

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI

# MAGAZINE

SPRING 2016

A dash of design can truly change lives. Junior League members, high school students and professional designers unite for a worthy cause.

## WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

LOCAL LEADERS ARE HONORED  
FOR THEIR SERVICE

## LEADERSHIP & LEGACY

MEET JLM'S NEXT PRESIDENT

## SUSTAINER FOCUS

HISTORIAN ARVA MOORE PARK  
RELEASES NEW BOOK

## INSPIRATION & REJUVENATION

NEW MEMBERS FIND THEIR FIT IN THE LEAGUE

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

A DASH OF DESIGN





# Opening the Door to a Better Future

Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables and Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay are proud to support Showhouse 2016.

We salute the Junior League of Miami and applaud their commitment to improve our community.



## Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables

300 Almeria Avenue  
On the corner of Salzedo and Almeria, 3 blocks south of Miracle Mall  
305-445-8593 [www.mbcorgables.com](http://www.mbcorgables.com)

## Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay

10701 SW 211th Street  
Where the Turnpike meets 211th Street, adjacent to Southland Mall  
305-251-0345 [www.mbcutlerbay.com](http://www.mbcutlerbay.com)



# CONTENTS

- 05 Let's Get Social**  
*Social Media Shout-Outs*
- 06 Community Spotlight**  
*A Dash of Design*
- 08 Sustainer Focus**  
*Historian Arva Moore Park Releases New Book*
- 12 Women Who Make A Difference**  
*Meet Miami's Most Inspiring Women*
- 16 Leadership Q&A**  
*Amanda Kessler: JLM's Next President*
- 20 Provisional's Perspective**  
*New Members Find their Fit*

### SAVE THE DATES:

#### Junior League of Miami Showhouse

Presented by Mercedes-Benz of Coral Gables and Cutler Bay  
April 7 - April 24, 2016

#### Women Who Make A Difference Luncheon

April 22, 2016

### OUR MISSION:

The Junior League of Miami, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

The Junior League of Miami Magazine is published biannually for all members and friends of the Junior League. Please contact [advertising@jlmiami.org](mailto:advertising@jlmiami.org) for more information on advertising opportunities. Communications may be addressed to:

**Junior League of Miami**  
Communications Council  
713 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305.443.0160  
[jlmiami.org](http://jlmiami.org)

Copyright © 2015 Junior League of Miami. Cover photo by Kara Franker.

**Editor**  
Kara Franker

**Advertising Chair**  
Rose Huber Keshavarzi

**Contributors**  
Emilie Goldman Wernick, Alicia Brown, Alexandra Kagan, Tammy T. Reed, Kimberly Laughlin

**Art Director & Printer**  
Artis Design Group

**Junior League of Miami**  
**Board of Directors 2015-2016**

**President**  
Emilie Goldman Wernick

**Executive Vice President**  
Heather Harris

**President Elect**  
Amanda Kessler

**Assistant to President**  
Anita Uppaluri

**Recording Secretary**  
Liz Bodner

**Vice Presidente Finance**  
Amber Seidle-Lazo

**Director-at-Large**  
Michael Anna de Armas

**Director-at-Large**  
Kara Sharp

**Director-at-Large**  
Sarah Tuskey

**Sustainer Advisor**  
Loretta Nido

**Nominating Chair**  
Cecilia Slesnick

**Bylaws/Parliamentarian**  
Lindsey Zohn Parker

**Executive Management Team**  
2015-2016

**Executive Vice President**  
Heather Harris

**Vice President/Communications**  
Michelle McClaskey

**Vice President/Community**  
Debbie Koch

**Vice President/Development**  
Kim Sarkisian

**Vice President/Membership**  
Bronwyn Mills

**Vice President/Planning**  
Jane Bhatt

**Vice President/Technology**  
Marcia Koo

**Treasurer**  
Marissa Flannery

**Placement Chair**  
Tracie Rusak

**Sustainer Liaison**  
Regina Mendoza





Dr. Seuss said it best when he penned the phrase, “Oh, the things spring brings!” Spring brings things like warm breezes, bright sunshine, and blooming flowers. For the Junior League of Miami (JLM), it brings a celebration of the year’s growth and successes as we wrap of the 2015-2016 year in May. It also brings a new president as I pass the gavel to Amanda Kessler, who you will read more about in this issue.

Our nearly 1,000 members have volunteered 20,000+ hours so far this year. From hands on work with our community project to inspired fundraisers and engaging member events, it’s amazing to see what an all volunteer run organization can accomplish. In December, JLMers collected 500 gifts for families at Inn Transition North and Inn Transition South; January took me, along with three members, to Tallahassee on behalf of 11,000 Florida Junior Leagues to advocate for bills affecting women and children; February brought 30 past JLM presidents together for a lively discussion about the organization’s future; March was the month of volunteers, with more than 400 members signing up for volunteer shifts at our community projects and the Showhouse; and April put JLM in the forefront of the community with its two premiere fundraisers – the Showhouse and 15th annual Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon. Throughout the year we’ve also had 60 prospective members attend outreach events.

This issue of the Magazine brings you even more details about the exciting things that have happened throughout the year. A partnership with the Design Architecture Senior High school brought inspired design to Inn Transition North; the Showhouse brought thousands of visitors to The Kampong in Coconut Grove raising much needed funds for our community projects; historian and sustaining member Arva Moore Parks brought life to George Merrick in her new book; and our first-year provisional members brought energy and passion to our membership.

Spring has really brought great things! The support of our members, friends, community partners, sponsors, and civic leaders make JLM’s growth possible. Thank you for making our vision of helping women and children a reality.

Emilie Goldman Wernick  
President 2015-2016



It’s hard to believe the year is winding down so fast. Over the past few months, Junior League members have been busy preparing for major events like the Showhouse at the Kampong and the annual Women Who Make A Difference luncheon. It has truly been a spectacular year and I’m delighted to see so many members work tirelessly to serve women and children in need in our community.

I’d like to congratulate my dear friend Emilie Goldman Wernick, as she has made so many invaluable contributions during her term as president. She is the reason why I joined the Junior League and I have no doubt that her leadership and legacy will continue on for years to come.

I’d also like to recognize the members of my committee (Alicia Brown, Alexandra Kagan, Tammy T. Reed) for working hard to put together this issue, as well as Michelle McClaskey, our Vice President of Communications.

Kara Franker  
Editor 2015-2016

# LET’S GET SOCIAL

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON TWITTER, INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK

To have your social media posts featured, use the hashtag #jlmiami  
**Twitter:** @JrLeagueMiami **Instagram:** @JuniorLeagueMiami **Facebook:** /JuniorLeagueMiami

**KaraOnTheCoast @KaraFranker**

I can’t wait for the @JrLeagueMiami Showhouse at #TheKampong! #jlmiami



**JLMiami President @JLMPrez**

Visiting the Governor’s Mansion with Mrs. Scott. #EmpowerWomen #jlmgoestotally



**Stephanie Etter@gringa\_inMiami**

For as little as \$25 you can make a serious impact in the Miami community! #GiveMiamiDay #jlmiami

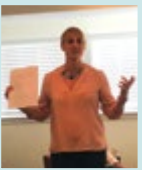
**Michelle @Vidamiami**

Love all our #jlmiami projects including Therapy Dogs, a program that helps build confidence in young readers.



**Junior League Miami @JrLeagueMiami**

Small Message Big Impact. Your elevator pitch. #JLM #beyourself #terrisjodin #leadershiptraining



**Krystina Francois @KrysFrancois**

Early Saturday, teaching the kids of #breakthroughmiami about resume writing! #JLMiami

**Melanie Roddy @MelanieRoddy**

“You must do the thing you think you cannot do.” - Eleanor Roosevelt #jlmiami

**Hollywood’s Couture @HWoodsCouture**

Future Junior Leaguer! #jlmiami #juniorleague



**Junior League of Miami**

Thanks to the students at Design and Architecture Senior High School (DASH) who today presented scale models of their proposed designs for the revamp of rooms at Inn Transition North (ITN), a transitional housing shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their families owned by the Junior League of Miami.



The panel will select a winning design to be featured as a pop-up at the Junior League of Miami’s 2016 Showhouse, a fundraiser highlighting 20+ interior designers and purveyors who will transform The Kampong, a historic property in Coconut Grove, for a three week run in April. For more information, visit <http://miamishowhouse.org/>



**Junior League of Miami**

The Junior League of Miami would like to extend a big Congratulations to Sustaining Member, S. Manjula Jegasothy, MD. Dr. Jegasothy was voted Top Dermatologist 2015 by her patients and friends/Miami Happening Magazine.



**Junior League of Miami**

We have surpassed our goal of \$20,000 that will go toward supporting enriching programs for domestic violence survivors, and the development of women and children in need throughout our community!



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## A DASH OF DESIGN

By Emilie Goldman Wernick

**A stroll past high-end designer boutiques, upscale interior furnishing stores, and vivid contemporary murals isn't your typical path to high school. For students at DASH (Design Architecture Senior High School), classrooms housed in a retrofitted showroom in a trendy Design District setting couldn't be more fitting. The highly competitive magnet school exudes creativity and students are expected to perform as professionals ready to enter a world of possibilities.**

DASH first landed on my radar in talks about the Junior League of Miami (JLM) Showhouse 2016 fundraiser. More than two years ago, a dedicated team of volunteers assembled to dream, plan, and execute a game-changing event for both the JLM and the Miami community. The Showhouse – a three-week event featuring 30+ interior designers and architects transforming The Kampong in Coconut Grove – started to take shape with one lingering question: how do we tie in JLM's impact area of at risk families to this event?

IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WE NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT DESIGN DOESN'T HAVE A PRICE TAG

While the Showhouse highlights the benefit of luxury design, it also shows visitors that design can change the lives of women and children who reside at Inn Transition North (ITN), a JLM-owned transitional housing facility for survivors of domestic violence. That is thanks to the talented, creative minds in professor Eric Hankin's junior architecture class at DASH

Last July, Showhouse co-chair Carla Crossno and I posed the challenge to Eric: how can we create more functional and welcoming living spaces for the women

and children at ITN? Eric ran with the idea and developed a semester-long curriculum for his 11th graders. Carla and I met with the students as the "client" and gave them a little insight into the families living at ITN. Many of the women have small children and a typical stay is between 12 and 24 months. There were no parameters with the exception of using the floorplan of a studio apartment and incorporating art - a mural of their choosing from the vibrant Wynwood graffiti scene. Since art inspires passion and emotion, Eric thought it was a good way to bring life to the apartments. The students started brainstorming and progressed to research, concepts, scale drawings, and finally scale models. Setting foot in the classroom was like walking into a skilled architecture firm – the level of professionalism from 16- and 17 year-olds was astounding. The refreshing ideas were eye-opening and proved our theory correct: design doesn't have a price tag and inspired design can transform a transitional housing facility into a sanctuary.

The capstone of the semester was a juried presentation of the work. Comprised of professional architects and former students, the five-person jury questioned every detail of the students' design. Students fielded questions, defended their work and accepted constructive criticism – all knowing that the winning design would be displayed as a pop-up at the Showhouse 2016.

Our partnership with DASH brings Junior League of Miami's vision of helping at-risk families a reality for the thousands of visitors touring the Showhouse. It also allows us to raise funds to buy new furniture and implement elements of the students' designs to the apartments at Inn Transition North.

A DASH of design can truly change lives.

### SHOWHOUSE DESIGNERS UNITE FOR A GOOD CAUSE:

“In many cities across the country there is no greater honor for a designer than to be included in a Junior League Showhouse. Miami is no exception and the fact that it is the former home of David Fairchild, one of the world's foremost botanists and plant explorers, makes this one of the highlights of my career.”

- FERNANDO WONG

“I am excited to share my passion for the positive work that both entities work diligently towards, including the Junior League's Inn Transition program which supports battered women and their children as they begin independent and healthy lives, and The Kampong's many brilliant plant initiatives, including ending world hunger by planting the breadfruit.”

- HILLARY LITTLEJOHN SCURTIS



“The Kampong is such a special space in our neighborhood that we jumped at the opportunity to be a part of this special event,”

- CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN

“We are honored to be a part of The Junior League of Miami's Designer Showhouse and their worthy causes which focus on women and children at risk in our community,”

- KIM HERNANDEZ AND LOIS HOLBROOK RUSSO

“Both of the spaces that we have designed embody our signature Mabley Handler style, mixing transitional, traditional and modern elements in fresh, vibrant colors.”

- JENNIFER MABLEY AND AUSTIN HANDLER

“Our exotic elephant pavilion is a nod to the wonders of East Asia which because of the lives and generosity of the Fairchild's, can be discovered right here on the shore of Biscayne Bay.”

- WILLIAM AND PHYLLIS TAYLOR

“We always try to see the world as a garden – so it's fun to show that even a utilitarian space like a carport can become a place of beauty and meaning.”

- JULIE MOIR MESSERVY

“It is a privilege to work at the historic Kampong, where our designs will be inspired by the natural beauty of the property.”

- ROBERT RIONDA

“I admit I fell in love at first sight with the retro style cottage kitchen I'm working on, its authenticity from another era inspired me. It's a pleasure to work with the Junior League's Miami Showhouse and be part of their team.”

- MAITE GRANDA

“It's a privilege to heighten the natural beauty of The Kampong with art that talks to, and for the environment. Most of the artists I will be showing use their artistic language to convey environmental and ecological messages.”

- ROCHI LLANEZA

“It has been such an amazing opportunity to work with other incredible designers and all for an amazing cause.”

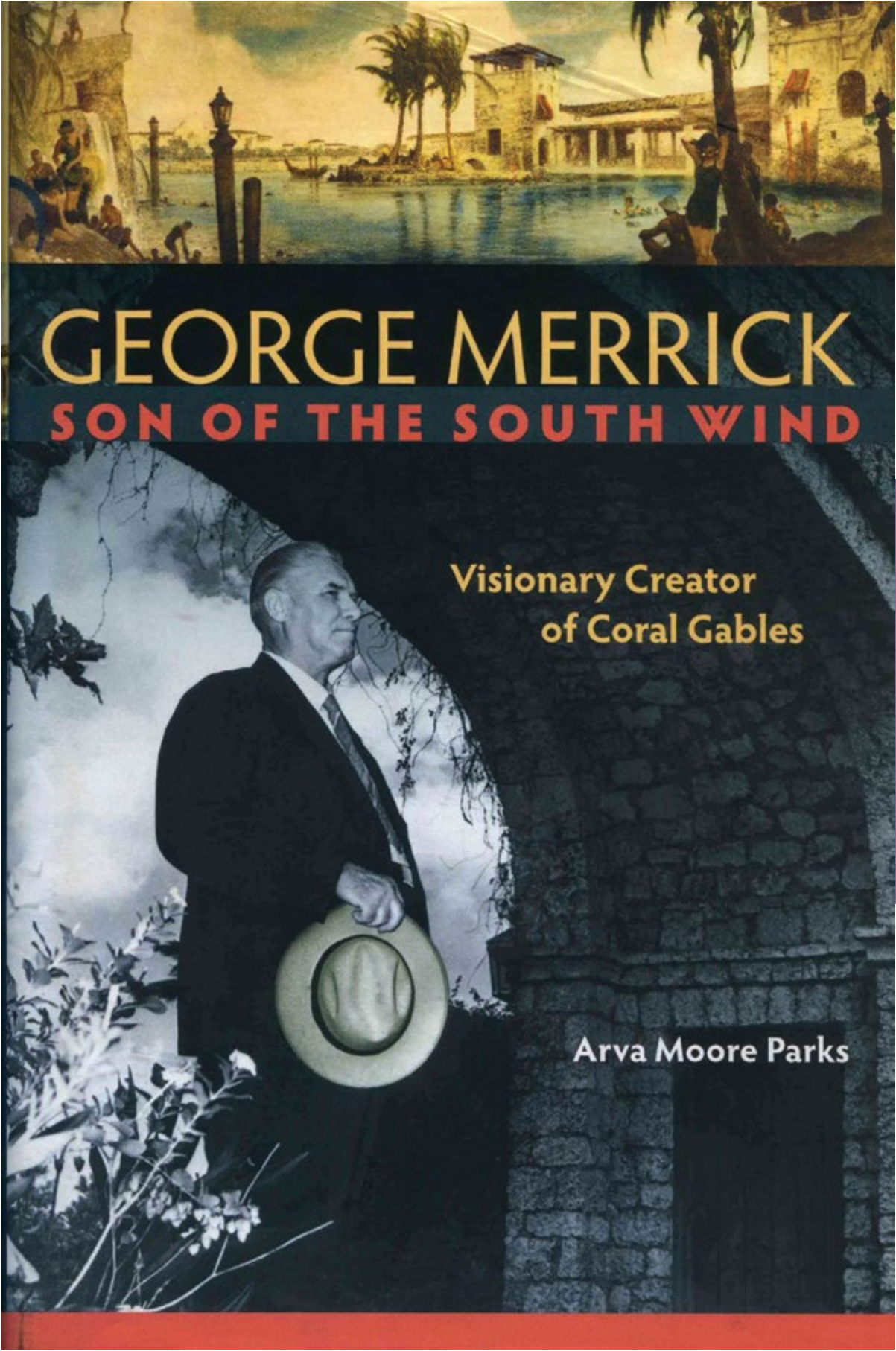
- SHERYL BLEUSTEIN

“Participating in the community and giving Kampong a light facelift will enhance the venue for all of Miami and tourists to enjoy. I am honored to be a part of this project to help a great cause and renovate such a unique Miami landmark.”

- DONNA MOSS







Book Cover of George Merrick, Son of the South Wind: Visionary Creator of Coral Gables

HISTORIAN

# ARVA MOORE PARKS RELEASES NEW BOOK

by Alexandra Kagan

**Q&A**  
**WITH JUNIOR LEAGUE**  
**OF MIAMI SUSTAINER,**  
**ARVA MOORE PARKS.**

ARVA MOORE PARKS IS A NATIVE MIAMIAN, RENOWNED HISTORIAN, AND PROMINENT PRESERVATIONIST. SHE JOINED THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI IN 1970. PARKS RECENTLY WROTE THE BIOGRAPHY, GEORGE MERRICK, SON OF THE SOUTH WIND: VISIONARY CREATOR OF CORAL GABLES. PARKS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEAGUE, THE CITY OF MIAMI AND THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PROTECTING SOUTH FLORIDA'S RICH HISTORY AND CULTURE.



Arva Moore Parks

**Q: How do you think the Junior League contributed to your skills and expertise creating this biographical masterpiece?**  
I am very grateful to the Junior League and I believe my involvement helped launch my career. Soon after I obtained my master's degree from the University of Miami, the League supported a film I produced about Coconut Grove. A couple of years later, the League backed my film Miami: The Magic City. As the first chair of the Coral Gables Preservation Board, would call on both the League and PTA and we would fill the chambers to successfully protect Miami's treasures. This led to the restoration of The Merrick House, a special historic home supported by the League. Fortunately, we also successfully saved The Biltmore.

**Q: What inspired you to write a biography about George Merrick?**  
When I moved into Coral Gables, I got to know Richard and Eunice Merrick. However, I never dreamed I would write a biography. It was not until Mildred Merrick, Richard's widow, came to me with boxes of newly discovered papers and documents. The more I learned, the more I wanted to share George's story with others.

**Q: What's your favorite location that George Merrick created?**  
It's really hard to beat Venetian Pool in terms of being unique. I learned to swim in the Venetian Pool, and my children learned to swim there, too. I truly love Venetian Pool, and I have the fondest memories of growing up nearby.





Sue Daniel at The Merrick House (1982)

**Q: What is your next project?**

I owe it to George to put together his autobiographical short stories. He also wrote poetry, so the book will have a mix of both.

**Q: What would you like your legacy to be?**

Miami coming together. I hope I've helped bring the different parts of Miami together by telling their stories and teaching one culture about another. I hope that the preservation of key Miami sites -- The Barnacle, Coral Gables, and The Merrick House -- will continue. When you build a sense of place, you are achieving a sense of unity. So many people in this community came from somewhere else, so we must build a sense of place for them. And once you can call that place home, it's even more meaningful.



Helen and Richard Merrick at the 1976 dedication of The Merrick House

**Sports GRILL**

**BEST CHICKEN WINGS IN MIAMI** New Times BEST OF MIAMI

Sunset 305-598-2227	Bird Road 305-485-8845
Kendall 305-595-3335	South Miami 305-668-0396
	Miami Lakes 305-512-1516

**TOP 10 SPORTS BAR IN SOUTH FLORIDA**  
CHANNEL 10 Local 10

**TWO NEWEST LOCATIONS**

<b>PALMETTO Golf Course</b> 9300 SW 152 Street Miami, FL 33157 305-233-0456	<b>Pembroke Pines</b> 220 NW 180th Ave. Pembroke Pines, FL 33029 954-441-9464
--	--

[www.sportsgrillmiami.com](http://www.sportsgrillmiami.com)

**BYRD MARTINEZ**

Certified Public Accountants  
Global Experts

Professional tax and accounting services,  
specializing in international start-up businesses  
and US companies with global operations.



Byrd Martinez CPA, LLC  
3390 Mary Street, Suite 116  
Coconut Grove, Florida 33133  
Office 786.429.0993 [byrdmartinez.com](http://byrdmartinez.com)

Our clients rely on our responsiveness,  
expertise and personalized service.





Want to look radiant on the inside and out this year?

Let wholesome food and nutrition arrive seamlessly into your life with the help of a registered dietitian.

Essence Nutrition is dedicated to helping you achieve your health goals. Whether you're setting out to run your first marathon, looking to shed some weight, or you're on a mission to clean up your pantry, I'm here for you.

Monica Heather Auslander, MS, RD, LD/N  
Junior League of Miami member since 2011  
305.280.1316 • hello@essencenutritionmiami.com  
www.essencenutritionmiami.com  
4950 S Le Jeune Rd, Suite H, Coral Gables, FL 33146

@eatlikemonica

f/essencenutritionmiami @feedyouessence

# The Nation's largest network of luxury shelter magazines.



Luxe Interiors + Design is where design enthusiasts, architects and designers connect. Through its 14 editions, the magazine inspires and directs readers to the best national and local resources that enhance a well-lived life.

www.luxesource.com



## Bill Seidler's

Family Owned & Operated for Over 50 Years!

**Bill Seidle's MITSUBISHI OF MIAMI**

2900 NW 36th ST. Miami, FL

**305.635.9000**

www.billseidlemitsubishi.com

**Bill Seidle's NISSAN**

10500 NW 12th ST. Doral, FL

**305.633.8000**

www.billseidlenissan.com



**"BILL SEIDLE'S GONNA SAVE YOU!"**

www.billseidleautogroup.com



# MIAMI'S MOST INSPIRING WOMEN

By Tammy T. Reed

## Meet the 2016 Women Who Make A Difference honorees.

The Junior League of Miami has a long and storied history of supporting and empowering women and children in the Miami-Dade community. Partnering with businesses and other community-focused organizations, the League values the sacrifice and contributions of those who make sustainable improvements in our community through volunteerism and civic and business leadership.

In April during the Women Who Make A Difference annual luncheon, the League recognizes three exceptional women who are distinguished by their passion for community service and their work advocating on behalf of women, children and families.

### SHANNON ALLEN

A singer, actress, songwriter, and producer, Shannon Allen is also a community activist who devotes much her time to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Her son, Walker, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2008. She is involved with many philanthropic and community focused organizations, including the Ray Allen Golf Classic, named for her husband, a two-time NBA champion and Olympic Gold Medalist. Currently, Shannon is focused on a food-related project that grew from her experience as creator/executive producer of "The PreGame Meal," a show that encourages busy people to make delicious meals to feed their home team. Shannon's newest venture, Grown, is a restaurant that aims to reinvent fast food by providing "real food, cooked slow for fast people." She is a successful recording artist who has appeared on stage and screen. Shannon holds a degree in music business from Northeastern University.



### MEG DALY

Founder and President/CEO of Friends of The Underline, Meg Daly is a veteran marketing professional who has held executive marketing and management positions in public relations, advertising, technology and real estate industries. Named one of Miami's Angels by The Miami Herald,

Meg possesses a love for her community and a desire to others. A savvy business leader, Meg was the driving force behind First Media Direct, a breakthrough target marketing company catering to the broadcast television industry. In her current role with Friends of The Underline, she is leading the initiative to transform the underutilized land below Miami's MetroRail into a 10-mile urban trail linear park and living art destination. Meg obtained a degree in English from Vanderbilt University and she has served on several philanthropic boards.

### BETTY LOPEZ-CASTRO

Influenced by her father who was also a notable community leader, Betty Lopez-Castro is guided by the principles taught to her which involve giving back to the community and helping others. If there is a title of "Super Active" member of the Junior League of Miami, then Betty wears the title proudly. A member of JLM since 2003, Betty has devoted her adult life to community service and philanthropic causes. In addition to her work with JLM, she was honored to receive the Rebecca Herndon Bush Community Service Award. Betty has also been distinguished as the recipient of the Barbara Nelson Red Cross Service Award. A proud graduate of University of Miami, in her professional life Betty works in the real estate division of the law firm of Martinez-Esteve & Lopez-Castro. Betty's greatest joy and her personal priority is the time she spends with family, especially her nine nieces and nephews of whom she is extremely proud.



DESIGNED FOR HOMES INSURED  
FOR \$1 MILLION OR MORE.

**YOUR SUCCESS DESERVES UNMATCHED SERVICE  
AND UNCOMPROMISED SATISFACTION.**

PURE was designed from the ground up to specialize in insuring the most responsible owners of the finest built homes. Today, we distinguish ourselves by offering what is widely considered to be the best service experience in the industry – allowing our membership to enjoy their success and to feel smarter, safer and more resilient along the way. What's more, our member-owned model contributes to highly competitive rates.

*Innovative. Proactive. And dedicated to an exceptional member experience.*

Keen Battle Mead & Company is among a select group of brokers authorized to help clients join PURE.

To learn more, contact:

**PATRICK BATTLE, KEEN BATTLE MEAD & COMPANY**  
Risk Manager / Partner  
(305) 820-6725  
pbattle@kbmco.com



HIGH VALUE HOMEOWNERS | AUTOMOBILE | WATERCRAFT | JEWELRY, ART & COLLECTIONS | PERSONAL EXCESS LIABILITY

PURE® refers to Privilege Underwriters Reciprocal Exchange, a Florida-domiciled reciprocal insurer & member of PURE Group of Insurance Companies. PURE Risk Management, LLC, a for profit entity, (PRM) serves as PURE's Attorney-in-Fact for a fee. PURE membership requires Subscriber's Agreement. Coverage is subject to insurance policies issued & may not be available in all jurisdictions. Visit pureinsurance.com for details. Trademarks are property of PRM & used with permission. ©2015 PURE. PURE HNW Insurance Services, CA Lic. 0178980.





**You're scared you  
are messing up  
your kids.  
Parenting is hard.  
Stop doing it  
alone.**

**thenestmiami.com | 305-392-0788 | info@thenestmiami.com**



**PROUD SPONSORS. BECAUSE WE KNOW A GOOD  
INVESTMENT WHEN WE SEE ONE.**

Northern Trust is proud to support the Junior League of Miami. For more than 125 years, we've been meeting our clients' financial needs while nurturing a culture of caring and a commitment to invest in the communities we serve. Because great returns can come from anywhere.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Alexander Adams, Senior Market Executive – Miami Dade  
600 Brickell Avenue, Miami, FL 33131  
305-372-1000

[northerntrust.com](http://northerntrust.com)



WEALTH PLANNING \ BANKING \ TRUST & ESTATE SERVICES \ INVESTING \ FAMILY OFFICE

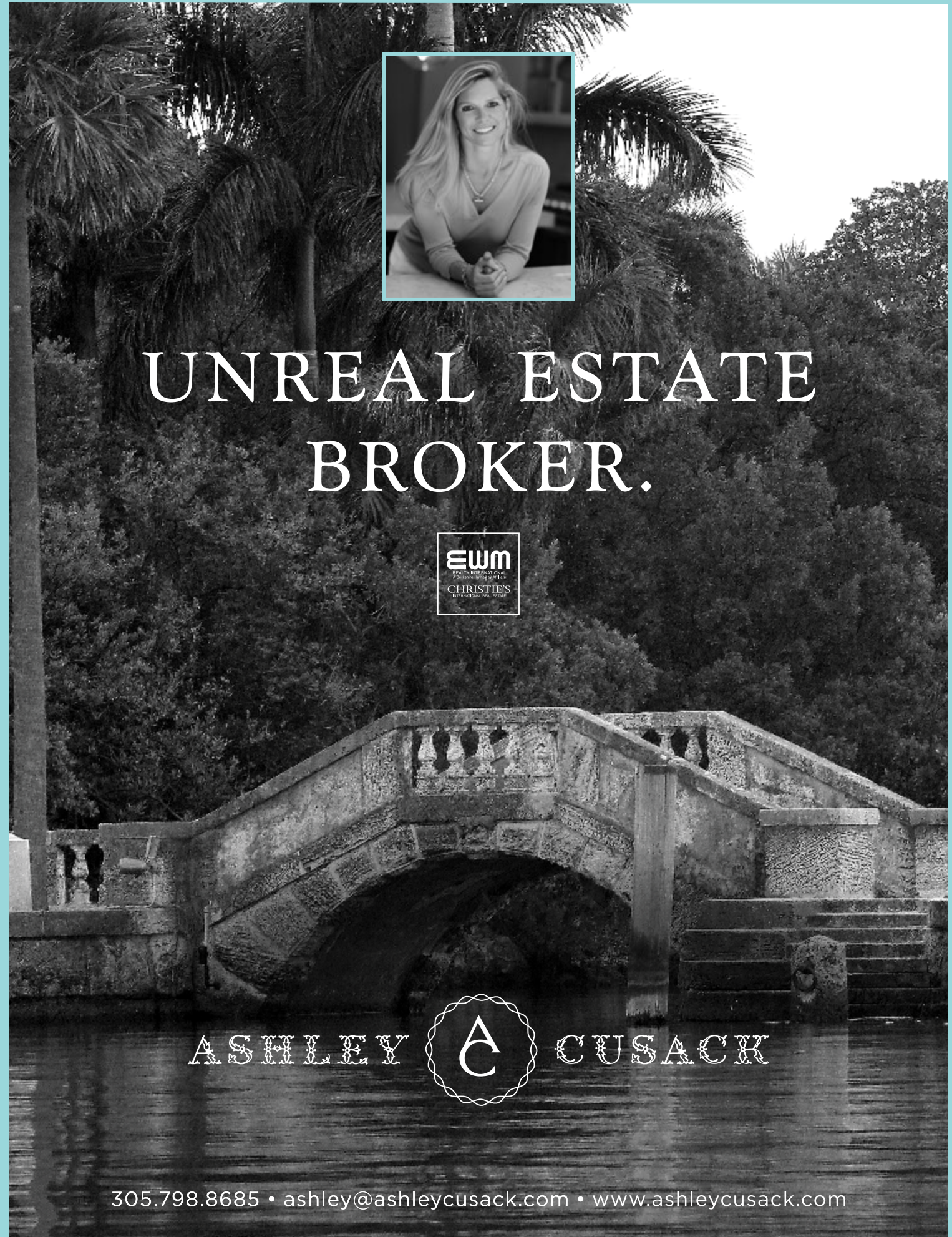


**UNREAL ESTATE  
BROKER.**



ASHLEY  CUSACK

305.798.8685 • [ashley@ashleycusack.com](mailto:ashley@ashleycusack.com) • [www.ashleycusack.com](http://www.ashleycusack.com)





MEET THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI'S

# NEXT PRESIDENT

by Alicia Brown



A SUCCESSFUL ATTORNEY AND LOCAL LEADER, AMANDA KESSLER TALKS ABOUT BUILDING MOMENTUM IN THE LEAGUE.

**Q: What are you most excited about during your tenure as president?**

Momentum. It might sound trivial, but over the last couple of years, we have been building it internally and externally. I want to keep the momentum for JLM going and make it stronger than ever. I want to build on the momentum from events such as the Showhouse to keep helping us get our name out there and to have people recognize that we are leaders in the area of families at risk.



Raquel Zuniga, Amanda Kessler, Priscilla Rettig and Kendall Brown

**Q: How do you balance Junior League with your personal and professional life?**

In my professional life I am a plaintiff's trial lawyer, practicing primarily in the area of toxic tort litigation and products liability litigation. It is a demanding field and still heavily male-dominated, which makes it interesting. Outside of work and the League, I love to spend time with friends, hit the gym or go for a run, read, and, of course, hang out with my grandmother in Palm Springs, CA. I'm not married or dating anyone, so ladies, keep me in mind for your single guy friends! Balance is tough and I am not always great at it. I really work on being present in whatever I am doing, and I try hard not to sweat the small stuff in life. It also has taken me a long time to accept this, but I know that I

cannot do everything and I cannot control everything. Trust me ladies, the sooner you figure out that one, the better!

**Q: What some of your favorite books?**

My all-time favorite is Harper Lee's "Too Kill a Mockingbird," the message is powerful and it's a classic. Some other great books that I would recommend are Sheryl Sandberg's "Lean In," Elizabeth Gilbert's "Eat Pray, Love" and Gretchen Rubin's "The Happiness Project."

**Q: What's your favorite Miami restaurant?**

I love trying out all the different restaurants in Miami (this makes it very difficult for my dietician, Monica Auslander, but she works with me). For Sunday brunch, you can often find me at the bar at Michael's Genuine in the Design District. I work out at a gym down the street so a lot of times I will do a 10 am workout and then hit Michael's right at 11 when they open (like somehow that makes those Bloody Mary's less terrible for me)! The food is always good and the people watching is great.

**Q: Any words of wisdom that you would like to share?**

How many pages do I have!? Seriously, I am a firm believer in pursuing your passion, whatever it may be. That is true both in the League and outside of JLM. At the same time, I also think it's really important to go outside of our comfort zone sometimes and to open ourselves up to new experiences and possibilities. That is one thing I love about the League and that I hope others appreciate about it, too.



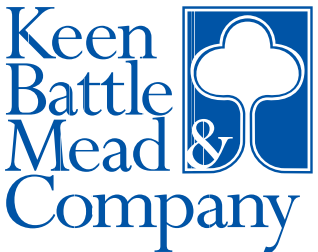
Amanda Kessler and Lauren Billingslea Dowlan.



# Protect It All

Commercial, Personal, Employee Benefits & Life Insurance Since 1921

Compliments of



Michael, Timothy, Robert and Patrick Battle

Keen Battle Mead & Company 7850 Northwest 146 Street, Miami Lakes, Florida 33016. Call 305.558.1101





## Every Home Has A Story

The Kampong has been home to some of Miami-Dade County's most influential settlers. It's history is enriched by names such as Jolly Jack Peacock, Dr. Eleanor Galt Simmons, and Dr. David Fairchild. As The Kampong receives another wave of renewal, we feel privileged to join with others to be a part of its story...

**ewm**  
REALTY INTERNATIONAL  
A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate  
**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Proud Sponsor of The Junior League of Miami's 2016 Showhouse  
ewm.com



## Anubis Appraisal & Estate Services, Inc.



### Appraisal Services:

Estate and Probate  
Equal Distribution  
Insurance Coverage and Loss/Damage  
Charitable Donations  
On-site estate sale services available

### Contact Us:

tarafinley@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 34-7556 | Coral Gables, FL 33234  
Cell 786-486-8042 | Fax 305-648-1939  
www.anubisappraisal.com



### Tara Ana Finley, ISA AM

President  
Anubis Appraisal & Estate Services, Inc.  
Antiques Roadshow Appraiser  
Appraiser's Association of America Member  
International Society of Appraisers, Accredited Member  
USPAP 2014-2015

### Areas of Specialization:

American and European Furniture and Decorations,  
Silver, Paintings, Prints and Drawings  
Latin American Paintings, Prints and Drawings  
Pre-Columbian, African and Oceanic Art  
Jewelry, Antiquities and Collectibles  
Islamic Art



# CRUISEONE

DREAM VACATIONS START HERE  
KABRINA MEANS - VACATION SPECIALIST

**Dreaming about that Vacation???**

Contact me to check out the Ultimate in Luxury  
Vacations!

Cell: 305-903-3418

K.MEANS@CRUISEONE.COM

WWW.MEMBERCRUISES.COM/OCEANADVENTURE



By Kimberly Laughlin

## PROVISIONALS DISH ON HOW THEY ARE CONTRIBUTING THEIR TIME AND TALENTS DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR.

I joined Junior League not really knowing what it was at all about and I agreed to attend Super Saturday on a whim. That whim turned into a whirlwind! I've been impressed by what I learned. The Junior League of Miami is everything that I have been looking for: a place to interact with like-minded women, to be social, to give back to the community and a place to learn new skills with a supportive team. I've immersed myself in many aspects of the League this year and when I finally came up to breathe it occurred to me that I really feel at home in this group. Now that my provisional year is coming to an end I can fondly say that I just can't wait to see what next year has in store. Here's what a few of my provisional friends had to say, when I asked them the question:

## HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELF FITTING IN WITH THE JUNIOR LEAGUE?

"I found that I am being led to guide other new women into the League. I'm an extrovert, so I'm hoping to help bring teams together."

-TONYA WILSON

"Community activity is always what I've done, so I see my fit in ITN or ITS. I'm most comfortable giving back through hands-on community work."

-MELISSA MEINCKEN



"Everyone has been very welcoming. I'm still trying to find a committee for me but I am assured, there is no wrong choice."

-VALERY CARDENAS

"I'm attending as many committee meetings as I can, just to get more of a feel of what the League is about. That's what's so great about JLM: there's always something going on and that really helps when you are looking to find your fit."

-LAURA LARIOS



# World-Class Education with a Personal Touch

# Gulliver



For PreK3–8 admission information contact 305.665.3593.  
For grades 9–12 admission information contact 305.666.7937  
or visit our website at [www.gulliverschools.org](http://www.gulliverschools.org).





713 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

[jlmiami.org](http://jlmiami.org)

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MIAMI FL  
PERMIT # 790

# Be The Difference



Sofia Rivas '17 reads to a student of the Lakota Indian Tribe during a Service-Learning Experience at the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, South Dakota.



## PALMER TRINITY SCHOOL

WHERE STUDENTS LEARN TO  
BE THE DIFFERENCE THEY  
WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD.

---

Palmer Trinity is an Episcopal school  
dedicated to promoting academic  
excellence and inspiring students to lead  
lives of virtue, humanity, and spirit.

7900 S.W. 176<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA 33157  
(305) 969-4208 | [WWW.PALMERTRINITY.ORG](http://WWW.PALMERTRINITY.ORG)