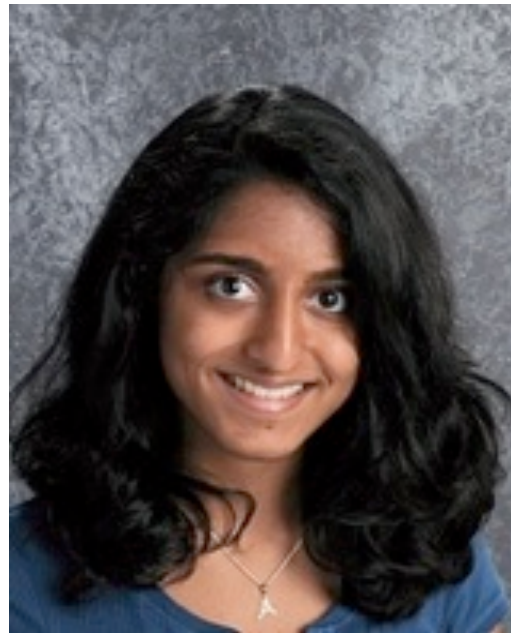
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# LET'S WELCOME THE NEW VJCL OFFICERS!

2010-11 PRESIDENT: AKHILA ANANTHRAM

Greetings, JCLers! My name is Akhila Ananthram, and I have the privilege to be serving you as this year's VJCL president. I am a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. I am currently taking AP Vergil. For the past three years, I have served as a member of both my school's Latin Club and Latin Honor Society. This year, I serve as the proconsul of my school's Latin club. I am also a member of my school's Certamen team. Outside of Latin, I am a member of both my school's cheerleading squad and our advanced women's choir. I am looking forward to working with my fellow VJCL officers this year to make next year's convention the best yet! Until then, I can't wait to see everyone in Kentucky for National convention! See you



2010-11 FIRST VP: MORGAN LOCKS



Salvete, everybody. I'm Morgan Locks. I'm a sophomore at Riverbend High School, and I've had a great time here in JCL, from playing Certamen to pretending I slept enough at convention. I am proud to be the 2010-2011 First VP, and I thank you for the opportunity. In addition to writing all sorts of letters and proclamations (moderately fun), I have to organize the publicity contest (reasonably fun), and I get to spread the joy of Latin (very fun). This year will be truly memorable.

# MORE OFFICERS . . .

2010-11 SECOND VP: HANNAH TUFTS



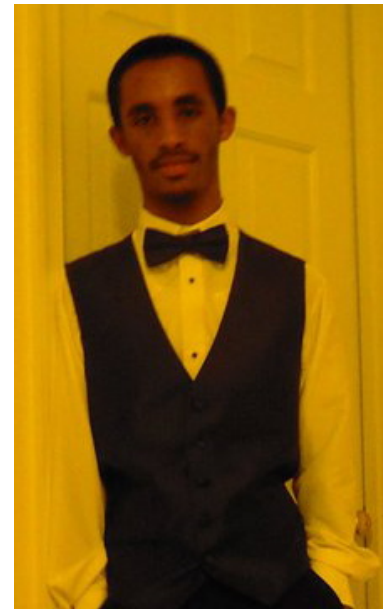
Salvete, omnes! My name is Hannah Tufts and I am delighted that you have given me the opportunity to serve as your VJCL 2nd Vice President for 2010-2011. I am a sophomore at Wakefield Country Day School in Flint Hill, Virginia. I have been to four VJCL State Conventions and three National Conventions! I am very excited for spirit at Eastern Kentucky University in 2011! I hope to see you all there -- and don't forget to bring your cheering voices!

2010-11 PARLIAMENTARIAN: AMANUEL MEKONNEN

2010-11 SECRETARY: ALLISON XU



Hey, everyone! My name is Allison Xu and I am a junior at Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach. I am currently taking my sixth year of Latin in the International Baccalaureate program. Outside of the world of Latin, I am also an active swimmer and a member of the Debate Team. I love playing the piano, and an hour or two of watching Harry Potter movies will cheer me up any day. I am very excited to serve the VJCL this upcoming year and I know that the 2011 VJCL Convention will be the best one yet!



Salvete, omnes! My name is Amanuel Mekonnen and I am currently a junior, taking AP Latin at Hayfield Secondary. In my school's Latin Club, I participate in everything from reenactments of the Ides of March to Certamina to Conventions. As your Parliamentarian, I primarily plan to preside over the recruitment and election of new JCL officers and to handle changes to the VJCL constitution. I plan on doing everything I can to make this year successful and fun!



# BEFORE AND AFTER: VJCL SPIRIT



## THE PAST

Attending the 2011 Spring Planning Meeting was a glorious, enlightening experience. Having been an officer previously, I knew how the system worked. However, I still loved getting to be a part of the planning process, and regardless of final decisions, to know that my voice was heard.

Every year, the officers of the Virginia Junior Classical League meet several times to plan the events that we all enjoy, namely the activities at National and State Convention. The Spring Planning Meeting is unique in that it outlines and finalizes all of Virginia's Spirit for Nationals. Anything can happen. Ideas presented before the meeting sometimes become stepping stones to other ideas. This makes the meeting all the more important. Anyone can bring an idea that improves or changes the current plan, and the more input given, the better the idea. And the more people commenting on the Spirit strategy, the more likely that the t-shirt, props, and banner, will be well received by the entire Virginia delegation.

Also discussed at the Spring Meeting are plans for the tour, the splendid VJCL bonding time to and from National Convention. There's nothing more exciting than getting the inside scoop about the most fun you'll have all summer: Convention.

-- SARAH KEITH, FORMER 2ND VP



## THE PRESENT

Walking into a board meeting for the first time can be very intimidating. A VJCL board meeting is very different from any other. You are greeted by fellow officers and, of course, the awesome sponsors! The themes are shared and we begin the process of talking over the spirit ideas for the 2011 NJCL Convention. As the panel watches Ms. Graham and Ms. Covington whisper back and forth, the room anticipates their strange/interesting/wild ideas. It starts out with a few simple ideas, then a few more faces light up and these thoughts expand as everyone joins in. At this point, it is very difficult to collect all of the panel's thoughts! All of these proposals can range from Greek Mythology to Mrs. Schearer wearing a ridiculous costume. It is an unforgettable experience to see these sponsors' brains at work!

Although brainstorming for these spirit themes is extremely fun, bringing them to life is even more rewarding. This year, we are continuing the Spirit Castra -- it's a great chance for all of the VJCLers to get involved! We organize props, cheers, and additional ideas for spirit. It's a way for everyone to catch up with their fellow JCLers and get ready for an exciting NJCL Convention in Kentucky!

-- HANNAH TUFTS, CURRENT 2ND VP

## THE FUTURE: YOU!





# FROM RICHMOND TO RICHMOND...AND BACK AGAIN!

## Join the VJCL as we travel from Richmond, VA to Richmond, KY!

Saturday, July 23 – Saturday, July 30, 2011  
(Convention = July 25-30)

Contact: Meghan Robertson, (804)869-2427, karober1@vt.edu  
2428 S. Culpeper St; Arlington, VA 22206

*Giddy up... and jump on the bus with the VJCL to travel to the NJCL Convention  
in historic Richmond... KENTUCKY!  
Kentucky's slogan, "Unbridled Spirit" is perfect for the VJCL's unrivaled spirit!*

### Saturday, July 23 - Departure

- Specifics on time and location will be announced once our group is finalized, but for now, plan on leaving from Richmond, VA at 8am;
  - Possible pick-up near Staunton/junction of I-64 and I-81 OR potentially a second bus depending on our group's size/geographical make-up, so encourage ALL of your friends to join the stampede!
- Afternoon corral at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in Charleston, West Virginia;
- Lodging overnight in Huntington, WV.

### Sunday, July 24 – Day trip to Lexington, KY

- Morning ride to Lexington, KY, where we will begin our day at the Muhammad Ali Center. We will learn more about boxing legend Muhammad Ali, who made his debut at the 1960 Olympics in.... Rome!
- We will spend the afternoon at the Renaissance Fun Park where we will have access to mini-golf, laser tag, and go-kart racing as well as arcade games;
- When we're worn out, we'll make our way to Eastern Kentucky University. We will participate in the early check-in special for \$35, which includes dinner and a community theater production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and breakfast Monday morning.

### Saturday, July 30 – Depart EKV

- After an exhilarating time at the NJCL convention, we will head to the Waveland State Historic Site to tour the beautiful Greek revival home built by a family member of Daniel Boone;
- We complete our tour of Kentucky at the landmark for which Kentucky is perhaps best known: Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby Museum;
- Return home to the original pick-up points late Saturday evening.



**Tour Price:** \$430. Includes all bus transportation, lodging and events from departure July 23<sup>rd</sup> through return home July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Convention Price:** \$450. This is submitted to the NJCL through their registration process. All tour participants are responsible for securing their own spot at convention. Registration begins Mar 1 and ends May 1, but it is limited. Waiting too long may prevent you from being able to attend! Send completed packet request and check written to “NJCL” to National Junior Classical League, 422 Wells Mill Drive, Oxford, OH 45056.

**Convention Lodging:** Those participating in the tour **MUST** request the extra night at the dorm before convention. The fee to be submitted to the NJCL for that will be \$35.

**Chaperonage:** All students must have a chaperone of their own gender listed on their participant form. We encourage you to coordinate chaperone coverage with other schools. The VJCL will assess a \$50 fee if VJCL must coordinate chaperone coverage for you. If your sponsor is not attending the convention, submit the sponsor's form. Do not put a chaperone's name on the form unless you have received his or her permission to do so!

**Spirit Fee:** All students must submit the spirit fee of \$40. This covers three t-shirts and all props related to the spirit contest. If your form and money arrives after May 1, you may not receive a t-shirt that fits you and you will not receive the Jefferson cup for which you may be eligible. The spirit fee is encouraged but optional for adult chaperones. If you do not have the t-shirts, we ask that you stand to the side during the spirit competition so that the group will not lose uniformity points. Gratias!

All participants, whether attending the tour or not must submit a participant form along with their check for spirit (made out to VJCL) to: Meghan Robertson; 2428 S. Culpeper St; Arlington, VA 22206

If you have any questions, please contact me! I look forward to having you join us at convention!

Meghan Robertson  
VJCL National Convention Chair

## A TESTIMONIAL:

My first year at Convention, going on the VJCL tour was my first experience of Virginia as a delegation. What I learned was that Virginia isn't so much a delegation, but a family. During that tour, I met some of the people I consider my closest friends, people I couldn't imagine my life without. From exploring one of the largest supermarkets in the United States to running around in the Mall of America, the tour always provides a good chance to get to know your fellow JCLers. It lets all of us discover the “non-Latin” sides of one other. Last year, I decided, along with someone I did not know too well, that it would be a smart idea to purchase 2-liter bottles of our favorite sodas and see who could drink theirs the fastest. I am proud to report that I won this contest, narrowly avoiding being sick that night. Besides learning a quality life lesson, I made a great friend and relaxed after the competitive spirit of Convention. I would recommend going on the tour to search for soulmates, lifelong friends, and strange adventures.



-- CLAIRE NEIMANN, SSSAS



Summary of Costs:

In the chart below, select your travel plans. Within the chart, you will see the costs on the left side and to whom to submit payment on the right.

If you are...

Traveling with the VJCL...		Making your own travel arrangements...	
\$470 (\$430 tour plus \$40 spirit)	Write check to "VJCL" and mail to Meghan Robertson (address below)	<b>...and arriving to ECU Sunday, July 24 (early)</b>	
\$35 Early arrival fee (Sunday dinner and entertainment; Monday breakfast)	Write check to "NJCL" and send to NJCL (address below)	\$40 Spirit fee	Write check to "VJCL" and mail to Meghan Robertson (address below)
<b>Remember:</b> EVERYBODY attending the NJCL convention must submit a participant form and spirit fee to Meghan Robertson by May 1, indicating that you are attending the convention at ECU!		\$35 Early arrival fee (Sunday dinner and entertainment; Monday breakfast)	Write check to "NJCL" and send to NJCL (address below)
		\$450 Convention Packet fee	Write check to "NJCL" and send to NJCL (address below)
		<b>...and arriving to ECU Monday, July 25</b>	
<b>Remember:</b> You must submit your packet request and \$450 to the NJCL by May 1 <sup>st</sup> !		\$40 Spirit fee	Write check to "VJCL" and mail to Meghan Robertson (address below)
		\$450 Convention Packet fee	Write check to "NJCL" and send to NJCL (address below)

Addresses:

Meghan Robertson  
2428 S. Culpeper Street  
Arlington, VA 22206

NJCL  
422 Wells Mill Drive  
Oxford, OH 45056



# TJ LATIN "PLAYS THE GREEK"

All of Virginia is infected with an incurable, festering case of Latin fever, and TJ was by no means inoculated. For almost every month of the year there is some Latin-related celebration filling the air with Latin cheer, much to the envy of the students of second-class languages.

**Io, Saturnalia!** The coldest and darkest month of the year only breathed new life into the spirit of Latin. As the German students froze, and the French students quivered, and the Spanish students shivered, Latin students were prancing through the halls flinging, at everyone in sight, pieces of candy attached to a bit of paper which read: "Io Saturnalia!". As the Latin students dispersed, bearing candy attached to these messages next to a profile of "Buddy Caesar," so too did the grimaces that haunted the homework-ravaged visages of TJ students, at least for a moment.



**The Ides of March:** Spring had nearly sprung, but a day that lives in infamy first reared its ugly head: the Ides of March! Latin students dressed in black, mourning the slain Caesar. As if this weren't enough, again another Brutus and another Cassius rose to slay another Caesar, all before the eyes of the terrified students.



**Rome's Birthday:** With the sadness of Caesar's death set aside, TJ Latin readied itself for games in honor of one of the most important holidays of all: the founding of Rome. A three-legged race was held in honor of the flight from Troy. Contestants imitated Turnus by hurling boulders (bean bags, to be nit-picky). The day ended with the devouring of a gigantic cake and there was much rejoicing and revelry.



-- LUKE GESSLER AND JESSE WITKOWSKI, TJHSST



# CERTAMEN STATE FINALS

INGRID HEIDELBERGER, CLASSICAL COTTAGE SCHOOL

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the 2010-2011 VJCL Certamen season came to an end with the State Finals competition. Organized by the VSCL and hosted at Flint Hill School, this Certamen was the culmination of a year of hard work and intense studying for both the competing students and their teachers. The students were certainly at their most competitive, prepared to challenge any remotely disputable question. However, despite the fierce competition, there were enough cheerful smiles and hugs to prove that many students, even those from rival schools, had formed strong friendships over the course of the year.

Following the three preliminary rounds, the students and teachers gathered together not only to learn which teams would advance to the final rounds, but also to recognize the high school seniors competing in their final Certamen. Some of these seniors had been involved in the JCL since elementary school, while others had only recently joined the organization. However, all have set an inspiring example for younger students with their enthusiastic dedication to the classics.

Congratulations to all the winners, and an enormous thank you to all those who helped make the State Finals Certamen such a success!

## LEVEL I

- 1ST - FLINT HILL SCHOOL
- 2ND - ROBERT FROST MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 3RD - FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL



## LEVEL IA

- 1ST - THOMAS JEFFERSON HS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- 2ND - FLINT HILL SCHOOL
- 3RD - CLASSICAL COTTAGE SCHOOL

## LEVEL II

- 1ST - RIVERBEND HIGH SCHOOL
- 2ND - THOMAS JEFFERSON HS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- 3RD - FLINT HILL SCHOOL



## LEVEL III

- THOMAS JEFFERSON HS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- 2ND - FLINT HILL SCHOOL
- 3RD - CLASSICAL COTTAGE SCHOOL

## UPPER LEVEL

- 1ST - FLINT HILL SCHOOL
- 2ND - CLASSICAL COTTAGE SCHOOL
- 3RD - THOMAS JEFFERSON HS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NATIONAL 2ND VP:

JCL, the one announcement you have been waiting for this academic year is finally here: the National Community Service Contest and National Community Service Project! You may visit [www.njcl.org/student-officers/pages/2ndVP/communityservice](http://www.njcl.org/student-officers/pages/2ndVP/communityservice) to find NJCL-sponsored literature concerning these topics. Trust me, there is some very exciting, new information in there as well as a lot of helpful guides to help you with your chapter's community service outreach.

Without excluding pre-established community service programs, we encourage you to explore projects according to this year's service theme, "To Literacy and Beyond". I have chosen this theme to mirror the convention theme, *bene legere saecula vincere*, but also to highlight the importance of a sound education and the less fortunate for whom that is inaccessible. We, as an organization, can do so much to help our fellow Americans and others improve their quality of education and open new avenues of opportunity within their future. Community service is about building mighty communities like a mighty empire; nothing impacts our communities, or our hearts, in such a positive manner as community activism does.

If I may briefly share a few words of my experience with community service, I'd say that it is both fun and fulfilling. With just a little creative thinking and an appreciation for its nature, you can find it fun too.

## **Tip #1, don't do it alone!**

Encourage your friends to join you while completing a service project, and then do something together after it's finished.

## **Tip #2, engage yourself with something you're interested in.**

If you love reading books, find ways your love for reading can help others such as tutoring or reading story books to elementary children.


## **Tip #3, learn something from it.**

Not only can you help strengthen your community through service, but your character, soul, and mind can grow along with it *if* you choose to think about your service.

Please, look up the information concerning the National Community Service Program this year. Also, feel free to contact me as always via e-mail—[2vp@njcl.org](mailto:2vp@njcl.org)—or any way you can.

Keep your Passion!

-- ZACH HALL, NJCL 2ND VP



# ROTA FORTUNÆ!

ANY ATTENDEE OF THE VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S LATIN ACADEMY WILL TELL YOU THAT ROTA IS ALL THE RAGE -- USE THE BOARD AND RULES BELOW TO SEE FOR YOURSELF!

**Rules:**

- I. Each turn, players can put one piece on the board in any open spot.
- II. After all three pieces are on the board, a player must move one piece each turn.
- III. A piece may move along any line or curving edge of the circle to the next empty spot.
- IV. A piece may not jump other pieces, nor move more than one spot.
- V. The first person to get three in a row wins!



A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL JCLERS WHO CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES, AND TO VJCL HISTORIAN SHANNON BERENBAUM FOR HER WONDERFUL PHOTOGRAPHS.