

JRGC Membership Proposal 2026

Name: Susie Mendelsohn Keller
616 Maple Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

Proposer: Sazshy Kane-West
Second: Eugenie Calderon

Age: 40

Length of Residence in Richmond: 3 years

Education: Brown University

Employment:

Present: Kimbell and Associates

Past: See Proposer's comments below

Volunteer Experience:

Since moving to Richmond, Susie regularly lends helping hands to those in need. She volunteers at St. Catherine's and St. Christopher's and is looking for an organization like the garden club to give more of her time and share her talents.

Interests and Skills:

Home Gardening ___x___ Horticulture ___x___ Conservation ___x___

Flower Arranging/Floral Design ___x___ Photography _____

Social Media/Marketing _____ Computer Skills/Web Design _____

Writing/Communications ___x___ Lobbying ___x___ Accounting _____

Finance _____ Development/Fundraising _____ Community Outreach _____

Family Members in JRGC: None

Previously Proposed: No

Proposer's Comments:

We are delighted to propose Susie Keller for membership in the James River Garden Club.

Originally from Cincinnati, Susie relocated from D.C. to Richmond in 2023 when her husband, Jake, became the Head of Upper School at St. Christopher's. They have three children who are all currently in the Lower School. Now that her family is settled in Richmond, Susie is eager to

dive into our community and collaborate with engaging women over her deep, lifelong love for gardening.

Currently the COO at Kimbell & Associates, Susie brings a stellar professional background in operations and volunteer management, but her passion for gardening runs deep. In her twenties, she worked for the Rhode Island landscape design firm, Garden Endeavors, where she was part of an all-female landscape architecture team designing and maintaining historic estates in Providence, Newport, the Cape, and the Islands. This experience expanded her love of gardening. On any given weekend you will find her in her yard in her overalls moving around plants and playing with different layouts in her garden. Her family recently bought a lake house in Minnesota and Susie spent her last hours there (I am talking 10pm - 2am) finishing up all garden bed planting before departing for the East Coast. Combined with her degree from Brown in the History of Art and Architecture, Susie's hands-on design experience perfectly aligns with our mission of promoting gardening and civic restoration. Before working at Kimbell, she worked for The Wheeler School, St. George's, and The Madeira School holding roles in Advancement and Alumni Relations. Her campaign execution and event management experience makes her exceptionally qualified to lead committee assignments and support Historic Garden Week. Active, reliable, and highly collaborative, Susie will bring both practical expertise and tireless dedication to our GCV and GCA initiatives.