

Junior League



Journal

The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

Vol. XIX No. 2 | Winter/Spring 2011

President's Message

Happy New Year!

I am thrilled to be able to share some great news regarding Inn Transition North to the entire membership through our *Journal*. Please read the full article on page 4, beautifully written by our *Journal* editor, Kathleen McGrory. In short, JLM will receive \$40,000 in annual rent from Miami-Dade County for the next three years. This annual payment, up from \$1 per year for the past two decades, will allow JLM time to analyze the future of our work at ITN, while providing much needed funding for repairs, maintenance and insurance. This victory is shared by the entire membership, but special thanks must be offered to a group of women who offered their expertise in moving the process along:

Past President Erin Knight and the 2009-10 JLM Board for guidance and support; Catherine Grieves, who guided the legal process and renegotiated the lease; Melissa Tolmach, who secured and scheduled general contractors for bids for maintenance and repair; Aniella Gonzalez, who provided legal research on the County's lease procedures; Amy Maida who guided JLM in the County budget

continued on page 6



JLM members to honor Women Who Make a Difference

By Journal Staff

The 10th annual Women Who Make a Difference luncheon will be held Feb. 27 at the JW Marriot Marquis in downtown Miami. The theme: *Hats Off to the Junior League*.

"We want to encourage all of the attendees to wear their best Carrie Bradshaw or Kate Middleton hats to the luncheon," said co-chair Michelle McClaskey.

This year's honorees are: Risa Berrin, Judge Abby Cynamon, Gina Russ, Marie-Ilene Whitehurst and JLM Past President Mary Young.

Risa Berrin is the founder and executive director of the Health Information Project, Inc. The project seeks "to improve health awareness and access for teenagers and young adults through an innovative, school-based education program." HIP completed its inaugural year during the 2009-10 school year, providing health education to approximately 1,400 ninth-graders from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Judge Abby Cynamon is a juvenile division judge of the 11th Circuit of Florida. She spent a portion of her childhood

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE 10 Years

hood in foster care, and went on to earn her Bachelor's degree from Barnard College at Columbia University and law degrees from the University of Miami.

Gina Russ, an attorney, has been committed to helping foster children in South Florida for almost 20 years. This commitment began when she took a position on the Board of Directors of the Children's Home Society of South Florida. Before long, she became the chairwoman. Gina was one of the first board members of Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc. and has helped lead the independent living subcommittee since its inception. Most recently, she has given her time to help Haitian children evacuated to the United States for medical treatment after the earthquake by working with Catholic Charities and Easter Seals.

continued on page 6

JLM Secures Inn Transition Funds	page 4
Provisionals Wrap Up Mentor Projects	page 5
Community Projects Updates.....	pages 12-13
Member Requirements Checkpoint.....	page 15
Sustainer Spotlights	pages 16-18
Class Notes: News about Members.....	page 19

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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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Junior League Journal is published three times a year in print and on the web at www.jlmiami.org. The next deadline for submissions is May 9, 2011 for the Summer issue. Printed by Aquarius Press.



A member of The Association
of Junior Leagues International Inc.

JLM secures \$40,000 in annual rent for flagship project

By Kathleen McGrory Journal Editor

It was a formidable challenge. To keep its flagship program alive, the Junior League of Miami would need to find thousands of dollars in non-League funding — a difficult task in a down economy.

But last fall, JLM President Loretta Nido, Past President Erin Knight and a coalition of JLM volunteers did just that.

In October, they secured \$40,000 in annual rent from Miami-Dade County for Inn Transition North, a 22-unit apartment complex in North Miami. The facility provides housing, counseling services and childcare for women who have been victims of domestic violence.

The earmark saved the project and JLM's ownership of the property for at least three more years.

"The work we do there is vital," Nido said. "We had to find a compromise to the budget concern so that we could guarantee JLM more time to analyze the future of a project and a property near and dear to many JLM members' hearts."

The League purchased Inn Transition North in 1989 and began leasing the units to Miami-Dade County for \$1 annually.

ITN is operated in public-private partnership with Miami-Dade County. The County maintains day-to-day operations. The League provides volunteers and programming.

Over the past two decades, more than 300 League members have volunteered at the facility, mentoring the women and planning events and activities for their families.

The value of the volunteer hours: more than \$1.6 million.

The program was so successful that the League partnered with Miami-Dade County

to open Inn Transition South in 2002. The South Dade facility is made up of 56 garden-style apartments and provides similar services for residents.

The women of the Junior League say they are happy to help.

"ITN means the world to the women who live there," said ITN co-chair Cecilia Slesnick. "To them, it's a second chance. It's a newfound sense of hope and freedom."

This fall, ITN's second 10-year lease with the County was set to expire. The building was in need of costly maintenance. And one Junior League endowment with funds designated for ITN was becoming depleted.

To keep ITN alive, the Junior League would need to find additional non-League funding — and quickly.

"We were faced with a dilemma," Nido said.

"We had to decide: Do we continue to compromise JLM, Inc.'s bottom line by continuing to pay costly and ever-increasing insurance and maintenance costs? Do we find an alternate use for the property? Or do we take a substantial loss on the sale of the property?"

In the end, JLM had to do none of these.

Ever resourceful, JLM leaders came together to brainstorm sources of funding.

Despite the difficult economic climate, JLM was able to secure \$40,000 in annual rent from the Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services during the recent County budget process.

"We are pleased to continue our long-standing successful relationship in providing these meaningful services in the community," Director of Human Services Phyllis Tynes-Saunders wrote in a letter to the League. "This relationship has been marked with great successes in providing quality transitional housing for homeless victims of domestic violence."

The League was able to sign a new one-year lease with the County.

"It was a true team effort," Nido said. "Members who had expertise in certain areas really came together and stepped up. It is evidence of the way the Junior League of Miami works."

JLM members celebrated the news.

"I'm happy to know that ITN is going to be around for a few more years," Slesnick said. "It's wonderful that we can keep doing this." ❧



Above: Lynn Summers, dedicated to Inn Transition since its start, is pictured here with Liz Folmar, Martha Lummus, Claudia Kitchens and Ronni Bermont opening Inn Transition in 1990.

Right: Teresa Zohn (far right), who has been an Inn Transition volunteer leader since its beginnings, shown here at Inn Transition North in the early days with Past President Susan Moll (1994-95) and JLMer Pam Smaron.



Provisionals wrap up projects

Compiled by Laura Isensee Provisional Member

From a carnival day to collecting baby supplies for homeless moms, Provisional members of the Junior League of Miami helped community groups through their mentor projects.

Provisional co-chair Tracy Pottker-Fishel said she encouraged groups to work with community groups not currently partnered with the JLM.

"My goal was for JLM to reach even more of the Miami community and to further learn about organizations we are not currently partnered with," Pottker-Fishel said.

The groups accomplished a lot.

Here is a snapshot of the projects:

A Big Move

The group mentored by Ivon Rodriguez helped Jessica, a 22-year-old mom, transition from foster care to her own home. Jessica has two kids of her own and cares for her 5-year-old sister, too. She also works and is studying to be a nurse.

The group collected furniture and household items, including a television, sheets, drapes, a washer and dryer, and a set of bunk beds.

"We also purchased paint and helped give her walls a new coat and a fresh start," Rodriguez said.

The group delivered everything and set it all up.

"It was a great project and I really enjoyed being able to help one small family move along," said Altagracia Gomez, a Provisional member.

Holiday Toy Drive

Another group held a toy drive over cocktails at Area 31 at the Epic Hotel in Brickell. The group — mentored by Maggie Atkins — had a goal to give gifts to 50 kids whose families were assisted by the Legal Services of Greater Miami. The agency gives needy families legal help on civil matters, such as housing advocacy.

"It became more than just fulfilling the requirement," said Provisional Gaby Prado, who helped organize the event. "It became something we were really passionate about. Everyone wanted to make it the biggest and best event they could."

Prado said the group planned during weekly meetings, followed by detailed emails. Using their network, they landed the venue. The members invited people to enjoy a free cocktail at the hotel in exchange for a gift.

"This has helped me personally identify other services in the area, especially in the legal area, I may not be aware of helping," said Prado, who is an attorney.

Carnival Day

Tracie Dickerson's Tigerlily Provisional group threw a carnival day on Dec. 12 at Evelyn Greer State Park, also known as the Enchanted Forest, for the children at Inn Transition North.

"The children were so excited to see all of the events and activities that were put together for them," said Provisional Rae Ward.

The activities included giant bubble blowing, tic-tac-toe, a beanbag toss, bouncy-ball races and pony rides. The carnival fun continued under the pavilion, where the kids made their own gumball jewelry, created photo frames and had their faces painted.

Snapshot photos of the kids were taken and put in frames and given to the moms to take with them. Misha's Cupcakes and Regal Cinemas donated cupcakes and popcorn to make the event extra special.

The University of Miami also donated seats to both the women's and men's basketball games on Dec. 31 for all of the families at both Inn Transition North and South.

"The event was a complete success," Ward said.

Baby Supply Drive

The group led by mentor Maria Cristina Velasquez Simmons collected hundreds of baby supplies for the Community Partnership for Homeless. Provisionals set up drop boxes at work and other spots around town to gather the supplies. The supplies were much appreciated, especially because the agency has seen a spike in the number of women with children at their two shelters. Overall, the



group — playfully dubbed "We're Not Moms" — collected 300 items, including 14 blankets, 26 packs of diapers and five strollers.

Clothes for Tweens

The group led by Fernande Saintilis organized a clothing drive to benefit "tweens" at Kristi House. The young girls often leave their homes suddenly, sometimes in the middle of the night. The group filled five bins with underwear, socks, blankets, shirts and leggings. *Please read Champagne Girten's story on the project on page 7.*

Household Drive

The group mentored by Darnele Liautaud Wright collected household items to assist the Lotus House Shelter and Thrift Store. Those included kitchen and bathroom accessories, furniture and clothing. Their overall goal: to help women as they transition from Lotus House to their own home.

The group — called Darnele's Divas — also volunteered at the Lotus Thrift Store. Members helped count inventory and later, helped a woman move from the shelter to her new home. Group members documented the project with a video and scrapbook.

Graduation Day

Another group, mentored by Beth Lang, participated in a graduation for Kristi House Project GOLD, or Girls Owning and Living their Dreams. The project focuses on assisting and empowering young women who are or have been exploited in the commercial sex trade so that they may discover and live their dreams.

The Provisional group learned about this program during a tour of Kristi House. They also spent an afternoon shopping with the graduating girls. The group hosted a graduation party at JLM Headquarters. It included a presentation

continued on page 6

Provisionals continued from page 5

of awards, gifts, dinner and speeches by each of the young women.

"It was a rewarding experience that allowed the Provisionals to learn in a personal manner about issues that affect young women in our own backyard," Lang said.

Science Badge

The "Jamaican Me Crazy" Provisional group hosted the Natural Bridge Elementary School Girl Scout troop at the Miami Science Museum for a day filled with exploration, fun and fellowship on Dec.

11. The Girl Scouts were all energy when they arrived on a school bus to meet the Junior League ladies, mentored by Jamaica Jordan. The JLM Provisionals provided bus fare, brown bag lunches and complimentary museum admission for the entire group. Museum staff gave the young ladies an overview of the museum's offerings and guided them to a private screening of "Legends of the Night Sky," a laser show at the planetarium.

The Girl Scouts also met the snakes,

ancient tortoises and birds of prey that live at the museum. The museum's animal keeper even gave the Girl Scouts an up-close-and-personal opportunity to watch the hawks having their noontime meal. (It was far less appetizing than the young ladies' own homemade PB&Js.)

For Provisional Margaret Henderson, the biggest reward was "the positive experience of working together to expand horizons for other young women in our community." 🍷

President's Message continued from page 1

process; Maria Byrd, who served as our financial compass; Maggie Atkins, who provided research on Mod-Rehab Section 8 building procedures; Past President Lindy Colson, who met with us and the County Department of Human Services to request additional funds; Sustainers Lyn Summers and Teresa Zohn, for grant writing and mentoring; Past President Susan Lerner for her sage advice and guidance; Lorrie Martin for her vast historical perspective; Joyce Henry for continuing to provide on-site support; past and current ITN committees for continuing the supportive work with clients and their children; the ITN Board for its support and leadership; Cristal Cole, Kadie Black and

Margaret Henderson for meeting with County Commissioners and guiding me through the public budget hearing; and Kate Kyle, who kept us abreast of lease approval by County Commissioners.

More exciting news: ITN has been approved for energy efficiency retrofits in both buildings based on a federal re-granting program managed by Miami-Dade County. The program's goal is to yield a minimum five percent decrease in energy consumption by qualified non-profits countywide. Sustainers Lyn Summers and Teresa Zohn have worked tirelessly since May to complete the application and qualification process. An exact dollar figure for the retrofit project

has not yet been determined, but we are grateful for their efforts no matter the ultimate award.

This edition of the *Journal* is full of exciting news and reports. It illustrates the volume of activity that has taken place in only five months! I continue to be amazed at the work you all are accomplishing, and am more humbled for the opportunity to experience the year from this perspective. Although we are at a halfway mark, I encourage you to stay the course and continue rising to meet the challenges our community faces.

Enjoy!

My sincere thanks,

Loretta Nido

Women continued from page 1

Marie-Ilene Whitehurst helped organize the 10th annual Miami Walk Now for Autism Speaks in 2010. In 2007, she was honored with The Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation Volunteerism Award, a part of the American Red Cross Spectrum Awards.

Mary Young has long been passionate about community service. She has served in a variety of capacities, including Past President of JLM, a member of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and a member of MAST Academy's Advisory Board. Young recently became director of

the Ziff Career Services Center at the University of Miami School of Business. She is a graduate of Leadership Miami and Leadership Florida, and is a Past President of the YWCA of Greater Miami.

A few luncheon tickets remain at \$85. To buy tickets, visit www.jlmami.org. 🍷

Special thanks to our 10th Anniversary Women Who Make a Difference Sponsors

Betty Lopez-Castro



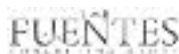
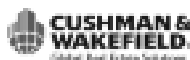
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What my Provisional project taught me about the holidays

By Champagne Girten

I am not a holiday person. I'm even known amongst friends and loved ones to be a bit of a Grinch. But this is a story about how I found holiday spirit this year – thanks to my Provisional project.

I was very excited to join the Junior League of Miami. Back in the fall, I thought our Provisional project – a clothing drive for the “tweens” helped by Kristi House – was a great idea. I was honored to be put in charge. I had a passing familiarity with Kristi House because of my work in the community, but in starting this project, I learned so much more about what they do for the children and families who pass through their doors.

A majority of the child sexual abuse victims served by Kristi House are girls. Our project focused on young teen girls who come to Kristi House to meet with investigators, prosecutors, forensic interviewers and doctors. Sometimes cases require keeping a child's clothing. Providing a new change of clothes – even just a comfy sweat-suit – can make all the difference in the world to a traumatized young girl.

At one point, I realized I would be

finishing this project during the dreaded holiday season. I soldiered on, and I was cheered up by the donations we received, both in kind and in cash. Every time someone gave our mentor Fernande Sain-tilis a check for more than \$100, I got excited. We had set a much lower goal than the approximately \$1,800 we ended up raising, plus some additional clothing.

But still, shopping had to happen – and during the holiday season, no less. I summoned my courage and on Dec. 9, went to both Kmart and Target with Fernande, my fearless leader. It was amazing. We cleared out almost everything we could find at Kmart, and raced off to the local Target, where we piled mounds of underwear, socks, blankets, shirts and the ever elusive leggings into two shopping carts. We added bins to transport the items, figuring Kristi House could use the storage. My cart was so full I couldn't see to steer it to the checkout.

The cashier looked nervous when she saw us coming, but when we told her what we were doing and why, she eagerly took

on both our carts with grace. I helped organize and fold, and we put the items straight into the bins. Fernande and I split them up. I went home, happy and full of joy.

When we met up with the rest of our wonderful Provisional group at Kristi House a few days later, everyone was excited at all the clothing we bought. When we presented it to our trainer at Kristi House, she seemed a bit overwhelmed. The items filled five bins – about 100 gallons of clothing, give or take a few.

We then settled into the training on child sexual abuse to learn a little more about the people we were helping. While the training was a hard thing to watch, it helped to know that in some small way, our Provisional project would give these girls something of their own. And giving, helping and loving others is what the holiday season is all about. ☪

JLM members were involved in the founding of Kristi House 15 years ago. Kristi House provides services for child-victims of sexual abuse and coordinates all the agencies involved in healing children and holding perpetrators responsible. www.kristihouse.org

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2010 Miami Magic dazzles

By Cynthia Archbold Journal Committee

Generosity and gratitude flowed freely despite global economic adversity on Dec. 10, during the elegant Miami Magic celebration at the Four Seasons Hotel.

The evening glittered as brightly as ever with cocktails, dinner and dancing thanks to the numerous sponsors who made the fete possible, the donors who provided lavish items for the silent auction and raffle, and of course, the creativity,



JLM President Loretta Nido with honoree Boo Zamek and Jeff Burnside

organizational skill and decorative know-how of the Miami Magic committee.

More than 250 guests paid tribute to JLM's mission and this year's honorees: Philanthropists Swanee & Paul DiMare, Attorney James L. Ferraro, former *Miami Herald* publisher and JLM Community Advisory Board Member David Lawrence Jr., and the creator of the community resource newsletter, JustAskBoo, Boo Park Zamek.

The 15 raffle packages were dazzling. They included a seven-day Royal Caribbean Cruise, vacations at Hawks Cay Resort, private wine tastings for 12, golf at the Biltmore, and romantic South Florida adventures for two, combining ballet tickets, cooking classes and dinners.

Paul DiMare praised JLM for holding fundraising events like this and for the members' commitment to helping at risk-families, women and children in the community.

"Without your help this city would be nothing," DiMare told League members. "There's so much opportunity here, and there is no better thing than women having a big role in this city because we are a growing city."

Other speakers agreed that Miami is indeed a growing city—in which the top challenge is raising healthy and well-edu-



“ Paul DiMare praised JLM for holding fundraising events like this and for the members' commitment to helping at risk-families, women and children in the community. ”

cated children.

"Education is number one," DiMare said. "Without education, where are we going to go?"

David Lawrence, president of Florida's Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, received a round of applause when he said: "We can find \$51,000 to incarcerate a juvenile but we can't find even \$3,000 to pay for what is supposed to be

a constitutionally-mandated high-quality pre-K program."

By the end of the evening, after the last silent auction item was won and the last glass of champagne sipped, every guest had proven that they'd invested very wisely indeed, by enjoying a glittering evening at Miami Magic.

In total, the event raised more than \$39,000 to support JLM's community initiatives. ☪

The Junior League thanks this year's sponsors: Amicon Development Group • Katie & Eddy Arriola • Jill Baron • Julia & David Bianchi • Jaret Davis • Swanee & Paul DiMare • James L.

Miami Magic Co-Chairs Bibi Cruz-Ledón Sears, April Pizzo & Marlene Fernandez-Karavetsos



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Shopping Card for a Cause a success!

By Jennifer Lutton Journal Committee

Fundraising is key to what the Junior League is today. But the task of raising money has become increasingly difficult. What's more, multitasking has become ingrained in our lives, as we try to juggle our jobs, families, friends and volunteer work.

The Shopping Card was the perfect event that allowed us to multitask for a good cause.

Chair Jennifer Burchard and her team did a fantastic job getting key retailers on

board and organized a fun kickoff party at the J. Crew store on Lincoln Road.

I got in line to buy my card with my dear friend and former League President Amy Sussman. While waiting, we were trying to plan our next gettogether with another friend. It suddenly hit me that we could make the Shopping Card kickoff our next gettogether! I purchased two tickets: one for myself and one for my friend Megan Lykes. This was the perfect excuse to have a girls' night out!

The evening was gorgeous. We all piled in Amy's car and headed to Miami Beach. The kickoff party was great. The wine was generously poured, the snacks plentiful, and the store stocked with J. Crew's fantastic fall collection. We tried on a bunch of items – and bought a bunch, too! It was a perfect night, and for a great cause.

Member Carolyn Gardner also had a great time.

"The staff was really quite wonderful and very helpful," she said. "The weather was beautiful that evening and I had a




Junior Leaguers check out the latest fall fashions at the J. Crew store on Lincoln Road. The festivities were part of this year's Shopping Card for a Cause kickoff.

chance to meet some women I hadn't met before."

As Treasurer of Women Who Make a Difference, Carolyn said she was interested in the bottom line.

"Everything I bought was on sale – and the 20 percent discount was honored. I saved money and was able to contribute the \$50 (cost of the Shopping Card) to the JLM. It was a pretty sweetheart deal."

Carolyn went on to use the card at the Container Store the following weekend. 



Friends old and new came together for a night of shopping and snacking at the Shopping Card for a Cause kickoff.

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AJLI President visits JLM

By **Emilie Goldman** Vice President, Communications

Delly Beekman, president of the Association of Junior Leagues International, visited JLM on Nov. 8 and spoke to members about AJLI's strategic plan: "Roadmap for the Future."

More than 30 JLM members, including a handful of past presidents, attended to hear Delly explain the plan, which evaluates current practices and offers initiatives to adapt to changing member expectations.

"It was an honor to host Delly at JLM Headquarters," JLM President Loretta Nido

said. "The plan she presented offers exciting opportunities to inspire members, ensuring that the Junior League thrives for decades to come."

The plan was shaped by information from an internal analysis of membership data and quantitative research among current, resigned and prospective members. It addresses declining membership and growing issues among members about the quality of the membership experience.



Dana Martorella, Andria Hanley, Delly Beekman, Loretta Nido and Julia Bianchi

For more information about AJLI and its strategic plan, visit www.ajli.org.

About AJLI: AJLI is comprised of more than 160,000 women in 292 Junior Leagues throughout Canada, Mexico, the UK and the USA. Collectively, AJLI constitutes one of the largest, most effective volunteer organizations in the world. ♡

Build for the future. Support the JLM Foundation. Benefit JLM.

By **Karelia Martinez Carbonell** JLM Foundation

The Junior League of Miami Foundation, created in 2004 solely to benefit the projects of the JLM, is reaching the \$1,000,000 mark! The goal is to grow the investment assets to \$1 million, enabling a percentage of the total assets to be distributed annually to "endow" Junior League of Miami projects. The Foundation is funded by ALL mem-

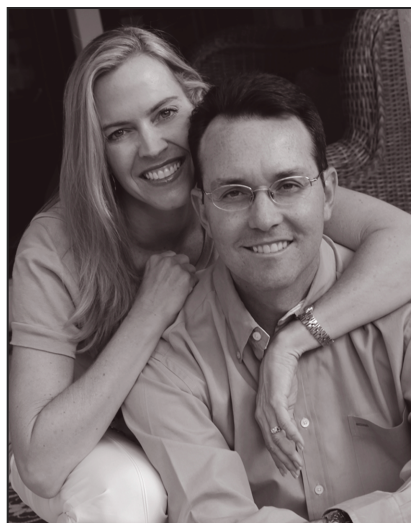
bers—sustainers AND actives AND provisionals. You are invited to be part of this important sustaining force behind JLM and our work in the community!

While contributions at all levels are encouraged, special recognition is given to members who join the 1926 SOCIETY. An outright gift or multi-year pledge of \$1926 (the year JLM received its intro-

duction into the national chapter) ensures recognition into the 1926 SOCIETY. Corporate matching gifts are encouraged, and donations are tax deductible. To learn more, visit www.jlmiami.org.

All members are invited to join us for the Wine Walk in the historic French Village of Coral Gables on March 2! See *Journal* back cover for details. ♡

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JLM members learn the basics of leadership

By **Etain Connor** Journal Committee

The Junior League of Miami is known as a group of women committed to the improvement of their community.

This fall, the League launched a new program called "Leadership University" to help interested members become stronger and more savvy leaders.

Each session had a different focus, covering topics such as staff and volunteer management, budgeting, and fundraising. The two-Saturday program helped interested ladies strengthen their management skills and learn to deal with today's challenging economic and work conditions.

The first session focused on motivation, working with a team, managing others, active listening and public speaking. At the start of the session, the women learned the difference between achievement motivation (based on performance) and affiliation motivation (based on camaraderie and friendship), and began their training on how to manage the different personalities of their volunteers.

Members took a survey to determine

their personality style. Based on their answers, they were given a color: red, blue, yellow or green. The ladies then learned the best ways to motivate an employee, volunteer or fellow committee member based on their unique colors.

The facilitators later taught members what it means to be a good leader and how to build a solid team. Leaders need to motivate volunteers and organize them into tasks that match their skills and will keep them engaged.

A well-functioning team demands individuals who possess good communication skills and can apply them through effective channels. Because teams often have many moving parts, the leader needs to be the nerve center to foster communication between all members.

Members also learned the importance of setting goals – and specifically S.M.A.R.T. goals for their teams. The SMART model is one to keep in mind. Goals should be specific to provide a focus for the team but also open-ended enough for creativity to emerge. They should be

measurable so that milestones and timelines can be established and progress tracked. They should be attainable and realistic so that it matches the organization's needs, the team members' abilities and the available resources. The goals should be time based so they can be completed in the allotted time.

Session two focused on fundraising, budgeting, time management, planning, mentoring, and creating a career path. Members learned the different fundraising principles. The instructor

“ A well-functioning team demands individuals who possess good communication skills and can apply them through effective channels. Because teams often have many moving parts, the leader needs to be the nerve center to foster communication between all members. ”

provided some tips on the importance of personal relationships when asking for gifts to fundraisers and auctions.

After creating your well-functioning team, the next focus should be creating a main budget and separate committee budgets. Committee chairs should produce a budget for the upcoming year based on their experience from the current year. The best way to create the budget is based on program budgets from years past.

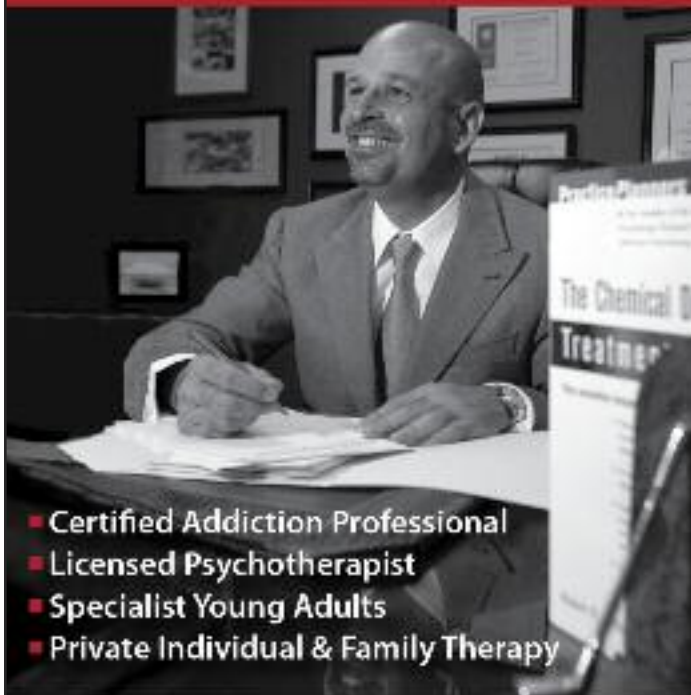
Members also learned the importance of time management and prioritizing. Members learned how to leverage their own time as well as a volunteer's time to eliminate unnecessary activities, and focus their effort on the most important tasks. The exercise taught members how to prioritize in order to get the greatest return for the time invested.

Finally, members learned the importance not only of being a leader, but of being a mentor. They learned how to set their career path within the League and how to set their goals to become a leader within the Junior League of Miami.

In addition to these skills, members learned the tools for active listening, positive communication and public speaking.

In total, 47 graduates received a certificate of completion. An additional 40 members attended one of the sessions. ☺

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Community focus: Coral Gables@HOME

By Megan McNally Journal Committee

I recently sat down with co-chair Heather Harris to learn more about Coral Gables@HOME.

Coral Gables@HOME is the only program of its kind in Florida. The initiative aims to keep seniors living comfortably in their homes by providing them with friendship and essential services through vetted vendors (such as electricians, plumbers, drivers, accountants, animal caretakers, lawn services, etc.) The program also provides seniors with events, outings and discounts. Just recently, the Coral Gables@HOME committee held a holiday party at the beautiful JLM Headquarters. Members prepared delicious homemade goodies, and Coral Gables Mayor Don Slesnick and his wife Sustainer Jeannett stopped by.

Members of the Coral Gables@HOME

committee commit to two hours of their time to the project each month. However, Heather said most committee members easily average more than four hours each month because of the strong relationships they develop with their senior match. Members meet with the same senior each month. (The Coral Gables@HOME committee goes the extra mile to place members with their senior. In August, they held a "Senior Matchup Event" in which the seniors were introduced to committee members.)

Heather has received countless e-mails and phone calls from committee members detailing their wonderful experiences with the seniors. The most heart-warming came from Junior League member Cindy Fedde, who transferred from Kentucky. (Welcome, Cindy!) Cindy was matched with Helen Grier, who has

played an essential role in making her feel at home in Miami. Ms. Grier cooked a wonderful homemade dinner for Cindy and they became fast friends. The "kicker," as Heather put it, is that Ms. Grier is blind. Cindy told Heather that anytime she felt sad or down, she couldn't fathom complaining because she realized how much she does have, including her vision.

It is not hard to see how special this project truly is. It fits in with the Junior League's mission to help women in a novel way. Not only does this project give back to the community, it fosters long-lasting friendships between committee members and seniors.

After speaking with Heather about Coral Gables@HOME, I encourage you to speak with any committee member to hear the special stories they have. ☎

The Linda Ray Intervention Center needs your help

By April Pizzo Chair, Linda Ray Intervention Center

Few experiences are as fulfilling as spending the day with the 60 children at the Linda Ray Intervention Center (LRIC). For the past 18 years, the LRIC has helped at-risk children and their families. Many of the children face extreme challenges, including parents with substance abuse problems, developmental delays that ultimately have an impact on school readiness and the lack of access to quality early-childhood programs. The LRIC intervenes

so these children can be appropriately placed into the Miami-Dade public school system with confidence. A qualified group of educational specialists work tirelessly to provide a safe, happy and peaceful haven for these children.

Junior League members can volunteer to spend time with the infants and toddlers. Given some of the environmental conditions that these children will overcome, the singing, playing and reading is more than



just daycare – it's life care.

The LRIC may have to make cuts next year and desperately needs the help of all JLM members. The past few months have been a life-changing experience for some Junior League members. We implore you to donate and to come visit the center. You'll experience the satisfaction of knowing a child played, laughed, ate and slept peacefully because you were there. ☎



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Camillus House committee finishes up a busy fall

By Carrie Beth Klimczak Co-Chair, Camillus House

It was a busy holiday season for the members of the Camillus House committee.

On Oct. 29, the committee hosted a health fair for the ladies living at the shelter. About 35 women took part on the event. Rina Yoga provided yoga mats and taught the women about stress, relaxation and the practices of yoga. Rina's team also presented a hands-on demonstration of various poses and coached the ladies through a self-meditation session. In addition, Baptist Health Care provided blood

pressure and glucose readings for the ladies, and Publix Supermarkets provided a healthy lunch.

On Dec. 10, the committee hosted a Christmas party at Camillus House. The ladies sang carols, personalized ornaments and decorated a traditional Christmas tree. They also hung stockings filled with candy and an orange at the bottom.

After the hall was decorated, the ladies got a big surprise from Santa! The ladies were overjoyed as they opened their presents – many of which had been donated by

Junior League members. (To those who donated: Thank you all for your help!)

How can you get involved with the Camillus House? Please help us by supporting the following supply drives:

- February: Makeup Madness
- March: Smooth and Jazzy (music, reading material)
- April: April Showers (umbrellas, rain boots, raincoats, etc.)

If you have questions, contact Kendall Brown at kendallkay@att.net or Carrie Klimczak at cklimczak@adt.com. ☎

Advocacy: An AJLI initiative

By Cristy Stewart-Harfmann Junior League of Boca Raton

For more than 40 years, the Junior League's Florida State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) has been researching, educating and advocating for community projects and issues that fit within our mission.

There are many state SPACs across the country, the collection of which AJLI is currently celebrating as further proof of Junior Leagues' great success in communities across the nation.

In Florida, delegates from each local league meet at SPAC conferences three times a year to discuss, debate, research, and set a legislative agenda.

SPAC delegates from more than 20 Florida Leagues met in Daytona Beach on the first weekend of October to decide which issues they wanted to support for the upcoming legislative year. They also conducted training on the legislative process. Moreover, the delegates discussed the benefits of issue-based advocacy, an AJLI suggestion to Leagues countrywide, and worked to produce a common theme between the issues selected.

The delegates decided to focus on three issues this year: FOSTER CARE, CYBERCRIMES, and a law requiring BOOSTER SEATS for children up to the age of seven.

FOSTER CARE: SPAC has developed

relationships with service providers and elected officials in this area. FOSTER CARE will be SPAC's number one issue and they will continue to expand their research, relationships and proven track record of helping children in the foster care system – in particular those children "aging-out" of the system.



Discussions about foster care specifically included:

- Supporting legislation to continue the Title IV Waiver that allows Florida to use foster care money to help keep kids out of the foster care system, versus allowing that money to go solely to foster care families.

- The benefits and drawbacks of allowing children to stay in the foster care system until the age of 21.

- Listening to speakers discuss how some children who have "aged-out" of the foster care system and continue to receive stipends from the government are exploiting certain legal loopholes. The group brainstormed about how to close the loopholes and hold the children more accountable for money received.

CYBERCRIMES is a relatively new issue for SPAC, having been introduced last year. CYBERCRIMES includes sexual predators targeting children online (adults on kids) and cyber bullying (kids on kids) through the Internet and on cell phones. This is an extremely timely and high-profile issue, and one that generated a lot of passion among delegates at the conference.

BOOSTER SEAT LEGISLATION is an issue SPAC has supported for 10 years. SPAC chose to make this the third issue after being contacted by a legislator interested in introducing this legislation. Delegates felt that with all the energy and passion dedicated to this issue in the past decade, seeing this issue through to law was important. Delegates also spoke about finding a family who has seen firsthand how dangerous the lack of a booster seat can be in a car accident, and naming this legislation after their child.

This article originally ran in the Boca Bridge. ☎

What we're reading

By Junior League Journalistas

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

I can honestly say I have read only a few books that have made me cry, but *Same Kind of Different As Me* did just that. It tells the first-hand, true story of how two unlikely friends became inseparable.



Denver Moore grew up extremely poor in rural Louisiana. Ron Hall, a native of Texas, made his fortune buying and selling art. After many years living homeless on the streets of Fort Worth, Denver met Ron's wife Debbie, a volunteer at a homeless shelter, and his life was forever changed.

Same Kind of Different As Me tells the heart-wrenching story of adversity, friendship and compassion from the perspective of each man. At times, it may be hard to understand Denver's way of speaking, but the story is told with such affection that it is hard to put down. Don't forget the tissues.

— Etain Connor

The Eat Clean Diet by Tosca Reno

'Twas just the Season to overindulge and make a New Year's resolution. Many of us pledged to drop a few pounds and get into shape. But somehow, we never find ourselves reaching our goals and end up in the same spot year after year.

Thank God for Tosca Reno.



She has a realistic approach to being healthy and reaching your personal goals. It is not a fad diet and does not guarantee extreme weight loss two weeks. Instead, Tosca's *Eat Clean Diet* is about changing the way we eat and exercise without taking the fun out of cooking, entertaining and socializing.

Read this fabulous book and you will be inspired! It includes excellent recipes, workouts and menus.

Follow Tosca's simple rules that guide you to eat foods that actually serve a purpose in your body and you will never go hungry, have more energy, and look fantastic!

— Jennifer Lutton

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

Little Bee is the story of two women who meet by chance on a desolate African beach. One is a British journalist, the other a young Nigerian girl desperate to escape the violence gripping her country. In that moment, Sarah, the journalist, must make a horrific decision that will forever bond the two women – and will have you and the members of your book club questioning what you would have done.

When the women are reunited in England years later, their lives become even more interdependent. A handful of well-developed characters round out the cast, including Sarah's delightful young son who refuses to take off his Batman costume.

I won't say much more about the plot; on the back cover, the author implores

readers not to give away any details. I can, however, say the writing is stunning. The story is told by two narrators: Sarah, a 30-something professional, and the Nigerian girl known as Little Bee. The author alternates between the two voices in a flawless fashion, crafting each woman in a surprisingly authentic way. The result: a beautifully told, heartbreaking narrative you'll never forget.

— Kathleen McGrory

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

In its opening pages, *Never Let Me Go* seems to be a story the reader can relate to.

Its setting: a prestigious English boarding school in the late 1990s.

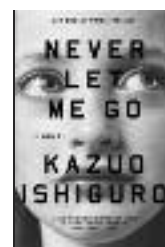
Its main characters: three childhood friends.

The narrator reflects on her beloved school with a sense of fondness and longing. A love triangle quickly emerges – and lives past graduation and into the characters' early adult years.

But it isn't long before the reader realizes this is a world unlike his or her own. Through a series of subtle hints, we learn these young adults have been raised to be organ donors. At school, they are systematically shielded from the reality of their lives: that the organ donation process is long and painful, and will result in an early death.

For a short novel, *Never Let Me Go* is a haunting read. The last few pages will leave you speechless.

— Kathleen McGrory



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Have you completed your requirements?

By Vicky Hucks Placement Chair

All active members should have received their mid-year reports by now. This report is a great tool to let each member know where she stands in regards to fulfilling her JLM requirements. Each year, active members in the Junior League of Miami must complete their placement, attend five General Membership Meetings or board-substituted trainings, complete a shift/volunteer requirement and pay their dues.

Throughout the year, you can always go online and check your status on your home page of the JLM website (www.jlmiami.org). If you don't know how to do this or have forgotten your username or password, e-mail your placement advisor and she can walk you through it.

If you received your mid-year report and there are discrepancies between what you have done and what the report says, please e-mail me (vickyhucks@aol.com) so we can correct the website. If your report shows that the only thing you have

done is stay on track with your placement, it's not too late! There are numerous opportunities for you to complete your requirements. Please contact your placement advisor so she can give you a list of events that are board-approved substitutes.

Even though we are only halfway through the JLM year, we are already planning for the 2011-12 League year. In April, you will have the opportunity to request your placement for next year. The placement bulletin will be online the first week of April. You can complete your placement selections by either:

- Filling it out online (no meeting credit will be given)
- Filling it out at the April 12 evening GMM (no meeting credit will be given)
- Attending a placement interview at Headquarters (meeting credit WILL be given)

As in years past, you need to pick four placements; the placement committee will do everything possible to give you your top requests.

At this time, you also have the opportunity to change your status. If you have completed at least three years as an active, you can go Advisory Status. This choice is available to members for a maximum of two years during their active service, except as noted below. The two options for Advisory Status are as follows:

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

Placement Option: Members are excused



from attending General Membership Meetings, but must fulfill all other membership requirements. The Placement Option is available indefinitely to members eligible to go Sustaining. The Placement Option is not available to members serving on certain committees as determined by the Board.

Please note that ALL Advisory Status members must pay annual dues and complete the shift/ticket requirement.

You can also request to take a sabbatical for the 2011-12 year. Written requests must be sent to the Placement Chair (VickyHucks@aol.com) and must be approved by the Board of Directors. Members granted a sabbatical will be excused from all membership requirements for the League year, except annual dues payment. No more than one sabbatical may be taken within a five-year period. Please note that no more than five percent of active members may be on sabbatical in any one year. Requests will be approved on a first-requested-first-granted basis.

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

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Fales rules the tennis court

By Kathleen McGrory Journal Editor

Sustainer Donna Fales may have just turned 70, but she still rules the tennis court.

Earlier this year, the United States Tennis Association selected Fales to play in the Seniors World Team Championship in Antalya, Turkey.

Fales captained the team for women 70 and over. Not only did she lead the team to a championship, Fales went on to win singles and doubles titles at the World Individual Championships the following week.

She can add the trophies to her ever-growing collection. Fales won her first junior national title at age 15. She was named the U.S. Intercollegiate Singles Champion in 1959 while a student at the College of William and Mary.

In the 1960s, Fales was consistently ranked among the top 10 amateur tennis

players in the United States. She would later captain the prestigious Wightman and Federation Cup teams, and play alongside Billy Jean King and Rosie Casals.

Fales has since been inducted into the Florida Tennis Association Hall of Fame and the Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame.

While in Turkey, Fales blogged about the Seniors World Team Championship.

"Representing your country is a very special honor in sport," she wrote. "And to see 500 players competing, enjoying themselves and playing the sport at the highest level is awesome."

She also mused about playing sports later in life.

"One of the things that never ceases to



amaze me is the number of senior players who take up the game later in life and achieve a proficiency that qualifies them for selection to international teams," Fales wrote. "Three of the four players on the Althea Gibson Cup team did not play tennis until their thirties or later. That is true for 60 percent of the players competing in the world team championships."

Fales, who lives in Coral Gables, has been a member of the Junior League of Miami since 1974.

She is also a talented golfer. 🏌️

JLM, Mary Kay make holidays brighter for survivors of domestic abuse

By Journal Staff

JLM teamed up with Mary Kay to surprise residents at Inn Transition North, Inn Transition South and Safe Space with a day of beauty. More than 30 women attended the event on Dec. 16 at Inn Transition North that featured a catered lunch, refreshments and an array of fabulous Mary Kay cosmetics. Representatives from Mary Kay were on hand to pro-

vide makeovers and give tips on how to apply makeup. The theme for the day, "you're beautiful," was expressed to each and every survivor of domestic violence, an important affirmation during the stressful holiday season.

"In many cases, survivors of domestic violence selflessly devote their limited resources to their children, forgetting

about themselves," said Dr. Regina Mendoza, co-chair of ITN. "This event was a great reminder to each survivor that they are important and people care about them."

At the conclusion of the beauty day, each guest received a gift card and a Mary Kay cosmetic bag stocked full of makeup products. 🛍️



JLM President Loretta Nido with Miami-Dade DHS team and Mary Kay representatives



ITN resident Olga Guzman shows off her makeover



ITS resident Kils Rosario applies Mary Kay lipstick

JLM by the Numbers:

...162 children and 54 moms received holiday gifts at ITN
...The ITS committee wrapped and delivered 398 gifts
...30 women got uplifting holiday make-overs

Sustainer Spotlight: Ellen Clawson Nagel

By Megan McNally Journal Committee

Where are you from?

Mrs. Nagel was born and raised in Miami.

Where did you go to college?

She attended Barry University in Miami Shores, where she studied fashion marketing and business.

What year did you join the Junior League? What was your main reason for joining?

Mrs. Nagel joined in 1982. She was looking for an outlet to broaden her horizons and provide her with something to do, other than changing diapers. As a devoted young mother, she believed JLM would provide her with the perfect opportunity to volunteer and meet other young women.

What is your fondest memory of JLM?

Mrs. Nagel fondly remembers working

as the co-chair for Miami Magic the second year the Junior League had the event. She remembers how they had a trolley take guests around Brickell and downtown Miami to a half-dozen different locations, each with a different theme and type of food. She also chaired the Holiday Craft Show. Mrs. Nagel met her best friend in the Junior League, fellow Sustainer Andrea Heuson Sharp. She says if it wasn't for JLM, their paths may have never crossed!

Are you involved in any other charities?

She is also involved in the Young Patrons of the Opera and the Red Cross Ball Committee.

What is your favorite thing to do in Miami?

Mrs. Nagel loves to shop. When she travels, she searches around for unique finds.

She also enjoys playing golf and bridge.

What is your favorite beauty product?

Lipstick. It brightens up the face.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Always follow your conscience and your heart.

It was a pleasure interviewing Mrs. Nagel. She has many wonderful memories of the Junior League and is thankful for the opportunities it gave her and the friendships it fostered. (She said her children practically grew up with the children of friends she made in the League.) Mrs. Nagel was also happy to let me know that one of her daughters, Nicole, is a member. ☪



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...YMCA committee members delivered books to 80 children

...60 kids at the Linda Ray Intervention Center got holiday goodies by League volunteers

...The Coral Gables@HOME committee held a party for 15 seniors

JLM Past President turning 100

By Karelia Martinez Carbonell JLM Foundation President

"I must meet Betty!" I thought to myself when I learned that Betty Bowen Thompson Purvis had just joined the Foundation's 1926 Society AND was turning 100 years old!

I finally got to meet Betty this past December. She is a firebrand and likely our longest living Sustainer, having joined JLM in 1931 and served as president in 1949-50.

Betty was born in Indiana and moved with her parents to Miami after her first birthday in 1912. She was 15 years old when the Miami chapter of the Junior League was founded in 1926. Her friends approached her about joining the newly formed "Mayama" League. After some hesitation, she joined in 1931 during Betty Quarterman Pancoast's presidency.

The next year, Betty was married and her wedding party included many Leaguers. This was the beginning of a long, active League career—spanning close to 80 years! Betty was elected president in 1949. During her tenure, the League decided to help create a children's museum. The Junior Museum of Miami, later known as the Miami Museum of Science, opened its doors in 1950.

During our meeting, Betty, quite emphatically, kept reminding me that Leaguers were community activists and civic

leaders, but that they also loved to socialize. "Back then, the League meetings were fun," she said. "Not so serious like today's meetings."

However, she said Leaguers were very committed to outreach and meetings were very productive. They would regularly engage business leaders (mostly men at that time) in support of League projects.

Betty said meetings were usually an all-day event that included lunch at Burdines and then shopping in the afternoon.

"League meetings were an all-day affair," recalled Betty's daughter Barbara Thompson Patterson. "Mom would leave in the morning and return at 5 p.m.!"

One of Betty's favorite League placements was volunteering at the Thrift Shop, which later became the Encore Shop. She remembers volunteering and shopping at the store, which was a great money-maker in those days and also a place to socialize. For many years, the Thrift Shop was run by Mrs. Bennett, a favorite of Betty's.

Toward the end of our chat, Betty mentioned that her father, Crate D. Bowen, one of the original founders of Shutts & Bowen, was a great influence in her life and a source of inspiration as she became more active in the League. Mr. Bowen set the example with his own devo-

tion and commitment to civic service. Mr.

Mr. Bowen was the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Miami Public Library, which he helped establish. He was President of the Dade County Community Chest, the Miami Rotary Club and a trustee of Butler University.

Another great influence in Betty's life was her first husband, the late John G. Thompson. Mr. Thompson was one of the area's most prominent attorneys back in the 1940s with a distinguished background as a civic leader, including service as President of the Orange Bowl Committee and the Traveler's Aid Organization, Mayor of Miami Shores, and co-founder (along with good friend Msgr. William Barry) of Barry College (now Barry University) in 1940.

Community outreach and volunteerism continues to run in the family. Betty continues to support the Junior League of Miami while her daughters and granddaughter also follow the family legacy of civic leadership in the League—daughters Barbara and Joanne Thompson Gratton; and granddaughter Julia Patterson Parker are Sustaining League members. 🍷



25 Reasons to love the Junior League of Miami

By Elvira Larrain Journal Committee

When I joined the Junior League of Miami in 2007, my goal was to give back to my new community, make friends and learn how to make a difference. With that in mind, I've written 25 reasons to love the Junior League of Miami.

Reason 25: We work to achieve a common goal.

Reason 24: We give attention to people who need it.

Reason 23: We see the positive in a challenging situation.

Reason 22: We reach our goals – and share our successes with our fellow Junior Leaguers.

Reason 21: Helping someone less fortunate makes you feel good.

Reason 20: We accept help from anyone who wants to give it.

Reason 19: We learn and teach.

Reason 18: We bring smiles to children's faces.

Reason 17: We make dreams come true for families.

Reason 16: The bonds between us are strong.

Reason 15: We are great listeners.

Reason 14: We go above and beyond what is expected.

Reason 13: We show respect to all people.

Reason 12: We gather as a group to find solutions to problems.

Reason 11: We take on the challenge to learn things we may not be good at.

Reason 10: We express concerns – and figure out how to solve them.

Reason 9: We learn skills like fundraising

and share them with new members.

Reason 8: We seek guidance from those who are more experienced.

Reason 7: We know that perfection comes with time. What's important is caring about volunteering.

Reason 6: We always do our best.

Reason 5: We help others in the League who might not be sure about the next steps.

Reason 4: We do our own projects – and help friends and colleagues with theirs.

Reason 3: We leave a legacy.

Reason 2: We bring enthusiasm to whatever we do.

Reason 1: We make a difference in our community.

Spread the word about the work of the Junior League of Miami! 🍷

JLM Class Notes

Many JLM members are soon to hear wedding bells!

Aniella Gonzalez and Joseph McCart recently announced their engagement. Planning is underway for an Oct. 8, 2011 wedding in Wellesley, Mass.

Elvira Larrain and Alfonso Zavala were engaged to be married on Oct. 15, five months after their first date. Elvira and Alfonso were introduced by a mutual friend a week before her birthday. Alfonso proposed in the same place where they had their first date. The couple will reside in Washington after their March 2011 wedding in Miami.

Liz Hollander married Gabriel Bodner on Nov. 20 at Miromar Lakes in Fort Myers. The two were married in a lakeside ceremony at sunset. A poolside cocktail hour and dinner and dancing at The Beach Club followed. Active member **Robin Dunlap** was the wedding coordinator.

Provisional member **Deming Williams** wed Kyle Schulberg on Jan. 8 in her hometown of Danville, Kentucky. Her new name is Deming Schulberg.

Rachel Berlin was married Oct. 30 to Kenneth Naylor.

In community news, past President **Lauren Harrison Genovese** was honored on Dec. 3 by the March of Dimes

Florida Chapter for her contributions to the community.

Making headlines: Sustainer **Berta Blecke** was appointed to Gov. Rick Scott's Health and Human Services transition team. And Sustainer **Wansley Walters** was named Scott's choice to take charge of Florida's Department of Juvenile Justice.

Tammy Reed was recently appointed to the Broward County Public Schools Diversity Committee by Board member Patti Good. The 31-member volunteer committee assists the superintendent and the School Board in meeting their commitment to promoting diversity.

Regina Bernadin started her Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University. **Altagracia Elizabeth Pujols Gomez** graduated from Florida International University with the degree of Bachelors in Human Resources Management, *cum laude*.

JLM members also received promotions and started new jobs this past year.

Tracy Pottker-Fishel became the Publications Coordinator for the Office of Admission at the University of Miami.

Sherri Myers recently started a new job as Membership Director for Coral Reef Yacht Club, located in Coconut Grove. (She would be delighted to talk with anyone interested in joining CRYC, as well as existing members regarding

their membership experience. She can be reached at 305-858-1733 x4227 or sherri@coralreefyachtclub.org.)

Michelle McClaskey is now an associate attorney at Clarke Silverglate & Campbell, PA.

In baby news, **Daru Lane Ransford** gave birth to Sophia Laurelle on Oct. 29. Sophia "is growing a ton with each day," the proud mommy reports.

Ryan and **Kati Foley** welcomed Peyton Grace Foley into the world on Dec. 3. (Her big sister Reese is very excited.)

Ceci Slesnick had a baby girl, Cecilia Anne, on Nov. 6.

Rachael Hodyno gave birth to Georgianna Rebecca Christine Hodyno on Nov. 5 in Miami.

Kelly Fraind also became a mommy. Sydney Rae Fraind was born on Nov. 3, weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

Rachel Greer Narvaez and her husband Damian welcomed Jules Nora Narvaez into the world on Sept. 22.

Lauren Dowlen gave birth to Dale Billingslea Dowlen on Oct. 11.

Other new mommies include: **Pam Groom, Mary Crawford, Alise Johnson Henry, Adriana "Adi" Clemmer** and **Lauren Barrington**.

Sylvie Cabrera is happy to report the birth of a new grandson: Jason Vincent Rosen. ☺





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