

Welcome to Jurisdiction Earth!

A Newsletter for JDI members, alumni, & friends.
Everyone. Everywhere.



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Around the Jobie-verse

Why everyone who loves Job's Daughters needs to visit Brazil

Brazil is the newest country to gain the gift of Job's Daughters; but by now, Job's Daughters has now celebrated 30 years in this large South American Portuguese-speaking country. A vibrant country that already knows how to celebrate, CONABB V in October 2023 was a great way to mark this milestone for Job's Daughters. CONABB stands for the National Conference of Bethels of Brazil and 2023 was the fifth CONABB to be held, this time in Rio de Janeiro, and signified by roman numeral V.

Jurisdiction Earth asked some adult leaders who traveled from the Australia, Canada, and the United States about their travel to CONABB. Here's what they had to say:

Why should everyone from JDI go to Brazil at least once? - Whether it's traveling to Brazil or to the jurisdiction next door, there are some things that cannot be learned without leaving the comfort of home. The world is full of rich experiences, cultures, sites, and people to know and learn about. Every step is an adventure that opens your eyes to the beauty of the JDI world and the history and connection we all share, regardless of the time and distance between us.

Supreme Guardian Barbara Von Liene echoed that there is an enthusiasm and light shining from everyone you meet. Everyone should take an opportunity to travel to Brazil at least once in their life. The rich history, culture, wildlife, beaches and the views of a beautiful country are like nothing I personally have experienced. Each day is a new adventure and learning experience.

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What gives Brazil such a special feel? - Every JDI country has their own 'feel,' but many would say that Brazil is unique in their sense of community and true passion for the Order. Amanda LeBlanc, a Past Miss International Job's Daughters and current Board of Trustees Chair, said that this felt very much the same in 2023 as it did as her first visit in 1998. The Daughters and adults care for and cheer for one another. They lift each other up and push each other to achieve excellence - they hit their square corners and stand proud when they speak their duties. They seek opportunities for inclusion and community. Sisterhood is paramount; there is no entitlement or boastfulness - only joy. Supreme Guardian Barbara Von Liene said that when you travel to Brazil from the time you are met at the airport, there is an excitement and joy from everyone you meet. You feel like and are treated like family.

In Brazil the Daughters and Jobie to Bees are so enthusiastic, and truly are the example of "weaving Job's Daughters throughout their life". The other way they are unique is the family members are all involved with the Bethels, and they create a true community within their bethels.

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The Masons and Grand Lodges give so much support to our Bethels. The lodges are also designed differently, so it was fun to do Ritual instruction to help them understand how to adjust to their lodge setups versus other lodges around the world.

The states the Supreme Team visited this year were all jurisdictions that had not had a Supreme Team visit in over 10 years and one, Amapa, had never had a Supreme Team visit. A Daughter and her mother came to Amapa from Para because they didn't know if they would ever get to meet a Supreme Team.

What should someone from an English-speaking country know about enjoying Brazil to the fullest?

- Don't let fear of the unknown keep you grounded. Brazil is one of the most beautiful countries on Earth with proud and beautiful people. Bring comfortable shoes, light clothes, a bathing suit and lots of sunscreen. Try all of the food!

Our sisters and brothers will take good care of you. You won't regret a moment. Don't let the fear of linguistic differences stop you either. The members of JDI Brazil are keen to converse with non-Portuguese-speaking folk even if it is through an interpreter (human or electronic) and translator apps on phones are easy to use. The same can be said of the general populace. If you are out and about shopping or dining, the Brazilian people want to help and are patient in communicating. Many of the daughters are attending classes to learn English and appreciate practicing with the JDI family, especially idioms and slang. Be prepared to laugh - a lot!

For some, Brazil feels like a far away dreamland. No matter where you live, it's time that you put Brazil on your Job's Daughters Bucket List.



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PICTURE THIS

It's 1993, and the Past Supreme Guardian (from 1986-1987), named Hazel Gray, from Washington Estate, United States, had an idea. She has a mason friend, who worked with an airline company, which frequently led to Brazil. This friend told her that while masonry was very popular in the country, they needed something for the girls. Ms Gray received a blessing from the Supreme Guardian at the time, Marlene Frakes, and traveled to Brazil to gain information and impulse.

Ms. Gray was appointed Deputy to Brazil and moved forward making connections and meeting supporters. Alberto Mansur, a Mason who had been instrumental in getting DeMolay in Brazil, also proved important in encouraging Job's Daughters development in Brazil.

Susan Goolsby, Executive Manager of Job's Daughters International for more than 40 years, got to help bring Job's Daughters to Brazil. She recalls that her first trip to Brazil was in 1995 with the 1995-1996 Supreme Guardian. Goolsby said, after the first Bethel opened in Rio de Janeiro, "everyone wanted one." Exciting as that was, it made for some rough sailing. The ritual, ceremonies, songs, rules . . . none were translated into Portuguese yet. Each trip came with more instruction for both the Daughters and the adults of the newest country to welcome Job's Daughters. The gift, for Goolsby, was how hungry they were for knowledge about everything Job's Daughters.

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It would take more than 10 years for the first ritual translated into Portuguese to be available; and by that time, more than half the 26 states in Brazil had Bethels. Brazil continues to have a unique flair; sometimes because of lack of access to official resources (like capes and crowns); but also because of their willingness to be adaptable while learning as they grew.

What made Job's Daughters in Brazil so successful?

Goolsby believes that there is a family-centric culture in Brazil that has really helped support JDI's growth there. Prior to Job's Daughters, women and girls were not allowed in Masonic Lodges; but once Job's Daughter was embraced; it was fully embraced. Masons in Brazil take great pride in their membership; and likewise, Job's Daughters take great pride in their membership in the Order. When a Daughter joins JDI, it's a family affair and they're "all in." Holding such love for Job's Daughters and being an activity that families can engage with together, helps grow beehives and strong alumni associations. Because it's a privilege to join Job's Daughters; the positive impression a girl gets upon joining; and the positive encouragement she gets on her journey keep her engaged. It's win-win.

So, what's next?

Associate Supreme Guardian Rob Worthington has made it no surprise that growth to new countries is on his mind. What does it take to bring Job's Daughters to another country? It takes committed people who care about Job's Daughters to help foster interest and momentum; organizational structure; and it takes financial support. Goolsby looks back on her time helping Brazil get started with great fondness; and also some hindsight. If and when Job's Daughters makes it way to another country; we want to ensure that it's done well. Plans for instruction, training, and translated materials before Bethels open is how we can ensure success. Goolsby shares that the Board of Trustees has developed some foundational steps about how to get JDI started in a new jurisdiction.

Job's Daughters now has Bethels in almost all 26 states of Brazil. Their Bethels remain strong; both in numbers and spirit. Goolsby recalls fondly of a Bethel that made matching dresses for the Daughters to wear to the meeting. She said that it really shared how much they cared, "and they looked great!"

Having made multiple trips to Brazil, her last in 2004, Goolsby says that you come away from a trip there with a feeling of euphoria. She recommends that if you have the chance, you should definitely travel to Brazil to share the experience of sisterhood in a different country. She also suggests that to have your best Brazilian Bethel Blitz that you connect with a Brazilian Deputy to help arrange your visit. Goolsby echoes what others have said; that Brazilians are exceedingly kind and caring; and that the language should not dissuade you. Vamos!



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BY REBECCA WILCOX OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

Nadia Rossbach is a recent graduate of the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida. While a student at the Levin College of Law, Nadia also completed her Juris Doctorate Degree, which allows her to practice law once completing the exam. She has accomplished a lot. Her name is also known quite well in the Virginia Job's Daughters community because Nadia is also a Majority Member and Past Honored Queen of Bethel 42, Virginia.

Kaitlynn Singer says "Nadia is one of the most dedicated and inspiring individuals I have ever met. ... She is such a gift and I admire her for everything that she is and everything that she does.."

Nadia grew up in a home that struggled financially and was homeschooled until college. She had a strict upbringing and her father was a substance abuser. She was taught that only the absolute best was good enough. Even after she joined Job's Daughters, her financial issues still plagued her life. But Job's Daughters gave her the chance to grow and have confidence in herself. Many of the relationships she made are still strong today. Not only did Job's Daughters give her this opportunity, it also gave her a family. Her community in the order set her on a path of success. Adult mentors in her bethel assisted her in getting a job as a legal assistant, and sparked her interest in the legal field.

Her time in Job's Daughters is often referred to as 'the ultimate Jobie success story'. Her ritual is still regarded as one of the best Virginia has ever seen. She once completed all 5 messenger stations at an initiation. Chiara Baez, Virginia's Grand Bethel Honored queen states "Nadia has one of the best Story of Job's ever. I have never seen anything like it since."

Although Nadia has long since become a Majority Member, her life continues to serve as an example of perseverance, a key part of the lessons we learn in Job's Daughters. After her majority, she developed a rare form of Scleroderma, an auto-immune disorder that causes excess collagen to be produced. Nadia was given only 2 years to live. Even with this sudden news, she continued to work hard to reach her career goals. Luckily, after continued treatments, the initial diagnosis was proven to be much overestimated. Even though Nadia has her whole life in front of her, it doesn't come without its difficulties. She works very hard to improve her health and manage her disease every day.

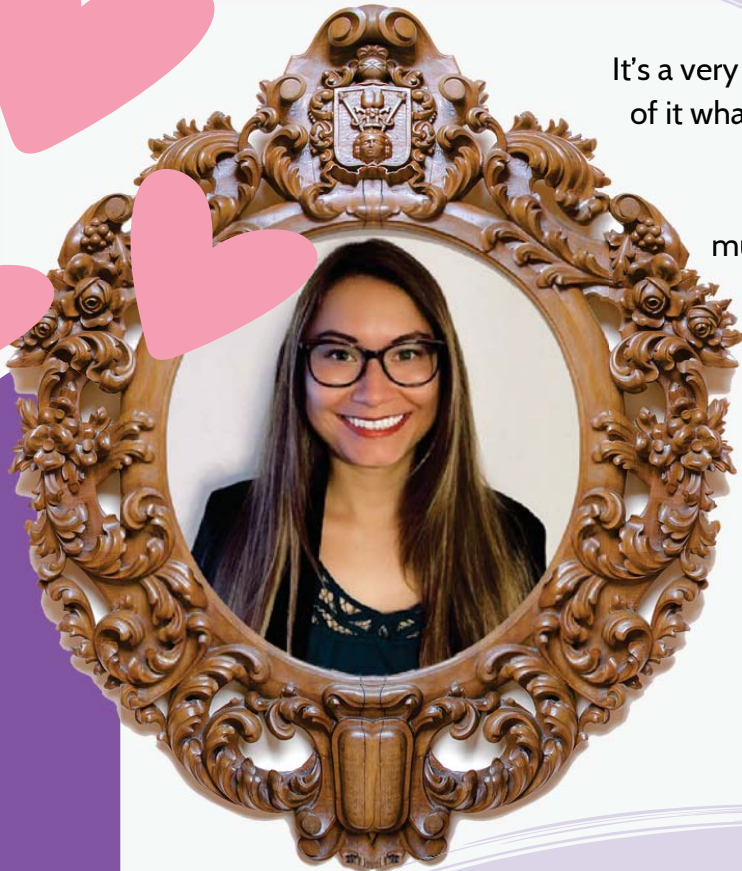
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Through hard work and dedication, she graduated this past May as the top 3rd in her class and earned multiple CALI book awards for being the top in her classes a whopping six times. Nadia also co-authored and authored two published research papers. Currently she serves as a law clerk in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida.

When asked what she would say to current members of our order, she responded with a seemingly simple answer. It's a very common saying in Job's Daughters that "you get out of it what you put in", one that is often told to new members at initiation. Even if it takes a long time to realize, this saying is very true. Job's Daughters can offer so much to its members. But it isn't automatically earned. Nadia's story has proven, through hard work and dedication, Job's Daughters can give you skills that you can use to succeed for the rest of our lives.



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