

# Junior League



The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

# Journal

Vol. XVII No. 4 | Summer 2009

## President's Message

**"It was the best of times,  
it was the worst of times!"**

They say adversity does not build character, but only reveals it, and this could not have been more true of our league this year. We met adversity early on, as our sponsor for our biggest fundraiser pulled out three weeks before the event. The character of our board and all our leadership was revealed right away! Their response to this situation has been characteristic of how we as a league have responded to an economy in crisis: with poise, strength, confidence in our abilities, and in typical JLM fashion, with the utmost of grace. I can honestly say our board achieved consensus on every major decision we faced, (even if we were there all night.) The board was a microcosm of our League, because we believe that no matter how large the table, every person in every seat matters.

At the first general membership meeting in September, as I was trying to hide our therapy dogs from the catering director at Riviera Country Club, I expressed my hope for our members. I quoted a plaque that my father bought



Continued on  
page 4

## How Did We Measure a Year?

By Lorrie Martin *Junior League Journal Editor*

The far-reaching impact of every volunteer's efforts are immeasurable, but the members of the Junior League of Miami are proud to count among our impact to the community:

Project and Scholarship Funds Allocated .....	\$76,750
Community Grants Allocated.....	\$41,000
Gift to Signature Project Inn Transition North .....	\$31,000
Volunteer Hours .....	31,000
Increase in Membership placed with Community Projects .....	24%
Percentage of Members attending Leadership Training through local, regional and national courses .....	45%

A more personal effect was felt by those that benefited directly from each of this year's projects where both funding and our trained volunteers were allocated:

- **Step Up to the Plate** gave away 150 cookbooks, and held 8 workshops to teach healthy habits and cuisine to girls in a local Girl Scout troop.
- **Kids in the Kitchen**, part of a larger AJLI movement, attracted 602 attendees who were introduced to "The Edible Alphabet" with fresh fruits and vegetables and related educational material;
- **Sundari Foundation – Project Lift** helped move 27 homeless women from Lotus House into their own homes;
- **All-Aboard Family Literacy Program** saw 548 books donated to families in the program, and an 85% increase in parental involvement;
- **Little Lighthouse: Blind Babies** project donated 264 books in Braille, and produced 6 workshops for families with blind children; **Continued on page 6**



Step Up to the Plate

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GET *treated* BETTER<sup>SM</sup>

# The New Baptist Health Breast Center. Exceptional *Care*. Exceptional *Support*.

The new Baptist Health Breast Center—a healing place that features the most advanced digital imaging technology, top-quality diagnostics and expert surgical care. Recognizing that a possible breast cancer diagnosis affects the whole family, our team provides care focused on the patient's health and the family's emotional well-being.

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Maria Pilar Martinez, M.D., Robert DerHagopian, M.D., and Gladys Giron, M.D.



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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.

The *Junior League Journal* wishes to thank our advertisers. Please let them know you heard about them in the *Journal*. I would personally like to thank all members who contributed material, our Advertising Chair Lauren, Photojournalists Shanna and Sheri, Designer Natalie, and especially the Journal Committee: Nicole, Yolanda, Wilca, Elizabeth, and Fernande – a great team that brought their perspectives of new Active, transfer, and 'veteran', shared their insights on our activities, and asked the right questions! It has been a pleasure working with you this year. – Lorrie

## To Contact Us

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**Michelle and husband Leon at the WWMD Luncheon**

and placed in our home which read: "This place welcomes all, embraces each and hopes you find yourself better for having been here." And so, we focused on diversity, not for diversity's sake, but to create



**Michelle with children Anna Sofia, Anthony and Nico at the Annual Meeting**

an atmosphere of inclusion, where all opinions are valued. To have the children we serve, when they look up at our outstretched hand, know that that hand is there to pick them up and not beat them back down, because they can see themselves in our faces.

As leaders, we tend to look for measurable outcomes, facts, figures, and we had plenty of that this year! We trained and welcomed 73 new actives; we inspired, motivated and educated our women through general membership meetings and leadership trainings which were attended by 45% of the membership.

We achieved our goal of getting more of our members out on the front lines, with an increase of 24% of members placed in community projects. We raised over \$300,000 through our fundraisers and the headquarters capital campaign, enabling us to allocate project, scholarship, and grant funds in the amount of almost \$120,000. But all this work has accomplished much more than what is reflected in these statistics; more importantly, it has instilled values, taught us empathy, the ability to put ourselves in another's situation, not just those we serve but our fellow members as well.

And so, I have more than a couple of thanks to give, because it is obvious this is a massive group effort! I knew, as most of us in the league do, that at the end of a difficult year my kids would be ok, but

that the children we serve don't often have the blessing of having such a caring and devoted family. To my family: my mother, my in-laws, and my husband and children, I thank you for all the sacrifices you made. To the Board of Directors: each and every one of you have amazed me with your capacity for collaborative thought and your commitment to our mission. Words fall short when trying to explain the bonds of respect and friendship forged this year at our table. Thank you for your generosity, the honesty that you gave to me and to the league. I am so grateful to our entire leadership team, and I thank you not just on my behalf but on behalf of the entire community. You, along with all our members, might never know the impact that you had, perhaps it was just a smile, or a card you sent, or a moment of recognition and respect with an abused child that changed them forever. I am awed by the power of this movement, knowing that we belong to something so much greater than ourselves. I have been humbled and privileged to serve this year as your president.

I truly hope this place has welcomed all, embraced each, and that you find yourself better for having been here. I know I am. ☺

*Thank you for the privilege to serve.*

*Yours truly,*

*Michelle Ramirez-Patricios*



Provisionals show that the "gloves are off" by painting this mural for Kristi House, the Children's Advocacy Center for Miami-Dade for sexually abused children. Kristi House is also one of JLM's grant recipients.

# Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Awards Presented

By Renee Lopez-Cantera KMM Service Award Committee

The Junior League of Miami has awarded three 2009-2010 college scholarships to Miami-Dade County high school senior girls for outstanding academic performance and community service. Each spring, senior high school girls are honored who demonstrate exceptional service to their community, both in and outside of school, while excelling in academics.

The Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Award was established and first presented in 1985-86 in memory of a JLM member whose commitment and dedication to voluntarism served as an inspiration to all who knew her.

In October, the 2008-09 JLM Community Service Award Committee introduced this opportunity to Miami-Dade County public high schools through their CAP advisers. The selection committee voted on the top applicants and announced the winners at the April 14th General Membership Meeting. Personal aspirations, volunteer and work experience, career goals, and academic achievements were considered in evaluating the applicants.

Each winner will benefit from a \$2,000 scholarship. Educational institutions are not limited by geography, and the check may be applied toward tuition, student housing at the institution, or books.



**Dalny Ruel of South Miami Senior High** is an avid soccer player, and has transformed her passion for sports into coaching and helping young women succeed. She has also spent time for eight years going to Colombia to tutor underprivileged children in the English language.

In her volunteer role as coach and tutor, she has also overcome several personal hardships. She dedicated her voluntarism to share enthusiasm and passion with young students. She tells these students what her varsity soccer coach shared with her: "Winning isn't everything, but the desire to win is."

Besides her athleticism on several varsity sports teams, she also excels academically, and is in the top 12% of her class.

She does this while taking challenging Advanced Placement Classes.

Dalny's bright smile is a reminder that one can excel despite life's obstacles. One day she hopes to work with an organization such as UNICEF or the United Nations in order to help people around the world that are suffering from hunger, mistreatment, neglect and other conditions.

We wish her continued success as she plans to attend Florida International University this fall.



**Victoria Eshietedoho of American Senior High** was inspired when she learned that Miami has a large homeless population. Victoria has done a wonderful job in her community service project entitled "Uplifting the Needy."

As a dedicated and reliable leader, she helped by cooking, feeding, providing clothes and counsel to those who were in need. She was able to communicate directly to many homeless people on a personal level – and inspire them.

As a scholar who maintains a 4.7 grade point average,

Victoria

hopes to be a pharmacist one day, so she

can continue

to give back and encourage

others. We wish her

continued success as she plans to attend Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University this fall.



KMM Chair LaVonia Martin-Chambers, Committee member Renee Lopez-Cantera, Michelle Ramirez-Patricios and Winner Dalny Ruel.



**KyEisha Penn of Miami Northwestern Senior High** is an A student who maintains an impressive 4.7 GPA. She participated in many service projects, but in her primary project, she assisted by speaking at a battered and abused women shelter.

A very self-motivated young lady, she inspires others to make it through a tough time. She has risen from a place of hardship and empathizes with the young ladies at the shelter.

She also exhibits great leadership skills as the President of the Student Government Association and Captain of the Marching and Symphonic Band. KyEisha was

also recently honored by *The Miami Herald* with the prestigious Silver Knight

Award. We wish KyEisha well as she plans to attend Florida State University this fall.

For more information about Kathryn Menke Miller, her life and contribution to the community, please visit the web: [www.jlmiami.org](http://www.jlmiami.org)



Winner Victoria Eshietedoho



## Measuring a Year continued from page 1

- **The Hurwit Center: Teen Moms** program worked with 10 teenage moms and 12 babies, held 5 educational programs and outings for the moms and babies. Volunteers held 2 work days for landscaping and creation of an outdoor living space, as well as conducting a holiday drive for donations of supplies;
  - **Therapy Dogs** made 8 visits to nursing homes, listened to children for 2 visits per month in local libraries with "Paws to Read", participated in community events including the Miami Lighthouse Dog Walk for service dogs (see related article), and were featured on UMNews and in The Miami Herald;
  - **The Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Awards** Committee received nominations from 28 of 49 high schools in Miami-Dade County, and awarded 3 scholarships for \$2,000 each (see related article);
  - **Inn Transition South** residents received 250 school uniforms, were given 467 holiday gifts, and 150 children attended summer camp;
  - **Inn Transition North** had 9 workshops for moms, 7 homework help nights for children, 8 family field trips, and 18 families were mentored (see related article);
  - **Done in a Day** enabled members to participate based on their schedule at 20 events, including preparation of 24 Thanksgiving baskets, and 24 holiday boxes for residents at Inn Transition North. This committee also instituted a new "Jr. Junior League" program for children of members to participate and learn what it means to give back to the community.
- Grant funding was awarded to help these organizations with special projects:
- America SCORES Miami
  - Kristi House
  - Miami Beach Police Athletic League
  - Sundari Foundation/Lotus House
  - Thomas Armour Youth Ballet
  - Voices for Children Foundation

## Our Fundraisers Make It All Possible 2008-09 Totals\*

5th Annual Golf Tournament .....	\$21,637
JLM Card for a Cause (inaugural year) ..	\$18,366
Auction for Action.....	\$55,560
Women Who Make A Difference .....	\$58,620
Annual Fund Campaign .....	\$25,150
Holiday Market .....	\$1,755
Meeting Sponsors .....	\$3,800
<b>Total Fundraisers .....</b>	<b>\$184,988</b>
<i>*Figures are net proceeds from each event, and are raised in advance for distribution to our projects, grants, trainings, and other programs.</i>	
HQ Renovation Campaign .....	\$125,000

JLM Headquarters, Inc. was able to raise \$125,000 to complete the Phase IV Renovation of our historic headquarters building in Coral Gables.

In addition, JLM received the 2009 Visionary Award from the Miami Science Museum (see related article), and was honored by the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind as "Volunteers of the Year" at their 2009 McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. ☺



*There's no place like home!*

**Life in the Gables just got a little more fabulous.** The Coral Gables Community Foundation is pleased to offer a progressive new membership program designed to help Gables residents 50 and over stay in their own homes. Membership benefits include: Social & Cultural Events, Transportation Services, and access to our extensive list of background-checked Service Providers for **assistance with everything from hurricane preparations to handyman services.** Please call us to learn how you can help build this important non-profit program for our community...



[gablesfoundation.org](http://gablesfoundation.org)  
305.443.4011

# Moving on to Sustaining Membership

Thank you to the following League members who have given a combined 238 years, two presidencies, and countless hours of volunteer service to our organization.

Carol Lumpkin 1991	Gina Derks Gardner 2001
Stephanie Demos 1994	Lauren Harrison Genovese* 2001
Mary Munroe Seabrook 1995	Jennifer Green 2001
Jennifer Stearns Buttrick 1998	Christina Hudson 2001
Deborah Langer Dietz 1999	Dorothy Lewis Isriel 2001
Diana Falsetta 1999	S. Manjula Jegasothy, M.D. 2001
Susan Scrivani Lerner* 1999	Mary Theresa Kayal 2001
Christine Quinones-Spurling 1999	Molly Osendorf 2001
Lori Tashman-Corrada 1999	Jennifer M. Pfleger 2001
Lynn McCowen Schwab 2000	Liza Winkeljohn 2001
Ashley Walter-Smith 2000	Betty Naftulin Wohl 2001
Martha Garrett Bonner 2001	Christie Nicole Wolfe 2001
Sandra R. Fairman 2001	



## Calling All Sustaining Bridge Players and Partners!

We are always seeking new members to play in this once monthly, 6-match tournament. Play begins in the Fall, and culminates with a luncheon and awards ceremony in May.

Interested members should contact coordinators Melinda Renault at 305-666-5441; Bea Garner at 305-446-2487 or via email at beazie913@aol.com; or Tina Lane at 305-666-2630 or via email at ahlane@comcast.net. **Contact no later than August to be included.** The schedule of games will be mailed in September. ♣



# Leadership Initiative

By **Fernande Saintilis** *Junior League Journal*

JLM Past President Mary Young (1998-99) led the JLM *Leadership Initiative* session on March 25: "League Operation and Organization." The night began as Mary shared her story with the women in attendance, as well as her various placements in the League.



**Mary Young**

Mary joined JLM in 1991, and in her first Active year chaired a new class of Provisionals during Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Many thought that bringing in a new Provisional class would be a challenge and should be postponed for the following year. Well, Mary did not let that stop her from leading that group of fabulous women and they had a very productive year. That experience allowed Mary to see her strengths when faced with adversities. Mary started her League career focusing on leadership, but a few years ago, she changed her focus to community projects. Following that goal, she has just recently accepted a position as Co-chair of the 2009-10 United Way Campaign Cabinet.

The ice breaker during this training session gave us an opportunity to open up about some of our hopes and dreams while in the Junior League. Mary encouraged us to get involved in something we are not familiar with, and to challenge ourselves to see our true potential. She said, "Step out of yourself and take on something you have never done before." She also recommended finding someone to look up to or a mentor to work with on some projects. This leadership session was very informative and encouraging to those who participated.

"Helping you become the woman you want to be." – Mary Young ♣



# Provisionals' Giving Not Limited to JLM Boundaries

By Marlene Fernandez-Karavetsos and Melissa Hernandez Provisional Co-Chairs

**“We are, each of us, angels with only one wing, and we can only fly embracing each other.”**

...stated Italian writer, actor and director Luciano De Crescenzo. It is unlikely that Mr. De Crescenzo would ever know that his words served to inspire a group of women dedicated to giving back to the community.

So dedicated were these women that the JLM's 2008-2009 Provisional Class is alone responsible for 4,290 volunteer hours! Four thousand two hundred and ninety hours are valued at \$86,872.50.

The Provisional Committee celebrated the group's accomplishments on May 2, at Canvas & Corks. At commencement, the Provisionals put their personal style into a Romero Britto painting. Many women donated their paintings to JLM so

that it could be included in the Lotus House Welcome Baskets created by next year's provisional class.

The 2008-2009 Provisional Class' commitment to giving back to the community did not end with JLM. In December, in lieu of hosting a holiday party, the Provisional Committee encouraged the women to perform a random act of kindness. The following is only a sampling of what some women did in their own words:

**“I have these cards** that say ‘Smile. You’ve been tagged!’ And what I did was tape money to the back of them and give them out at the grocery store or to random people in the parking lot of Target. I even left one in the restroom of my doctor's office. It was nice to see the look on people's faces when they discovered the card & the money.” – *Anonymous*.  
(You can print out your own cards from the web site [www.belpothers.org](http://www.belpothers.org).)

■ ■ ■  
**“There is a man** who usually lays under a tree for shade not far from the gate of my job.....the day that I saw him, he smiled showing the remaining teeth left in his mouth....they were so white, and his lips mumbled ‘thank you’ as I slipped an orange into his hand...” – *Anonymous*

■ ■ ■  
**“Over the holidays** I volunteered at Jackson Memorial Hospital in the cancer unit for Kids. We dressed up and delivered gifts to all of the children. We also decorated the hospital with several trees and decorations.” – *Lauren Kirtley*

■ ■ ■  
**“I found an abandoned dog** at a park, took him to my veterinarian, covered the expenses of a complete exam, boarding for 2 weeks, complete vaccines and found a shelter for him rather than taking him to Animal Services. I am glad to report that





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## Welcome New Active Members

We welcome the following new Active members who have successfully completed their Provisional course!

Marta Acosta  
Monica Barnes  
Karen Blaire  
Claudia Barroso  
Christina Bedoya  
Kelliann Blake  
Jamie Bourbeau  
Jennifer Burchard  
Cheryl Camp  
Claudia Carmona  
Christine Cohen Midwall  
Suzel Cuellar  
Graziella Renee Denny  
Lucienne DeNunzio  
Rebecca Dewey  
Aida Diaz-Silveira  
Monica Espino  
Marisol Espinosa  
Stephanie Etter

Tracy Friedlander  
Cynthia Gay  
Monique B. Goihman  
Tanya Gorowara  
Priscilla Greear  
Ana Grill  
Lacey Hofmeyer  
Elizabeth Hollander  
Victoria Johnson  
Lauren Kirtley  
Deborah Koch  
Veronica Lacayo  
Carini Lange Sbardelotto  
Heather Lemire  
Capri Logan  
Lauren Maita  
Jamie McCaughan  
Melissa McCaughan  
Melissa Minton

Tracy Moore  
Julie Nance  
Rachel Narvaez  
Christine Nestor  
Johanne Nicoleau  
April Pizzo  
Verna Popo  
Brittany Precht  
Vicki Rafool  
Priscilla Rettig  
Lori Riviere  
Cindy Rodriguez  
Melissa Ross  
Monica Sanchez  
Jessica Santis  
Sandi Sides  
Elizabeth Simonton  
Cristina Sotolongo  
Emily Stauffer

Katherine Stringer  
Kathryn Tappert  
Ashley Thornburg  
Elina Torres  
Jessica Travers  
Courtney Upshaw  
Olakanye  
Annette Urena  
Janet Vazquez  
Kristyn Viedio  
Marcela Vieco  
Michelle Virgili  
Elkie Wienczkowski  
Christine Woll  
Darnele Wright  
Lauren Young Cantor  
Lindsey Zohn



he is doing well and is available for adoption at The Greater Miami Humane Society." – *Christine Woll*



**"Over the holiday season,** I baked cookies for the valet in my condo. They are always so helpful and help me with my packages. I wanted to do something extra special for them!" – *Christine Midwall*



Aside from being committed to the community, the provisionals are committed to JLM as a number of the women completed "Willingness to Serve" forms even before becoming an active member.

Many of these outstanding women will be serving in leadership capacities their first active year.

On behalf of the Provisional Committee, we welcome our newest active members and look forward to watching

each of them grow in the League. Let us embrace these new angels and soar to new heights, touching the lives of many in our community along the way! ☺

**NOTE: Thank you to members for participating in this year's Diversity Survey. Final results are being tabulated, and will be published in a future issue of the Journal.**

## Thoughts for a New Year

# A Message from Incoming President, Erin Knight

When I thought about this upcoming year, one thought kept coming to mind: "We are going through the most difficult economic time that any of us will probably ever live through." It is a recession that has bled into every corner of this world and left no one untouched in one way or another.

Despite that, here we are, continuing to fight for those who need us - the many women at the projects we support and the women who sit on your councils.

I have always loved this quote by Barbara Bush, but now it seems more appropriate than ever. "Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."

The Junior League, through its mission, allows us to do something powerful and unique. It allows us to give, and it provides us with that opportunity every day. Even as our own problems or moods get the better of us sometimes, there is always someone who can be helped by our particular gifts and energy. As Junior Leaguers, we have the gift of being able to broaden our focus outside of our lives

to the lives of the women we touch.

I know of no other organization that can do the work that we do and make the impact in this community with 350 active volunteers, 2 part time paid staff and no government funding. And I know of no other place where you can step out of your comfort zone and immediately have the support of 1,000 women in various stages of membership.

Because we do what we do almost solely through the work of volunteers, I want to remind you that when you are up late typing a description for an auction item, trying to balance one of our general ledger accounts, picking up food for a meeting, planning a membership outreach event, putting an agenda together for a meeting, writing an article for the Journal, counting RSVPs for a fundraiser and trying to figure out where you will seat everyone, working hands-on moving furniture for a woman transitioning into her new home, teaching an 8 year old about nutrition - you are giving. And when you support a woman in the League during a difficult time - you are giving.

There are so many needs within the League. Even with 350 active volunteers,



**The passing of the presidential gavel at the JLM Annual Meeting.**

we need more help. I hope that as we embark upon the New Year, you will try giving in a new way. Maybe you have never worked on a fundraiser and it seems scary. Try it. Maybe you have never worked on one of our flagship projects. Try it. Because no matter what you choose, you will be giving - directly and immediately.

Thank you for all you do every day by developing the potential of women. 🍷



**Barbie Alderman**  
**Sarah Artecona**  
**Maria Beguiristain**  
**Ivette Berisiartu-Hofmann**  
**Peter Bermont**  
**Shelly & Richard Bermont**  
**Julia Rea Bianchi**  
**Paula Brockway**  
**Natalie Brown**  
**Linda Dunn Brown**  
**Estate of Carolyn Browning**  
**Jennifer Stearns Buttrick**  
**Karen Cabrera**  
**Kate Callahan**  
**Karelia Martinez Carbonell**  
**Marilyn Cesarano**  
**Karen Clement**

## The JLM Foundation Thanks Members of 1926 Society

**Andrea Cole**  
**Lindy Colson**  
**Deborah Corbishley**  
**Ashley Cusack**  
**Dade Community Foundation**  
**Jane deCardenas**  
**Lauren Dowlen**  
**Lani Drody**  
**Sandra Fairman**  
**Farrell Family Foundation**  
**Allison Freeland**  
**Lauren Harrison Genovese**  
**Cheryl Goldstein**  
**Priscilla Greenfield**  
**Andria Hanley**  
**Anne Helliwell**  
**Sara Herald**  
**Elizabeth Hoover-Thomas**  
**Peggy Hudson**  
**Mary Huston**  
**S. Manjula Jegasothy, MD**

**JoAnna's Marketplace**  
**Elizabeth Johnson**  
**Linda Johnson**  
**Susan Jones**  
**Ann Kashmer**  
**Kelly Foundation**  
**Erin Knight**  
**K. Keith Landon**  
**Elvira Larrain**  
**Susan Lerner**  
**Nancy Leslie**  
**Elena Luca**  
**Mary Lynch**  
**Kara MacCullough**  
**Maria Maloof**  
**Leana Marks**  
**Samantha Murphy**  
**Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.**  
**Lyn Pannone**  
**Pamela Poulos**  
**Jennifer Press-Kravetz**

**Dorothy Prevatt**  
**Janice Pryor**  
**Michelle Ramirez-Patricios**  
**Leslie Rivera**  
**Gema Santos**  
**Kathleen Schulte-Moorman**  
**Andrea Sharp**  
**Jane Short**  
**Jeannett Slesnick**  
**Morgan Smith**  
**Amy Sussman**  
**Elaine Tatum**  
**Karen Throckmorton**  
**Elizabeth Tilghman**  
**Anita Uppaluri**  
**Weksler Family**  
**Vivianne Wicker**  
**Betty Wohl**  
**Elaine Worley**  
**Mary Young**  
**Teresa Zohn**

# Members Awarded for their Contributions to the League

By Wilca Gallagher *Junior League Journal*



**Jr. Junior Leaguer**  
Nina Paulino



**Provisional of the Year**  
Jennifer Buchard



**Sustainer of the Year**  
Julia Bianchi



**Volunteer of the Year**  
Lorrie Martin



**Rebecca Herndon Bush  
Community Service Award**  
Betty Lopez Castro

During our annual meeting held in May at the lovely Coral Reef Yacht Club, four outstanding women were announced as recipients of the JLM Annual Awards. As many of you already know, anyone of us can nominate someone for an award. That is what is so precious about the awards: we, the membership, get to nominate those we believe have contributed the most to the continuing success of the League. All nominations are later evaluated by a JLM task force that meets in April to determine the recipients for our Annual Awards.

This year, in addition to the four established awards, there was one surprise: The first annual **Jr. Junior Leaguer Award** – This was presented to Nina Paulino for her work with the Jr. Junior League events



**Provisional of the Year Award** – This award is presented annually to a provisional member whose contribution to JLM has been exceptional. This year's award went to **Jennifer Buchard**. Jennifer went above and beyond what was asked of her as a provisional. She made it a point to participate in at least 2 JLM events a week, so that she could meet new people in the League and really understand what the League was doing in the community. She took on a tremendous leadership role for the Provisional Project, and demonstrated great organizational skills. An Honorable mention also goes to April Pizzo & Kelli Blake.

**Sustainer of the Year Award** – This award is presented annually to the sustaining member whose contribution to JLM is outstanding. The yearly award went to **Julia Bianchi** for her unsurpassed effort in heading Phase IV of the restoration of our JLM Headquarters. She successfully handled the myriad of details which ranged from installing hurricane-resistant windows throughout the 80+-year-old building to navigating through the difficult and time-consuming Coral Gables permit process for landmark buildings such as our Headquarters. She was also responsible for securing more than half of the funds for the restoration — an amazing \$125,000 — through a compelling direct mail and personal outreach campaign. She personally secured the Kirk Landon Challenge of \$25,000 in matching funds. As a member for the last 19 years, Julia has also served as a role model and mentor to many of us in the League for her unwavering belief in our mission and the difference we make in our community.



**Volunteer of the Year Award** – This award is presented annually to an active member whose contribution to the JLM has been extraordinary in this League year. **Lorrie Martin**, our very own Editor, was chosen for this year's award. Our JLM leaders exhort the membership every spring during the placement process to broaden our skills and experiences by selecting a placement in an area unfamiliar to us. Lorrie did exactly that. She

stepped out of her comfort zone of numbers and analytical skills and extended herself to the world of writing, editing and publishing. She has given the *Journal* a sharp, crisp, new look with more ads, and an enhanced personal focus on our members. In every way, the Journal this year has embraced our President's mantra to EDUCATE, MOTIVATE and INSPIRE.



**Rebecca Herndon Bush Community Service Award** – This award is presented annually to an active member who has given of her time and efforts to better the quality of life in our community through her efforts both within and outside JLM. **Betty Lopez Castro** was this year's recipient. Betty always goes above and beyond her commitments to her JLM placements by accepting additional volunteer work and placements. She is an active member and supporter of her church (Epiphany), her local private high school alma mater (Our Lady of Lourdes), and assisted this year in fundraising for UM Sylvester Cancer Center. She is a member of the Red Cross Tiffany Circle, which travels annually to Washington D.C. as Ambassadors of our local community. In this organization she is recognized as a valued supporter and contributor to our community, and makes an annual gift to support the Red Cross's local disaster relief efforts.

All of these ladies make us very proud. Congratulations to all again! ☺



# Meet Our President-Elect Loretta Nido

By Wilca Gallagher *Junior League Journal*

To provide for a secure and smooth presidential transition, the Junior League of Miami, as many other nonprofit organizations, includes among its board members a President Elect to afford the future President the opportunity to learn further about the organization and the Presidency before actually taking the full reigns of the organization. For the upcoming year, Loretta Nido will be our President Elect. Although many of you may already know Loretta, who has been with the League for 16 years, 11 here in Miami, you will still perhaps find some interesting background information you did not know about her.

Loretta is a true Southerner, having been born in Nashville, Tennessee, and raised in Asheville, North Carolina, along with her four siblings: three sisters and a brother. Being the oldest of the girls, you could say that her leadership skills probably started at home. After graduating from high school, Loretta went on to Clemson University in South Carolina, where she met her future husband, Miguel Nido, during her freshman year. At Clemson, Loretta was actively engaged in extracurricular activities as a member of the Tri-Delta Sorority, the Blue Key Honor Fraternity and the Student Alumni Council. All of these activities made Loretta more aware of the importance of being engaged in whatever community you are in to make a difference and to develop lifelong friendships. Upon graduating from Clemson, Loretta went on to pursue a law degree at Stetson College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida and later practiced insurance litigation defense for two years once she obtained her J.D. degree and passed the Florida Bar exam. She is currently employed part-time with the Coral Gables Community Foundation where she has served as Program Manager and as an assistant in the accounting department for the past year and a half. However, if she could go back to school and choose a different career, she would study library science or literacy education since she believes that educa-

tion is key to an individual's success in life.

In her personal life, Loretta married her college boyfriend and eventually became the mother of four boys, ranging from ages 13 to 7, who she never tires from hearing laugh. With her children she has practiced many leadership skills including providing clear direction, active listening and focus on the consequences of any action. At one time or another her family also included 18 pets: 2 dogs, 2 hamsters, 2 gerbils, 1 guinea pig, 6 fish, 3 birds, 1 ferret, and 1 bearded dragon. As you can surmise, Loretta knows a thing or two about pediatricians and veterinarians. She is also ready to meet the challenge of raising her boys well-grounded with a focus on family values. And family has been central to Loretta's life, having found the inspiration to work hard from her parents and the necessary support for all of her endeavors coming from her husband and siblings.

When she has some time for leisure, Loretta enjoys reading, playing tennis on her tennis teams, and watching her children play sports. If she had more time, she would also practice Bikram yoga, play the piano, travel more with her husband and children, and work harder at her golf and tennis games.

Regarding volunteering, Loretta developed her interest in helping others from an early age. In parochial elementary school, her teachers were instrumental in directing her to assist those who did not have the advantages that her parents provided her. As a teenager, she volunteered at a nursing home and also worked with case workers at her father's medical practice. She recounts, "it was terminally ill dialysis patients, mostly indigent African Americans and large population of Cherokee Indians, but I was not regularly engaged with them. I was exposed, to the degree Dad wanted me to be. But walking through that center watching my dad interact with his patients had a huge impact on me. I mostly got to spend time with the social



Loretta pictured with husband Miguel at the Miami Science Museum Gala

workers and learn just how they went from Problem A to solution to Problem B, as I worked there summers during high school. It takes a special person to do that for a living day to day, that's for sure!" These experiences helped her develop into the kind, fair and sensitive adult she is today.

Sixteen years ago, Loretta decided to join the Junior League because she thought that it would be a good way to see the immediate results of her volunteer efforts while developing relationships and support systems with other volunteers that had a potential to last a lifetime. Her most rewarding placement has been as Program Development Chair back in 2004. Loretta believes the community projects and grants are the core of the organization and being involved in the annual selection process opened her eyes to the needs of the Miami community and the impact, no matter the level of volunteer involvement or dollar figure. Throughout her years in the League, she has indeed witnessed her own personal growth and has found enormous satisfaction in experiencing the obvious difference the membership collectively makes each year in the community. We are encouraged by Loretta's dedication to the Junior League and look forward to be led by someone with such passion and enthusiasm for voluntarism.



# Thank You to Annual Fund Donors 2008-09

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# PAWS For Effect

By Yolanda Arcay *Junior League Journal*

The Shops at Midtown Miami was the host to the fun-filled *Second Annual Miami Lighthouse Dog Walk on Sunday March 15th.*

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind teaches people with visual impairments who want to use guide dogs by giving them orientation and mobility training. It is important to understand that service dogs are not pets. They have a job to do.



Service Dog

They work together with their owner and have to develop mutual trust.

The mission state-

ment of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind is "to provide vision and rehabilitation and eye health services that promote independence, to edu-

cate professionals, and to conduct research in related fields". Events like these are held to raise awareness of guide dogs and service dogs and to raise support for the Miami Lighthouse. These resources are used to transform the lives of the blind and visually impaired.

These transformations take place by the organization's dedication to the more than 1,100 participants that are helped each month. Participants are provided year-round training in such areas as reading in Braille, orientation and mobility,

daily living skills, and educational and vocational training.

The Junior League of Miami expanded its participation with the Miami Lighthouse, and helped support this event from three different aspects. Vivian Rodriguez from Membership Outreach was one of the many volunteers who helped to coordinate efforts between the Committee Chairs of Little Lighthouse, Therapy Dogs, and Membership Outreach. Many of our canine volunteers also participated in the walk, along with their owners.

*continued next page*





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*Mary Jane Hague, owner of Caring Home Care has supported the JLM since 1987.*



# A Night of Pampering at Inn Transition North

By Elizabeth Margo *Junior League Journal*

For the ninth and final monthly Tuesday night speaker at Inn Transition North, the committee set up an evening of fashion, hair styling, make-up and massages for the ladies and some mother's day crafts for the kids. The evening began with a fashion lesson from Myriam Cokmann, a former fashion consultant and founder of J. Vera Cokmann Designs.

Myriam shared ideas about shopping for the basics to build a wardrobe functional for work and everyday life. Our course, she highlighted the versatility of black basics and purchasing a classic suit, slacks, and skirts. Tops are the area where you can splurge on trendy items, she said, as you can mix and match. Myriam offered a shopping trip to Ross, Marshall's and Target, for help finding designer pieces at great prices.

She also invited her friend Dee Lopez, the Special Event Coordinator with Beauty Schools of America to bring a team of students for hair and make-up. The ladies took turns having make-up applied and hair styled. Charity Hobbs, a member of the ITN committee and a massage therapist,



**Charity Hobbs, ITN Committee Member and professional massage therapist gives a relaxing massage to an ITN resident**



**A Beauty Schools of America student applies make-up for an ITN resident.**

pist, treated ladies to a stress-reducing massage. While mommies were enjoying their pampering, the kids were outside making special mother's day crafts.

"This was my favorite night yet," said one resident. "I really enjoyed it."

Bravo to Brooke Roberts-Webb and

her committee for a fantastic year of field trips and speakers for the residents of ITN. No doubt the many difficulties faced by these ladies and children faded a little bit each time they experienced the care-filled planning and smiling faces of our JLM members this year. 🍷



## PAWS

continued from previous page

The hope of Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, is that next year "all of you two-leggers and four-leggers will be able to join in this fun-filled event." 🍷



## Past, Present, and Future

# The Junior League of Miami is Recognized for its Contribution to the Miami Science Museum

On March 14, the theme of the Miami Science Museum's 60th Anniversary gala "Past, Present, and Future" spoke to the heart of JLM members. The program for the event related:

*"The Junior League of Miami is proud to bring its association with Miami Science Museum full circle as the recipient of this year's Visionary Award..."*

*In 1949, the Junior League was engaged in a survey to determine the cultural needs of Dade County's children. One result was the need for a cultural center primarily for children and families focused on science and the natural world. By January 1950, the volunteers of the Junior League had raised the appropriate dollars and refurbished the building at the corner of 26th Street and Biscayne Boulevard for "The Junior Museum of Miami." The museum opened with exhibits, programs and classes in nature study, sociology and the arts. Opening exhibits included a goat on the lawn and a bee hive in the chimney." It has since grown into what we know today with the assistance of the County and various volunteer organizations that were formed to support it."*

Along with several other Leaguers, Past President Amy Sussman was in attendance to accept the Visionary Award from the Museum on behalf of the Junior League of Miami. Amy also represents JLM's future commitment to the Museum by participating on its Community Board

in a seat permanently designated for a JLM representative. This allows for input into the next phase of the Museum's history as it moves to a new location with the latest innovations in facilities of its kind.

### Historical Perspective

To follow the history of the museum, read this excerpt from an article in the Spring 1992 issue of *Tropical Topics Magazine*, by Martha Pantin.

“From a small house with goats on the lawn, the Junior Museum grew into the Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium, a center for scientific education and research. Few in our community are aware of its beginnings as a Junior League of Miami, Inc. project.

In 1949, under the leadership of JLM President Mary Frances Whiteside Robbins, the project finding committee determined that there was a need for a children's museum. During the tenure of JLM President Betty Bowen Thompson Purvis, this effort became a League project with major effort concentrated on its establishment.

The Junior Museum of Miami opened



Amy Sussman and Michelle Ramirez-Patricios accept the award from Gillian Thomas, President and CEO of the Museum of Science. Below Vicky Hucks, Maria Beguiristain and Andria Hanley. Courtesy of Miami Science Museum



its doors in 1950 in a house on Biscayne Boulevard and 26th Street. More than 2,000 children visited the museum during the first three months of operation. By the fourth month, average monthly attendance was 2,000. A larger facility was needed to accommodate the increasing



Original Junior Museum – from Tropical Topics / JLM archives



Current Museum – courtesy of Miami Science Museum



# Step Up TO THE Plate



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Museum

## Miami Science Museum continued from previous page

numbers of visitors and the expanding exhibits. In 1952, the museum moved to the Miami Women's Club on South Bayshore Drive where it was renamed the Museum of Science and Natural History. The League continued its involvement through the museum's early history. This involvement was critical in the establishment of the museum's volunteer base.

After insuring its financial capability, like other projects the League undertakes, the museum was turned over to the community in 1959.

"What is truly significant about this organization, and the Junior League's early involvement, is that the museum was built and kept alive by volunteers," said Russell Etling, executive director, Miami Museum of Science [in 1992].

The rapid growth during its first decade of operation created the need for new space. Mrs. Henry Shaw created a special committee, headed by Mrs. Sydney (Claire) L. Weintraub, which ultimately recommended to the Metro-Dade County Commission that a major independent science museum be established to serve citizens of all ages.

The museum relocated to South Miami Avenue on three acres of the historic Vizcaya complex. The first building of the community's new museum opened its doors in 1960. The facility was built and furnished rent-free by Metro-Dade. In 1989,

this lease agreement was extended for 99 years.

"I hope it pleases Junior League members to know their 'project' is now reaching millions of people every week, all over the world, via the Planetarium's television series, 'Star Hustler,'" said Jack Horkheimer, executive director for the Space Transit Planetarium. "I hope that they are also pleased that the Planetarium, which began its construction in 1966, is considered an international leader by its peers, its multi-media star shows seen globally in other major Planetariums in many languages."

Etling echoes his sentiments by stating, "In three decades this institution has grown tremendously. Today, more than 300,000 people visit the museum annually. This community owes a debt of gratitude to the JLM for its vision."





2008-09  
*Committee Chairs*

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**Advertising** Lauren Littleton

**Historian** Mary Killeen-Griffith

**Interactive Communications** Kati Janda Foley

**Membership Directory** Sandy Nojaim

**Photo/Video Journalist** Shanna Nye and Sheri Mazariegos

**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

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**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

**Program Development** Kathleen Slesnick Kauffman

## New Vision Adopted at 87th Annual AJLI Confernece

The 87th Annual Conference in Atlanta was a historic meeting and marked an important new chapter in Junior League history. At the Annual Meeting held on the Saturday of the conference, delegates approved a proposed Bylaw change regarding electronic voting, rescinded the previous AJLI Vision Statement AND adopted a new Vision Statement:

"The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change."

"The new Vision Statement reflects our hopes for the future...our vision for the next 20-plus years...yet works in tandem with our existing Mission and Reaching Out Statements," said Debbie Brown Robinson, AJLI Board President.

The new Vision Statement represents both a call to action to prospective members and an inspired invitation to existing members to re-engage. In the true spirit of Mary Harriman, it encourages us to seize new opportunities to address issues critical to members at a local level as well as matters of global concern. And, finally, it positions us to refocus our Association's purpose to generate lasting community change and move forward in the 21st century through the leadership of trained volunteers.

From here, AJLI—with the help of consultants from the Monitor Institute, a prominent think tank and consulting firm with substantial nonprofit experience—will develop a new AJLI Strategic Plan. This will be a highly interactive process, with ample opportunity for Junior League leader and member involvement and input throughout the summer and early fall. Conversations about the bright future of the Junior League Movement will continue at AJLI's Fall Leadership Conference in Denver in October.

Be sure to go to [www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org) to view the video about our new Vision Statement. It was recorded on site in Atlanta immediately following the Annual Meeting. Each League will vote individually on adoption at the local level. 📺

## Project Ends as Educator is Honored

By Sienna Reynaga All-Aboard Committee Member and PR Chair

The three-year All Aboard Literacy program ended with Maria Piñón, the lead educator from Riverside Elementary School, receiving the ultimate honor – the 2009 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year award - while attending the National Conference on Family Literacy. For members of the JLM All-Aboard Committee who have worked with Piñón and the over 50 parents and 60 children who now participate in the program, this recognition marked the end to a successful JLM Project.

Led by Marcia Koo and Terra Smith in the final year, both Spanish and English books were purchased for All Aboard Literacy families in order to ensure parents were able to continue to read to their children at home in their native language. Committee members have been treated to seeing these families grow (literally and together) while families have been given the gift of literacy. 📺

# 2009-10 Community Projects

At the April General Membership Meeting, Junior League of Miami members voted on the Community Projects that will have a volunteer component in the coming year.

## New in 2009-10

### Associated Marine Institute (WINGS FL)

Members will serve as crucial mentors and positive role models to the 20 residents who live at WINGS FL (Women in Need of Greater Strength for Life). These women are 14-19 year old juvenile offenders who are in different stages of pregnancy. Members will create and implement a series of workshops focused on relevant subjects such as parenting tips and life skills discussions. In addition, monthly group field trips will provide cultural or experiential opportunities for program residents.

### YMCA

JLM will help establish "reading centers" in each classroom of the new Allapattah YMCA Preschool (scheduled to open in October 2009). Members will design an inter-generational reading program and sign up to read to the preschoolers. Members will also help in selecting age-appropriate books, and assist in the design of a mini-check-out and tracking system.

### CoralGables@HOME

JLM will partner with the Coral Gables Community Foundation to help older Coral Gables residents remain in their homes as long as possible with the launch of their "companion" program. Members will be serving as volunteers in the member services area, and will meet at the Foundation on a monthly basis to prepare seasonal gift bags to deliver to Coral Gables@HOME members when visiting them in their residences.

## Returning Projects

Done In A Day, Inn Transition North, Inn Transition South, Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Awards, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired – "Little Lighthouse", Step Up to the Plate, The Sundari Foundation – Project Lift for the Lotus House and Therapy Dogs are all returning projects in 2009-2010. See details on the website.

## 2009-10 Grants

The following Community Grants will receive funding support in the coming year.

**Camillus House • Educate Tomorrow • Kristi House • Linda Ray Intervention Center and Casa Valentina.** ☎

**Thank You to 2008-09  
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**Congratulations to Sustainer and  
Past President Andria Hanley in her  
new role as Executive Director of  
the Coral Gables Community Foun-  
dation. JLM looks forward to work-  
ing with you on the  
CoralGables@HOME project.**

*In the Annual Meeting program, September leadership award winner Maureen Haley was unintentionally omitted.*

# Calendar

Gear up for the New League Year over the Summer months, but **SAVE THESE DATES:**

**July 18 – New Provisional Brunch**

**August 6 – New Provisional Social**

**August 22 – New Provisional  
"Super Saturday"**

**September 8 – First General  
Membership Meeting**

**September 22 – JLM Shopping Card  
for a Cause Kickoff Party**

**October 14 – Area Meeting**



Junior League of Miami

**GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**

**Friday, October 2**

**The Blue Monster Golf Course  
At Doral Golf Resort & Spa**

**For more details or sponsorship,  
contact Co-chair Lauren Hunt  
lmhunt76@yahoo.com or Jane Bhatt  
jane\_bhatt@yahoo.com**



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