

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI

# MAGAZINE

SPRING 2015

Imagine carefree days spent with your toes in the sand and playing in the surf. Summertime is almost here again and that means laid-back beach days and much-needed family vacations. Find out where Junior Leaguers are traveling this summer.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARIA FIGUEROA BYRD'S YEAR-END REVIEW

## SUSTAINER FOCUS

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## LEADERSHIP & LEGACY

Q&A WITH JLM'S NEXT PRESIDENT

## MENTORSHIP & INSPIRATION

ENCOURAGING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CONNECTING THE PIECES TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



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**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Congratulations to the 2015 Honorees of the 14th Annual Junior League of Miami's Women Who Make A Difference Award:

Maria C. Alonso  
Deborah Korge  
Melissa Medina

**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. Communications may be addressed to:

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As the Junior League year starts to wind down, I have been thinking about how we have promoted voluntarism, developed the potential of women, and improved our community.

The journey, which began last May, has allowed me to see firsthand the love and hard work of all those who give of themselves to allow the League to fulfill its mission.

Together we set out to connect our world as parts of the puzzle: our community, our members, and the League.

Here are some of the ways in which we have been able to achieve this goal:

**We connected with our community not only through the work of volunteers serving at our projects, but also through our efforts to promote voluntarism.**

After the League was featured in El Nuevo Herald, we received several calls from people in need. One call was from a survivor of domestic violence and another was from a homeless woman. They both read about our work with women and children and asked for help in finding shelter and getting counseling.

Another survivor called the League after seeing a Therapy Dogs event because she wanted help finding a dog. The event reminded her of the dog she had to give up after leaving her abuser and the feelings of comfort, happiness, and love having a dog had brought her.

**We strengthened connections with our members in several ways.** Having each council coordinate a General Membership Meeting brought new energy and pride to the councils and gave our members engaging, informative, and interesting meetings.

Other examples include a successful Give Miami Day and Miami Magic Gala, enjoyable member events, stimulating leadership trainings, a strong advertising campaign, and a new, modern look to our magazine.

**We also increased community awareness of the League's work and mission.**

Telemundo aired a "Rostros de Nuestra Ciudad" segment about the League that was filmed at our historic headquarters. The League's work in the area of domestic violence was reported by El Nuevo Herald, The Miami Herald, and other community newspapers, as well as a Spanish radio station.

The Women's Fund "Mujeres Giving Back Time Award" recognized my involvement in the Junior League over the past 12 years. I had the pleasure of going back to Miami-Dade County's English Center to serve as principal for a day and representing the League as a panelist at the MCCJ "Can We Talk?... Really, Can We Talk?" event.

What a journey it has been! All of this was possible because of our board of directors, executive management team, committee chairs, past presidents, members, and supporters. We have leaned on each other, supported each other, grown personally, and accomplished a lot.

Thank you for giving so much of yourself to our mission. You have helped us connect our world and continue to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women, and improve communities.

Maria Figueroa Byrd  
*President 2014-2015*



Summer is almost here and with it brings family vacations and trips to the beach. I enjoyed finding out where Junior Leaguers are traveling this summer. From staycations to far away jaunts, it seems as though we'll all be criss-crossing the globe. But one thing is evident in this issue and that is the strong impact that both our sustainers (like Deborah Korge) and League leaders (like Maria Figueroa Byrd, Emilie Goldman Wernick and so many others) have had on our volunteer-led organization.

Having had the opportunity to work personally with Debbie Korge on the Communications Council, I deeply value her wisdom and guidance. And I couldn't be more thrilled that she is one of our Women Who Make A Difference honorees this year, along with Maria C. Alonso and Melissa Medina—all are true shining stars in our community.

I hope you've enjoyed the new format of the magazine and that the features inside these pages have inspired you to not only renew your connection to the League's important mission, but also to strengthen your friendships with the impressive roster of women who make up our membership.

All my best,

Kara Franker  
Editor 2014-2015

## NEW FUNDRAISER FACTS

### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI SHOWHOUSE



#### OVERVIEW

The Showhouse will feature a unique home with superb Miami architecture, on loan for this event, in which each room will be transformed by top designers and temporarily opened to the public.

#### TIMING

The Showhouse is scheduled to be open to the public from February 18 to March 6, 2016. JLM volunteers will staff the Showhouse six days a week from 11 am to 5 pm, and during select evening events.

#### PURPOSE

The Showhouse will be the Junior League of Miami's largest fundraiser and will increase awareness of community needs and engage past, current, and future JLM members. Proceeds will support JLM programs and projects focused on women and children at risk. Beyond ticket sales, funds will be raised through partnerships, corporate sponsorships, and special events, which may include preview tours, parties, JLM events, and broker open houses.

#### PROJECTED ATTENDANCE

The JLM anticipates between 4,000 and 7,000 guests will attend the Showhouse and its supporting events during the three week run.

## LET'S GET SOCIAL

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON TWITTER & FACEBOOK



#### JLMiami President @JLMPrez

Join @JrLeagueMiami and @OneBillionRising Miami #Rise4Revolution. Stand up to end violence against women.

#### Liz Bodner @LizBodner

The BEST Council anyone could ask for, so grateful for these amazing & inspiring #volunteer #womenleaders & @JrLeagueMiami for bringing us together!

#### Hilda Diaz @desktopdiva

Getting ready for tonight's Junior League meeting showcasing women's history month! #jlmiami



#### KaraOnTheCoast @KaraFranker

Getting inspired tonight at @JrLeagueMiami's membership meeting! :) #JLMiami #GiveBack #VolunteersRock

#### Leanne Frazee Tellam @LeanneTellam

I hope to set an example for young women to come by being a Catalyst for Change in my community! #JLMiami

#### Deidre Krause @DeidreKrause

And the #women in #history contest begins! #jlmiami

#### Rochelle Gapere @roriffic

I hope to set an example for young women to "live life on their OWN terms and to do what makes them happy!" #jlmiami #brickellareameeting

#### Junior League Miami @JrLeagueMiami

Key speaker at tonight's general membership meeting, Joshua Williams, founder of Joshua's Heart Foundation.

#### Bronwyn Mills @bronwyn\_mills

I heart the technology council #jlmiami

#### The Junior League @JuniorLeague

Zero tolerance for violence: Millennials speak up and speak out against domestic violence.

#### Junior League of Miami

Congratulations to Marcia Koo for being nominated for the prestigious Jim Casey Community Service Award by her employer, UPS. The Jim Casey Community Service Award is the highest honor that can be given to a UPS employee. It was created in 1995 in honor of UPS Founder Jim Casey. The award is given each year to one UPSer who demonstrates an exceptional commitment to helping others. Award nominees consistently go above and beyond in their daily lives. They typically spend hundreds of hours of their own time each year. They are determined to make a difference in the world around them. The Junior League is fortunate to also have Marcia currently serving as the VP of Community this year. Thank you for all that you do Marcia!



#### Junior League of Miami

The Junior League of Miami is honored to have FOUR of its members recognized as finalists for the AXA Advisors 2015 Businesswomen of the Year Award. Congratulations to Margaret Nee who was nominated for Outstanding Corporate Leader, Julia Bianchi who was nominated for Outstanding Philanthropist, Amelia Maguire who was nominated for Outstanding Public Servant/Non-profit Professional, and Regina Mendoza for Outstanding Healthcare Professional. Congratulations to all of you on this impressive honor and thank you for all you do for the League!

#### Junior League of Miami

At this morning's GMM, Marines Duarte, Founder and Content Producer of blog "En Tus Zapatos" - and mother of three - gave a thoughtful and inspirational presentation about the value of #mentorship. She credits various unofficial mentors as having had a profound effect in guiding her throughout her successful career in publishing, to now living her dream of owning her own agency and blog, which are dedicated to helping other working mothers. Thank you, Marines, for walking us through how all the various people impacted your life in so many different ways and for reinforcing how important it is to also give back and mentor others. #womenleaders #workingmoms — with Maria Figueroa Byrd and Helen Picard at Junior League of Miami headquarters.





# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## CONNECTING THE PIECES TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

by Lisa McClaskey

The State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) held their Third Annual Legislative Breakfast in January at the Junior League's Headquarters in Coral Gables. Miami-Dade County elected officials and leaders from community organizations gathered over breakfast to network and learn how they can support at-risk women and children in Miami through advocacy initiatives. The theme this year was "connecting the pieces to a brighter future."

SPAC hosts this annual event to bring issues affecting Miami's women and children directly to the attention of our elected officials and uses the breakfast event as a platform to communicate the Junior League's legislative priorities. In addition, leaders of community organizations that support women and children attended the breakfast to convey their organization's needs and explore how the Junior League can provide additional support.

Children from Inn Transition South (ITS) helped decorate the event by creating posters thanking and welcoming the elected officials, community partners, and Junior League members who attended.

During the breakfast, the 2015 legislative priorities were introduced to the community to demonstrate how elected officials work with the Junior League of Miami to support literacy initiatives, protect at-risk children, and promote health and hunger initiatives across Miami-Dade County. Elected officials from the City of Miami, Village of Pinecrest, City of Doral, and representatives from the Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office attended to learn more about the Junior League and the efforts of SPAC.

Leaders from Kristi House, Chapman Partnership, the Family Resource Center, and Rebuilding Together voiced their concerns about issues each organization is facing. Active and sustaining members of JLM became more acquainted with the political process during the breakfast and learned how they can serve as strong advocates for their community.

Just a few weeks after the breakfast, SPAC traveled to Tallahassee to meet directly with state senators and representatives in the capitol and bring specific legislation to the attention of our elected officials. The SPAC team communicated their concerns and asked for support from our elected officials' to further protect at-risk children and families in our community.



Raquel Zuniga (JLM SPAC Chair-Elect), Amanda Kessler (JLM VP Planning), Adrienne Stockall (SPAC Member), Lisa McClaskey (JLM SPAC Chair), Maria Byrd (JLM President), Priscilla Rettig (SPAC Member), Sylvia Perez (JLM SPAC Member), Maite de Barros (JLM SPAC Member), Christina Camacho (JLM SPAC Member)

The members of SPAC serve as a strong voice for the community and advocate for women and children. They have a vision of bettering our public schools, bringing healthy food access to areas without supermarkets, and providing more protection for human trafficking victims. These goals are achieved by working with our elected officials, our community projects, and serving as an advocate for women and children. Continuously, we are connecting the pieces to build a brighter future.

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## LEADERS PROVIDE BIG LEAGUE SUPPORT TO ROOKIES

by Nicole Bared Puerto

Each year the Junior League of Miami welcomes a new class of provisional members, an always energetic group of young women eager to serve their local community and make new friends.

At a recent training event, provisional mentors Nicole Dee, Joy Blanchard, and Melissa Halsey planned a baseball-themed event. The evening featured a winning lineup of six “Big League” supporters—former and current leaders who have left an indelible mark on our organization:

one of the most notable aspects of the provisional course is the enduring friendships that are forged throughout the year.

DANA WOLPERT MARTORELLA, JLM President 2011-2012, who spoke about the earliest history of the League.

TERESA ZOHN, JLM sustainer, who has chaired the Inn Transition North board of directors for much of its 25-year history.

BIBI CRUZ-LEDON SEARS, JLM active and former board member, who spoke about her multi-year involvement in the AJLI/ALT initiative that led to the creation of our new governance structure.

LESLIE RIVERA, JLM sustainer and past president of the JLM Foundation, who spoke about the creation of the legacy and planned giving program.

JULIA REA BIANCHI, JLM President 2001-2002 and current JLM Foundation president, who spoke about her crucial role in securing our current historic headquarters on Biltmore Way.

LORETTA CREWS NIDO, JLM President 2010-2011 and immediate past president of the Florida Junior League Political Action Committee, who spoke about the reemergence of JLM’s involvement in political activism and agenda setting.

“When I was speaking with the ladies, I recalled the fun, the learning, and the camaraderie of those earlier days,” commented Leslie about her experience serving on the panel. “I really did mean it when I said to them that they were embarking on a really great time in their life. It is because of the League I am grateful. I believe we all are.”

One of the most notable aspects of the provisional course is the enduring friendships that are forged throughout the year. Via their attendance at special new member functions and the rigor of planning a group community project, these young women are drawn closer together.

“Over the last several months, I have met some very impressive women who have welcomed me and helped teach me about their own personal transformation and growth experiences that the Junior League of Miami has provided them,” commented Shannon Egan, member of the 2014-2015 provisional class. “Additionally, I have made many new friendships, especially among my provisional group. Together we planned and executed training for the students of Breakthrough Miami to help educate them about the college selection process. It was a very fulfilling experience to interact with the students and provide them with guidance about their academic future. I have really enjoyed my provisional year and am very happy that I joined the League.”

The new provisional class also moved our sustaining members. “As a past president and as a 25-plus year member of the Junior League of Miami, I was very impressed by the level of engagement and enthusiasm the provisional members expressed during my presentation,” said Julia Rea Bianchi.

The Junior League of Miami is enriched not just by the enthusiasm brought each year by its rookie members, but also by the continued involvement and support of its sustaining members. Thanks to our leadership, the training event was a home run.





By Deidre Krause

The opportunity to form lasting friendships with like-minded women is a major benefit of becoming a member of the Junior League. Learning from impressive role models like sustainer and 23-year league member, Deborah Korge is truly a pleasure.

Not only is Debbie a former league president, she's the executive director of Casa Valentina, an affordable housing and life skills program for at-risk youth transitioning from foster care in Miami-Dade County. For her extraordinary leadership and profound role in the local community, Debbie has been named one of the Junior League of Miami's "Women Who Make A Difference," an award honoring women who have made a significant impact in the lives of women and children through their voluntarism.

We caught up with Debbie and asked her about a recent trip to wine country with a group of sustainers, life-long friendships made through the League, and her vision for JLM in the future.

**Q:** We heard that you recently went on a trip to Sonoma, Calif., with fellow sustainers. Can you share with us an overview of the itinerary and what the highlight of the trip was?

**Deborah:** Last fall I had the pleasure of returning to the Sonoma/Napa Valley region with several of my sustainer friends from the League (for the third time!). We arrived on a beautiful Thursday morning and were quickly whisked away to lunch and then to our first winery where we had a private tasting. Over the three days we were there, we had about three scheduled tours and tastings a day along with the chance to visit downtown Sonoma for a little shopping. The best part of this trip is the time we get to spend together with no interruptions or distractions—no work, spouses, children, etc!

**Q:** Having "grown up" with the League, and just gone on a cross-country vacation with JLM ladies, what role do the friendships you made over the years with fellow members play in your day-to-day life?

**Deborah:** I don't think I can quite pinpoint the moment these friends (and others who weren't on this excursion) became friends, but I can say we bonded over everything from board leadership, being on the same committee, and sometimes just sitting next to each other at a meeting or a League get-together. We all know that we can turn to each other about almost anything—from handling a challenge at work to being there when someone is under the weather or has something going on in their lives. We started with a common desire to want to improve the quality of life in Miami-Dade County and everything came out of that.

**Q:** You have been with the League for 23 years, serving as our president for the 2000-2001 term, and now as an advisor to the Communications Council. You've mentioned that leadership training was another element that greatly impacted your life. Can you explain how?

**Deborah:** During my tenure as an active member in the League, there were so many opportunities to develop my leadership skills and I did not hesitate to take advantage of them. I learned about strategic planning, how to handle difficult committee members, the needs of the community, advocacy, and one of my favorite trainings: how to conduct a meeting in less than an hour! But even more important were the leaders under whom I served. They were the ones who encouraged me to take the next step. As an example, the first year I chaired a committee, it was a very small community project and I was in meetings about the vision of Inn Transition South, the work being done at Inn Transition North and so on—very daunting to a first-time leader! The vice president of the Community Council called me one day and told me that my committee's work was no less important than the work being done by these other committees, which made me feel so much more confident. Then she went on to tell me that she thought I could be president of the League one day. To this day I still thank her for her encouragement and guidance.

**Q:** If you could tell your 20-something self three tips for self-empowerment - both personally and professionally, what would you recommend?

**Deborah:** My three tips would be:

- Don't hesitate to turn to the person next to you and say "hello" — they may become your friend for life!
- Borrowing from the Apollo 13 movie: a failure can be a success if you are able to learn from what went wrong to make sure it doesn't happen again or that you are prepared if it does.
- It's okay to say no, to ask for help, to be human and not a superhero!

**Q:** How do your roles as JLM sustainer and executive director of Casa Valentina overlap?

**Deborah:** So many JLM sustainers (and actives) are in leadership positions throughout Miami-Dade County - in the corporate/business, non-profit, academic, and government sectors. There are times when I need to process an idea or research an issue and know I can turn to these leaders to be my sounding board or advisor. Also, if I need to reach out to these arenas in my role as executive director at Casa Valentina and may not always know the right person to contact, with just a few phone calls or emails to my

sustainer connections I can be pointed in the right direction almost immediately.

**Q:** You were selected as one of JLM's 2015 Women Who Make a Difference honorees. How does that recognition resonate with you?

**Deborah:** The Junior League of Miami has such an outstanding history in our community and has accomplished so much since 1926. To be recognized for what I feel is something that is an extension of who I am by this phenomenal organization is beyond comprehension. I am truly honored and blessed.

**Q:** What would you like to see for the Junior League of Miami in the coming year(s)?

**Deborah:** I hope that the Junior League continues in the tradition started in 1926, making a positive impact in this community by providing the training and leadership skills to all it's members and instilling in them a desire to want to do more! We have the ability to make a lasting impact and need to take advantage of the opportunities to do so. 🙌

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TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL:

# WHERE WE'RE TRAVELING THIS SUMMER

by Kara Franker

SUMMERTIME IS HERE AGAIN AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS: IT'S TIME FOR A MUCH-NEEDED VACATION OR EVEN A LAID-BACK STAYCATION.

Staying local? Imagine carefree days spent with your toes in the sand and playing in the surf. I recommend scaling the 109 steps of the Cape Florida Lighthouse on Key Biscayne at Bill Baggs State Park. Take your camera and capture the jaw-dropping views of the azure waters below and the funky prohibition-era structures called Stiltsville. Or head over to The Ritz-Carlton on Key Biscayne for a delightful summer brunch overlooking the ocean.

Here's what Miami Junior Leaguers are up to this summer:

I'll be hanging out on Miami Beach! I also am making it a goal to see the sunrise over South Beach and to drive across the state to catch the sunset over the west coast of Florida—all in one day. And I'll be back and forth to Kansas, as I'm expecting a new niece to make an appearance this summer. - LORIN JETTER

I'm looking forward to rediscovering local gems like Zoo Miami and taking my kids to favorite haunts like Miami Children's Museum, HistoryMiami, and Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science while maybe trying to introduce them to places like Cauley Square. - CECILIA DUBON SLESNICK

My whole extended family goes to the mountains of North Carolina in the summer and I am already looking forward to it. It is fun to do the same things year-after-year that I've been doing since childhood. And it's exciting that my son can now start forming the same fun memories. Aside from North Carolina, my favorite getaway is Sonoma, Calif. My husband and I try to sneak away every year. It's one of the few places I can truly relax—and enjoy great wine! - EMILIE GOLDMAN WERNICK

I'm traveling to the "left" coast in June. My husband, my son, and I will spend a few days in Seattle, then Los Angeles, and finally end our trip at the zoo and then a wedding in San Diego! It will be particularly special because this our first family vacation. - NICOLE DEE

Eight friends from elementary school and I are renting a house in Cape Cod for a wedding. I'm excited because it will be my first time going there and I'll get to spend three nights with old friends—plus see one of them marry the love of her life! - MICHELE PINO

I am headed to Seattle to meet up with some college friends and run the See Jane Run Half Marathon! Being in the military, I move often. One way my friends and I make sure to keep in touch, is to travel and meet up for race weekends. I lived in Seattle long ago, so I am also excited to stop by a few of my old haunts. If I am really lucky, and work isn't atrocious, I also hope to head to Jackson Hole, Wyo., this summer to visit my sister. - BROOKE GRANT

This is the summer of weddings for me. I'll be traveling to the Dominican Republic for a wedding, Atlanta for another wedding, a bachelorette party in Destin, Denver to see my sister and her husband, and another wedding in Atlanta. Hopefully I can sneak some relaxation in there somewhere. - HOLLY HUNT

I'll be going to Thailand to visit museums, explore the culture, and ride elephants. And we're staying on the beaches of Bangkok and Phuket. I'm excited for nine days of paradise! - ALECHIA REESE

Courtesy of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, [Miami-andBeaches.com](http://Miami-andBeaches.com)



I'm excited to be heading to Greece in July to celebrate my birthday and my one-year wedding anniversary. This trip means a lot to me because it's also where my parents honeymooned 30 years ago. I can't wait to explore some of the same places they did.

- AMANDA LEE ROMERO

For me it's the summer of personal/professional development. So far my plans are visiting Vegas in May for a huge annual commercial real estate convention (ICSC RECon), followed by personal training/motivation at Tony Robbins' Unleash the Power Within seminar in Chicago in July—I can't wait to conquer the "firewalk!" I'm hoping to squeeze a "real" vacation with our son in there somewhere too, maybe a long weekend in DC; it has been WAY too long since I've visited my adopted hometown!

- LIZ BODNER

We are driving from Oregon to Maine on a national parks and roadside attractions tour. Our adventure includes haystack rock (from the Goonies), Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Mount Rushmore, the Badlands, and ending at a friend's lakeside summer home in Michigan, just in time for Fourth of July fireworks.

- TRACIE RUSAK

We'll be traveling to France and Belgium, then to Germany for a musical festival. - SANDI SIDES

Photos by Kara Franker



## REDEFINING BANKING.

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# Q&A

WITH EMILIE GOLDMAN WERNICK,  
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI'S  
NEXT PRESIDENT

by Jessica Lewis



Emilie with her son, Henry, at Fairchild Tropical Garden

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI HAS BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD A LONG LIST OF IMPRESSIVE LEADERS FILL THE SHOES OF PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. AS MARIA FIGUEROA BYRD WRAPS UP AN INCREDIBLE YEAR FULL OF SUCCESS IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MEMBER INVOLVEMENT, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE YEAR AHEAD WITH EMILIE GOLDMAN WERNICK AT THE HELM.

**Q: Why did you want to run and serve as JLM president?**

**Emilie:** JLM has had a profound impact on my life and I am grateful for the training I have received in my nearly ten years in the organization. I felt compelled to give back to JLM since it has given me so much. I have been fortunate enough to serve in many different capacities in JLM, which has given me a unique look at the challenges the organization faces and how to overcome them – in addition to continuing to build on all the things JLM does so well.

**Q: What do you hope to accomplish during your term and what are your goals?**

**Emilie:** My hope for the year is to really engage members across the board (provisionals, actives and sustainers). It will be more important than ever to connect and engage members since we are embarking on a new (to this generation) fundraiser. In addition to our signature Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon, we will be opening the Junior League of Miami Showhouse in February 2016. These fundraisers are how we support our great community work so we need all hands on deck! And it starts with engaged members.

**Q: You're close with your mom and she is a sustainer. How has she influenced you in your league career?**

**Emilie:** My mom is the reason I am in JLM. She encouraged me to join when I moved back to Miami after college. She gave me really good advice: she said at first, do something different in JLM than you do professionally. It was great advice for my first few years because I really got a taste of our community projects. Then I wandered over to the public relations side and was better for it because I knew what I was promoting! She also encouraged me to get more involved because, like anything, you get what you put into it. She is still close with her JLM buddies and that's because they were in the trenches together. Boy was she right, I have made friends for life by getting involved with so many amazing women.

**Q: How do you balance it all? An active little boy who keeps you busy 24/7, running your business, date nights with the hubby, plus all the work you do for the league – how do you do it? Any tips to stay organized?**

**Emilie:** I wish I had a pretty answer, but honestly, it's really hard! I make to-do lists every morning and I evaluate and prioritize what really needs to be done that day. My family comes first, but after that I just try to get what I can done. I think you need to commit to what you're doing. So, if it's time to play with my son, I won't look at my phone or email. If it's time to work for a client, I won't focus on anything else – same goes for JLM. I find that once I communicate that to people and set expectations, it makes life so much easier. Oh, and know when to ask for help!

**Q: What is your favorite memory of Junior league?**

**Emilie:** I loved the time I spent at Riverside Elementary reading to children through one of JLM's community projects a few years back. I was always excited to go there and present the kids with new books and to see how their reading progressed throughout the year. It's not a single memory, but it was a lasting bunch of memories!

**Q: You're an avid home chef and you're constantly entertaining friends and family. Have you taken any interesting cooking classes recently?**

**Emilie:** I love to cook! There is nothing I love more than a dinner party with good food, great friends, and flowing wine! My mom and I took a class recently at La Bottega, a quaint authentic Italian restaurant (separate, but inside Calamari). It was so much fun! We learned how to make pasta from scratch, including dough, fillings, and sauce. DELISH. I even asked for a pasta maker for my birthday, which I got and have been using often, much to the delight of friends and family.

**Q: Any advice for provisionals?**

**Emilie:** Don't be afraid to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat about your JLM future. We are all here to help, no matter what our position in JLM is.

Emilie with her mom, Ann, at a cooking class in January



**Q: What do you hope to see Junior league become in the future?**

**Emilie:** Since we are going to have REALLY successful fundraisers, I hope that we can build upon that to provide more programming and funding to the community. It would be great to see us give grants again and focus on ways to either create another signature project or develop a project idea that can be turned over to another organization to run with, like we've done in the past. 🍷



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## *Building for the Future*

By Julia Rea Bianchi, JLMF President 2014-2015

*T*he Junior League of Miami Foundation, Inc. (JLMF) continues to grow each and every day with the goal of supporting the charitable works of the Junior League of Miami for today and tomorrow.

The JLMF is steward to more than \$1 million in assets, solely benefits the charitable and volunteer efforts of the Junior League of Miami (JLM) and makes an annual contribution to the JLM.

Every gift made to the Foundation is embraced and appreciated. Gifts can be made in memory, honor and celebration of a special person or in recognition of a special event. Members of the Hope Society have made a testamentary gift to the JLMF in their estate preparation.

### *A Year of Engagement...*

- In September, all JLM sustaining members and JLMF donors received a Foundation report including a listing of 1926 SOCIETY members who have made a gift or pledge of \$1,926 or more, which honors the year the Junior League was established in Miami.
- The JLMF now has its own tab on the JLM website where all donors to the Foundation are acknowledged, thanked and listed and where all JLMF events are posted. ([www.jlmiami.org](http://www.jlmiami.org))
- In February the signature JLMF Wine Walk was held in the lovely Moorings neighborhood.
- On Friday, May 1st, the JLMF Spring Celebration Tea will be held at the beautiful home of Betsy Tilghman and is generously being sponsored by the Bermont Advisory Group of Raymond James. All Foundation donors will be celebrated and pins presented to new 1926 SOCIETY members at this event.
- In May, the JLMF will present a check to the JLM membership at the Annual Meeting.



Katie Lane-Arriola, Silvia Corral,  
Vicky Hucks, Emilie Wernick



Joy Blanchard



Silvia Corral, Vicky Hucks, Michelle Battle,  
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