

THE FORUM



Nov. 18, 2023



Nov. 19, 2023



Nov. 20, 2023

“HISTORIA VITAE MAGISTRA”

Cicero's De Oratore, II, 9



SEMPER VICIBUS TEMPORIS

AEQUIS

VESPER SERAS NUNTIAT

UMBRAS

REVEHITQUE DIEM LUCIFER

ALMUM.

SIC AETERNOS REFICIT CURSUS

ALTERNUS AMOR, SIC

ASTRIGERIS

BELLUM DISCORS EXULAT

ORIS.

ANICIUS MANLIUS BOETHIUS

"ON THE CONSOLATION OF PHILOSOPHY"

4.6.1-18



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SUBMIT to
Editor@vjcl.org!

LETTER FROM THE

Editor

Salvete amici! As you can tell by the cover and the poem, the idea behind this season's forum is "part of history." The line from Cicero and polaroids on the cover conveys the importance of the looking to the past, while the poem portrays the everlasting foundation VJCL has displayed as an organization. As I was ruffling through my Editor's box, a collection of useful items from officers years before me, I found myself drawn to the stacks of papers that were labelled "80's." It's an exciting, yet humbling feeling to know that my position is a tradition that has been carried on for so many years. But it's not just me - VJCL has existed since for a long time, and we show no signs of ever fading away. Just by being a part of VJCL, as a student, teacher, or sponsor, we become a cemented part of history. To highlight this, this edition features student voices and historical icons! Happy reading!



Officer Updates

Vivian Xue - President:

Avete comites! Si valetis, valeo. I am truly so excited to let everyone know what I've been up to in the last few months, and to look ahead to the coming summer! Since my last report, I've continued to be omnipresent and observant while presiding over the month-long, two-part Winter Council Meeting, as well as the in-person, open Spring Board Meeting; I kicked off- hopefully- a new development of VJCL-hosted exam reviews with a study session for the Medusa Mythology Exam; and I was able to meet so many new people at various certamina (including FHS, Hayfield Street, and TJ) while helping run some card drives on behalf of the 2nd VP. In more recent news, I developed a Google Classrooms initiative to switch the main student communication platform to something more familiar and direct, which we tested for the first time at the Spring Board Meeting. We will be pushing for the switch over the course of the next few months, so look out for the class code at in-person certamina, during Classics Week, at Nationals and castra, and- most excitingly- the next VJCL Convention! I also collected suggestions from the officers and pushed for several additions to the website, the first of which being officer biographies and extended information. I fully intend to continue amending the website, including adding new pages for study resources and more up-to-date photo slideshows, in the near future. With these new changes, I established the brand-new Website Committee, which will begin accepting applications by the end of April! Thank you so much for everyone's support and patience as we start up all these new projects- to the co-chairs; my fellow officers; and everyone who showed up and showed out at the Medusa Review Event, Spring Board Meeting, certamina, and so much more. If there are any questions, please direct them to president@virginiajcl.com, and keep checking the VJCL Instagram (@officialvjcl), the website, and the new Google Classroom for new updates! As always, maximas gratias vobis ago!



Mackenzie Sanford - 1st Vice President:

Salvete omnes! Since the last time the Forum was published, I've worked on many things while in office, and I'm excited to share them all with you! I've attended several Certamina and ran a book drive at State Finals, with the books being donated to Reading is Fundamental Northern Virginia. I also reached out to over 20 schools around the state to encourage them to attend the VJCL Spring Council meeting and ended up getting attendance from students from over ten schools. Before the Spring Council meeting, I created a new rubric for the Publicity Contest, which includes a Social Media category, and proposals for a National Classics Week event and a Spring Classics Day later in the year. At the meeting, I presented these proposals along with the updated Round-Table Discussion proposal, which I presented with Panchami. In addition to this, I created a series of 7 Instagram posts about the kings of Rome for National Classics Week, which I posted on the account throughout the week. Following National Classics Week, I hosted an event with Kahoot about the kings of Rome.



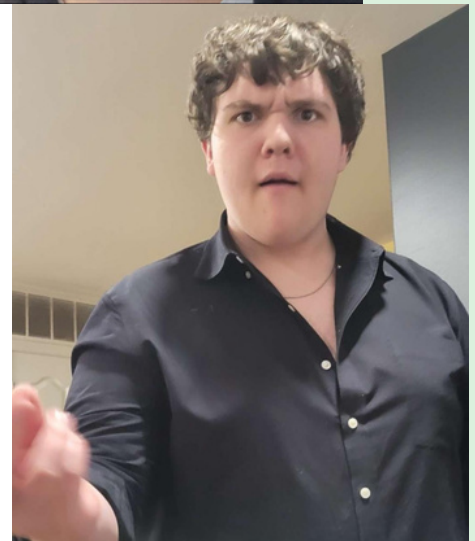
Maddox Johnson - 2nd Vice President

Hey Everyone! As summer rolls around, since my last report I have prepared the St. Jude's cards for shipment, prepped for a tshirt design gathering, and have heard some amazing theme ideas for NJCL for the wonderful members of the VJCL! CASTRA as of right now is gonna be a couple days of prop making rolling out in early July!



Josh Kohm - Parliamentarian

Salvete my little Parli Pals, I'm now halfway through my term as Parliamentarian, but I'm excited as ever to keep working for the rest of the year. Since the Winter Board Meeting, I have written and compiled formal language for three amendments overhauling the elections system of the VJCL and began to work on two more amendments addressing issues in the constitution. I also spent [way too long] writing a close to three-thousand-word Candidate's Guide for this year's slate of candidates. I've also written the first two in a string of articles to be published in the forum outlining how to run for office. I hope everyone is excited for the elections at Nats and VJCL convention in a little more than a month!



Kaitlyn Tyler - Secretary

Salvete Amici! Since my last update, I've been eagerly prepping for National Convention, as well as preparing to attend the Governor's World Language Academy (super excited for that!) Now that the school year is over, I have been able to invest more of my time into my Secretary duties, such as making minutes formats and some documents to add into the Secretary box. I can't wait to see a bunch of you at Nats this July!



Olivia Phelps - Historian

Salvete Omnes! Through my term in office, I have focused mainly on a physical scrapbook, which surrounds the theme of constellations and ingenuity. However, I decided that I would like to incorporate a digital element of the scrapbook to encourage local chapters to become more involved in the scrapbook themselves. I also worked with Panchami in regards to the club of the month and photo of the month contests. Can't wait to see how everything pans out!



Panchami Rangaraju - Editor

Salvete readers! These past few months have been fun, hectic, but overall productive. I've had a really great time planning and editing the Spring Forum. Outside of the Forum, I've been working on the Creative Writing Contest, planning POTM/COTM with Olivia, and implementing the Round Table Survey with Mackenzie. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, ideas, or you just want to chat in general at editor@virginiajcl.org!



How to Create a Campaign Platform

Parliamentarian
Josh Kohm

Salvete my fellow VJCL election groupies, and welcome to the second issue of my guide on how to run for office. Last time we talked about VJCL's requirements for running for office and how to prefile. Please read that article and check out the winter forum if you missed it! Without further ado let's talk about perhaps the most important part of a campaign, ~~how funny your Nom-Com speech is~~ your platform!

When running for office you want to come up with a couple of ideas, initiatives, and issues to talk about during your campaign. The most important part of your campaign is by far your platform, so make sure to spend a good amount of time thinking about it. Your platform consists of the issues and ideas that you are running on; think of issues or ideas you've had about how you can improve the VJCL that are related to your office.

For example, Joe Giambrone, the NJCL Parliamentarian from 2022-2023, famously ran on a platform of creating a constitution podcast and creating something called the “amendments forum” to discuss new amendments with the general public. You want to come up with 3-4 of these ideas at least so that you have a lot to talk about and run on. When first thinking about your platform think about issues that have personally aggravated you in the VJCL related to the office you’re running for, and think of how you can improve/fix those issues. For example, I was a little annoyed while running for office that there weren’t many examples of past campaign materials I could base my materials on, and then made a large part of my campaign about creating a publicly available folder with past speeches and campaign materials available to all candidates (be on the lookout for that!).



Furthermore, you can try to think of what you wish the VJCL would do in a perfectly ideal world, then try to think of pragmatic solutions or new initiatives that would make the VJCL more ideal. I’d also recommend having one specific issue you are more passionate about than the others so that when in doubt you can talk about it to no end. For me, this was the Nom-Com amendment, and it plus its associated initiatives have made up a large part of my legislative agenda while in office.

Also, make sure that all your ideas are practical and achievable. Voters tend to negatively hyper-fixate on things that aren't feasible so don't give them that excuse! At the end of the day your platform is all about why you want to be an officer, your passion and creativity for issues and solutions should demonstrate to the voting delegates your passion for the VJCL. If you ever have any questions at all about how to create a platform, want to bounce ideas about your campaign off of someone, or have any questions no matter how big or small about the VJCL's legislative and electoral process, reach me at parliamentarian@virginiajcl.org -- seriously! I'm not that scary and actually like responding to emails. Also, if you're even the slightest bit considering running for office in the fall, I'd love for you to shoot me an email just so we can become acquainted! In the next part of this column, we'll be going over how to write speeches and create campaign materials, so get hype for that.





Spring Council Breakdown



1. Digital Scrapbooks


- Digital scrapbook that schools can add their own photos to
- Highlights events held at different schools

2. Round Table Discussion

Survey sent out to members of the VJCL to see what we are doing well and where improvements can be made

3. Secretary Name Change

- Changing the name of Secretary to Communications Coordinator
- Would be In charge of social media and website
- Takes effect in 2025



4. Plurality Amendment

- Candidates only need a plurality of votes, not a majority
- “Plurality” = candidate polls the most votes but does not receive greater than 50% of votes

5. VJCL Website

- Devise a website committee that can implement changes to the VJCL official website

7. Social Media Contest

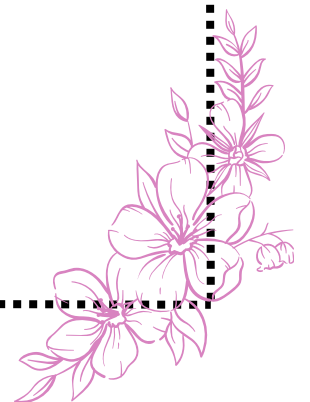
- Adding a social media category to the Publicity Contest



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NJCL Information

National Convention is being held June 22-27 in University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. These dates are quickly approaching, so VJCL has been planning how to approach spirit this year. Among our t-shirt contest, JCLers are encouraged to participate in Castra. Castra is open to **all** students attending NJCL. The dates and location will be decided and announced in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!





Beautiful

I am beautiful. Everyone sees it – as a matter of fact, that is all they see in me. My encounters with the broad, colorful, endlessly-varying spectrum of humanity are a solid, dull, pinkish rainbow of stares, whispers, starstruck compliments, and open lust. Certainly they express it differently; one man told me that I must be Aphrodite, for my beauty is divine, and no woman in all the world can match it. Another said that I must be Pandora reborn, for my body, with all its curves and grooves and perfect symmetry, is crafted with such perfect seduction that it must be the work of the gods. A third said that I must be Artemis, for to see me nude would be a crime punishable by death. These are kind words, and I am grateful. But it all blends together after a while. You are beautiful. You are pretty. You are gorgeous. You are beautiful. You are beautiful. I am beautiful. I wonder, sometimes, if that is all I am. One day I met an old woman wavering at the edge of a rushing river.

Author:

Cormac Kaplan
Flint Hill School
10th Grade

Though she was heavy indeed, I lifted her up, and placed her on my shoulders, and carried her across the river. A few times I almost fell over, but I did not, though I did lose one of my sandals. When I set her down on the other side, she looked me in the eyes, smiled, and said, “You are a beautiful girl indeed.” I watched her totter away, and I was grateful. But I remembered the story of another young person, a young man, who carried an old woman across the river and because of it became one of the greatest heroes to ever live.

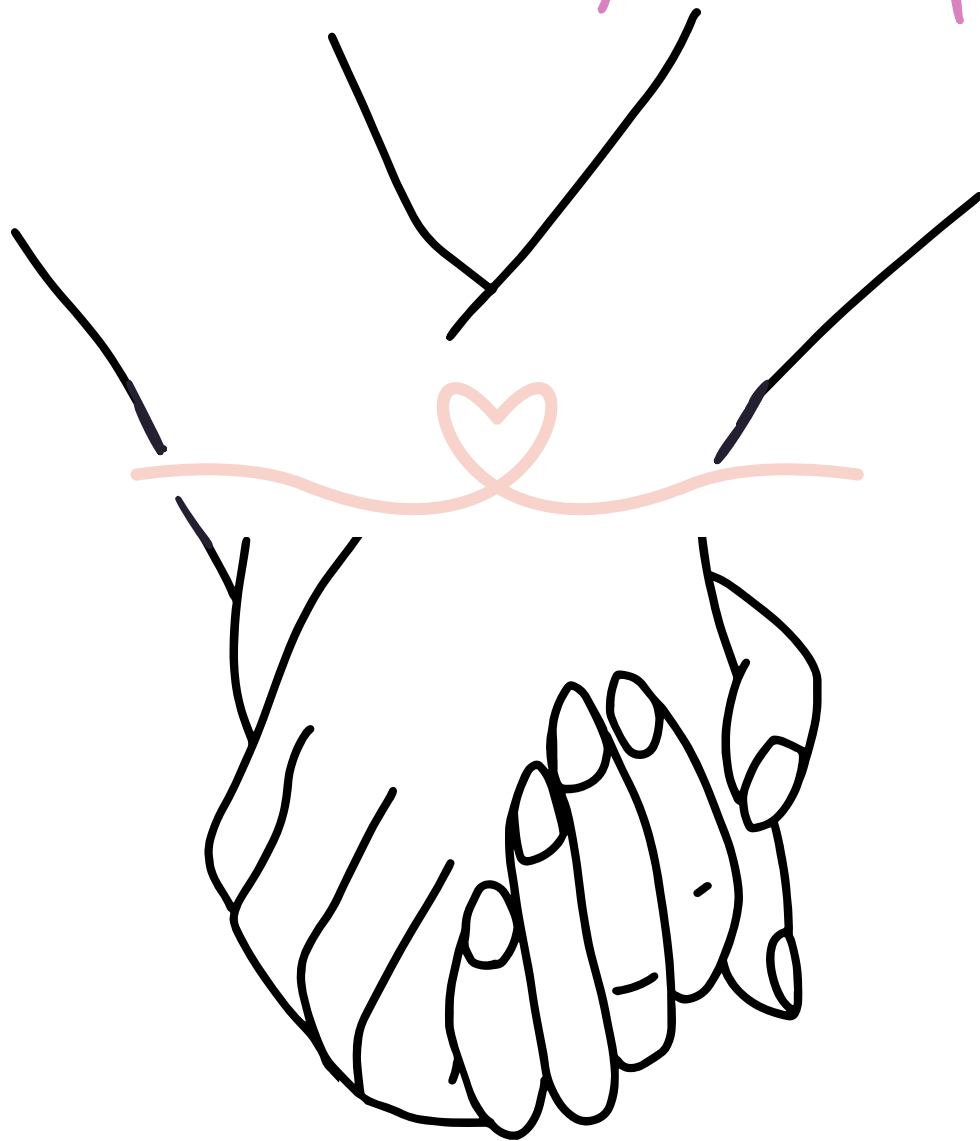
But then, perhaps that was his destiny, and not mine. I am beautiful. Growing up, when I wanted to play with the other children, I couldn't. Boys watched me from a distance, whisper-whisper-whispering, never approaching. When I tried to talk to girls, they pretended not to hear me, and I felt their eyes on my back as I walked away. When I tried to play with my sisters, they simply stared at me, stone-faced, until I left. I remember asking my mother why no one wanted to play with me.



Alexandre Cabanel
"Psyche"

She smiled, and told me, "Psyche, you shine like the midday sun, and nobody can look upon the sun for long, or even approach it. Your beauty simply overwhelms them." I sat outside, and stared at the sun, and tossed those words around and around and around in my head, and I was grateful. But I couldn't help but notice that the sun, that dazzling midday sun, stood alone in the sky, and indeed, it still does. I am beautiful. All of the men say so. Many of the women say the opposite. Perhaps the women say what they say because the men say what they say. These women don't tend to slight me openly – they cluster in the corner and whisper that my face is too wide, my hair unnaturally shiny, my body too lean. I know they must have a point. My sisters, however, are honest enough to say these things to my face. They tell me that my face is thin and sallow and my hair is lank and dull and I have put on so much weight that I look pregnant. Afterwards, they smile, and say, "It's for your own good, Psyche. You want to keep your humility, don't you?" I watch them leave, whisper-whisper-whispering like snakes to one another, and I am grateful. But part of me wishes I could just sit down with all these women, and speak with them, and show them kindness, and then we could be friends, even sisters. I am beautiful. So why don't I feel that way?

LGBTQ+ **ICONS**



ANCIENT GREECE

Sappho of Lesbos

Have you ever wondered where the term “lesbian” or “Sapphic” came from? It was none other than the archaic female poet, Sapphos hailing from the Greek island of Lesbos, who inspired these terms. Although not a lot remains from her work, it is apparent that she held same-sex relationships and wrote about them fairly openly in her poems. Most of her poems are written about an unnamed female lover. Some researchers have speculated that her mention of a female lover is simply a “persona” or “metaphor,” however this is unlikely considering that many critiques of her work at the time considered her a “masculine woman,” alluding to the fact that she participated in Sapphic relationships herself. She was called “The Poetess,” just as Homer was called “The Poet.” She is frequently considered one of the greatest Greek poets of all time, and has cemented her legacy as a bold visionary and artist. Plato considered her “The Tenth Muse.” She was honored greatly with statues and coins of her.



Apollo

Apollo is a Greek God that is often considered the patron of same-sex relationships, due to the prevalence of gay relationships that he exhibited in his own stories and myths. His most famous relationship is with the the Spartan prince Hyacinthus. Hyacinthus was admired by many for his beauty, but was drawn to Apollo as a potential suitor. Some versions of the myth detail that Apollo killed Hyacinthus on accident after the discus they were playing with struck Hyacinthus in the head. Others claim that Zephyrus moved the discus to hit Hyacinthus in an act of jealousy. In the end, Apollo had to hold his dying lover in his arms, lamenting the fact that he couldn't join his lover in death. Apollo created the Hyacinth flower using Hyacinthus's spilled blood. Beyond Hyacinthus, Apollo had many male relationships, some ending in tragedy and some with happy endings.



ACHILLES

Achilles and Patroclus. No other relationship in Classical spaces has been discussed and debated as much. With the introduction of *The Song of Achilles*, this relationship was carried into modern day media and new audiences to analyze the facts. Achilles and Patroclus are close friends from a young age. Patroclus, who is slightly older, often acts as a guide and companion to Achilles. Both Achilles and Patroclus join the Greek forces in the Trojan War, fighting against the city of Troy. Patroclus is killed in battle, and Achilles is consumed with rage, grief, and need for revenge. It is Achilles's reaction to Patroclus's death, their deep emotional connection, and the cultural context behind their relationship that alludes to love rather than a platonic relationship. While we cannot cast strict judgement on whether or not their relationship was romantic, I think it's more important to look at the impact and reception their relationship had on the public. We see in later work by later authors such as Plato and Aeschylus that their relationship was interpreted as romantic, even in ancient times.



