

Junior League



The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

Journal

Vol. XVIII No. 4 | Summer 2010

President's Message

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." –Margaret Mead

Community Advisory Board member, Dean Isaac Prilleltensky, shared this quote with the Junior League in June of 2009 during Leadership Training. It has been truly amazing to watch our membership in action. During our 2009-2010 League year Americans faced one of the most challenging economic times in our history. Despite that, our small group of thoughtful, committed citizens have worked in phenomenal capacities.

Our group committed more than 27,000 hours to the community at a value of \$20.25 per volunteer hour...that's more than \$550,000 of financial impact. Additionally, volunteers committed 300+ hours to further their skill sets.

This past year close to half of our Active members choose to be part of the Community Council. Their accomplishments have had a tremen-

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JLM Annual Meeting at Fairchild Tropical Garden

By Jennifer Herskowitz Journal Chair

The 2010 JLM Annual Meeting was held on May 11 at the beautiful Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Despite a bit of rain, the event was informative and successful. Members, guests, and sponsors alike had a great night. Everyone enjoyed shopping with sponsors. Thank you to Beirn Bags & Tuniclove, Stitching Around, Mary Louise Designs, Kristin Pearce Designs, Phillips Frankel, Soy Delicious and Mary Faraldo Designs. JLM photojournalists were on hand to take candid shots and directory photos. Delicious food and drinks were served while we all got a chance to catch up with fellow League members and guests.

The meeting kicked off with speeches from Edith Reiss with Coral Gables @ Home, Latavea Johnson-Cobb, supervisor of Inn Transition South, Octavia Peterson, a mother who was assisted by our Project Lift program, and Ellen Book and Sharon Carpenter, from Miami-Dade Public Libraries, who heralded our Therapy Dogs program.



We also learned that **Step Up to the Plate** held nine workshops to teach healthy lifestyle and cooking options and in support of promoting this issue distributed 90 books, 60 fitness items (water bottles, Frisbees, jump ropes, hula hoops), 15 sets of kitchen tools, and 15 sets of gardening tools.

Little Lighthouse/Blind Babies provided 38 playgroup sessions and purchased Braille books for a year-end party.

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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.

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The Junior League's highest honors—

By Jennifer Herskowitz Journal Chair

At the 2009-2010 Annual Meeting, JLM bestowed its highest honors, the four Annual Awards, on four very deserving volunteers for their work this past year.

Provisional of the Year Carolyn Gardner

The Provisional of the Year was presented to the woman who contributed the most service to the Junior League of Miami in her provisional class, by consistently doing more than what was asked of her and showing interest in ALL aspects of the League.

This woman took the initiative to spearhead her mentor group project. Even after she finished her requirements, she continued to volunteer her time with our community projects, volunteering at Lotus House and painting an apartment for ITN! She is thoughtful and giving, constantly keeping contact with the women she has met this year, offering help and never asking for anything in return, always with a huge smile on her face.

Her mentor Anika Allen had this to say:

"Not only is she driven and kind but she is a true philanthropist. She epitomizes service and dedicates herself to everything the Junior League has to offer. She has volunteered for almost every project, fundraiser event, and several Done In A Day events. This year as a provisional she has gone above and beyond, setting a wonderful example for provisionals and actives alike. It has been an immense pleasure being her provisional mentor for the past year and it has also been amazing watching her at work, which always leaves me wondering how she finds the time to do so much."

Volunteer of the Year Bibi Cruz-Ledón Sears

The recipient of this year's Volunteer of the Year award was awarded to someone who has tirelessly dedicated hundreds, if not thousands of hours to the Junior League of Miami this year.

Bibi, who sits on the Board of Directors, always lends a helping hand, even if it's something she is not involved with. She selflessly gives of her time to an

organization that she believes in. This year alone she formatted and printed all of the general membership agendas each month, and helped out meetings & hospitality by being the liaison between Temple Judea and the League. She also stepped up and reformatted the placement bulletin when the incoming president mentioned that it would look nicer and save paper if they were in a booklet format. Because Bibi is computer savvy, her council used her as their own little computer guru, helping them navigate the database. She has been a rock to the provisional chairs,

always going the extra mile and helping out even when she's not asked. This member is known for saying, "don't worry, it will get done." And make no mistake – when she says it will get done, it gets done! "No" is not a word in her vocabulary.

This member has a way of calming down all situations and working through issues together as a team. She gives positive encouragement and leads by example. All of this alone would be enough for Bibi to receive this honored award. But in an unprecedented move, when at the end of last year there wasn't a fundraising chair in place for the luncheon, this member, who was already slated to be a Vice President, approached the president and agreed to co-chair the Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon. Bibi did not do this for the praise or to have the spotlight on her, but because the League was in need and she stepped up. Therefore, she was well-deserving of the League's volunteer of the Year award!

Sustainer of the Year – Gail Scott

Gail Scott, our Sustainer of the Year, joined the Junior League of Miami in 1995! During her 15 years of service she has held numerous leadership positions which include the VP of Development, the VP of Finance and the Co-chair of the Golden Palm Market, which was one of our largest fundraisers and a huge logistical undertaking.

During this past year, one of Erin Knight's priorities was revitalizing the sustainers in the League – a task that is easier said than done. And no big undertaking, no matter how big the vision, is successful if you don't have the right person to implement it. Gail Scott, together with her co-chair, worked very hard as the Sustainer co-chair to revamp the sustainer experience.

To begin with, Gail created a monthly, sustainer specific, e-news blast that informed sustainers of upcoming sustainer activities and pertinent Junior League news. The sustainer e-news blast was so successful that the provisional chairs incorporated the same technique to reach their provisionals! In addition, Gail



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Award recipients named at Annual Meeting

made sure that every month offered at least one or two sustainer activities! The traditional wine & cheese cocktail party was a great success with over 70 sustainers in attendance, and combined with the first annual sustainer kickoff coffee event, more sustainers than ever were included in the year's first and most important events.

Throughout the year, Gail spent time organizing sustainer activities that ranged from a dinner/theater evening, an afternoon tea at the Biltmore Hotel, a field trip to Homestead to tour an orchid garden, and a fabulous cooking class! In all, over 170 sustainers were involved in this year's sustainer activities thanks to Gail's tireless efforts to make sure that every sustainer was receiving information about the interesting and varied parties and activities! In addition, she also served as the sustaining advisor to the Finance Council for two years in a row!

Rebecca Herndon Bush Award Katie Lane Arriola

The Rebecca Herndon Bush Community Service Award is an award which 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 the Junior League of Miami, and through outside involvements.

Reviewing the accomplishments and varied civic involvement of Katie should make all of us proud to be a part of even just one of her most treasured organizations. In addition to her 12 years of dedicated service to the Junior League of Miami (three of which she has served as a board member), Katie has numerous unsung achievements. She is one of the most humble women you could ever have the privilege of knowing.

In addition to her very full roles as a devoted wife to Eddy and mother to Ben and Grace, she has committed her time to her children's school, Saint Philip's Episcopal, both within the classroom and at the board level.

Additionally, she serves as Chair of The Reclamation Project Foundation, Xavier Cortada's EcoArt Project which "explores our ability to coexist with the natural world." The Reclamation Project Foundation "generates resources to help implement this participatory eco-art proj-

ect. The Board's present emphasis is aimed at "educating and engaging South Floridians in reforesting coastal and urban areas by bringing the Reclamation Project to local communities, institutions and schools."

Further, Katie continues to serve on the Women's Leadership Council for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and worked tirelessly in our last election.

Most recently, Katie co-chaired the annual signature *Touch a Heart Dinner* for Kristi House. She was so successful in this endeavor that she was asked to return as the 2010 co-chair for the November event.

With poise, ease, uncommon grace and the most fantastic sense of humor, she is able to participate in all of the foregoing alongside serving as one of the most taxing VPs in our League, Vice President of Community.

Katie does not give her time to any cause for self-promotion or recognition. Everything she devotes her time towards is because her heart and soul are behind it and because she believes in the cause.

☺.

Congratulations Winners of JLM Annual Awards



Photos above, left to right: Carolyn Gardner (left) with Erin Knight; Bibi Cruz Ledón-Sears with daughter Samantha; Gail Scott with Sustainer Co-chair Holly Troup and Katie Lane-Arriola gets a hug with her silver engraved bowl.

President's Message continued from page 1

dous impact in our community. *Journal* Editor Jennifer Herskowitz recaps the assistance, visits, training, education, empowerment, nourishment and care given to women and children throughout our community during the past 12 months. (See page 1 article.)

Our community impact was made possible by the organized and dedicated efforts of the Finance, Planning, Membership, Communications and Development Councils. These councils ensured that the work of the Junior League in the commu-

nity would be successful by handling operations, fundraising and planning, by getting the word out to members and the greater community and by recruiting a new cadre of interested women committed to voluntarism.

No matter what our placements – past, current or future – our work is done through the skill set and coordination of a small group of thoughtful committed citizens. Thank you for all you do. ☺

Erin Dolan Knight



Outgoing President Erin Knight with 2010-11 President Loretta Nido



Annual Meeting continued from page 1

Sundari Foundation–Project Lift provided move-in assistance to 24 families transitioning from a shelter to a permanent home and provided furniture, accessories and home supplies to the families.

Coral Gables @ Home provided 38 home visits to the elderly residents, and AMI WINGS conducted seven Workshops Focusing on Self Empowerment, Healthy Living and Early Childhood Development; held a holiday party at the WINGS Facility; and had two field trips to the Miami Seaquarium and Miami Metro Zoo.

Inn Transition North provided eight life skills workshops and dinners with families (nutrition, interviewing and social services), eight family outings, two room improvements and delivered 100+ holiday gifts.

Inn Transition South conducted seven life skills workshops for moms, on topics such as food budgeting, nutrition, inter-

view prep., etc and three for the children on nutrition, fitness and personal hygiene; provided Thanksgiving baskets for 52 families; and collected, wrapped and delivered 489 holiday gifts to the 163 children.

Therapy Dogs serviced four libraries: Pinecrest, Edison, Model City and Homestead. Teams worked at each library once a month and provided a total of 24 visits for the year and impacted 1,360 children. The program was also featured in the *Miami Herald Neighbors* column and the *Pinecrest Tribune*.

Seven hundred books purchased for the new **YMCA Allapattah Village Child Care Center**. The **Done In A Day** committee held 15 events during the year, knocking on 100 doors to offer free mammograms with the Florida Breast Health Initiative, providing 75 Mother's Day baskets to mothers at ITN and ITS, mentoring 47 girls at the Honey Shine

Career Day and providing 18 Thanksgiving meals to underprivileged families. And finally, as part of the League's legacy of fostering community service in young women, the Katherine Menke Miller Community Service Committee awarded two scholarships to high school seniors after reviewing 38 applications.

The Junior League **fundraisers** were also successful this year in making it possible to do it all again in the coming year, raising a net total of \$170,000. Our total volunteer hour impact was more than \$550,000.

The annual awards were presented and the gavel was then handed off from the 2009-2010 president Erin Knight, to our 2010-2011 president, Loretta Nido. The annual meeting finished off with a wonderful photo montage video highlighting this year's events, which, if you haven't seen it, is available on the JLM website. ☺

Incoming President Loretta Nido strives for teamwork in the coming year

By Loretta Nido JLM President 2010-2011

As far back as I can remember, I've been part of a team. My parents and four siblings offered me, by sheer number and birth order, my first position on a team. I learned some of the tips of successful teams from them at an early age:

- Remember that every job is important
- Recognize differences in team members and focus on strengths
- Treat each member with respect
- Reward entire team with victories and successes
- Recognize each team member's need to feel worthy
- Know that success is gained by a team win, not an individual win
- Communicate and coordinate

I cannot count how many teams I have been on since Sister Mary Paul was "all-time pitcher" in our 2nd grade kick-ball games. From coach to left-bench and all sports and non-sports related positions in between, I've gained such satisfaction in the team synergy and group effort. These pointers still apply to so many aspects of my life.

I view the Junior League of Miami as a large team working toward a common objective – in this case, fulfilling JLM's Mission. The 2010-2011 Board will work hard to ensure that we all see that the achievements of the organization are a result of the combined efforts of each member. My hope is that each member – Active, Sustainer and Provisional – concludes the year with the collective assurance that she was an integral part of the success of the year. We all have a spot on the team!

I am encouraged to see and hear the excitement of the membership for the 2010-2011 League year. At this point, almost all of the leadership positions are filled and the committee members placed. We will be sending 150 members into our 10 community projects to continue to

make an impact in our five focus areas. We will continue to train our members in areas that will serve them in their professional and personal lives while serving the League's mission. We are going to continue to raise funds to support our community work.

A word about competition: I believe it's important that we secure our place in the competitive, growing non-profit market; South Florida is full of organizations vying for scarce sponsorship dollars. I suggest that we not blindly trust our past winning strategy, especially during these lean economic times. To evaluate our position for necessary external funding, we will need to analyze whether a strategy change could become a competitive advantage, weighing the consequences of change against the benefits.

We are going to take some time this year to look internally at our organizational foundation to be sure we are stable enough to compete in the current financial climate.

We will analyze the methods we use to communicate. We will also analyze how we maintain and exchange data, all with the goal to centralize and streamline operations.

We will look at the three-year strategic plan, engaging the entire membership in the analysis of whether current practice ties to our mission, and if not, how to refocus our efforts.

We will emphasize "mentoring" so that each member will have an opportunity to mentor and guide another member with the goal of increasing a member's motivation to continue to engage in JLM activities. My hope is that each one of us can claim that a member is still a member because of some genuine gesture or outreach we made to her throughout the year.

Our ultimate goal is to fulfill JLM's mission and maximize JLM's impact in the community we serve. I am confident that

“ TEAMWORK: Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. ”
-Helen Keller

a team effort will not only result in member satisfaction and retention but will enhance our position in this competitive non-profit environment.

We are poised to begin a great adventure of getting to know our teammates – an amazing group of accomplished, smart, caring women. You should be hearing from your committee chairs or council vice-presidents in the coming weeks. I have an open-door policy and encourage your comments and suggestions. Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to spending the next year as part of your team. ☺



2010-2011 Community Projects

By Tracy Pottker-Fishel Journal Committee

Camillus House – (New Project) The Junior League will develop and implement a wellness program for chronically homeless women who are served by the Emotional, Social and Health Enhancement (ESHE) Program at Camillus House. ESHE serves a population of adult women who are homeless in the City of Miami - 75% African American, 20% Hispanic and 5% Caucasian. The majority of ESHE participants suffer from some degree of mental illness and/or substance addiction. The wellness program will offer these women wellness/life skills training, nutrition and health education and empowerment activities.

League members will coordinate guest speakers and organize activities and social events. League members will also coordinate donation drives for items specific to the needs of the women in the program. The League is funding the project with \$8,000. The project addresses our focus area of homelessness.

Florida Breast Health Initiative – (New Project) The Junior League will partner with this grassroots, volunteer driven non-profit that has conducted door to door outreach campaigns for the past four years, visiting more than 21,000 homes, using more than 2,000 volunteers, increasing breast health awareness, distributing breast health education kits, and providing free mammograms to underserved women. Its purpose is to eradicate breast cancer as a life threatening disease, one neighborhood and one household at a time. FBHI will target Richmond Heights in South Miami-Dade based on data gleaned from a University of Miami Miller School of Medicine 2004 study which "identifies this area as one in which approximately one-third of the breast cancers that are diagnosed are identified as 'late state' diagnoses, making these cancers the most difficult to treat, with the lowest survival rates."

Junior League volunteers will participate in the outreach campaign which will serve 1,305 households in Richmond Heights. The monthly campaign will take place with door to door outreaches during the first three Saturdays of the month,

followed by a visit from a mobile mammography van on the fourth Saturday for free screening mammograms for uninsured women. The League is funding the project with \$9,271. The project addresses our focus area of women's health.

Kulula Project – (New Project) The Junior League will partner with the University of Miami School of Education in implementing its Youth and Family Empowerment Program: *Kulula and Strong Roots*. Interfacing with UM staff and other community and agency participants, League volunteers will participate in this evidence-based program for enhancing the ethnic identity and socialization skills of ethnically diverse youth and their parents. The outcomes sought are: increased leadership skills, increased self-efficacy, increased community involvement and advocacy, improved decision making, coping and problem solving, increased connection to school and increased awareness of the significance of heritage, with particular emphasis on the African-American experience. The project will serve 50 second and third grade children and their parents or care givers in the Barnyard in Coconut Grove. League members will serve as mentors, tutors and coordinators of programs. The League is funding the project with \$5,300. The project addresses our focus areas of early childhood development and women and children's health.

Linda Ray Intervention Center – (New Project) The Junior League will partner with the University of Miami's Department of Psychology in designing and implementing a participatory music program for babies and toddlers. Linda Ray Intervention Center provides early intervention for 60 infant and toddlers who are at risk for poor development outcomes at school entry. The children are at risk for developmental delays and poor school performance due to issue of prenatal drug exposure, maltreatment, less than optimal parenting practices, poverty and chaotic home exposure. The League is funding the project with \$550. The project serves our focus area of early childhood development.

YMCA-Allapattah Village Child Care Center – The Junior League will enter its second year of work in the Reading Centers in 6 classrooms at the new Allapattah YMCA Village Child Care Center. Allapattah is one of the most disadvantaged communities in Miami Dade County with over 35% of the population having a household income of \$12,000 or below. Allapattah also has one of the lowest high school graduation rates with only 35% of the population earning a high school diploma or equivalent. Research shows that building a foundation of cognitive and early reading skills will ensure future reading success for children. In its landmark 1986 review *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, the Commission on Reading called reading aloud to children the "single most important activity for building knowledge for their eventual success in reading."

League members will participate in reading sessions with the students and conduct training sessions with senior residents and the community on how to read to the students. League members will also coordinate a library "check-out" system from the mini-library. No funds are provided to this project. The project lies within our focus area of early childhood development.

Coral Gables @ HOME – A second-year project, the Junior League will partner with The Coral Gables Community Foundation in the first program in Florida designed to support aging in place for residents who are 50 years of age and older. According to a Claritas, Inc. July 2008 report, 37% of the 42,861 Coral Gables residents are 50 years of age and older. A total of 9,429 residents are 60 years of age and older.

League members will visit with elderly female residents for a total of eight hours per month. Many of these residents do not have family living in Coral Gables. Our goal is to provide lasting companionship for the residents, while at the same time allowing our members to benefit from the resident's unique life experiences that can be shared with our volunteers. The Junior League is providing only a volunteer component; no funds were

Addressing JLM's five focus areas

requested. The project falls within our focus area of women's health.

Therapy Dogs – Entering its third year, the Junior League will partner with this national organization in its local "Paws to Read" program implemented in the Miami-Dade Public Library System. The program was designed to help children who are slow or shy readers or who suffer from learning disabilities. Evidence shows that when reading aloud to the trained dogs, children are provided the opportunity to enhance their reading skills in a non-judgmental and supportive environment.

After members complete the national testing and registration process for Therapy Dogs Inc., their dogs become a part of a national program with more than 9,000 dogs participating. The League will provide \$1,000 in funding this project. The "Paws to Read" program falls within our focus area of early childhood development.

Project Lift for Lotus House, the Sudari Foundation – JLM will partner for a fourth year with the Sudari Foundation and The Lotus House Women's Shelter in Overtown. Lotus House is a unique women's resource center and residential facility serving women who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, whether due to domestic violence, medical circumstances, disability, loss of employment or other economic rea-

sons. Lotus House provides free housing for homeless women for up to one year, three meals a day and comprehensive support services.

Project Lift was designed to assist women who have successfully completed the program at the Lotus House and are transitioning into their new homes. League volunteers will continue to coordinate donations of furniture, furnishings, basic kitchen supplies and food – all to help these women settle into their new homes. The League will fund this project with \$10,000. This project spans across our focus areas of homelessness, family violence and women's health.


Done in a Day provides trained volunteers in response to requests from the community agencies for short-term service by volunteers for special events. The committee's primary focus is to assist in community events within the League's focus areas of Families at Risk, Women and Children's Health, Homelessness, Foster Care, Early Childhood Education and Family Violence.

Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Award awards college scholarships to high school senior girls for outstanding academic performance and community service. Every spring, the Service Award honors senior high school girls who demonstrate exceptional service to their community, both in and outside of school, while excelling in their academics.

And finally, the League is continuing its flagship Projects in the focus areas of homelessness and family violence. A CDC study in 2000 found that one in four women has experienced domestic violence in

her lifetime. There are many reasons women stay in abusive relationships – hope that things will turn around, fear for their safety or children's safety if they leave, they are financially dependent on the abuser, they feel guilt or shame, or they face cultural hurdles. The Junior League shelters, Inn Transition North and South, provide hope and independence for these women.

Inn Transition North is a 22-unit apartment complex in North Miami owned by JLM which is leased to Miami-Dade County for \$1 per year. For the past 19-and-a-half years ITN has provided housing and resources to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The goal is to break the cycle of violence in their lives through one-on-one mentoring, monthly life skills events and family activities. Residents receive personal, vocational and financial counseling as well as child care as part of a public-private partnership with Miami-Dade County.

Inn Transition South opened in 2002 and is a 56-unit residential complex that houses 50-55 families who are victims of domestic violence and homelessness. The County manages the facility and administers the support services provided to the residents to empower them to reach self-sufficiency. JLM volunteers provide life skills training and enrichment activities such as job fairs, holiday parties, back-to-school events and parenting classes. Recognizing the impact JLM volunteers make, in 2002 the County requested a 10-year volunteer commitment to the project. 



Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Award

By Andrea Graham Journal Committee

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 was an inspiration and embodied the true mission of the Junior League. This year, the Junior League of Miami has awarded two college scholarships to Miami-Dade County high school graduating senior girls for their outstanding academic performance and community service.

The following two young ladies were this year's recipients and were awarded during the April General Membership Meeting:

Khadijah Brydson from Miami Carol City Senior High School

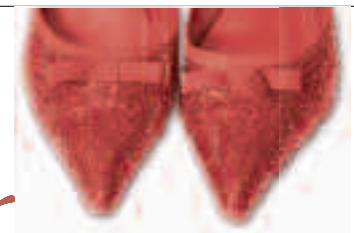
Khadijah Brydson has exhibited outstanding academic performance and community service throughout her high school years. She has established her own

non-profit called Emerging from Lo Debar Inc., whose mission is to combat violence and provide school necessities to underprivileged students in her native Jamaica. The success of the program has led to its next phase where her non-profit is currently in the process of building a school. Here in South Florida, Khadijah is dedicated to serving her community through lending her time to organizations such as The Children's Trust, where she serves on the Executive Board of the Youth Advisory Committee. She is in the Youth Leadership Program for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan, among her many civic involvements. All of her dedicated work has helped Khadijah overcome the poverty and violence that she experienced as a child, and continues to motivate her to become the international lawyer that she dreams of becoming. Khadijah will attend Georgetown University in the Fall.

Schuyler Polk from Coral Reef High School

Schuyler Polk is a Senior in the International Baccalaureate Program at Coral Reef High School. At the end of her freshman year, Schuyler's mother passed away from cancer. This traumatic loss motivated Schuyler to raise close to \$10,000 through a school-wide appeal for the American Cancer Society in honor of her late mother.

Schuyler excels in journalism and in acting. She is a gifted writer, serving as Chief Editor of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's Holocaust Impact Theatre—an organization that educates the community on the dangers of living with hatred and the lessons of the Holocaust. Over the past five years, Schuyler has dedicated more than 950 hours volunteering throughout her community. Schuyler will be attending Harvard University in the Fall. 🍷



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For more information, please call **305.443.4011**, or visit **coralgablesathome.org**.

The other reason everyone is talking about Golf...

7th Annual Golf Tournament and *Cocktail Reception*

Friday, October 1, 2010

By Raymie Walsh and Amy Robles Golf Tournament Co-Chairs

The Blue Monster at Doral, home of the World Golf Championships—CA Championship, is the location for the **7th Annual Junior League Golf Tournament**. After a sell-out 2009 Tournament, the Junior League of Miami is returning to the Doral Golf Resort & Spa for a noon shotgun start on October 1st.

Players will have the chance to enjoy a beautiful day of golf while also enjoying complimentary refreshments. An individual entry is \$225. Foursomes receive a discounted price of \$800. All registration fees include green fees, cart fees, boxed lunch, beverages, signature event gift and entry to the post-event awards ceremony and cocktail reception.

Following the competition, the players will return to the Champions Pavilion to enjoy the awards ceremony and cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres and salad and pasta stations. League members



and friends are invited to celebrate with the golfers at the awards ceremony and cocktail reception. During the reception enjoy the raffle and silent auction with items ranging from professional golf lessons and photography sessions to fabulous trips.

Help the Golf Committee reach out to any golfers or businesses you may know that would be interested in participating in a sponsorship opportunity. This year, as an added incentive for our general membership to help make the Golf Tour-

nament a tremendous success, any non-golf-committee JLM member who secures a sponsorship for the Golf Tournament of \$1,000 or more will receive a fund-raising/shift credit.

Tournament entries, cocktail reception tickets and raffle tickets will be available for purchase online at www.jlmiami.org in late July 2010. For details contact co-chairs Amy Robles at amylurobles@gmail.com, and Raymie Walsh at raymieliz@gmail.com

See you on The Blue Monster at Doral. 



Save the Dates for Shopping!

Oct. 23-Nov. 7, 2010

The JLM Shopping Card for a Cause is back for its third year, with nearly 200 participating merchants expected. Shopping Cards will go on sale online September 1, 2010.

New participating merchants are being accepted. See www.jlmiami.org for details and online registration form for new and returning Shopping Card for a Cause merchants.

For details, sponsorship and advertising opportunities, contact Jennifer Burchard, Luly Sixto-Yero or Amber Seidle-Lazo. •





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Sustainer News & Notes

Jayne Abess honored

By Michelle Ramirez Patricios, JLM President 2008-09

The Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews, a nonprofit agency dedicated to advancing understanding and respect among people of all cultures, religions and races, recently awarded Junior League Past President Jayne Abess with their prestigious Silver Medallion Award. The MCCJ has served as a vital force for improving intergroup relations by creating safe havens for dialogue, training inclusive leaders, highlighting the



Jayne Abess with past Silver Medallion recipient, Sheldon Anderson of Northern Trust.

benefits of diversity, and building bridges of understanding and respect among different communities.

The Silver Medallion was awarded to Jayne at MCCJ's recent 75th anniversary reception and Humanitarian Gala for her dedication to improving the non-profit fields of health and human service and actively seeks ways to enhance the quality and dignity of life for people with workplace disadvantages and disabilities. Aside from being a founder of the Mount Sinai Medical Center, her work with United Way, Goodwill Industries and numerous important causes, according to MCCJ, is legendary. Executive Director of MCCJ, Roberta Shevin, noted that "This year we honored three individuals who through volunteerism, advocacy for diversity and philanthropy have contributed to making Greater Miami a better place."

JLM congratulates Jayne Abess for this prestigious award, and we too would like to thank her for "improving the quality of life in our city." ☪

Sustainer Bridge

By Beatrice Garner, Sustainer

The end of the sustainer bridge tournament culminated with a lovely luncheon at the home of Melinda Renuart in May. As is the tradition, everyone brought a delicious favorite to add to the buffet table and fun was had by all who attended.

This year there were 13 teams that participated in the tournament, with the players divided into two groups. The winners with the highest combined totals of all rounds were announced at the party. Prizes were awarded to the following pairs:

1st Place – Beatrice Garner and Melinda Renuart

2nd Place – Cathy Zuckerman Dee and Pat Sullivan-Jones

3rd Place – Frec Baggs and Tina Lane

4th Place – Maureen Gragg and June Williams

Sustainers who are interested in playing bridge next year should contact the new Chairmen to sign up no later than early fall in order to be included in the group. The matches begin in October and run through May.

It is hoped that everyone who played this year will again want to participate in the next round-robin tournament, along with any Sustainer members who would be interested in joining in this relaxed, social League activity. We encourage our bridge-playing members (new or seasoned) to get a League partner and give this group a try, as it is a great way to see our fellow members throughout the year and have a good time doing so.

This year's Co-chairs Beatrice Garner, Tina Lane and Melinda Renuart thank everyone for taking part in the tournament. ☪

Welcome New Sustainers!

Congratulations and thank you to the following members who have given 160 years and countless hours of volunteer service to the Junior League.

Holly Barnhart, 1995

Jane de Cardenas, 1999

Michelle Ramirez Patricios, 1999

Bonita Whytehead, 1999

Jackie Crabill, 2000

Jennifer Wilson, 2000

Jamie Adams Bonham, 2001

Valda Clark Christian, 2001

Kathleen Duran, 2001

JJ Snow Hansen, 2001

Anne Beaumont Nichols, 2002

Jana Hertz, 2002

Corey Krissel-Gonzalez, 2002

Sharon Maurno, 2002

Hillary Scurtis, 2002

Alison Simon, 2002

Allison Wood-Grinan, 2002



Membership input driving JLM's Strategic Plan update

By Leanne Frazee Tellam, Strategic Planning Chair

It's that time again. Every three years, JLM is required to review and renew its Strategic Plan. As every good traveler knows, in order to reach your destination, you need to (1) know where you are going, and (2) know how to get there. So over the course of the 2010-2011 JLM year, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) will be asking for input from those who know us best – you the members.

Through a membership-wide campaign, we will be requesting your opinions and gleaning your grains of wisdom as to how best to plan for our organization. We'll also mix in the experience and expertise of our sustainers, CAB (Community Advisory Board) members and other community leaders. The result will be a clearer picture of where the League will seek to travel in the years 2011 through 2014.

South Florida is an increasingly competitive climate for well-meaning non-profit organizations that help our Miami in many ways. JLM has been amongst the strongest and best of these groups for more than 80 years now. And because we believe in our mission, because we believe Miami needs what JLM has to offer, we need you to be on the lookout for the SPC's meeting presentations, questionnaires, small-group discussions and conference calls.

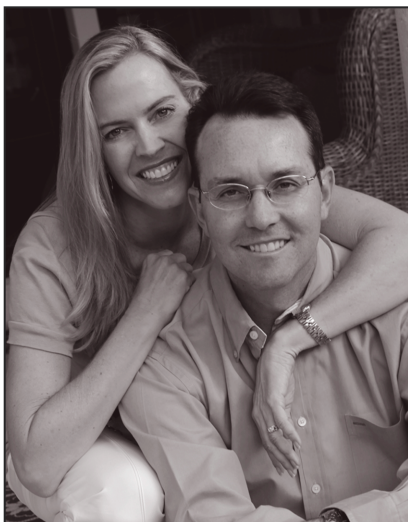
Spend some time this summer pondering the meaning and direction of JLM's mission. Help us chart the course and

ensure the strength of JLM well beyond 2014. Of course, if you would like to be in on the process from start to finish, or get a head start on those seeking to provide input, please contact me at LTellam@aol.com. Together we can ensure that this organization we believe in so strongly stays strong through strategy and planning. ☺

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Getting to know President-Elect Dana Martorella

The Junior League of Miami prides itself -not only on promoting volunteerism, but also, on being an organization that provides training to its member volunteers. For the next year, President-Elect Dana Martorella will be preparing to continue the legacy of her predecessors: an impressive history of extraordinary women who have served as Junior League of Miami Presidents for the past 84 years! Though many of you know Dana, as she has been with the League for eight years, there are probably a few things you do not know.

Dana is a true New Yorker at heart. Prior to her relocation to Miami, she had never lived outside the state. Born and raised in East Hills (on Long Island) with her older brother, Ivan, she developed an early passion for community service. One of her earliest and most memorable community outreach activities involved working with mentally retarded youth, residing in a group home.

Dana remained in New York for college (albeit, upstate NY, near the Vermont

border where she was in closer proximity to satiate her passion for skiing) and graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Psychology. During college, Dana pursued involvement in her college's community through tutoring chemically dependent adolescents in a rehabilitation facility and also, interning as an art therapist in a mental health hospital. Following graduation, she moved to the Upper West Side in New York City to pursue post-baccalaureate studies. Desiring a respite from academia, Dana sought employment in the health-care field and served as a clinical counselor in a methadone clinic. You could say working with underserved populations became a recurring pattern and source of fulfillment for her. Dana returned to school to pursue graduate studies at New York University where she completed coursework for a Master of Arts in Medical Ethics, and went on to New York Law School where she received her law degree.

During Dana's first summer of law school, she met her husband-to-be, Tim, through an introduction by mutual friends. It was a whirlwind romance...until he picked up and moved to Miami to devote more time to his burgeoning new business. With her head buried in her law books, and her heart devoted to him, Dana continued her studies with absolutely no thought of moving to the Southeast. Admittedly, she found weekend sojourns to balmy, beautiful Miami -especially during the frigid New York winters- downright heavenly! Still, when Tim proposed to her, moving to Miami was not in her realm of thought.

Prior to her weekend visits to Tim, having grown up in a family of skiers, she had only traveled the State of Florida once as a child (around the age of 4). Upon visiting Miami, Dana's parents reminisce that Dana said, "this may be YOUR-ami but, it's not MY-ami!"

Despite her geocentric feelings, following their wedding, Dana moved to Miami for what she believed was a temporary relocation. She felt like a true pioneer in comparison to her nuclear and extended family relatives who all (continue to) live within a 25-mile radius of one another! The temporary relocation soon appeared more permanent and Dana knew it was time to embrace her new home, new city and the community she was making a life in. After a year's stay, she returned to New York to pack up all her belongings. The truth is, she tells us, that she would not have pried herself—even from her completely empty gem of an Upper West Side apartment with a sliver's "water view" of the Hudson River for her new, comparatively expansive condo in South Beach with a breathtaking unobstructed ocean view—if she hadn't made a commitment to attend a Junior League of Miami Membership Outreach event, the last one of the League year.

Dana describes the Membership Outreach Event as "just the antidote I needed! I walked away from the evening awe inspired by the work the Junior League of Miami had accomplished in its less than 80-year history. I was also struck by the diversity of women in the organization, their shared support of one another both within the League and also, the apparent support systems developed outside of their League commitments, and the professionalism and thoughtful care given by all to each League undertaking (i.e., the outreach event, a fundraiser, a community project, etc.)." She knew, from that brief meeting, that this was an organization she would take great pride in becoming a member of.

Of her most rewarding placement, Dana admits she, "hasn't had a placement that hasn't been rewarding—though my passion in the League has always fallen in community." As Provisional of the Year in

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SCHOOL TOURS FOR 2010

March 12, 2010	Friday
March 24, 2010	Wednesday
April 9, 2010	Friday
April 28, 2010	Wednesday

TOURS BEGIN IN THE CHURCH AT 9:00 A.M.

Preparing for the 85th Presidency

2003, Dana garnered so much from her provisional group members as they each contributed to planning, creating, and executing a library/play room at Inn Transition South. She describes it as "literally, walking into a blank space, building and staining bookshelves, painting the walls, collecting and sorting books and putting furniture together." Her group took such pride in their work that even after their project was complete and their League year was over, they chose to plan a grand opening celebration of the space complete with activities for the children they had fostered relationships with during the building process. Dana went on to serve and eventually chair Foster Care Review and CHARLEE Creative Expressions (both Community Projects) before serving on the Membership Outreach Committee. Her first year serving as a board member was as VP of Community (perhaps, her favorite placement), then as VP Planning and this past year as Bylaws/Parliamentarian and Legal Coordinator.

Dana and Tim have two children, a daughter and potential future League member, Parker (5) and a son, Grant (2). In addition to being privileged guests at some General Membership Meetings and at the Board table, both have attended League events and have thoroughly enjoyed Jr. Junior League events as well!

Outside of the League, Dana serves as Co-President of the Parent Association

at her daughter's school and also, serves as a board member there. Additionally, she is on the Board of Directors for her Condominium Association.

For leisure, Dana loves to travel with her family, read, insists (now that her children are no longer infants) she will start running again, swimming and picking up her temporarily lost practice of yoga. By far, her favorite sound is her children's laughter and she strives to hear that music as often as possible. She feels so fortunate that her parents make extraordinary efforts to be in Miami monthly to maintain their very special relationship with their grandchildren.

She is "so thrilled to be shadowing this year's President, Loretta Crews Nido, and her visions for the coming year. I am thoroughly humbled by the honorable and awesome opportunity to serve as the 85th President of the Junior League of Miami. In *The Wisdom of Teams*, Jon R. Katzenbach and Douglas K. Smith define a team as

'...people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, performance goals, and approach for which they hold themselves mutually accountable.' It seems to me that the philosophy of these gentlemen is identically reflective of the Junior League of Miami. I am so very eager to share, learn from and grow with each of you, our 'team' members, as we continue the disciplined and effective work of our League."

We are excited about Dana's dedication to the Junior League and our community at large. We look forward to being led by someone with such a passion for enhancing the lives of others! ♡



Dana (first on left) with other JLM volunteers at the newly completed Inn Transition South library in 2003, what began as a Provisional project.

Inn Transition North Update

On January 14, 2010, membership engaged in a collaborative dialogue on the future of Inn Transition North. It was agreed that while the Miami-Dade County budget process is running its course, JLM would continue moving forward with a plan including the following elements: securing proposals for renovations of the units from general contractors; identifying and seeking additional funding sources; monitoring the County's annual budgeting process for

opportunities to state our case at public hearings; and maintaining constant lines of communication with the Department of Human Resources at Miami-Dade County.

Since the ad hoc meeting, we have conducted two full walk-throughs with qualified General Contractors. We are currently analyzing these proposals. We've met with David Raymond of the Homeless Trust to identify availability of additional funding sources. We've secured

assurance from Miami-Dade County that because of our long standing relationship and the impact our work has made on the landscape of domestic violence services in Miami-Dade County, they will make every effort to increase the budget to offset maintenance and insurance expenses.

We will continue to monitor the County's budget process and continue to research the availability of outside funding. ♡

A Special Thank You

Partnering for Our Community

Partnerships with the Junior League of Miami have made possible more than \$2 million in grants and projects that address homelessness, family violence, children's and women's health, early childhood development and foster care.

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Helping Us Help the Community

Raising Funds Together

Funds to support community projects are raised by the Junior League every year in a variety of ways. We thank the many business and organizational partners who participate in, sponsor and underwrite our events, maximizing the impact for the community.

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Welcome to the following new Active members of the Junior League of Miami!

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— JLM Annual Campaign — Clip a Coupon for our Community!

Dear Members and Friends,

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

Plus, this fundraiser is super-easy!

No fancy dress needed. . .No babysitter to find...You don't even have to leave home! Just clip a coupon(s) in whatever way you want to help!

The "savings" might be the lifeline that someone is desperate for right now.

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

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

Thank you for helping, in whatever way you can! If you prefer, make your secure donation online at www.jlmiami.org.

\$20

Enable Women's Wellness
Provide for enriching
activities and supplies

\$30

Start a Child Off on
the Right Foot
Provide an at-risk child with
school supplies and a book bag

\$50

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

\$100

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

\$150

Give the Power of
Knowledge
Enable the purchase of books
for a children's group

\$250

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

\$500

Be there for
Women & Children
Help a formerly homeless
woman set up her first-time
home.

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

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

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☐ Give the Power of Knowledge\$150

☐ Give the Gift of Adventure!\$250

☐ Be there for Women & Children\$500

☐ Other/Additional Amount\$_____

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*Coupons are examples of the impact your dollars can make. All donations are unrestricted. For more information, contact Meg Lee at 305-668-7903 or at Mgriffinlee@gmail.com

JLM in the Pepsi Challenge!

Vote every day for the rest of June to help JLM win a \$250,000 Pepsi Refresh Everything grant for Inn Transition North.

The money would be used to repair and renovate the 40-year-old shelter that helps families break the cycle of violence and gain independence.

We need your support to make this campaign a success. Go to the jlmiami.org main page for the link and vote every day until June 30th.

Rally friends and family so we can start a massive community campaign to help us secure the funds! If you have a Facebook page, the campaign is linked so be sure to post to your profile page too!



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\$798,000

Charming 2-story newer home in south Gables just east of Le Leone Road, north of Cocoplum circle. Gated entry to courtyard. 3 bedrms/2.5 baths. Walls of impact glass in doors/windows.



931 Roderigo

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