The Second Annual Jeannette Rankin Legacy Lecture

In November, JRF hosted the second annual Jeannette Rankin Legacy Lecture in partnership with University of Georgia Special Collections Library. New York Times bestselling author Kate Walbert gave the keynote address, which was called “Imagining Jeannette”. The keynote was followed by a panel discussion centered around the question “Has Anything Really Changed for Female Politicians?” featuring our board member Michele Ozumba as the moderator. The panelists were Dr. Maryann Gallagher, a professor in the University of Georgia’s School of Public and International Affairs, Deborah Gonzales, a Georgia State Representative, Chalis Montgomery, a Congressional Candidate, and Regina Quick, a Superior Court Judge. The second annual Jeannette Rankin Legacy Lecture was an inspiring and fun way to engage the Athens community and to honor Jeannette Rankin’s legacy.

We’ve Joined Forces with Emerge Scholarships, an Atlanta based program that gives scholarships to nontraditional women students from Georgia. Jane Hale Hopkins, the former board chair of Emerge, and Afshan Ali have both joined the JRF board. The first initiative we focused on as part of the merger was the Emerging Scholarships Finish Line Fund. With your support, we raised $15,000 to provide for nontraditional women students to pay outstanding fees, helping them remain enrolled in school. The merger has resulted in a scholarship designated specifically for women over the age of 25 living in the state of Georgia called the Emerge Scholarship.

It's Time to Talk

FORUMS ON RACE

Thursday, March 28, 2019
11:30am - 1:30pm at the Classic Center

Presented by Piedmont Athens and Public Education Matters

More Info at rankinfoundation.org

Looking to Volunteer and Make a Difference?

SIGN UP TO JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION READERS

BE PART OF THE PROCESS OF HELPING US SELECT OUR JRF SCHOLARS

ALL READING IS DONE ONLINE

ALL YOU NEED ARE BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS, INTERNET ACCESS, AND A DESIRE TO HELP WOMEN OVERCOME POVERTY

KEY DATES:
Level 1 Review - March 18-April 12 (for new volunteer readers)
Level 2 Review - April 19-26
Level 3 Review - May 1-17 (for veteran volunteer readers)

MORE INFORMATION AT RANKINFUNDATION.ORG/VOLUNTEER

Congratulations!

JRF 2018 Winter Graduates

Elizahtb A., Emily A., Stephanie P., Angela B., Ilona E., Brenda W.
Scholar Spotlight: Vanessa V.

Vanessa is studying to get her Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing, and her dream is to become a Nurse Practitioner! After years of being the sole provider for her daughter and struggling to make ends meet, Vanessa decided to make a change. She was prompted by her daughter’s decision to pursue a college degree, and enrolled in classes in April 2017! She wants to use her degree to better her community by working in mental health and psychiatry at her local children’s hospital. She says, “My top priority is to change the world one day at a time and one patient at a time.”

Donor Spotlight: Sarajane Love

Sarajane Love has established an endowed scholarship award in memory of her grandmother, Mattie Newton Traylor. Sarajane set up this endowment to provide scholarships to women pursuing education, counseling, or education administration degrees. Her grandmother Mattie Newton Traylor was a beloved school teacher at several institutions. She was not just intelligent, but wise, and her calm, quiet demeanor set an example for all who knew her. Sarajane established this fund after being a long-term supporter of JRF. She says, “It’s just an no-brainer. I am so in awe of what our Scholars accomplish with so little. If they don’t deserve our help, no one does. This is truly a compelling organization and mission. When the right circumstances came around I thought, it’s time, let’s do it. So here we are.”

Scholar Spotlight: Sheila E.

Sheila is working towards her Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology. Sheila exemplifies what it means to be a strong woman; having battled addiction and survived homelessness, domestic violence, and repeated jail time. Now, as an honors student, she gives back to her community while also finishing her degree by mentoring women who are in recovery from addiction and abuse. Sheila, as a non-traditional student, has seen the impact of her decision to go back to school firsthand, as it helped to encourage both her sister and daughter to also go to college. She says, “It makes me happy to see that my decision to go to college has had a good influence on the people around me.”

2018 SMART Party Atlanta

In November, JRF hosted the fourth annual SMART Party in Atlanta, GA at The Gathering Spot. This event was generously presented by Assurant. We raised $55,025 for JRF! SMART Party Atlanta was incredibly fun for our guests - with a photo booth, an amazing raffle prize and grand prizes, and wonderful silent auction items. We heard JRF Scholars’ inspiring stories and honored SMART Women Ana Rosado Reyes, Jina Sanone, Nita Sardana, Regina Schofield, Egypt Sherrod, and Stephanie Stuckey. The SMART Party in Atlanta has been an outstanding fundraising success for Jeannette Rankin Foundation, and has allowed JRF to develop deeper roots in the Atlanta community.

JRF Volunteer of the Year: Lisa Nunez

Lisa Nunez received the JRF Volunteer of the Year Award for 2018. Lisa has been volunteering weekly in the JRF Office for more than 3 years, as well as being a faithful scholarship application reader. Lisa helps keep our Scholarship Program running by assisting LaTrena Stokes, Scholarship Program Manager, with day-to-day tasks. We appreciate her dedication to JRF and her many years of hard work to move forward the mission of empowering women through education.

2018 Athens SMART Party

In September, JRF hosted the second annual SMART Party in Athens, GA. We held the Athens SMART Party at Hotel Indigo and were able to engage many new friends for Jeannette Rankin Foundation. This fun, technology based, fundraising cocktail hour raised $55,236 for JRF! We heard from JRF Alumnae and honored SMART Women Nancy Denson, Jennifer Frum, Cheryl Leggette, Leigh Ellen Magness, Peg Olson, and Sandra Thomas. This event allowed us to leverage technology and social media in the Athens community, and connected us to new JRF friends and supporters.

JRF Volunteer of the Year: Lisa Nunez