

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2019



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

INSIDE SUSTAINER MARIA MALOOF'S MASTERPIECE

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
MOTHER'S DAY AT INN TRANSITION SOUTH

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
HONORING OUTSTANDING LEADERS

JLM MILESTONES
MEMBER UPDATES

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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.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

Welcome to the Junior League of Miami's Spring Magazine! Just recently, I was looking for a file in my office at our Headquarters and came across a box of old JLM magazines from the 1950s and 1960s. It was such a treat to see the photos and read about our members working on community projects, advocating on behalf of our programs, and networking with civic leaders. So much has changed since then, but also, so much remains the same!

In this edition, we are delighted to share our latest news and accomplishments with you, including highlights from the 18th Annual Women Who Make A Difference luncheon, features from our community projects, a peek inside Sustainer Maria Maloof's gorgeous home, and many other topics.

Additionally, the League is actively recruiting new members who share our passion for community service and developing the potential of women leaders. Please reach out if you or someone you know would like to join us.

It has been an honor to serve alongside the women of the Junior League of Miami over the past year.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission and support of our great community.

With gratitude,

Debbie

COMMUNITY FOCUS

A MEMORABLE MOTHER'S DAY FOR FAMILIES AT ITN & ITS

More than 30 families from Inn Transition North (ITN) and Inn Transition South (ITS) were treated to a magical Mother's Day filled with pampering, entertainment, and enjoyment. JLM volunteers transformed ITS into a retreat to celebrate the strong women who sacrificed everything to provide a better life for their children. The event featured: massage therapists, live music, a game truck, bounce houses, hot dogs and popcorn, a taco truck, ice cream lollipops, and a craft area for kids to make a picture frame with their Polaroid photo to give as a gift to their mom.

Along with JLM volunteers, 10 sorority sisters from Florida International University's Alpha Chi Omega chapter were on hand to serve food, entertain children, and spend time with the moms. "The most wonderful thing is to see the ITS and ITN families getting more and more comfortable each time we see them," said Anna Luthra, ITS Chair. "Many women come and hug us to say how grateful they are for the programs we provide and friendly atmosphere we create for them."

Guests left the Mother's Day celebration with a homemade cookie basket, smiles, and happy memories that will last a lifetime.

"Families rotate often but we get to see some of them for the entire year and how they progress with their lives and how kids grow, said Luthra. "We get to know how different their stories are and how fortunate they are to be in a safe environment."

JLM Volunteers Coordinated
the Special Celebration



A Magical Setting for the Moms



A Musician Played Lively Songs in English and Spanish

LET'S GET SOCIAL

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON
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To have your social media posts featured,
use the hashtag #jlmiami

Twitter: @JrLeagueMiami
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FOLLOW THE NUMBERS

How many people are looking at JLM?

f 1,992 i 1,443 t 887



Junior League Miami @JrLeagueMiami · 12 Oct 2018
For more than 20 years the @JuniorLeagueMiami's Inn Transition has provided housing and resources to women and children who are survivors of domestic violence as part of a public-private partnership with Miami-Dade County.

Junior League Miami @JrLeagueMiami · 15 Nov 2018
We were overjoyed to have @javiso305, President and CEO of the @MiamiFoundation, stop by our headquarters tonight to see us in action! We put together Thanksgiving baskets for the women of ITN and ITS. #GIVEMIAMIDAY – at Junior League of Miami Headquarters



Rebecca Garay
March 30 at 6:33 PM
Full van of donations for POKI! Thank you very much Deborah Koch & Meg McIntosh! Provisional member Donia Shirley-Douglas was a big help 🙌 Another move-in complete



Baby Boot Camp, Miami- South
November 15, 2018
@Regan_ed from @juniorleaguemiami - These women killed it at @babybootcampmiamisouth pop up today at our headquarters! Thank you for joining in our celebration of #givemiamiday and learning more about the mission of the Junior League! - #reggrann



Alana Sullivan Garcia is with Rebekah Kurzweg and 7 others.
Visual Storyteller · February 13
Congratulations to our newly elected 2019 / 2020 Nominating Committee! Meg McIntosh (Chair)* Corinne "Coki" Guerra (chair-elect) Jennifer Salman Rebekah Kurzweg Priya Kumbhojkar Aprille Tampa Sami Golbo Kristy Quiros Helen Kakouris Meg DeMa *elected by membership in 2018/ 2019 as chair elect for 2019/2020 year league year



Junior League of Miami
November 15, 2018
We were overjoyed to have Javier Soto, President and CEO of the The Miami Foundation, stop by our headquarters tonight to see us in action! We put together Thanksgiving baskets for the women of ITN and ITS while continuing to work towards our fundraising goal. #givemiamiday #305 #juniorleague



WWMD Honorees: Tina Brown, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Michelle Ramirez-Patricios, Anita Uppaluri



Miami-Dade County Commissioners Daniella Levine Cava and Sally Heyman with JLM President Debbie Koch



WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE LUNCHEON

by Emilie Wernick

Upon entering the serene, tropical-themed ballroom at Jungle Island on March 8th, more than 400 guests at the 18th annual Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon were inspired by touching tributes and heartfelt testimonials. Co-chairs Monique Lavender Greenberg and Meg DeMilia, along with the WWMD committee, worked tirelessly to produce a memorable afternoon that raised more than \$100,000 for JLM.

Miami-Dade County Commissioners Daniella Levine Cava and Sally Heyman animatedly read a proclamation declaring March 8th as Junior League of Miami Day and the festivities took off from there. Local 10's Laurie Jennings emceed the event, coinciding with International Women's Day, honoring four remarkable women who exemplify the League's mission of promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities. The 2019 honorees were: Tina Brown, executive director of the Overtown Youth Center; Michelle Ramirez-Patricios, past JLM president and community activist; State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, child advocate; and Anita Uppaluri, sustainer and philanthropist.

JLM also recognized three female, high school seniors in the Miami-Dade Public School System who have exhibited superior community service involvement and high academic achievement. Miami-Dade Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho introduced two recipients of the JLM Scholarship in honor of Kathryn Menke Miller, followed by one recipient of the JLM Scholarship funded by The Uppaluri Foundation.

The program concluded with powerful testimonials from one current and one past resident of Inn Transition, who shared harrowing tales of domestic violence. Both women tearfully recounted how JLM has changed their lives and those of their children through its funding and volunteer commitment at Inn Transition North and South, allowing guests to fully understand the power of women helping women through JLM. All funds raised at the luncheon benefit JLM's programs to help women and children at risk.

Photos courtesy of Unique Design Studios.



Eddy and Katie Arriola

JLM Scholarship Recipients: Jianan Zhang, Jazmin Baez, and Sophie Sepehri



Monique Lavender Greenberg, Laurie Jennings, and Meg DeMilia



Miami-Dade County Public Schools superintendent Alberto Carvalho



JLM Volunteers



A Few JLM Past Presidents

Kids at JLM's signature project, Inn Transition South

A volunteer at JLM-owned Inn Transition North



COMMUNITY PROJECT ROUNDUP

by Maritza Zuluaga

The Program Development Committee conducted its annual Community Collaboration Breakfast for community organizations and non-profits, resulting in numerous applications from community groups hoping to collaborate with JLM. Ultimately, the JLM membership voted to approve two new community projects for the 2019- 2020 JLM year: Casa Valentina and Pace Center for Girls.

JLM's partnership with Casa Valentina will place JLM volunteers with young women aging out of the foster care system and transferring into Casa Valentina's women's campus. The young women are given an apartment-like space, but have never had the opportunity and means to make the space their own. JLM volunteers will work closely with the young women to design and decorate their space so they can thrive.

JLM will also partner with Pace Center for Girls to develop and implement a curriculum of life skills training for the PACE students. The curriculum will likely include topics such as career skills (resume building, networking, interviewing, etc.), college preparedness, and health and wellness. PACE was founded in 1985 and serves as a corrective step to help girls get back on track to avoid the criminal justice system.



Members of the 2018-2019 ITS Committee



Pace Center for Girls graduation



JLM Bus Tour highlighted communitiy projects



Community Garden at Casa Valentina

COMMUNITY BUS TOUR

JLM hit the road with a bus full of actives, sustainers, new members, and prospective members. The community bus tour started with breakfast at Headquarters, followed by a stop at Casa Valentina (a 2019-2020 JLM project), where guests were treated to a tour and overview of the organization.

"The stop at ITS was long and meaningful," organizer Alex Lalos said, "It was worth spending extra time there so that bus tour participants could really get a feel for what JLM does."

The tour was both educational and fun, and gave participants a glimpse at how JLM's work benefits women and children in the community.

PLAYGROUND GRANTED

This spring, the Inn Transition South (ITS) playground got a makeover thanks to a grant from the UPS Foundation. Marcia Koo, a member of JLM and a UPS employee, won the grant. In an interview with Koo she said, "As a past co-chair of ITS I know there is always a need to help out the families there. The children at ITS deserve a safe and happy playground. I am very grateful that, as a UPS employee, I was able to give back."

The UPS Foundation mission statement is to respond to the world's most pressing social, environmental, and humanitarian needs.



The new playground at ITS

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Q&A WITH A TRANSFER, SUSTAINER & ACTIVE

By Ann Briggie Fonts



MONIQUE PARDO TRANSFER

*Welcome to the MIA! Help us get to know you!
Describe yourself in five words.*

Empathetic, Generous, Enthusiastic, Kind, Resourceful

Why did you move to the 305?

After spending the last 10 years in the northeast working late hours on Wall Street and enduring unbearably cold winters, I decided it was time to turn in my parka, shed some layers, and transition my career path back towards the practice of law. I've lived in California, Texas, Connecticut, and New York, and NOTHING compares to being back home in Florida!

What are you most excited to do in the Magic City?

To make up for lost time - cafecitos, croquetas, boat days, golf... anything that involves delicious Cuban food and plenty of outdoors/sunshine!



JODIE WILMOTH ACTIVE

What has been your favorite project to work on with JLM and why?

Definitely working with the residents of Inn Transition. Last year my placement was with ITN. To experience the joy and excitement on the faces of the mothers and children every time we [the volunteers] were with them was awesome!

I remember taking the families on a field trip to a nearby park with a man-made beach and one of the mothers being overjoyed to have her toes in the sand and go into the water. I found out that she had never been to a beach! The thought of that was mind blowing, but interestingly the reality for many in some of our Miami neighborhoods. I was so happy to see her experience this for the first time with her son.

I'm so proud to be part of an organization that brings not only support and fun activities to these families in need, but also exposure to a world outside of what some of them know.

How do you balance the League with your personal and professional life?

My method for balance is to plan in advance... as much as possible. For example, I live and mostly work from home in North Bay Village (NE Miami); to get to events/meetings in the Gables by 6 or 7pm on a workday is a challenge to say the least. Instead, when possible I make plans to attend area general membership meetings and virtual trainings.

What are your favorite things to do outside the League?

TRAVEL! I love visiting new countries and experiencing different cultures. I enjoy learning about other people's way of life, the things they are proudest of as a people, and the current issues they face. Of course, taking part in local cuisine is a must. My goal is to visit 40 countries by the age of 40. So far I've visited 26... 24 countries and six years to go!

VICKY HUCKS SUSTAINER

What is your fondest memory of Junior League?

This is a hard one. I was extremely active for so many years and met some of my closest friends in the League. However, my fondest memory was when I was the provisional co-chair and we organized a family fun day at ITS. Watching the mothers see pure joy in their children's eyes. It was a fabulous day!

What words of wisdom do you have for the ladies of JLM?

I know that we are pulled in every direction - work, family, other volunteer responsibilities. However, the age old phrase is true... the more you give, the more you receive. Get as involved as time allows. Not only will you help those less fortunate and make a REAL change in others, but you will build lifelong friendships based on a common desire to help others.

What is your favorite thing about Miami?

It is really easy to take our home for granted. However, recently I spent the afternoon kayaking in Oleta State Park. I was born and raised in Miami and had never been. It truly is a piece of paradise.



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

INSIDE SUSTAINER MARIA MALOOF'S PASSION PROJECT

by *Emilie Wernick*

WHEN THE STately ENTRY DOORS OF SUSTAINER MARIA MALOOF'S TWO-STORY CORAL GABLES HOME SWING OPEN, THE FIRST IMPRESSION IS ONE OF SHEER GLAMOUR. FROM THE CUSTOM-DESIGNED MARBLE TILE INLAY AND IRON STAIRCASE WITH BRASS RAILING TO THE MAGENTA SILK DRAPERIES AND GLITTERING CRYSTAL AND PEARL CHANDELIERS, IT IMMEDIATELY FEELS LIKE A PLACE YOU WANT TO BE. AND AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF CHATTING WITH MALOOF, THE APPEAL IS CLEAR: HER HEART IS IN EVERY INCH OF THE HOME.

"I am not afraid to be bold," said Maloof. "The house is a reflection of how we live our life so it is filled with things that we are passionate about."

Maloof had a vision when her husband, Al, and she purchased the acreage on Ponce de Leon Road in 2014. They wanted to build a home that their family could grow into. A home to celebrate milestones for their young sons, Richard (13) and George (9) and to build cherished memories with older son Albert (29), who is marrying next month. After nearly three years, their vision became a 7,600 square-foot, six-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bathroom reality.

A statement black kitchen.

It's hard to imagine that Maloof, who says her favorite colors are purple and pink, spent four active and two reserve years in the U.S. Marine Corps. She said, "Even in the Marines I managed to push convention and personalize my space in my last year in the Corps. I know my unit leaders did not know how to handle me. I had a pink, flowery bedspread in the barracks! Any variation of a pink hue makes me happy and I want to be surrounded by color, people, and things that evoke happiness." The purple reflected in her home reminds her of her paternal grandmother, Priscilla, and also the namesake of Maloof's sister, Priscilla Rettig, who is currently active in Junior League of Miami (JLM). "My grandmother and her sister had a lavender and white decorated tea room called 'The Unicorn Tea Room' so purple brings back such loving, warm, fond memories of two ladies dining on tea sandwiches and fanciful desserts in their marvelously appointed venue."

The first person to call to make it happen: Maloof's friend and design mentor, Kim Hernandez of The Gallery Interiors. Hernandez, a two-time JLM Showhouse designer, worked side-by-side with architect Nelson de Leon of Locus Architecture to envision the space. "I think about how the family wants to live and entertain," said Hernandez. "I get involved at the start to help with everything from layout design to light switch placement."

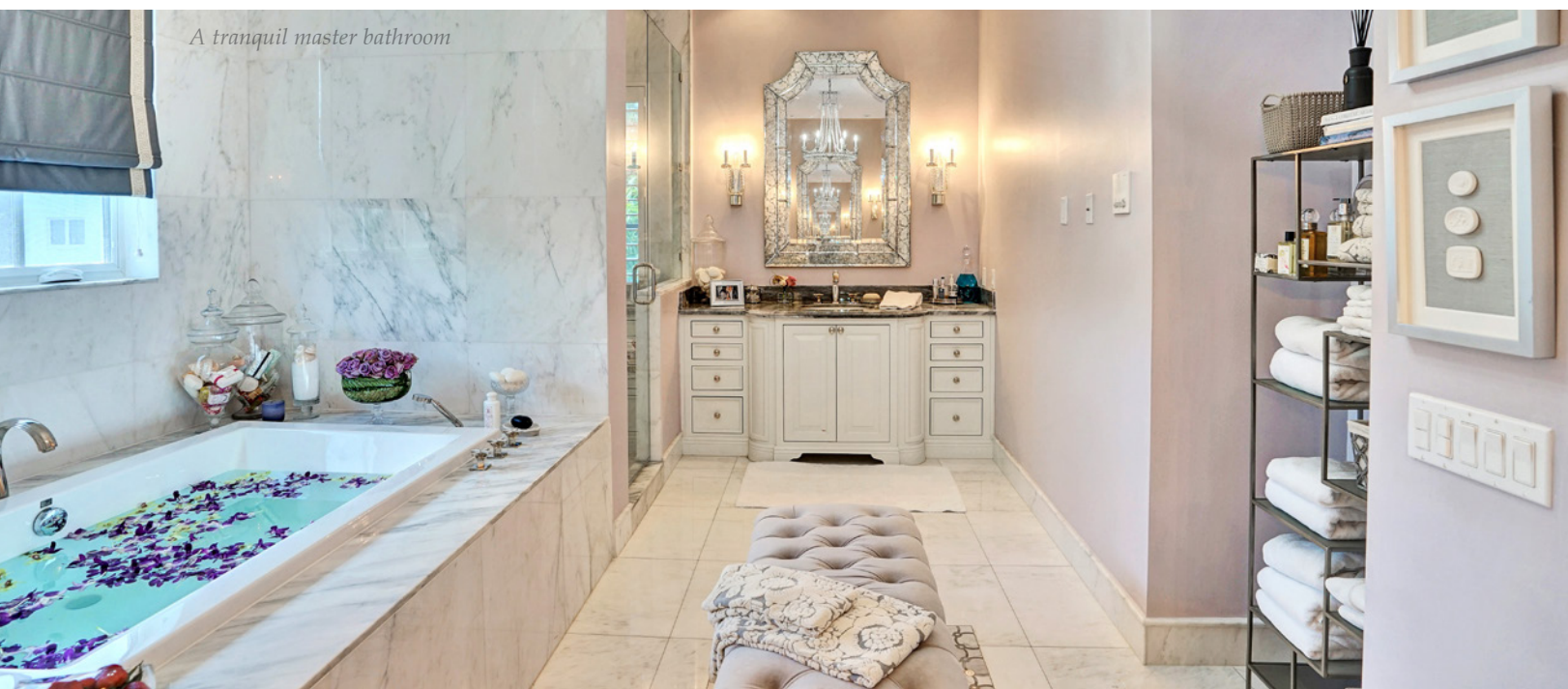
Ultimate creatives, the pair fed off each other during the process. "Maria is never predictable and won't color inside the lines. She was open to having totally different spaces - different fixtures, marble and colored bathrooms, a black kitchen - you name it and she was open to it." Along with custom wallpapers and draperies, Maloof added her own touch to the home: 20+ original abstract acrylic paintings that she created in her studio (a.k.a the garage). The artwork of all shapes and sizes complements walls in her family room, dining room, stairway, hallways, and more. "Painting is my newly developed and explored creative outlet," Maloof says. "And it doesn't hurt that I paint pieces that reflect the emotion and palette that I want in a space."

An active mom, event planner, philanthropist, and volunteer, one room was especially significant to Maloof. An inspiring home office to dream up her newest endeavor: a non-profit called Comfort Crusaders. Developed with her sons, Comfort Crusaders

"IT SHOWCASES MY ECLECTIC SIDE," SAID MALOOF. "I WANTED A HOME THAT WAS UNIQUE TO MIAMI. IT'S A FRENCH VIBE MEETS HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR WITH A LITTLE PALM BEACH." SAID MALOOF.



Custom wallpaper brings life to the powder room



A tranquil master bathroom



Original Maria Maloof artwork adorns the dining room wall.



Maloof in her master suite



aims to provide hands-on volunteer experience to kids of all ages, fostering a culture of giving back. As a former vice president of development, including Chair of a number of fundraisers and committees for JLM, Maloof credits JLM with giving her the platform to build upon her leadership and advocacy skills. "I never would have come up with Comfort Crusaders without the training I received from JLM," said Maloof. She also took that JLM training to Kristi House where she served on their Board of Directors for four years, serving as their Development Chair, including chairing the organization's annual gala for five years, doubling the event's fundraising revenue alongside dear friend, Kara Zeder.

"It's all about passion. Whether it's artwork, charity work, or design - you have to believe in what you're doing, and chase after your goals with fierce, unabashed determination," said Maloof.

Three years after construction concluded, Maloof and Hernandez are still perfecting the finishing touches on the interiors. Hernandez stresses the importance of living in the space before decorating it fully. "Design is worth waiting for," said Hernandez. "You may change your mind once you spend time in the space. If you rush it, the home will end up looking flat." And there is one more project yet to come: a spacious outdoor retreat complete with pool, cabana, summer kitchen, and guest quarters, breaking ground in summer 2019.

The most important part of Maloof's home is already complete: her family. "Without them, the beautiful home my husband, Al and I have built would just be an empty shell no matter how fabulously decorated."

LIVING BY THE NUMBERS

- 82 Pillows
- 46 Windows
- 45 Gold Door Knobs
- 21 Chandeliers
- 20 Maria Maloof Paintings Hanging

Credits

Interior Design: Kim Hernandez/The Gallery Interiors and Maria Maloof
Architect: Nelson de Leon/Locus Architecture
Photography: Swift Pix
Florals: Jenna Sleeman, Infinite Gift
Makeup: Makeup by Jany

MARIA'S MARKER

"Given my male-dominated home with my husband, sons, and shih-ztu, I absolutely love to retreat and spend time in my dressing room. It's the epitome of femininity and is the only space that is entirely mine where I may have my moments of solitude to recharge and daydream."

A WALK TO REMEMBER

by Ann Briggie Fonts

The Junior League of Miami Foundation hosted the annual Wine Walk on Thursday, February 7, 2019. More than 120 fabulous attendees gathered at the private home and garden estate of past JLM President Jayne Harris Abbess and her husband Leonard, for a night of beautiful views, delicious fare and unique wine, courtesy of Joanna’s Marketplace. Co-Chairs Sarita Courtney-Baigorri and Ashley Cusack organized the event, which also included a short talk by historian Dr. Paul George and a raffle. Highlights of the evening included the specimen gardens enhanced by contemporary art.

The Junior League of Miami Foundation has assets of \$1.750 million, they have a goal of raising \$2 million. The Foundation solely funds Junior League of Miami programs. At the annual meeting this year, the Foundation plans to donate \$ 28,259.29 to the League!



Debbie Koch, Gabby Portela-Briggie, Alana García, Laura Van Gorden, Angela Carillo Gabby O’Quinn



SUSTAINER COFFEE

On February 21, Sarita Courtney-Baigorri opened her beautiful home to more than 25 ladies for the annual JLM Sustainer Coffee.

- 1 Betsy Hoover-Thomas, Anna Ehlert, Becky Matkov, Ellen Oppenheimer, Jeannett Slesnick, Gabrielle O’Quinn.
- 2 Carol Pawley, Erin Knight, Sarita Courtney-Baigorri, Galia Pennekamp.
- 3 Anita Uppaluri, Maria Byrd, Gail Scott.



THANKYOU!



DEBBIE KOCH & LAURA VAN GORDEN, ALONG WITH THE 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM **FOR YOUR TIRELESS DEDICATION TO JLM.**

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Congratulates the Junior League of Miami
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KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
MICHELLE RAMIREZ-PATRICIOS
ANITA UPPALURI**

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Congrats to **Deborah Koch**, current JLM president, on her new position as Executive Director of the American Red Cross Greater Miami & the Keys.



Mary "Mimi" Shafey will be receiving the Do Unto Others Trust Philanthropy Award.



Julian Carter Sox was born December 9, 2018 to Proud Mom **Carter Sox**.



Jenny Williams and her family welcomed baby **Jack Thomas Williams** on October 10, 2018.



Laura Bruno and her husband, **Michael**, welcomed their second daughter - **Olivia Anne** - on November 15, 2018. Big sister, **Adeline**, is so in love - as are we.



Irene Tapanes became engaged to **Philip Kates** on November 16, 2018. They are getting married on October 5, 2019.



Deborah D. Korge started her own company, South Florida Philanthropic Consulting Services, helping non-profits develop their infrastructure to ensure sustainability and growth



Lauren Franklin got married to her high school sweetheart, **Stephen Ludovici** on February 9th, 2019.



Becky Roper Matkov was elected president of the Deering Estate Foundation.



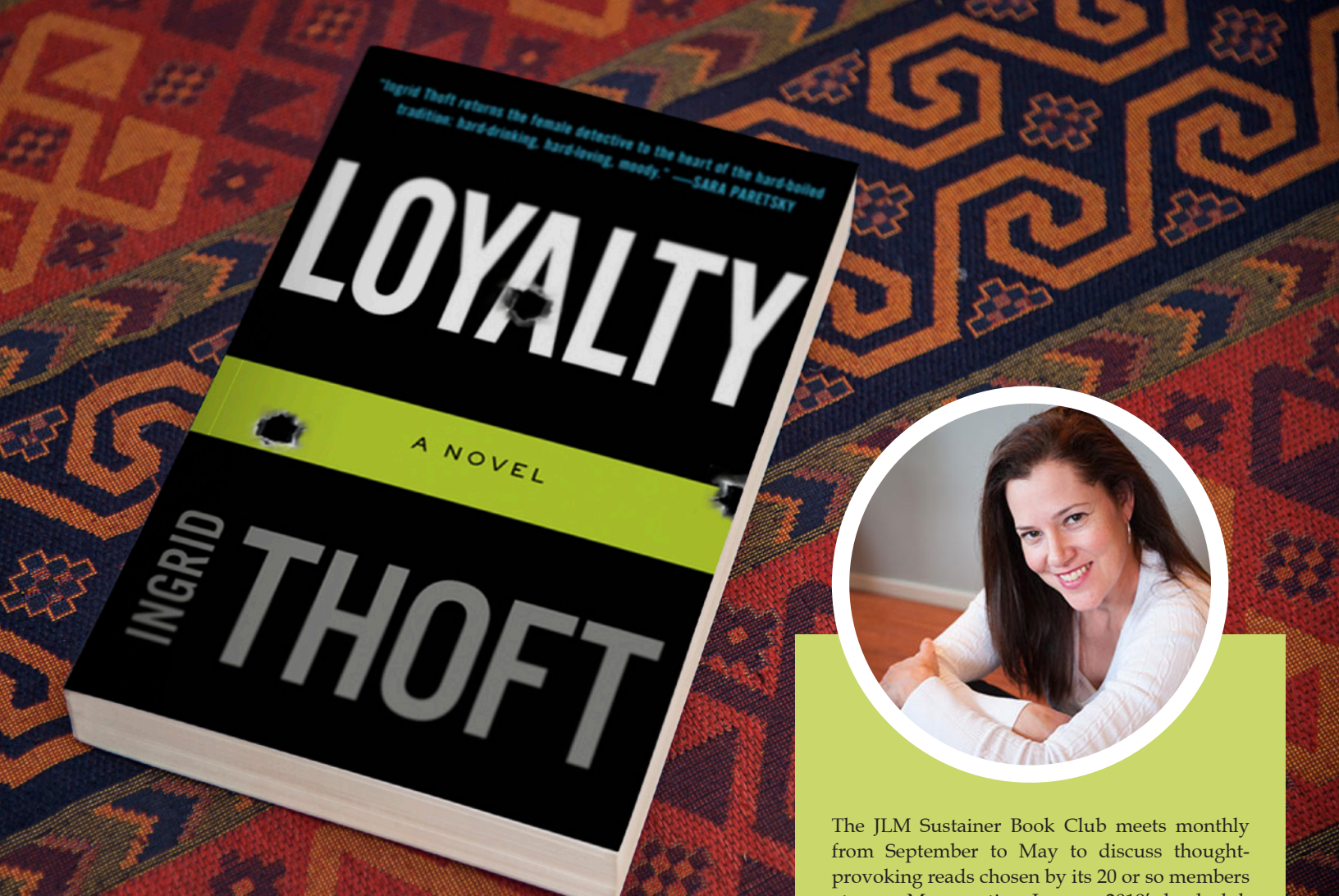
Kudos to **Amanda Altman**, who has been named CEO of Kristi House.



Meg DeMilia got married on May 4, 2019.



Julia Bianchi was named to the board of directors of the National Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C.



PAGE
TURNER
THE SUSTAINER
BOOK CLUB GETS
PERSONAL WITH
AUTHOR
INGRID THOFT

By Aniella Gonzalez

The JLM Sustainer Book Club meets monthly from September to May to discuss thought-provoking reads chosen by its 20 or so members at every May meeting. January 2019's book club selection was Loyalty by Ingrid Thoft. Thoft is a college classmate of Sustainer Aniella Gonzalez, who arranged a private evening Skype session with the author at EWM Realty International's Alhambra office. Thoft was thrilled to visit with JLM's sustainers from her home in Seattle.

Loyalty is the first of four critically acclaimed novels starring heroine, Fina Ludlow, a tough, funny and flawed private investigator. The series of novels is set in Boston, Massachusetts, Thoft's hometown, and follows Ludlow and her family, led by a patriarchal personal injury attorney. Thoft shared that prior to writing the novel she undertook private investigative training at the University of Washington, which helped her give a first-hand feel for the crime novel genre. The Skype format supported lively conversation about the characters, the dynamics of the Ludlow family and their development throughout the novel and the series.

For a group of avid readers, it was fascinating to hear about how Ingrid began writing in the mystery-crime fiction genre, learning about Thoft's current project (something beyond the Ludlow series) and the books she is currently reading.

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