

# Junior League



The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

# Journal

Vol. XVIII No. 3 | Spring 2010

## President's Message

### Inn Transition North— Our History, Our Future

Over 20 years ago, the members of the Junior League of Miami made a decision to launch a flagship project in the area of domestic violence. Funds were raised to purchase Inn Transition North. Inn Transition North is a 22-unit residential apartment complex that women and their children call home as they transition into a permanent living arrangement after suffering through an abusive relationship.

The project is a joint venture with Miami-Dade County whereby the League has been leasing the buildings to the County for \$1 per year for close to 20 years. In November, we will come to the end of our second 10-year lease. Over the years, the League's responsibilities as a landlord have included: renovation and maintenance of the buildings and site location, insuring the property, and maintenance and replacement of interior furnishings.

The scope of our volunteer component encompasses coordination of public relations and advocacy for purposes of promoting ITN within the community, volunteer

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## 2010-2011 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee Selected

By Jennifer Hartnett Wilson 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 2009-2010 Nominating Committee was tasked with the difficult job of selecting JLM's next Board of Directors. This committee selects the candidates who will lead the organization in 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 equally powerful voice to slate the leadership team. The immediate



Leadership Team for 2010-2011 after the vote at the February General Membership Meeting.

past president also attends in an advisory capacity.

After careful consideration by the Nominating Committee, and approval by the majority vote of our membership at the February GMM, the 2010-2011 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee were selected. As you may

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Junior League JOURNAL

**Jennifer Gillihan Herskowitz, Editor**

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**and JLM Advertising Manager**

**Andrea Graham**

**Kendall Pryles**

**Amy Stone**

**Shanna Nye, Sheri Mazariegos**

**Contributing Photographers**



**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.

## *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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A member of The Association  
of Junior Leagues International Inc.



leadership and mentoring to the residents and children, and coordination and delivery of life skills workshops to ensure success when transitioning into a permanent housing arrangement.

Over the years, our volunteer component has provided over 100,000 volunteer hours at the facility, an amount valued at over \$2,000,000 (100,000 hours @ \$20.25 per hour). The County provides a full time social worker on site to run the program and maintenance apart from what the Junior League provides.

The program is funded by the League, the County, and by grants from the Homeless Trust. Additionally, the residents pay a small percentage of their income to Inn Transition North, Inc., a subsidiary of the Junior League.

Rental income averages \$20,000 per year while expenses average \$50,000 per year. Our project funding provides an additional \$10,000 of support to the program. Several years ago, the League was given a monetary gift which carried a restriction that the funds must be used solely in the area of domestic violence. We have been able to draw upon those

funds to bridge our shortfall in funding. However, those funds are essentially depleted.

Three years ago, the County expressed an interest in buying the property. League leadership at that time recognized the value in this proposition. It would allow us to continue to do what we do best – organize and deliver valuable volunteer programming at ITN. It would also alleviate the pressures associated with being a landlord. Owning property has become complex in the recent past, as insurance and maintenance costs have escalated dramatically. With only one part-time paid staff member employed by the League, it is especially challenging to be property owners.

Since the time of the initial offer, the County withdrew its intent to purchase the property, citing the significant repairs needed for the buildings as the reason for withdrawal. Despite JLM's best efforts in writing numerous letters and attending meetings with County Commissioners in

an attempt to sway their decision, this endeavor has been unsuccessful.

Our lease and commitment will come to an end in November. We are at a crossroads. As an active or provisional member, you have been educated on this important subject and been given updates on our progress at general membership meetings. As provisional, active and sustaining members you have been invited to participate in the ITN ad hoc committee. Our first meeting was productive.

Following are some of the ideas and issues discussed:

- Does the League want to become more of a single service provider in the area of domestic violence? Dedicating the additional funds required would force us to cut back on programs and grants in our other five focus areas.
- Can we find a contractor(s) who will provide repair work at a reduced rate or in the form of an in-kind donation? Several League members have put forth formal proposals to contractors.
- Is there money available in the Commissioners' discretionary funds that can be allocated to the repair work? Outreach is being undertaken to explore this.
- Would the County be willing to renegotiate a lease with more favorable terms for the League? A formal request has been made to the County.
- Are there any additional funding options through the Homeless Trust? A meeting is scheduled with the Homeless Trust in March.
- Are there other non-profit organizations that we can partner with to fill this, or another significant community need, at the facility? Several organizations have approached us with an interest in doing so.

As this process develops, we will continue to hold "ad hoc" or "town hall" meetings to gather ideas and feedback from current and sustaining membership. Together we can put forth a strong plan of action with the talent, ideas and feedback of our diverse membership.

Please stay involved and connected in this process. I am available at any time should you have any ideas or questions. ☺

*Erin Dolan Knight*



Lynn Summers, Liz Folmar, Martha Lummus, Claudia Kitchens and Ronni Bermont open Inn Transition in 1990.

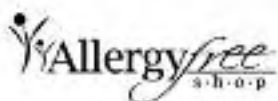


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VIP Table of 10—\$1,150 • Regular Table of 10—\$800

## 2010 HONOREES

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## TABLE HOSTS

Anika Allen & Alexandra Page

Kelli Blake's Provisional Group

Lindy Colson

Bibi Cruz-Ledón Sears

Monica Fernandez & Mari Novo

Marlene Fernandez-Karavetsos

Kati Janda Foley

Aniella Gonzalez

Lauren Hunt & Samatha Murphy

Kaufman, Rossin & Co.

Erin Dolan Knight

Dana Wolpert Martorella and

Katie Lane-Arriola

Loretta Nido

April Pizzo

Melissa Tolmach

Elizabeth Murray Vargas

Michelle Vidal & 2009-2010 Provisionals

Purchase Tickets: [www.jlmiami.org](http://www.jlmiami.org)

*\*Don't forget it's Daylight Savings Time with clocks turned ahead the night before!*

Event Co-Chairs: Bibi Cruz-Ledón Sears, April Pizzo, Marlene Fernandez-Karavetsos • Event Treasurer: Jacqueline P. Winter • Event Committee: Alexandra Bach Lagos, Jessica Bedoya, Graziella Renee Denny, Victoria Downey, Monica Espino, Candace Falsetto, Rebecca Gentry, Kimberly Haring, Lacey Hofmeyer, Lauren Kirtley, Elvira Larrain, Capri Logan, Renee Lopez-Cantera, Sheri Mazariegos, Lisa McClaskey, Michelle McClaskey, Nicole Nagel, Vicki Rafool, Priscilla Rettig, Lori Riviere, Cindy Rodriguez, Alexis Sims, Verouska MacLean Volkert

# Miami Magic Celebrates Our City's Finest

By **Monica Fernandez-Valiente and Mari Novo** Event Co-Chairs

On Friday, December 11th, 2009, the Junior League of Miami celebrated the holidays with Miami Magic 2009 at the Four Seasons Hotel.


The incredible evening entertained more than 250 guests who enjoyed the wine and cheese cocktail amid crimson elegance, savored the VIP dinner with lively music and samba dancing, and reveled in the exquisite dessert and champagne reception, where bubbly and sweet treats were abundant.

Miami Magic 2009 honored the fol-



lowing amazing people: acclaimed Chef Michelle Bernstein, 2009 CNN Top 10 Hero of the Year Andrea Ivory and Adopt-a-Classroom Founder James Rosenberg. Guests mingled with the honorees while enjoying the celebration.

The Miami Magic event was special because it raised much needed funds for JLM projects, while at the same time, celebrated the Junior League of Miami's success in its mission to serve the community. Through our sponsors, donors, members and the community supporting this event, we can make a difference in many lives next year.

The Miami Magic committee would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who supported Miami Magic and the Junior League of Miami. 



Honorees Michelle Bernstein, Andrea Ivory and James Rosenberg



Miguel Nido, Jennifer Wilson and Susan Lerner.



Mary Killian Griffith, Co-Chair), Kara Skelley-Diez, Monica Fernandez-Valiente (Co-Chair), Cindy Rodriguez



Ken and Amy Sussman





David Martinez, Restaurateur & Chef Michelle Bernstein (honoree) with Michele Benesch (sustainer) and her husband.



Jody Reid, Canesha Appleton and Kadisha Phelps



Erin Knight (JLM President), Andrea Ivory (honoree)

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Four Seasons Hotel Miami  
Swank Audio Visuals  
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Ambiance by Cindy Rodriguez

#### TABLE HOSTS

Kay Apfel-Hancock  
Lindy Colson  
Erin Knight



## Board and Nominating Committee continued from page 1

already know, Loretta Nido will be our next President. Our current Treasurer, Maria Byrd, will take on the role of VP of Finance next year and Jamie Adams Bonham will serve as chair of the Nominating Committee. Therefore the slated board is as follows:

- President Elect: Dana Wolpert Martorella
- VP Communications: Emilie Goldman
- VP Community: Bibi Cruz-Ledon Sears
- VP Development: Lauren Hunt
- VP Finance: Maria Figueroa Byrd
- VP Planning: Lorrie Martin
- VP Membership: Betty Lopez-Castro
- Recording Secretary: Jennifer Quezada
- Treasurer: Vivian Rodriguez
- Nominating Chair: Jamie Adams Bonham

There are two Planning Members-At-Large who were also slated by the Nominating Committee. This year they are: Aniella Gonzalez and Austin Garilli. They will sit on the Planning Council for a two-year term and will work on specific projects under the direction of the president elect and VP of Planning.

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!

In addition to voting on next year's slate of officers at the February GMM, the Active membership also voted to select who will serve as the 2010-2011 Nominating Committee. This committee will be charged with the extremely important responsibility of selecting the slate of officers for the 2011-2012 JLM Board of Directors to serve with Dana Martorella, our esteemed President Elect-Elect.

Of the 15 nominees (five 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, will constitute next year's Nominating Committee. Jamie Adams Bonham will serve as chair. Congratulations, ladies, and thank you for your commitment to the future of JLM!

### 6+ Years of Service

Candace Falsetto  
Marlene Fernandez-Karavetsos  
Sheffield MacIntyre

### 3-5 Years of Service

Colleen Kitchens  
Misha Ebbert  
Veronica Ramirez

### 1-2 Years of Service

Alexandra Page  
Heather Harris  
Kati Janda-Foley

And finally, thank you to this year's dedicated Nominating Committee members: Jennifer Wilson, Jamie Bonham, Vicky Hucks, Jane de Cardenas, Lauren Dowlen, Kara Sharp, Cecilia Slesnick, Elena Luca, Amber Seidle-Lazo, Samantha Murphy and Michelle Ramirez-Patricios for a job well done! 🍷

# Congratulations

## 2010-2011 Board of Directors & Nominating Committee



From left to right: Photo 1 Erin Knight hugs Dana Martorella; Photo 2 Cecilia Slesnick and Jennifer Quezada; Photo 3 Vicky Hucks and Bibi Cruz-Ledon Sears, Michelle Ramirez Patricios and Jennifer Wilson; Photo 5 Emilie Goldman



# Placement Requirements

By Vicky Hucks Placement Chair

By now all actives should have received their mid-year report. This report is a great tool the Placement Committee uses to let each member know where they stand in regards to fulfilling their JLM requirements. Each year active members in the Junior League of Miami need to complete their placement, attend five General Membership Meetings (or Board-substituted trainings), complete a shift/volunteer requirement and pay their 2010-2011 dues.

You are encouraged to monitor the tracking of your fulfillment of requirements through the online JLM Member Directory. You can look up your record anytime and keep your contact information current. If you don't know how to access the directory or have forgotten your username or password, email your placement advisor and she can walk you through it.

If you received your mid-year report and there are discrepancies between what you have done and what the report says, please email me ([vickyhucks@aol.com](mailto:vickyhucks@aol.com)) so we can correct the data in your web membership record. If your report shows that the only thing you have done is stay on track with your placement, it's not too late!!!! There are numerous opportunities for you to complete your requirements as described below.

## MEETING REQUIREMENTS

### General Membership Meetings:

- March 9th GMM (pm only)
- April 13th GMM (am & pm)
- May GMM (pm only)

Placement Interview at Headquarters (takes approximately 15 minutes):

- April 15th (5:00 a.m. – 8:00pm) OR
- April 16th (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

### DIAD Events:

DIAD events may be used for either shift or meeting credit. This option is only available for non DIAD committee members.

- March 6th – Honey Shine Career Day (9:15 a.m. – 2:00pm)

- March 20th – Game Day at Ronald McDonald House (3:00pm – 5:00pm)
  - April 24th – Spring Carnival at the Barnyard (10:00 a.m. – 1:00pm)
  - May 11th – Mother's Day at Inn Transition South (11:00 a.m. – 1:00pm)
- For more details, contact Sarah Knight at [sarahhennessyknight@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahhennessyknight@yahoo.com)

Project Lift/Sundari events: Sundari events may be used for either shift or meeting credit. This option is only available for non-Sundari committee members.

Moving Days are March 13, March 27, April 10 & April 24th at 9:30 a.m. Meet at Safeguard Self Storage, 515 NW 36th Street, Miami, FL 33127

For more information, contact Mary Jane Miranda at [verymary09@yahoo.com](mailto:verymary09@yahoo.com) or Marcia Monserrat at [mmonserrat@broward.org](mailto:mmonserrat@broward.org)

## SHIFT REQUIREMENTS

The Women Who Make a Difference event will be Sunday, March 14th at the Four Seasons Hotel. You can buy a ticket or work a shift to receive credit. (Shift opportunities will be sent via placement advisors in the next month.)

## DUES

Dues are due! Please send \$180.00 to Headquarters or pay them online. If you pay them after March 31st, you will incur a \$25 late fee.

## PLACEMENT INTERVIEWS/CHANGE OF STATUS

In April you will have the opportunity to request your placement for the 2010-2011 League year. The placement bulletin will be on-line the first week of April and you can complete your placement selections by:

- filling it out on-line (no meeting credit will be given)
- filling it out at the April 13th GMM-evening only (no meeting credit will be given)
- attending a placement interview as noted above (meeting credit WILL be given)

As in years past, you need to pick 4 placements; the placement committee will do everything possible to give you your top requests. At this time you also have the opportunity to change your status. If you have completed at least three (3) years as an active (your first year as an active was 2007 or earlier), you can go Advisory Status. This choice is available to members for a maximum of two years during their active service, except as noted below. The two options for Advisory Status are as follows:

a. Meeting Option - members are excused from fulfilling a placement, but must fulfill all other membership requirements.

b. Placement Option - members are excused from attending general membership meetings, 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:

- a. Pay annual dues
- b. Complete the shift/ticket requirement.

At this time you can also request to take a Sabbatical for the 2010-2011 year. Written requests must be sent to the Placement Chair ([VickyHucks@aol.com](mailto:VickyHucks@aol.com)) 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 (1) 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.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact your placement advisor and she can answer any questions you have! ☺

# Honey Shine Mentoring Program and JLM's Done In a Day come together for an amazing event

By **Andrea Graham** Journal Committee Member

For the past four years JLM has been supporting the girls of the Honey Shine Mentoring Program, a program of Alonzo Mourning Charities, through a Higher Education and Career Day workshop. The Honey Shine Mentoring Program encourages the balance of mind, body and soul in girls and women by providing nurturing experiences that enlighten their paths and empower their future. Tracy Wilson Mourning, founded Honey Shine, and she has made it her calling to empower young girls to shine as women through mentorship. Honey Shine has programming made up of bi-weekly workshops and a 4-week summer camp.

This year the DIAD project was

held at Barry University, in keeping with the theme of the day - education. Knowing that education is a key element to one's future success, the Junior League was dedicated to showing the girls that there is a world of opportunities by highlighting the achievements and career paths of many of the JLM members. The DIAD committee focused on bringing together a wide range of professions for the girls to learn about and to give them information on how to enter those career paths. Professionals included a florist, a doctor, a chef, a teacher, a journalist, a lawyer and many more.

The girls went through a series of roundtable discussions where they were given information about the different

professions and were able to ask questions in a more intimate setting. Lunch was served, and the volunteers were able to sit and talk with the girls about their day and share their own words of wisdom.

In the afternoon, JLM's very own Kathleen Duran led the girls in a hands-on project where they learned how to make ice cream from scratch. In addition, the girls put their senses to the test as they smelled different types of herbs and learned how chefs use their senses when cooking.

This DIAD project was once again an enjoyable event because the missions of Honey Shine and JLM align so perfectly and together we empower the girls in the program to be amazing women. ☺



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For more information, please call **305-443-4011**, or visit **coralgablesathome.org**.

# Spotlight on Community Project WINGS

By Andrea Graham Journal Committee Member

One of our newest community projects, and headed by co-chairs Colleen Kitchens and Nicole Brown, the WINGS mentorship program is committed to celebrating diversity and womanhood by working to enhance the quality of life for the young women in the program and their children. The committee has worked very hard to ensure that this project is a success.

WINGS (Women in Need of Greater Strength) for Life South Florida, Inc. currently operates as a residential commitment treatment program for 20 pregnant or postpartum females and their babies. The WINGS committee is dedicated to enriching the lives of these young girls (ages 14-19) by teaching them to think differently, to expose them to new experiences, and to teaching them to make better choices.

The JLM committee brainstormed at the beginning of the year on what they thought would be great workshops for the girls. They also made sure to take notes from WINGS on what the girls in the program were hoping to gain from the overall experience.

Some workshops put on by the JLM Wings committee this year included:


Healthy eating and better food choices – celebrity chef, Chef Paul, came in and taught the girls how to make healthy tacos.

Women's Empowerment - a speaker from the Miami Herald came in and spoke about her life story.

An arts and crafts workshop with vision boards that allowed the women to think, plan and work towards their future goals; and

An "Improv" lesson where the girls were able to open up and build their overall self confidence while thinking quickly on the fly. The Improv night truly was a special night because JLM volunteers were able to see even the most inhibited girls let their guards down, have fun and be "girls" and not just "mothers".

Overall, with all of the planning that has been done this year the committee truly believes that these young ladies are walking away with a stronger sense of self worth, a higher level of self confidence and an overall positive outlook on their future due to their contact with the JLM volunteers. The young ladies have come to know and trust the volunteers, and in addition, they are learning that even though we have experienced obstacles in our lives, we are able to overcome hurdles in our own lives through persistence and the desire to be better people.

This project has been a very eye-opening experience for both the young ladies at WINGS and the JLM committee members, who feel that they have gotten back at least as much as they have given. 

**"There are two lasting bequests we can give our children: one is roots, the other is wings."**

**~Hodding Carter**





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# Thanksgiving Baskets





## Mural Painting livens up any space!



# Spring Has Sprung!

By Maria Maloof Member Events Chair

The Member Events Committee kicked off 2010 with an inspiring Spring Trend Show at The Village of Merrick Park. Approximately 60 Leaguers and their guests gathered to preview the hottest trends for the season by 24 participating designer retailers.



Maria Maloof and Lauren Harrison Genovese

Our fashionistas socialized over cocktails and lite-bites. Then we were entertained by fashion's "Gurus of Style," Godfrey Del Rio, who showcased the key trends in clothes, shoes, handbags and accessories as models walked the catwalk at Zhaleh's Rugs. The goodie bags provided by the merchants of Mer-

rick Park were an added bonus to the evening.

Now, in an effort to provide events for those members who need the right daytime escape from their daily grind, there's "Lunchin' with the League" events. Northern Trust Bank generously provided a complimentary lunch at their offices downtown on February 17th, thanks to Candace Falsetto.

Coming up, a truly unique experience, Lunchin' with the League and Leadership Training will present an April 7th session at the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education. League members will hear a brief presentation about the amazing community resources available at that United Way Center. A bag lunch will be available for \$10.

Since our committee knows just how

## LUNCHin' with the LEAGUE



Junior League of Miami

demanding our members' schedules are, both in the League and in their personal lives, we are in the process of planning an extra special "relaxation and pampering" get-together as a last hoo-rah! Stay tuned for further details. You won't want to miss

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**Kim Sarkisian, Ali Nason Aymerich, and Michelle Ramirez Patricios**



**Tracy Pottker-Fishel checks out the latest in fashion footwear.**



**Lauren Harrison Genovese and Godfrey del Rio**


# Brand New YMCA and Preschool

By Tracy Pottker-Fishel Journal Committee

**Y**MCA Village of Allapattah Family Branch is Miami's newest YMCA facility. The Village of Allapattah is a unique concept that combines affordable housing with a YMCA Family Branch and Preschool. The YMCA Village concept, a first of its kind, combines meeting the community's need for affordable housing with a traditional YMCA that offers child care, wellness, exercise and fitness.

All of the Allapattah community can be a part of the YMCA through membership, youth and teen programs and sports, senior activities and the onsite preschool.

The housing portion of the Village of Allapattah features a 12-story tower for families and a 9-story tower for seniors. This is designated as affordable housing for families and individuals.

The grand opening celebration took place on January 16, 2010. The free family event included music, food, give-aways, bounce house, games and door prizes. 

**YMCA's**

**Village of Allapattah Family Branch**

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## Haiti: A Reminder of Our Humanity


By Jennifer Herskowitz, Journal Chair

**T**he tragic circumstances that followed the recent earthquake in Haiti have been a grim reminder of the massive suffering that can occur without warning. And yet the heart-wrenching events that would unfold as a result of that catastrophic earthquake were tempered by something else that was truly amazing: the tremendous – and immediate – efforts made by the rest of the world to pitch in and help those so clearly in need. Organizations, volunteers, and philanthropists alike opened their hearts, opened their wallets, and gave a lending hand to help the unfortunate people of Haiti. Celebrities, business people, teachers, the girl-next-door – really everyone I know – did something to contribute. I even saw the homeless, who normally ask for donations in exchange for copies of The Homeless Voice, switch gears and ask for money to send to Haiti.

The Junior League of Miami Headquarters became a donation site for our members and others to drop off items desperately needed in Haiti. Other Junior League chapters around the country joined the world-wide efforts as well, by giving time, money and organizing various other efforts to help those in need.

What amazes me about the whole situation is this: how a little effort on the part of a large group of people can bring awareness to a need and gather the necessary resources to make it happen. It is a great example of how much can be accomplished when someone has the motivation to organize an effort

of great magnitude. It is a reminder of how much the Junior League can do in their communities – and how important it is for all those who rely on us.

**Our hearts go out to our JLM members who have lost loved ones, and have been impacted by the devastation in many ways and whose lives have been sadly changed forever.** 



# From “Gloves are Off” to “Provisionals Pitch In”: A Small Adaptation

By Michelle A. Vidal Provisional Co-Chair

The “Gloves are Off” project has traditionally been a project in which the women of the Junior League would literally “take off their gloves” (as wearing gloves were standard practice throughout the United States even up until the late 1960’s) in order to clean, garden, or remodel. This was a great way for women to pitch in, roll up their sleeves, and do something physically active.

Although the projects are still quite necessary, I think of this title for the project now as ironic. In this day and age, we hardly ever wear gloves out in public. The buttery, kid leather gloves that women used to wear out in public are no longer the fashion statement. For one thing, a lot of women pay for manicures, and covering painted nails with gloves seems wasteful. Then there’s the obvious reason: we live in Miami. Plainly, it’s just too hot to wear gloves all the time.

In an even more ironic twist of word-play, don’t we put on our gloves to protect our hands when we do dishes, paint, or clean? If we follow this logic, then shouldn’t we be calling our projects “Gloves are On”? If I have to be digging in the dirt, I will surely not be turning away a pair of gloves—I’d be expecting them.

Now, the title of “Gloves are Off” just seems odd, especially to my generation, who never really wore gloves as a daily fashion statement. I associate the statement of “Gloves are Off” as an act of aggression. Doesn’t one throw down their

boxing gloves in order to inflict more pain on their opponent? Are we supposed to be beating the dirt to death? In my mind, I’ve always imagined the idea of “Gloves are Off” as a bunch of Junior Leaguers, normally so tidy and neat, throwing down boxing gloves and inciting aggression against—well, a mural!

This year, the “Gloves are Off” project is getting a makeover. The heart of the project remains the same: getting down and dirty in order to fix, refurbish, or renovate. The name, however, will be the biggest change. “Gloves are Off” will now be called “Provisionals Pitch In”.

The projects are a large part of the second half of the Provisional year. We

“The heart of the project remains the same: getting down and dirty in order to fix, refurbish, or renovate.”

spend a significant amount of training time going over the JLM infrastructure in the first half of the year, whereas the second half is dedicated to having the Provisional members participating in more community activities as well as learning about possible community projects. Their community shifts and “Gloves are Off” requirements are traditionally fulfilled

during the second half of the year. Since the projects rely mainly on the Provisionals (although all members can participate) we thought it would be appropriate to rename it for the driving force of the project: the Provisionals themselves.

“Provisionals Pitch In” is another way for us to showcase what we do best: recruit and train talented women from all walks of life and throw them together to fix a problem. The renaming of the project to “Provisionals Pitch In” also gives the project an emphasis on what the Junior League is truly about: community. By “pitching in” as a group instead of “taking our gloves off” as individuals, we place the emphasis on the group. After all, one of the main reasons why we are so successful is because we have strength in numbers.

In the long run, this is a minimal change. Will it change the world? No. However, it does steer us in the right direction to accept small changes that benefit our League. I think of the saying “only the strong survive.” You can be as strong as a rock, but waves will eventually erode rocks. It is those who adapt and change with the seasons that will survive. If we expect our League to remain a stalwart establishment, we should make these small changes to adapt with the times and embrace them. After all, what’s left standing after a hurricane? It’s not necessarily the stiffest, heaviest structures, but those that can move and sway with the wind. ☻



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# SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT: Teresa Zohn

By Kendall Pryles Journal Committee

**T**eresa Zohn is a truly remarkable woman. She joined the League back in 1980 and talks about her 20-plus-year involvement with the enthusiasm of a Provisional! Speaking of Provisionals, Teresa recalls her 14 months of training and her first few years as an active as an exciting time in her life.

"The Junior League teaches women how to be effective volunteers in the community," she said.

Amidst a brief relocation to Boca Raton and the birth of twin girls, Teresa remained involved. When reflecting on her girls' various class projects during middle and high school at Ransom, she made a conscious effort to try to work with other mothers from the League, because, she explains, "they could just take the bull by the horns and did not need as much guidance."

The Junior League teaches women

how to be leaders, both at work and as volunteers.

It was clear during our chat that her true passion is in helping children and women in distress. As a result, she has been an instrumental part of Inn Transition North from construction to present. She currently serves as President of ITN's Foundation and is working diligently with Miami-Dade County and the League to ensure the future of this signature project remains bright.

For the last two decades, Teresa has enjoyed meeting young women with similar interests and civic devotion. As a Sustainer and proud mother of League Active Lindsey Zohn, Teresa enjoys staying connected with fellow book club members and relishes mother-daughter outings to fundraisers like Miami Magic and the Women Who Make a Difference luncheon every year. ☪



At Inn Transition North in the early days, Past President Susan Moll (1994-95), Pam Smaron and Teresa Zohn (right). The child is Claire Moll, now a colleague graduate.



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# Anne Freedman teaches JLM members to Speak Out

By Negin Kordbacheh and Tracie Dickerson Provisional Members

Junior League members enjoyed a rare treat on January 26, 2010, when Anne Freedman, President of Speak Out Inc., joined us at Headquarters to break down the elements of public speaking. According to Freedman, public speaking is not just an art form, it's a science with replicable techniques and strategies that enable the speaker to be more persuasive in delivery, and thus, more effective in outcome.

In Freedman's presentation, which covered how to "Own the Room" and "The Elevator" method of persuasive speaking presentation, members learned that unless a person uses one of the five attention grabbing openers: story/personal anecdote, startling fact, arousing suspense, promising to give them something, or a prop, an elevator speech or persuasive presentation falls flat and the message gets lost.

**“Freedman provided many useful tips. She pointed out that word choice is crucial. For example, she said, using the word hope makes a person sound weak. Choosing a word like anticipate or expect are better alternatives.”**

Members gathered into groups and prepared mock presentations utilizing the various attention grabbing openers and incorporated body formats by in the past, present, and future. The groups were instructed to keep the two key components - entertainment and engagement - in mind while preparing their presentations. One person from each group presented a two-minute speech on topics ranging from how to effectively petition donations to

how to engage potential new members to join JLM.

Freedman provided many useful tips. She pointed out that word choice is crucial. For example, she said, using the word hope makes a person sound weak. Choosing a word like anticipate or expect are better alternatives. When preparing a presentation, practice out loud and out of order. For one-on-one speeches talk less and listen more because convincing someone of something requires a person to listen to the other person's concerns. Finally, to save yourself from potential embarrassment, bring an extra suit in case you have an accident prior to the speaking engagement.

Provisional member Carolyn Gardner stated, "I realized that learning and practicing effective speaking techniques could take the 'bite' out of the pain of a speaking to an audience. I don't view public speaking as such a potential for disaster anymore."

To execute structured and comfortable presentations with ease, Freedman's triple T's keeps the message on point: tell them what you're going to tell them, tell them the points, and tell them what you told them. Anxiety-free public speaking, therefore, comes from not only the practice but also replication and mastery of the elements of owning the room and persuading the audience.

Special thanks to Katie Cabanas and Jen Burchard for organizing the event. 🍷

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