

# Junior League



The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

# Journal

Vol. XVII No. 3 | Spring 2009

## President's Message

### EM-PA-THY

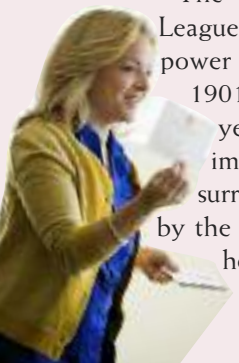
**Pronunciation:** \em-pə-thē\ , **Function:** noun. **Etymology:** Greek *empathēia*, literally, passion, from *empathēs* emotional, from *em-* + *pathos* feelings, emotion

**1. Identification with and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives, and/or the capacity of this.**

What does it mean to be an American? This topic is always debated during election seasons, with each candidate usually claiming their programs are more in line with fundamental American values. Historians and politicians have argued that the value of empathy lies historically behind the human rights expressed in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Empathy: putting oneself in other people's shoes, seeing the world through their eyes, and therefore caring about them. Putting yourself in the position of another brings the responsibility of acting on that care, taking responsibility to improve both ourselves and the community.

The history of the Junior League is a testament to the power that empathy brings. In 1901, Mary Harriman, a 19-year-old debutante, left her immediate and sheltered surroundings and was moved by the suffering she saw around her. She acted on that care,

Continued on page 4



## Leaguers Learn about Leadership

By Elizabeth Margo, Journal Committee

On Saturday, February 21, Leaguers of all levels of involvement in JLM gathered for three sessions with national organizational expert Vicky Clark to learn about supporting the League's mission, promoting membership and the role of board leadership. She hails from Memphis and is a recognized trainer and consultant with Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), sharing her expertise from over 20 years of evaluating the capacity of organizations.

### One Mission! One League! One Membership!

In the first session, Vicky helped participants to closely analyze the mission of the Junior League and what that means to the everyday efforts behind every League activity. She challenged attendees to review the mission and consider what it means to each member and how, as individuals, our placements can contribute to that mission.

Consider these questions to enhance your own JLM experience:

- What does the JLM mission mean to you?
- In what ways will your placement enhance the mission of the League?
- What are leadership skills you've developed as a JLM member?
- What leadership skills will you work to develop during the League year?

In order to fully develop your League experience, Vicky challenges members to look into areas of the League on which you aren't clear. For example, if you've been involved mostly with community projects, consider looking into League administra-

Continued on page 6



Outstanding Women Honored and Funds Raised for JLM...page 5  
JLM Gives Inn Transition South Residents a Wonderful Holiday...page 7  
Inn Transition South Director Retires...8  
National Junior League Project Tackles Childhood Obesity March 20...10  
Spotlight: Members Reflect on National Events...11  
JLM Annual Campaign "Clip a Coupon" for Savings...14  
JLM Board and Nominating Committee Chosen for Next Year...15



# AMY E. SUSSMAN

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With my warmest regards,  
Amy E. Sussman



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**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.

**Vision** Our vision is to empower Miami's women, children, and families to conquer tomorrow's challenges and to build a united community.

**Reaching Out** We reach out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

**Focus Areas** We concentrate on families at risk with projects and activities involving homelessness, family violence, children's and women's health, early childhood development and foster care.

**Wish For Our Members** We hope every member derives fulfillment as we focus the energy and volunteer resources of our diverse membership to attain our vision.

**WANTED:** Tropical Topics and Junior League Journals prior to 1995. If you have copies from days gone by, we are looking for issues to borrow for archival purposes. These will be returned to you. Please contact Sondra Space for information on how to help. Thank you to Cheryl Ackerman and Natalie Brown for lending their copies from the late 80's and early 90's!

## *To Contact Us*

The Junior League of Miami Headquarters is located at 713 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL 33134. Sondra Space, Office Manager.

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## President's Message continued from page 1

mobilizing a group of 80 other young women, hence the name "Junior" League, to work to improve child health, nutrition and literacy among immigrants living on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Today more than 160,000 women, Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike continue to express these values in the work we perform on behalf of others. Through the power of our association, Junior Leagues strengthen communities by embracing diverse perspectives, building partnerships and inspiring shared solutions.

How are these values expressed? By Ernestine Davis, the retiring director of Inn Transition South, who demonstrates unconditional, non-judgmental interaction with every family that came and went into that facility; by Vicki Clark, who has been helping women fulfill their potential and the capacity of our organizations; by the Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon, which is not only a fundraiser, but more importantly salutes those who have acted on the care they have for others by improving their communities. The Junior League of Miami reaches out to

women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. What could be more American than this?

During one of the sessions at Leadership Initiative training on a recent Saturday, trainer Vicki Clark asked all the board members to list the accomplishments of the year so far, as well as any remaining goals. I started to experience what I can only describe as a complete anxiety attack! When she asked me why I was so nervous, I answered "because there are so many more things I wanted to do, and I have very little time left."

So many goals, so little time...I think as leaders we have a tendency to measure success in numbers, dollars raised, hours worked, and a list of programs implemented or not, versus values instilled. These tough times have made our mission more challenging. I hope that what we accomplish this year is to set the tone of a leadership team that cares - about each other, about every member, about our community. We have strived to educate our volunteers to understand and identify with the situation of others, with our fel-

**The next General Membership Meeting is April 14, and our Annual Meeting will be held on May 12 at Coral Reef Yacht Club, Coconut Grove.**



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low members as well as the women and children we serve, their feelings and motives, because from this empathy flows optimism and hope. ☺

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*Yours truly,*

*Michelle Ramirez-Patricios*

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# WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The 8th annual women Who Make A Difference Luncheon took place at the Mandarin Oriental on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. A wide array of silent auction items and an elegant black pearl necklace display adorned with lychee champagne glasses and purple orchids greeted guests as they arrived. The WWMD ceremony began with a wonderful start – a performance of Chinese Tea from the Nutcracker by Miami City Ballet students.

This year Junior League Past Presidents, Amy Sussman, Julia Bianchi, Karen Cabrera and Lauren Harrison Genovese presented each of the honorees with moving and sincere words. The League honored an incredible variety of Miami's finest women: Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott (South Miami Children's Clinic), Caryn Lubetsky (HELP, Inc.), Trudy Novicki (Kristi House) and Ruth Wiesen (Thomas Armour Youth Ballet). Their passions

## JLM Honors Outstanding Women

By Fernande Saintilis, Journal Committee and Teresa Thornberg, WWMD Co-Chair



Co-chairs Teresa Thornberg (left end) and Ali Nason-Aymerich (right end) with Honorees Trudy Novicki, Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott, Caryn Lubetsky, and Ruth Wiesen.

range from protecting sexually abused children, providing dance education to the less fortunate, providing free medical care to uninsured children, to offering free legal assistance and advocacy for the HIV positive community. In addition to being advocates for people in need, this year's honorees are also mothers, active participants in their churches and synagogues, PTA Presidents and university professors. These women's accomplishments continue to make a significant impact in Miami.

Facing formidable

economic hurdles, Ali Nason-Aymerich and Teresa Thornberg, this year's WWMD Co-Chairs, and WWMD committee did an incredible job coordinating the final fundraiser of the year. The ballroom was thoroughly decorated thanks to in-kind contributions by Maria Maloof Events and Blooming Flower Events. The purple, gold, and gray touches illuminated the ballroom and elegantly highlighted the Asian Tea. During the event, fabulous prizes were raffled off including a 3 or 4-day Bahamas sailing aboard Norwegian Cruise Line, a Leon Loard commissioned portrait and the grand prize, a 1 karat diamond peace sign necklace courtesy of H & H Jewels in Coconut Grove. The diamond necklace was stunning and the lucky winner was Monica Brown. She is not a Junior League member as yet, but after winning the necklace from H&H she was happy to inform me that she will be at the next general membership outreach meeting.

We are happy to announce that \$55,000 was raised at this year's tea. Thanks to all of our honorees, generous sponsors, table hosts and members for making this event such a success. ☪





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## Leadership Training

### continued from page 1

tion roles. As the League has had to evolve since its inception in 1926 in order to continue to serve its mission, so each member should evolve and grow to fully support that mission.

### Love ‘Em or Leave ‘Em

In the second session, Vicki focused on the importance of motivating the membership as the most important “customer” of JLM. Some of the elements that motivate members include:

- Friendship – value of connections, sense of belonging
- Achievement – feeling of making a difference and contributing beyond oneself
- Learning – gaining knowledge or skill
- Power – having authority and respect
- Clear Expectations – clear understanding of next steps and roles
- Recognition – being thanked or rewarded

All initiatives and placements must include an element of engaging members. Vicki highlighted the vital role of the Placement Advisor, to help each Leaguer truly identify their time availability, the knowledge they have about their preferred placements and what will motivate them to continue developing as leaders for the improvement of JLM. What engages a member one year may be completely different from the next. Members are also responsible for honestly and realistically communicating their time availability, knowledge about placements and motivation to placement advisors to ensure the most effective placement.

Another very important element in engaging membership is creating mentoring opportunities. All committees for every type of activity should have at least one woman interested in mentoring. The differing experiences of each Leaguer gives every woman an opportunity to share a technique, a tip, a way of thinking or doing that can help another member.

Beyond motivating Active members, it is vital that Sustaining members and even potential members remain engaged. Vicki relates: The World War II generation is willing to contribute to an organization even years after membership is complete, but Baby Boomers, Generation



X-ers and Generations Y-ers are going to require more attention and follow-up to remain engaged. She suggested presenting opportunities regularly to participate and share their experience.

Every member, whether a Provisional, an Active, a Sustainer or even a potential member can contribute to the League’s mission, but only if efforts are made to engage and motivate them.

### Board to Board, Leader to Leader

Vicki spent the last session sharing leadership insight for board members and potential board members. As in any organization, the Board of Directors sets the tone and the energy for its membership. She reviewed the key attributes of an effective JLM Board of Directors to include:

- Guidance and strategic vision
- A focus on the future
- Monitoring and assessment of League activities
- Assessment of its own performance
- Accessibility to members

Board members have two roles: to manage and to govern. In their management role, they make sure “the work happens” with practices that reflect the League’s mission. In their governance role, board members protect and advance the organization through strategic and forward-thinking planning. Each board member has three major duties:

1. Duty of care – Requires diligent, attentive informed participation
2. Duty of loyalty – Act in good faith, in the best interest of the organization
3. Duty of obedience – Ensure the JLM operates according to governing bylaws and rules

As the head of the organization, board members must utilize their birds’ eye view of the organization as a whole



to ensure that all elements of the League can be tied to its mission. These elements include membership development, program selection and evaluation and marketing and public relations to the community. The board is also responsible for ensuring the organization’s operations are on target, including financial management and development, staffing and information management.

Overall, Vicki Clark’s insight and lessons were an excellent way to spend a Saturday. Women were engaged to share their personal experiences and submit ideas for ways to follow JLM’s mission, motivate its members, and make sure our leadership is on target to carry us forward. If we all learned anything from Vicki, it is that each one of us as a JLM member is a leader, and we have lots of work to do! 🐦

# It was a Wonderful Holiday for Inn Transition South Moms and Kids

By Helen Picard, Co-chair, ITS

**I**-pods and scooters and trikes, oh my! The Holiday Gift Drive for the residents of Inn Transition South was a huge success thanks to the generosity of our amazing JLM members, sustainers, provisionals, and community friends. On behalf of the 55 moms and 164 children in residence and the ITS Committee – THANK YOU!

On December 13, JLM hosted the annual ITS Holiday Party. The moms were treated to a barbecue luncheon, and each was presented with a lovely framed portrait of their family. The children enjoyed games and music and a special visit from Santa.

Thanks to the dedication of the ITS Committee members, over 450 donated gifts were wrapped and labeled. On December 23rd, each mom received a huge bag full of gifts for their children. For most of the children, these were the only gifts they would receive. The moms also received gift cards from Publix and Target to make the holiday special.

The tears in the eyes of the moms and the shrieks of joy from the children served as a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas=giving.

Special thanks go to:

- Baptist Outpatient Services for sponsoring 25 families and presenting these families with creatively decorated baskets full of gifts and household necessities
- Sheri Mazariegos who generously donated her time and talent to photograph the families. She then framed all the family portraits and gift wrap each with such detail.
- Community partners who hosted gift drives on behalf of ITS, including: Alcatel-Lucent, Doubletree Grand Hotel, Killian Senior High School English Honor Society, the Organization of Women in International Trade-South Florida, and Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff &



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- The Alonzo Mourning Foundation and Hands on Miami
- Individual contributors including T.R. Jones & Company, A Family Member Home Care, and Carla Kuro
- Stephanie O'Day who donated Target gift cards and did not stop there... she also involved her whole family by asking them to donate Target gift cards as well. ☺



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# Inn Transition South Director to Retire

Interview by Yolanda Arcay, Journal Committee

Thinking back to October, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, those who attended the General Membership Meeting heard speaker Ernestine Smith Davis, the Director of JLM signature project Inn Transition South (ITS). She spoke with members about the types of domestic violence: physical, verbal, and withholding of funds. She reminded us that this is a very serious problem in our community, yet most women feel that "it could not happen to me". Ernestine also shared how JLM is making a difference in the lives of women and children affected by this issue.

She relates, "JLM has always been present from the onset of Inn Transition South (ITS). The organization has established and restocked the library with books and movies, provided computers for the moms to be able to work on resumes and perform job searches, helped after hurricanes with labor and supplies. They have connected us with high school community service groups including Gulliver, Temple Beth Am, Westminster, Girl Scouts, and PanAm Credit Union, which provided a way for our mothers to do their banking. AROD Foundation has done Summer camps and provided money for each family to get individual phone service and cable TV. We've gotten Miami Heat tickets, Marlins tickets, and most importantly, constant care and willingness to help."

We also cannot forget that the on-site staff makes a difference in the lives of these families every day, and are a constant, even when JLM members change placements. One constant, Ernestine, will be retiring this month after 35 years of service with Miami-Dade County. Journal Committee member (and former ITS Committee Member) Yolanda Arcay sat with her recently to talk to her about her experiences:

**Q:** How did you get started at ITS?

**A:** I was working with Miami-Dade County Human Services. The assistant director at the time, Dr. May Bryant, thought that I would do well with ITS based on my past training and work experience, which included

being a certified parenting instructor, certified social worker, previous work with the One Stop Career Center, and being a part time therapist with UM. I never thought I'd be working with victims of domestic violence. Whatever is inside of you will come out wherever you work.

**Q:** Once established, what did it take to get ITS functioning?

**A:** A lot (she says with a smile on her face). We spent three months writing policies and procedures, sometimes working into the midnight hour. From there it has been a process of trial and error.

**Q:** What has been a constant for you at ITS?

**A:** I don't stereotype, everyone deserves a chance. We have unconditional, positive-regard, non-judgmental interaction with every family that comes into ITS.

**Q:** What impact have you had on ITS?

**A:** Since ITS opened in 2003, we have serviced about 300 women and 1,000 children with a 95 percent success rate. Families come here broken and in pain. The mothers are fearful of all the unknowns and the children are withdrawn. My office has become a safe place. Moms and children know they can come here for anything: support, tender-loving care, a kind work, or even a snack.

**Q:** What impact has ITS had on you?

**A:** Working with ITS has made me realize that domestic violence doesn't have a name, a number or a norm. There was a teenage boy who was part of a youth volunteer group that came to ITS to help with Christmas gift wrapping. One year later, that same boy and his Mother became residents of ITS because they were victims of domestic violence. It taught me that sometimes you reach out your hand to give and sometimes you reach out your hand to receive.

**Q:** What has been your biggest accomplishment?

**A:** Through the assistance we give families here, seeing women who walk in here fearful and uncertain walk out of



Ernestine Smith Davis

here self sufficient and being able to make a difference in the lives of others. And seeing the children who walk in here withdrawn become playful and outgoing.

**Q:** Biggest regret?

**A:** Not having a bigger facility to be able to provide more care and training for the families at ITS.

**Q:** How has JLM supported you?

**A:** By having faith in me. I don't hold back. When I see a need, I do my best to get it taken care of. JLM has been so good to me. Anytime there were activities planned they would consult with me to see what I needed and how they could help. Through JLM I was able to get resources from which to draw.

**Q:** Where are you going from here?

**A:** I've been offered a lot of jobs I don't want. I will still work with my church in program development. My husband has been retired for four years and waiting for me to relax and enjoy, I also want to spend time with my parents. After being on call 24/7, I am looking forward to waking up late.

**Q:** Any parting words?

**A:** Keep an open mind and take one day at a time. Remember that an unconditional, positive, non-judgmental attitude will carry you a long way. 🍀



## Sustainers to Help ITN

Brooke Roberts-Webb and Margaret Nee are spearheading an idea encouraging Sustainers to help new families as they move into Inn Transition North with goal to raise \$500-\$600 for 10 Family Move-In Packages.

Brooke says: "As you can imagine, many of the families come with very little in the way of household goods. Some things are provide by the County like sheets and towels, but many basics are missing and the women do not have the resources to purchase them when they are first struggling to adjust to their new lives. It would be helpful to have Move-In Packages for residents."

She bought some of these items recently for new arrivals, including a few pots, dishes, glasses, laundry soap, washing liquid, sponges, etc. The cost would be \$50-\$60 per unit. Sustainers can either donate funds or purchase the items themselves. The goal is to raise enough for 10 families (\$500-\$600).

Contact Sustainer Liaison Jamie Adams Bonham ([jamiadams@aol.com](mailto:jamiadams@aol.com)) or or Sustainer Chair Sheri Shoup ([globaldist@aol.com](mailto:globaldist@aol.com)) if you can help.

## Family Literacy Project Going Strong

By Marcia Koo, Co-chair, All-Aboard Family Literacy Committee

The All Aboard Family Literacy committee celebrated their holiday party on December 3rd. There were 45 parents and 65 children in attendance. We served a hot meal then read *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. After the story hour we provided hot chocolate and cookies to the children. All families were given two Christmas art activities, several donated books and a copy of *The Polar Express* Book. UPS donated The Polar Express Holiday Gift Set.



The next All Aboard events are on April 1 and May 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Elementary and Community School 1190 SW 2nd Street, Miami 33130. Contact Marcia Koo at [mkoo@ups.com](mailto:mkoo@ups.com) to join us! ☺

## Membership Outreach Events

"Bring a Friend" to the April GMM at Riviera Country Club

Tuesday, April 14

RSVP to Chair-Elect Meredith Aziz [artsymk@bellsouth.net](mailto:artsymk@bellsouth.net)

Remaining Open House Dates, at JLM HQ:

Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 2, 2009 11 a.m.

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# Junior League Initiative Addresses Child Obesity

By Kathleen Duran, Chair, Step Up to the Plate Committee



The Junior League of Miami, along with Junior Leagues around our international network, is participating in the fourth annual Junior Leagues' Kids in the Kitchen initiative to address the issues surrounding childhood obesity and poor nutrition.

In response to alarming statistics that an increasingly large percentage of children and adolescents in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, the Junior League launched the initiative in 2006. During Kids in the Kitchen 2008-2009, Leagues will host multiple activities throughout the year. To date, media coverage has reached over 450 million people with messages about the issues surrounding childhood obesity and the Junior Leagues' initiative to address them.

JLM will conduct our local program in a second-year partnership with Whole Foods Markets and Miami Children's Museum to present an opportunity for

children and their families to learn about food and healthy eating choices. Whole Foods Markets is a generous sponsor of Step Up to the Plate, the food literacy community project of the Junior League of Miami. Miami Children's Museum is a community leader in providing and promoting healthy choices through playful activities to children and their families as advocated by their participation in the Association of Children's Museums' health initiative: "Good to Grow!"

Our program, The Edible Alphabet: A Tasting Starring Fruits & Vegetables, is open to the public and will be held at Miami Children's Museum at 980 MacArthur Causeway on Friday, March 20, 2009 from 5-7 PM. It will feature several fruit and vegetable tasting booths. There will be an opportunity to learn about the mechanics and vocabulary of tasting and the importance of eating mindfully. In addition, attendees will be able to discover more about food, nutrition and health as well as the wealth of

children's literature featuring the stars – fruits and vegetables – of The Edible Alphabet. We will seek media coverage in order to raise awareness and provide solutions for this urgent problem, highlighting ways in which this initiative reinforces our League's Mission to improve our community.

We also are grateful to Whole Foods Market, Miami Children's Museum, The Bookstore in the Grove, and the Family and Consumer Sciences Office of the University of Florida Miami-Dade County Extension.

Within our League, Kathleen Duran and Mara Menachem-Karlinsky, Step Up to the Plate Co-Chairs, will organize the program, with support from AJLI. Additional details on this program are available on the Kids in the Kitchen website [www.kidsinthekitchen.org](http://www.kidsinthekitchen.org).

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# Spotlight: Members Reflect on National Events

Compiled and Written By **Fernande Saintilis**, Journal Committee

*A few of our members wrote about their experience on Inauguration Day. Here are some excerpts from their perspectives:*

## From Fernande Saintilis

The 2009 Presidential Inauguration was such a special moment in history for many people for various reasons. One major reason is that President Barack Obama is the first African American elected as the President of the United States of America. His focus for "change" encompasses changing our mind, hearts, outlook on life, our country, economy, politics and the way we serve our communities.

This year's Martin Luther King holiday (King Day of Service), President Obama encouraged this country to take part in servicing their community by volunteering for a cause. President Obama has expressed time and time again that volunteering not only strengthens our communities, and empowers individuals, but it also bridges gaps between generations. As members of the Junior League we understand the impact of volunteering and the lives that are touched or changed by our hours of dedicated services.

As trainer Vicki Clark (see article page 1) stated, "JLM saves lives." Have you ever wondered about the change you made in the life of a mother who escaped an abusive relationship, for an overwhelmed parent who needed a break, for an abandoned child, for that blind baby who only understands the touch of his/her parents, for that pregnant teenager who's losing hope, for an abused child or for a person laying in a hospital bed who does not have any love ones, but a dog

came into their lives? We may not see our impact immediately, but JLM touches many lives through our dedicated efforts and passion to serve our community. As we move forward, think of ways that you can add to Junior League's mission, whether it's developing a new program, taking on a leadership role, or volunteering additional hours to our service projects. Any change will make a world of difference.

I went to Washington to witness a momentous event in American history; however I left being empowered to be a better citizen, daughter, friend, sister and woman!

## From Tania Paredes

My husband, Daniel and our very good friend, Jaret, worked with the Obama Campaign closely for two years. We were lucky enough to receive tickets to the Southern Ball, on Inauguration Day. I also invited another Junior League member, Anaysa Gallardo, to join me. We had tickets to swearing-in ceremony, but due to the extremely cold weather, we watched it from the comfort of our hotel room. We attended the Southern Ball and various other D.C. events on Inauguration Week. The experience was like no other, and you could truly feel the energy around you, excitement, and history being made. No matter what your opinion on Barack Obama was, you felt a change in the air. It truly was a special moment.

## From Sienna Reynaga

While celebrating the election of now-President Barack Obama on the evening of November 2nd, when asked if I had any intention of attending his inauguration in Washington D.C., I confidently shook my head no. While recognizing the significance and hope of his election, I did not feel the pull to be a part of Inaugura-



**JLMers Anaysa Gallardo and Tania Paredes at the Southern Ball in Washington, DC**

tion Day. I maintained this perspective until receiving a phone call from my mother (who lives in California) in early January letting me know that she had received word from our Congresswoman that we were being given two tickets to the main event. I was surprised by my quick and certain "YES" when she asked if I wanted to attend in her place.

The weeks that followed my decision to go were filled with dialogue (that I hadn't previously participated in) and excitement about being a part of history in the making.

The days that preceded that monumental Tuesday were filled with tears, love and a final recognition of the significance of his election for me, a young woman sharing a common heritage, common Alma Mater and similar commitment to answering my calling to give back to a community and society that has given me so much. And finally, on Inauguration Day, surrounded by people young and old, black and white (and every shade in between) who represented the global community, tears rolled down my face as I felt the weight of my ancestors, my family and the millions of people surrounding me being lifted with the tangible feeling of hope for the future, love for our country and commitment to make a personal difference. This is what I bring back home, to my personal life and to the lives of the people we make a difference with our work in the Junior League. Now, more than ever, we must answer the call to serve. ☪



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## What Every Member Should Know

# Membership Requirements & Status Options

By Austin Elaine Garilli, Placement Chair and Vicki Hucks, Placement Chair-Elect

### "Going Sustaining"

A reminder to all women who have put in 8 or more years of service (first active year 2001 or before) that they need to email the Placement Chair if they would like to go sustaining for the 2009-2010 League Year. Sustainer dues (\$105) are due by March 31st. All yearly requirements must be met by the Annual Meeting to become a Sustaining Member.

### The Placement Process

The Placement Bulletin will be available online to review open committee positions. Placement Interviews will be held at Headquarters Thursday, April 16th from 5-8 p.m. and on Friday, April 17th from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Meeting credit will be given for attendance on these dates. Members can also sign up on-line as long as they are up to date with their requirements (including paying their 2009-10 dues). We will also be having a placement fair at the April 14 General Membership Meeting.

### Membership Categories

There are more categories than just Provisional, Active, and Sustaining membership. Should a member find that she needs to change status, read on to review the various options:

### Active Membership Requirements

Each Active member is required to complete the following membership requirements each League year:

- Pay annual dues
- Complete a placement
- Attend five GMMs or JLM Board-approved substitutes
- Work one shift for a JLM fundraiser or community project (3 hours or more) OR buy one ticket to a JLM fundraiser.

### Advisory Status

To qualify, you must have completed at least three years as an active in any Junior League [your first year as an active was 2006 or earlier]. Advisory status is available to members for a maximum of two years during their active service, except as noted below.

- Meeting Option—members are

excused from fulfilling a placement but must fulfill all other membership requirements.

- Placement Option—members are excused from attending GMMs but must fulfill all other membership requirements. The Placement Option is available indefinitely to members eligible to go sustaining. The Placement Option is not available to members serving on certain committees as determined by the Board.

Please note that ALL Advisory Status

members must:

- Pay annual dues; and
- Complete the shift/ticket requirement.

### Leaves of Absence

#### T.E.S. (Temporary

#### Excuse from Service):

Any active member may submit to the Placement Chair a request for a TES for reasons such as reasons for such a request are death of a family member, maternity leave, divorce, work-related problems or health situations. Written requests must be sent to the Placement Chair and must be approved by the Board of Directors.

A TES may be granted for up to three months with a possible extension of up to three additional months. Members granted a TES shall be excused from placement obligations and meeting attendance for the duration of the TES only. Please note that members granted a TES are required to:


- Pay annual dues;
- Complete the shift/ticket requirement.

### Sabbatical

Written requests must be sent to the Placement Chair and must be approved by the Board of Directors. Members granted a sabbatical will be excused from all membership requirements for the league year, except annual dues payment. No more than one sabbatical may be taken within a five-year period. Please note that no more than 5% of actives may be on Sabbatical in any one year and requests will be approved on a first-requested-first-granted basis. ☞

## Dues Reminder

**Dues were due on March 1 for the 2009-10 fiscal year. A late fee will apply after March 31. Active Membership \$180 / Sustaining Membership \$105. Additional contributions may be made with your dues payment to Annual Appeal, JLM Foundation, or Headquarters. You can pay by check or make secure credit card payment online.**



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APRIL 29, 2009



## A Smooth Transition

# Handing Over Hindsight

By Lorrie Martin, Journal Editor

One of the benefits of being a member of JLM is that every member has the opportunity to do something different and change placements every year. One of the challenges of JLM as an organization is that it changes leadership roles every year. Imagine if this happened in your workplace as frequently. How do we make a smooth transition, not just of leadership, but of knowledge?

Have you ever taken on a new role, excited to get started, and received a bag with papers and scribbled notes from your predecessor? Or, better yet, nothing at all? Was it a productive start to the year? Not that this has happened to me personally, but I've heard the stories! Not all committees have a Chair-elect who has been able to work hand-in-hand with the current process to learn the details.

As we near the end of our League year, and those willing to serve in leadership roles are submitting their names to the incoming President, everyone currently serving should be considering what

will be valuable to the next person in their position. Try throughout the year to keep a running list of "lessons learned" – this is the opportunity to share your 20/20 hindsight. Don't just report what was done, but these lessons and recommendations for the next Chair. Do you have most correspondence, agendas, budgets, and action plans on your computer? Consider alternatives to just organizing and printing out a binder. Organize and save these files on a CD to pass along. Not having to re-invent the wheel can also include not having to type it over again! (I am not a big believer in the adage that something done right is worth doing over.)

Did you actually receive too many binders in your handover? Were you too overwhelmed to even look at all the infor-

mation? Well, maybe start now. Can it be pared-down to a manageable size and just useful and relevant information? Some committees and roles must keep files and supplies for many years (such as finance & auction setups), but try to find an approved, designated storage location for permanent files, and pass along the key items to the next person in your shoes (and the location of the files!). They will thank you, and the League will retain valuable information and all of your hard work. ☺

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## Looking Ahead to 2009-2010


# Board & Nominating Committee Selected

By JJ Snow Hansen, Nominating Chair

After reviewing the numerous Straw Ballots submitted by our members, observing many Board, Council and Committee meetings in action, and reviewing the leadership skills required for each position, our 2008-2009 Nominating Committee, led by JJ Snow Hansen, was tasked with the very tough job of selecting JLM's next Board of Directors. This Committee selects the candidates who will lead the organization the following year. To ensure sufficient knowledge of our membership, the committee is made up of three groups of women, all with varying lengths of service so that each individual can bring her unique insight of proposed League members and help guide the Committee's decision-making process. The nine members of the Committee, as well as the chair, each have a unique and

Nominating Committee. The candidate receiving the highest total number of votes will serve as the Nominating Chair-Elect. Congratulations, ladies, and thank you for your commitment to the future of JLM!

- Chair: Jennifer Wilson
- Chair Elect: Jamie Adams Bonham
- Members: Jane De Cardenas, Vicky Hucks, Lauren Dowlen, Cecilia Slesnick, Kara Sharp, Elena Luca, Amber Seidle-Lazo, Luly Sixto-Yero

And finally, thank you to this year's dedicated Nominating Committee members: JJ Snow Hansen, Jennifer Wilson, Betsy Harper, Jane Bhatt, Elvira Larrain, Aniella Gonzalez, Mary Claire Espenkotter, Jennifer Quezada, Barbara Oikle, Melissa Hernandez and Lauren Harrison Genovese for a job well done! 



equally powerful voice to slate the leadership team.

After careful consideration, the slate of officers was announced at our January GMM and voted on by our membership at the February GMM. Congratulations to each of these remarkable women! You have earned the confidence and respect of your peers, and have distinguished yourselves in your prior service to JLM. On behalf of all our members, we commend you and celebrate your commitment!

- President Elect: Loretta Nido
- VP Communications: Elizabeth Vargas
- VP Community: Katie Lane-Arriola
- VP Development: Kim Sarkisian
- VP Planning: Alise Johnson Henry
- VP Membership: Bibi Cruz-Ledon Sears
- Recording Secretary: Marlene Fernandez
- Treasurer: Maria Byrd

In addition to voting on next year's slate of officers at the February GMM, the Active membership also voted to select who would serve as the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee. This Committee will be charged with the extremely important responsibility of selecting the slate of officers for the 2010-2011 JLM Board of Directors to serve along with Loretta Nido, our esteemed President Elect-Elect. Of the 15 nominees (5 in each group relating to number of years of service to our League: over six years, three to five years, and one to two years of service), the three nominees who received the most votes by category, in accordance with our governing bylaws, constitute next year's

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## Highlights from Recent GMMs

# Making a Difference in Our Community

In January, Tracy Wilson Mourning, Founder and Visionary of Honey Shine Mentoring Program, a program of Alonzo Mourning Charities, spoke with members about what it means to give back. Tracy believes it is her moral obligation to give back: "We are all here to make a difference in someone else's life."

Women have always made a difference in her life, and her mother is an inspiration to her. As with many teenagers, she remembers thinking as a teen that her mother knew nothing, but now she prays she is able to learn what her mother knows and is very thankful for her. Her husband, Alonzo, is very powerful and influential, but she recognizes her own power and influence as well – her daughter is home waiting for her to come home even though she is there with her father.

Tracy affirmed that, as women, we support and raise strong women who can lead – our words really do have power. As women, we have to look after ourselves mentally, physically and spiritually to be able to serve as mentors. It is the tough times we go through that make us who we are and we do it together – girlfriends, sisters, mothers, daughters, etc. We have to stand unified to make a difference in the world.

**Thank you to our Sustaining Members that served as tellers at the February voting meeting:**

- Maggie Blake
- Karen Cabrera
- Andria Hanley
- Meredith Mills
- Margaret Nee
- Leslie Rivera
- Gail Scott
- Jeannett Slesnick

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We experienced a great example of "raising strong women" in February, when Girl Scout Julia Dorvil spoke to the members about her troop's interaction with the Step Up to the Plate Committee members and the activities they have done this year. This outgoing young lady also communicated that the self-esteem built by the Scouts' participation in this program is very important to the lives it touches. Her school principal and her mother also spoke to members of the impact that the League program has had upon each participant.

In addition to being chosen as a Women Who Make a Difference honoree, Trudy Novicki, Executive Director of Kristi House, also spoke in February. It was her wish that when members left the meeting, we relayed information not about "child abuse," but to be sure people communicated about child **sexual** abuse, and that it does exist, and in startling numbers. There are 39 million survivors of child sexual abuse in America today. As many as 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18. The median age of reported abuse is 9 years old, and 34% of victims are abused by family members. Although important to discuss dangers of strangers, 89% of victims know and trust their abusers. ☹



Tracy Wilson Mourning



Girl Scout Julia Dorvil



Trudy Novicki

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# A Carnival of Fun at the Barnyard

By Elizabeth Margo, Journal Committee

On Saturday, January 24, Junior League descended on the Barnyard, an after-school care program located in the heart of Coconut Grove, to host a carnival-themed day of fun for dozens of elementary school-aged kids. Elvira Larrain, as Chair-Elect for Done-in-a-Day (DIAD), coordinated an event filled with fresh popped popcorn, snow cones, carnival games, kickball and arts and crafts for the special weekend occasion.

Barnyard is predominately an after-school program, hosting 120 kids from the Carver and Tucker elementary schools. The goal of the program is to provide a safe and regimented environment for kids during after-school hours and during summer vacation. Kids are monitored by nine volunteers between noon and 6 p.m. in the old warehouse (a former incinerator) that looks like a barn, filled with books and arts and crafts projects. Homework is the most important thing, and is completed before any fun and games. The barnyard is bordered by a brand new playground and a basketball court, resulting from generous donations from Fisher Island and the United Way.

The kids look forward to the annual JLM Done-In-A-Day program, as Saturdays at the Barnyard are a special treat. I think all who attended can agree that the Barnyard kids are anything but shy and truly made the most of the fun event.

Kudos to Barnyard's dedicated staff for helping these kids to succeed, learning the importance of putting responsibilities first and experiencing the value of friendship! 🍷



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## — JLM Annual Campaign —

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Dear Member,

This year's Junior League of Miami Annual Campaign is focused on examples of what every dollar raised can do to help women and children in community projects where JLM volunteers are devoting their time and talent.\* In these difficult times, it's important for each of us to reflect on what even a small donation can mean to families in need.

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All donors to the Clip a Coupon campaign will be recognized as part of JLM's Annual Campaign (formerly Community Partners) program, and receive:

- Special recognition at all fundraisers and general membership meetings.
- Invitation to private social functions throughout the year.
- Honorable mention in all JLM publications including the membership directory, event programs and quarterly membership journal.
- Logo and company listing on JLM web site if applicable.

Thank you for helping, in whatever way you can! If you prefer, make your secure donation online at [www.jlmiami.org](http://www.jlmiami.org).

**Yes!** I want to Clip a Coupon for our Community!

Clip the coupon(s) from the right and enclose, or check your choice(s) below

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Name(s) exactly as you wish to be listed) \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Keep a Belly Full .....\$50

☐ Change a Woman's Life .....\$100

☐ Give the Power of Knowledge .....\$150

☐ Give the Gift of Adventure!.....\$250

☐ Take a Stand for Women & Children.....\$500

☐ Other/Additional Amount .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Total Amount** .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### METHOD PAYMENT

☐ Check (payable to JLM)

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*

\*Coupons are examples of the impact your dollars can make. All donations are unrestricted. For more information, contact Elizabeth Murray Vargas at 305-726-6813 or at [elizmurray@prodigy.net](mailto:elizmurray@prodigy.net)

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Provide an at-risk child with  
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## \$50

Keep a Belly Full  
Provide dinner for an Inn  
Transition South family

## \$100

Change a Woman's Life  
So that a woman in crisis can  
get the help she needs for  
counseling services

## \$150

Give the Power of  
Knowledge  
Enable the purchase of Braille  
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## \$250

Give the Gift of  
Adventure!  
Send 20 Inn Transition North  
Families on a Field Trip

## \$500

Take a Stand for  
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**Historian** Mary Killeen-Griffith  
**Interactive Communications** Kati Janda Foley  
**Membership Directory** Sandy Nojaim  
**Photo/Video Journalist** Shanna Nye  
**Public Relations** Sienna Reynaga Owens

**Community Council**

**All-Aboard Family Literacy** Marcia Koo  
**Little Lighthouse** Claudia Alegrett & Gina Gardner  
**Community Service Award** LaVonia Martin-Chambers  
**Done In A Day** Elena Luca  
**Hurwit Crisis Nursery** Melissa Tolmach & Cecilia Slesnick  
**Inn Transition North** Brooke Roberts-Webb  
**Inn Transition South** Veronica Ramirez & Helen Picard  
**Political Affairs** Mary Snow  
**Project Lift /Sundari Fdn.** Marcia Monserrat & Shawn Libman  
**Step Up to the Plate** Kathleen Duran & Mara Karlinsky  
**JLM Therapy Dogs** Nicole Brown & Tania Paredes

**Development Council**

**Fund Develop. Chair/ Community Partners** Elizabeth Vargas  
**Golf Tournament** Loretta Nido & Lauren Hunt  
**Auction for Action** Betty Lopez-Castro & Kim Sarkisian  
**Shopping Card** Christie Wolfe & Christy Quinones-Spurling  
**WWMD Luncheon** Ali Nason-Aymerich & Teresa Thornburg

**Finance Council**

**Assistant Treasurer** Luly Sixto-Yero  
**Community Projects Treasurer** Jane Bhatt  
**Golf Treasurer** Melanie Paredes  
**Headquarters Inc. Treasurer** Vivian Rodriguez  
**Headquarters Mgmt. Chair** Elvira Larrain  
**Inn Transition North Inc. Treasurer:** Maria Byrd  
**Shopping Card Treasurer** Amber Seidle-Lazo  
**WWMD Luncheon Treasurer** Brenda Torres

**Membership Council**

**Meetings & Hospitality** Gema Santos & Misha Ebbert  
**Member Events Coordinators** Kristina Gossman & Alise Johnson Henry  
**Membership Outreach Chair** Diane Doolan  
**Provisional Chairs** Marlene Fernandez & Melissa Hernandez  
**Sustainer Liaison** Jamie Adams Bonham

**Planning Council**

**CAB Liaison** Catherine Grieve  
**Diversity Coordinator** Aniella Gonzalez  
**Leadership Initiative** Bibi Cruz-Ledon Sears  
**Legal Coordinator** Christine Lynch  
**Members at Large** Etain Connor, Kimberley Thompson, Brigid Cech Samole, Catherine Grieve  
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# Spring 2009 Calendar

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 JLM Therapy Dogs at Gulliver Academy	3 Board of Directors Mtg.	4 All-Aboard Story Hour – Dr. Seuss' Birthday	5 Membership Open House	6	7 DIAD - Honey Shine Career Day
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10 GMM Area Meetings – PM only	11 Member Event @ The Collection	12	13	14 ITS – Job Fair & Youth Activity (Tennis) JLM receives Visionary Award from MiaSci
15 ITN - Sunday Outing @ New World Symphony	16 Community & Finance Council Meetings.	17 St. Patrick's Day ITN Homework Night + Development & Membership Council Mtgs.	18	19	20 Kids in the Kitchen – "The Edible Alphabet" @ Miami Children's Museum	21
22	23	24 Provisional Training #7 – Child Abuse	25 Leadership Initiative – League Ops & Organization	26	27	28
29	30 Communications Council Mtg. Vol. Svc Award hours by tomorrow! <a href="http://www.ajli.org">www.ajli.org</a>	31 Dues Late Fee Applies After Today	1 April Fool's Day All Aboard Story Hour–Animals <b>APRIL</b>	2 Membership Open House	3	4 DIAD – Community Partnership for the Homeless – Children's Movie Night

April

5 Palm Sunday	6	7 Board of Directors Meeting	8 Passover begins @ sundown	9	10 Good Friday	11 ITS – Healthy Cooking (Crockpot) & Youth Activity – Hip-hop Kids
12 Easter	13	14 General Membership Mtg "Bring A Friend" AM & PM	15	16 Placement Interviews	17 Placement Interviews	18
19	20 Finance Council Meeting	21 ITN–Homework Night Planning, Development & Membership Council Mtgs.	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27 Communications Council Mtg.	28	29	30	1 MAY	2 Membership Outreach Open House Provisional Commencement

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5 Board of Directors Meeting	6 All-Aboard Story Hour – Mother's Day	7	8	9 ITS – Mother's Day & Youth Activity Arts & Crafts
10 Mother's Day	11	12 Annual Meeting @ Coral Reef Yacht Club (PM only)	13	14	15 Deadline to submit articles for the Summer Journal!	16
17	18 Communications Council Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 JLM Fiscal Year Ends	1 JUNE	2 New Board of Directors Meeting	3	4	5	6 Watch for the Summer Journal this month!

Save the date: Incoming Leadership Training - June 13

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