

# Junior League Journal



The Junior League of Miami, Inc. Membership Newsletter

## Kids in the Kitchen

by Melissa Schumacher

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, the Junior League of Miami joined more than 225 Junior Leagues across four countries to participate in an education initiative on childhood obesity and nutrition entitled Junior Leagues' Kids in the Kitchen. With the goal to raise awareness and attempt to reverse the growth

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Children watching cooking demonstration by Chef Carmen.

## JLM Annual Award Winners 2005-2006

At the 2005-2006 JLM Annual Meeting, the annual awards were given to these outstanding volunteers:

### Provisionals of The Year



**Anne Marie Muller** and **Veronica Ramirez** have exhibited all of the qualities that make a volunteer in the Junior League of Miami an award winner. They were nominated by their mentor and mentioned by several Actives and Board members alike who were touched by the time and generosity they have devoted to our League.



Their chosen group project was to plan and execute a "Gloves are Off" project for all of the Provisionals. Even without the support of a complete mentor

group, to say the least...they put on a flawless event at Kristi House. The project included landscaping, spring cleaning and the painting of a mural in the girl's bathroom. They both went the extra mile to make things special. They secured donations of plants, gardening supplies, paint, food and countless other items that were required for the event to be completed successfully. One quote heard on the day of the event by a Provisional participating as a "Gloves are Off" volunteer was, "This was planned by only two people?"

Additionally, they received help from the community to aide an internal book drive, asked for monetary donations from their company, and Veronica even had her son help with physical labor at all of the events. Aside from their general requirements, collectively these women gathered 10 extra meeting and project credits.

*continued on page 5*

## In Style, another success!



FROM LEFT: Jamie Adams, Katie Lane-Arriola and Lori Del Vecchio.

The Junior League of Miami was honored to be the benefit charity for a second year for In Style Magazine's Inside InStyle event held at the Eden Roc Resort on May 6th and 7th. Over 1,600 guests attended the event which raised \$24,000. Attendees experienced the best of In Style as they enjoyed beauty treatments, interactive style demonstrations, food tastings, shopping, fashion shows, free giveaways and more. Thank you to all of the volunteers and supporters who helped make this a fabulous and successful event!

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 Christina Urena

# SAVE THE DATES

## 2006-07 General Membership Meetings

Evening Meetings will be held at the Country Club of Coral Gables and begin with a social at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Morning Meetings will be held at HQ, 9:00 a.m. social and 9:30 a.m. meetings. General Membership meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month.

<b>September 12</b>	<b>February 13</b>
<b>October 10</b>	<b>March 13</b>
<b>November 14</b>	<b>April 10</b>
<b>January 9 (Area Meetings)</b>	<b>May 8 (Annual Meeting)</b>

As a courtesy to others, please sign in only if you are able to stay for the duration of the meeting to receive one meeting credit.

### Quote of the year:

*"As we Actives and Sustainers know...every now and then committee members have babies, promotions and other life altering events that just come up. It is how we handle those events that defines who we are."*

– Amy Sussman, Immediate Past President

**The Junior League of Miami** 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.

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

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# Tributes

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**To:** Andria and Valerie

Thank you for all your help, support and guidance this year. I could not have gotten through it without you both.

**Sincerely,** Betty Lopez-Castro

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**To:** Caroline Blake

Congratulations on a great JLM First Year! We're proud of you!

**Love,** Mom and Dad

---

**For:** JJ Snow

Roses are red, Violets are blue  
We couldn't be, More proud of you.

**Love,** Mom and Dad

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Congratulations to Leslie McQueen, Nicole Nagel and Lisa Squiers on becoming Active members of the Junior League of Miami.

**Love,** Leslie

---

**To:** Andria

On the back roads of South Carolina amidst the moss-covered oaks, I gained a greater appreciation for that although people may look and dress different on the outside; we share the same hopes, dreams and disappointments, yearning for success and aversion to failure.

**Thank you.** Susan

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**To:** The incoming Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Thank you in advance to your husbands and boyfriends for understanding that sometimes the League is a jealous mistress. Thank you in advance to your children for patiently waiting for you to finish the League phone calls. Thank you in advance to your employers for the time you take away from your job to do the work of the League. Thank you in advance for serving as a trusted leader of JLM.

Susan Lerner

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**To:** 2005-2006 Board of Directors

From our retreat in the Keys to our celebration at annual meeting, thank you for an amazing year. You have all worked so hard this year and I only hope I can return the favor to each one of you somehow. I hope you had as much fun as I did!

**Many thanks and lots of love,** Andria

---

**To:** Mary Young

There is no better example of a great leader, friend, life of the party, hostess, and mentor. Thank you for making every moment of my year special.

**Love,** Andria

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**To:** Sondra Space

You are the quiet leader and supporter of our organization. I really loved every interaction with you this year. Thank you for all your help along the way. From entertaining my kids, to handling our business with AJLI and everything in between!

**Love,** Andria

---

**To:** Amy Sussman and Karen Cabrera

You taught me that this is supposed to be fun, and it was! I enjoy your friendship and support. Thank you for silently cheering me on this year!

**Love,** Andria

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**To:** Al, Katie and Kelly Hanley

I could not have asked for a better home team than the three of you! Thank you Al for supporting the Junior League this year, financially and otherwise. I admire your ability to provide input when it's something really important and helping me see that some things are just no big deal! I love you all and can't wait to give you back my undivided attention!

**Love,** Andria

---

**To:** Susan Lerner

It is with a huge smile and much support that I wish you and this organization well. Thank you for being my sounding board, and for all the laughs. I hope you have as many!

**Love,** Andria

---

**To:** Leslie Rivera

Thank you for loving the League and the Foundation so much!

**Love,** Andria

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**To:** Andria's Parents

Thank you for your unconditional love and support. When I had to travel on behalf of the League this year I did not worry about Katie and Kelly for one second. I knew they were surrounded by your love. As always, thank you Mom and Dad.

**Love,** Andria

---

Thank you to the Inn Transition South committee for all their hard work throughout the year. To Jill and Keith, I wish you a very successful and productive year.

**From,** Jennifer Quezada

---

**To:** the Hurwit Crisis Nursery Committee Members

My heartfelt thanks to each of you for bringing a bit of sunshine to children in need.

**From:** Sara Conde

---

**To:** All those who Advertised in the JLM Journal

It is through the continued support of advertisers like you that our organization continues to serve the needs of the Miami community. Your partnership helps make a difference. Thank you for your continued support!

**Sincerely,** Caroline Blake – Advertising Manager

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**To:** Lisa Squiers & Nicole Portal

Congratulations on becoming ACTIVE members of the Junior League of Miami. We're very proud of you and appreciate your hard work and dedication throughout your provisional year. You're going to make GREAT Junior Leaguers and DEDICATED volunteers.

**Love,** Maggie & Caroline Blake

---

**To:** The Communications Council's Divas  
Thank you for making my job so much easier through all your hard work and support. You are true Divas!

**Love,** Valerie

---

**To:** Natalie Brown

Thank you for being the Sustainer's Liaison this year and for all the many long hours you spent helping all of us stay the course!

**Love,** Valerie

---

**To:** Jessica Ann Bennett-Porto

Enjoy your new Sustainer status after 9 years of Active duty! You have been an amazing chair of Community Service Awards. We wish you the very best!

**From:** Valerie & the Divas

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**To:** Andria Hanley & The Board of Directors  
This has been an amazing year of leadership ladies. You all rock and it was a pleasure serving with you.

**From:** Valerie

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## 2005-06 President's Message

# How do you measure a year?

(excerpt from Annual Meeting Speech)

By Andria Hanley

I have recently been listening to the song from the Broadway play Rent that asks that question. While we have measured this year in volunteer hours, money raised and the like, I find it important to measure it in other ways. The song asks if you measure it in day-

light, sunsets, in midnights and cups of coffee, and finally says you measure a year in love. Working with the kids in our projects, giving grant money to groups such as Sister Yamile's summer camp, training our members and learning by doing, all can be measured in love.

I guess I measure it by Giving and Leading, and ultimately Growing. We

have succeeded at these as well. My Mom taught me it is better to give than to receive. I think all of our Moms did. And the League taught me that when you lead you give even more. My parting words are words of encouragement, asking that you not only give but lead. I learned this year that when you give and lead you also grow. 



## 2006-07 President's Message

# A message to our new actives

(and a reminder to all of us):

By Susan Lerner

As most of you know or will learn, our League requires that you serve eight years as an active member before you may go sustaining. Why such a long commitment? I am not exactly sure, but I can definitely tell you that our members who stay with us for eight years, and we hope that you all do, remain loyal sustainers for life. Let's take a moment to think about what may happen during the next 8 years of your lives apart from the League:

Will you get a new job? Will you get a promotion or many promotions? Will you begin a new career? Will you get married? Will you start a family? For those of you who have already started, will you have another child or two or three? Will you start new friendships? End old friendships? Will you get divorced? Will you move away from

Miami only to move back? My guess is that each of you will experience many of these things.

Now, let's take a moment to think about what may happen during the next 8 years of your lives in the League: Will you mentor a woman driven from her home by an abusive husband? Will you motivate a child to strive for a better life? Will you award scholarships to young women graduating high school? Will you decide to go outside your comfort zone and work on or even chair a fundraiser or community project?

Will you complain about the League but then improve it? Will you want to resign before the end of 8 years? Will your leaders and friends work hard to keep you here? Will you stay?

I wish that you do stay with us for the next 8 years and beyond and that during that time you continue to train yourself and other members to become

effective volunteers. You bring fresh new ideas to the League, you take on leadership roles, you recruit hundreds of diverse members, and you create and nurture community projects. I wish that in the years that you are busy with work or family that you remain committed by choosing a placement that fits your time constraints.

I wish that if you become discontent with something about the League that you advocate for change and that our leaders listen. I wish that fellow League members are there for you during the inevitable difficult times in your personal life.

I wish that you sustain the League with your own passion and loyalty so that our daughters, granddaughters and all women in our community may have the opportunity to join our ranks well into the next 80 years and beyond. More immediate though, is my wish that your next year is a fulfilling one. I pledge that our committee chairs, the Board and I will do all that we can to ensure that it is. 



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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Development Director for Kristi House, Miami-Dade's Child Advocacy Center, launched 10 years ago by JLM volunteers. For more information, call Director of Community Relations Natalie Brown at (305) 446-3350 or see the website, [www.kristihouse.org](http://www.kristihouse.org)

## “JLM Annual Award Winners 2005-2006” continued from page 1



### Sustainer of The Year

As a Past President of the Junior League of Miami, **Mary Young** has done it all...big, small and everything in-between. This year Mary has been the Sustaining Advisor to the Board of Directors and has brought a sense of history to discussions and offered ideas on how to move forward.

Mary attended the Board retreat and not only led a “fireside chat” which showed the board how we are all inter-linked to one another, but she bought cozy blankets and pillows for everyone to really get into the spirit of the moment.

Sharing her knowledge, she was the keynote speaker at leadership training this year where she presented a history lesson to new leaders. This of course took time, thought and dedication. She went through our old photo albums and extracted what she thought would be interesting and helpful to our new leaders.

In August she was the keynote speaker at Super Saturday where she, in typical Mary Young style, made the new members laugh and cry at the same time. She has a certain way of conveying important information while making you realize your time is being so well spent here with the Junior League of Miami.

Mary has done so many other things large and small to help make this year so special for so many. All of this has been done while being an Executive for IBM and President of the YWCA for the second year in a row.

### Volunteer of The Year



Serving as the VP of Communications, **Valerie Harvey** devotes her time to the Junior League of Miami every single, solitary day.

Everyone is in agreement that Valerie’s work goes beyond a traditional placement. In addition to her

placement, Valerie has also been instrumental in conceiving and developing our new online membership directory that allows all 1,000 members access to the directory from any web browser anywhere. She spearheaded the redesign and reorganization of our website with a sharp new look and easy navigation. She has streamlined how we communicate and has given all our materials a professional, compelling look.

Valerie does so much more than put information into an email or flyer format...she thinks ahead and recommends what she believes would be helpful to our membership and her input has made our communication to our members very effective.

With a lean budget, Valerie has successfully completed the goals of her council and has enjoyed mentoring to those on her council.

While the League year was drawing to a close for most of our members over the last month, Valerie was gearing up for the Annual Meeting “Year in Review” presentation. She thoughtfully assessed all aspects of the video production to ensure that it was done professionally and cost effectively... which basically means Valerie did it all, yet again.

### The Rebecca Herndon Bush Award for Community Service



#### Jennifer Stearns

**Buttrick** is an attorney who practices law part-time at Stearns Weaver Miller. When Jennifer is not driving carpool, working or taking her children to various activities, she is volunteering her time and effort to making our community a better place for those who are less fortunate, particularly children. She believes in a “one-on-one” approach to volunteering, meaning if everyone made an effort to make a difference in the life of one person who is less fortunate, the world would be a much better place.

This year Jennifer served as co-chair of Miami: Who Makes a Magic City. She dedicated countless hours of her time to make this event a tremendous success. Jennifer and her co-chair Katie Lane-Arriola went above and beyond the call of duty and raised \$31,000 in additional underwriting. The event was fun and financially successful and raised about \$70,000 for the League’s community projects and grants...and doubled the budgeted profit.

In addition to her event, Jennifer supported the Golf Tournament and the WWMD Luncheon. Additionally for the past two years she has collected money from friends and co-workers to purchase Target gifts cards for the children and families served by the League’s community projects. This year, right after Magic City, she collected money to buy thirty-two \$25 gifts cards, which were given to the Community Council to distribute at the holidays.

Only Jennifer knows how many projects outside the League she has been part of, here are a few:

The Key Biscayne Holiday Relief Fund is a project Jennifer began when the Key Biscayne Chief of Police informed her that 150 children in Overtown were not going to be receiving any gifts at the holidays. In just three days, with guidance from Karen Fryd, Jennifer collected over \$2,000 from Key Biscayners to purchase holiday gifts for 150 children. This is now an annual toy drive.

Jennifer is also a volunteer for Lawyers for Children America where she represents children in foster care who are often neglected in our legal system. She is active in The Gordon Schools at Beth David where her son attends, has been a board member of City Theatre for 10 years, a Casa Valentina Visionary and a Voting Rights Attorney protecting everyone’s right to vote. She provides *pro bono* services and advocates for individuals providing life-changing assistance to families with special needs. 

# KMM Award Recipient



## Junior League of Miami celebrates Community Service and Scholarship *The Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Award and Scholarship Recipient*

By Denie Freyer

Junior League of Miami hosted the Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Award and Scholarship Reception on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at the Country Club of Coral Gables. This distinguished award is granted in memory of one of the Junior League members, Kathryn Menke Miller, who was the epitome of a hardworking, caring and loving volunteer.

The reception served as the platform to present the scholarship to one deserving honoree and allowed League members to recognize the 25 senior high school girls who have demonstrated exceptional service to their community, both in and outside of school, while excelling in their academics. The Junior League of Miami was proud to present The Kathryn

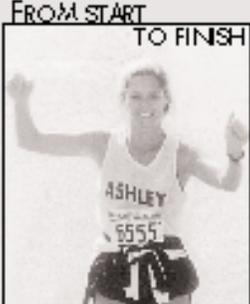
Menke Miller Service Award and Scholarship to Vanessa Fernandez from Miami Coral Park Senior High School. A very appreciative Vanessa thanked the Junior League of Miami by saying "Now I can go to the school I want to go to. Now I can study what I want."

"The JLM Community Service Award Committee is honored to take part in the selection of the 2005-06 honorees and scholarship recipient as well as to continue to support community service involvement in our community," said Jessica Ann Bennett-Porto, JLM Community Service Award



PHOTO FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
KMM Scholarship Winner Vanessa Fernandez with her sister and Mary A. Molina-Carballo (her CAP Advisor) and JLM President Andria Hanley.

Committee Chair. "We hope these young ladies will look forward to becoming League volunteers in the future." ❀



FROM START  
TO FINISH

*ABC*  
**Ashley Britson Cosack**

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Ashley is a Miami native who has led a successful real estate career for over a decade. Her sales performances annually distinguish her as a top producer.

An avid marathon runner, Ashley is just as passionate about each of her commitments, including her volunteer work with the Junior League of Miami, Benix Arts, and the Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure. She understands the importance of balancing family, work and community.

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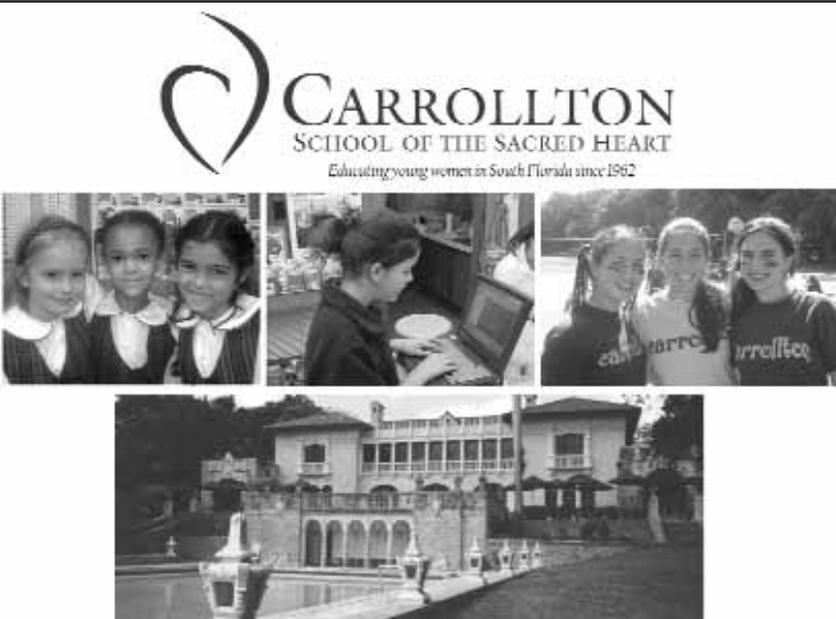

**“Kids in the Kitchen” continued from page 1**

of childhood obesity and its associated health issues, the League-wide program educated children and families about childhood obesity and nutrition, culminating in Junior League Volunteer Day, taking place during Volunteer Week, April 23-29, 2006.

“The Junior League of Miami’s Kids in the Kitchen encompassed all that is right and good for a Saturday afternoon with family and friends,” Andria Hanley, President of the Junior League of Miami, said. “We had fun and educational activities for the children and their parents and even our own League members left with a better sense of how to feed their families healthy food.”

On Junior League Volunteer Day in April, the Junior League of Miami members engaged children and their families at Inn Transition South (ITS) with activities designed to promote healthy eating choices and presented a healthy food festival with a Miami-Latin twist featuring an interactive cooking demonstration by our own Celebrity Chef Carmen, nutritional education and a fitness component. “Chef Carmen engaged every child by allowing them time on stage with her as she prepared a variety of healthy treats. As children grow up eating healthy, they will pass that on to the next generation which will lead to healthier and longer lives” said Hanley.

Among the many aspects of this grassroots campaign, the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), the umbrella organization of the Junior Leagues, has launched a virtual recipe collection featuring kid-friendly, nutritious recipes that are grouped into five categories: breakfast, lunchbox, dinner, snacks, and party treats. The virtual recipe collection is accessible at <http://kidsinthekitchen.ajli.org>.



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# The Junior League of Miami honor Women Who Make A Difference



By Melissa Schumacher

The Junior League of Miami celebrated Women Who Make a Difference in high style at THE COLLECTION in Coral Gables on Sunday, March 5, 2006. THE COLLECTION served as an excellent location and its staff added to the brilliance of the afternoon. This highly acclaimed event honored Melanie Emmons Damian; Virginia Emmons; Nancy T. Hector; Christina McKinnon, Esq.; and Ellen Shishko. In addition to saluting the honorees, guests enjoyed a

champagne brunch, fashion show by Lilly Pulitzer, a silent auction, and raffle.

"The main goal was to honor women who made significant contributions to our well-being here in South Florida and to have some income for future projects. It looks like the League accomplished this goal," said Junior League Sustainer, Jeannett Slesnick. "It takes so much effort to put together an affair like this. Everything was very well done. All in all, the WWMD (Women Who Make a Difference) brunch was fantastic!"



Bonita Whytehead and Michelle Ramirez-Patricios



Andria Hanley and Marichi O'Rourke of Montica Jewelry



Dr. Christina Urena and Susan Lerner



Keith Landon and Kim Brigham with little models

## Junior League of Miami Community Partners 2005-2006

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Name followed by a "\*" indicates an in-kind donation, and by "LL" indicates a participant as a League Leader in the Community Partners Annual Campaign.

Thank you for generous and thoughtful partnership with the Junior League of Miami, Inc.!  
(as of 05/01/06)

# Tour of Duty

By Albert Hanley, III

It is hard to believe that it has been almost 30 months since Andria was asked to serve as JLM President. The night of the call we were at dinner together at Caffe Abbracci. She answered the phone, put her hand to her mouth, and listened for a few minutes before she said, "I'd be honored".

A huge smile came over her face as she looked at me and told me what she had just agreed to. There have been many milestones in our life together and this night certainly ranked among them. I was very proud that an organization of over 1000 women would select her to lead it.

At the time I didn't fully understand what the next 2 1/2 years would be like. However, I started to get an idea after the 20th woman I met looked at me with a pitying 'you poor fool, get out while you still can' look.

As Andria's year draws to a close I think

about the many important things that the JLM has accomplished and continues to accomplish. Equally I think about her many wonderful friends and colleagues who always manage to look at me with a pained, yet sympathetic smile and ask "and how is it going for you Al?"

Believe it or not, it was very enjoyable for me. Watching Andria through these past 30 months has showed me a side of her that I had only had a few opportunities to glimpse. I have been able to see her as a leader, a mentor, an organizer, and a friend. Seeing her in her professional life has, more than anything else, been the 'untold reward' for me.

In this vein, I'd like to leave some tips that should be passed on to future "JLM widowers" (pay attention Josh) to make their experience more enjoyable:

- Go to every party! Go early and go often. The food is usually excellent, the bar is usually free and chances are you have already bought 20 tickets without knowing about it.

- Don't answer the phone at home, it's never for you. Most especially do not answer the phone on those afternoons when you've played hooky from the office – the caller may think you're a bum, when you're actually a connoisseur of "Gilligan's lost episodes".
- Try not to get choked up when every woman you meet tells you how great your wife is.
- When you hear people say "if women ran the democracies there would be no wars" – Don't believe it (you guys are tough)!
- Its only a few nights a month, and weekends, and weekdays . . .
- Meet the other guys – they know what you're going through.
- Avoid drinking red wine when wearing a dinner jacket.

The JLM has a fantastic mission and is one of those groups that actually make a difference in people's lives. Its tax deductible too! 🍷



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# Community Projects & Grants 2006-07

## Save the Dates!

Mark these 2006-07 fundraiser dates in your calendar for events you won't want to miss:

**October 13**  
Golf Tournament  
Key Biscayne

**November 11**  
*Miami: Who Makes a Magic City*  
A Celebration of the Junior League of Miami's 80 Magical Years  
Coral Gables Country Club

**March 2007**  
*Women Who Make A Difference Luncheon*

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

**Alonzo Mourning Charities (Honey Shine)** Our League volunteers coordinate and implement a day-long career and education workshop with speakers and information booths for at-risk girls.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters (Project REACH)** Our League volunteers organize recreational and educational outings for approximately 100 youngsters who are waiting for matches with Big Brother and Big Sister mentors.

**CHARLEE (Creative Expressions)** Our League volunteers provide positive role model behavior and plan and assist in the instruction of art therapy projects at the Gladstone Center for Girls, enabling the girls in foster care to express their feelings and gain self esteem.

**CHARLEE (Mentoring Moms)** Our League volunteers become one-on-one mentors with pregnant teens in a group home, teaching them parenting skills, nurturing and care of oneself, and independent living skills.

**Children's Bereavement Center** Our League volunteers, after receiving specialized training, co-facilitate peer support groups for children and families who have suffered the death of a parent, sibling, or other significant loved one.

**Children's Psychiatric Center (All-Aboard Even Start Family Literacy)** At Riverside Elementary, just north of downtown Miami, our League volunteers assist in the coordination and facilitation of family literacy nights, provide dinner, conduct storytelling and thematic activities that

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encourage children and caregivers to practice both verbal skills and print literacy. We also distribute related books and materials.

**Done In A Day** This committee responds to planned and impromptu requests from the community for trained volunteers to assist in community events within the League's focus areas. League members participate in hands-on projects throughout Miami-Dade County such as the Race for the Cure and the Heart Fair.

**Inn Transition North** The League's flagship project for the past 16 years has provided housing and resources to women and children who are victims of domestic violence as part of a public-private partnership with Miami-Dade County. Our League volunteers mentor a family and participate in regular outings with the families in residence.

**Inn Transition South** The Junior League of Miami assisted Greater Miami Neighborhoods in building a 56-unit complex in South Date to address the needs of victims of domestic violence and homelessness. ITS provides transitional housing for families and works to empower mothers to build strong fami-

lies and harvest new opportunities. League members plan monthly life skills/parenting events for the women and organize activities for the children.

**Kathryn Menke Miller Community Service Awards** The Junior League of Miami awards college scholarships to high school senior girls for outstanding academic performance and community service.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

**Miami Children's Hospital** Car Seats for Kids for victims of domestic violence families, including Inn Transition facilities.

**Continental Societies** Familial and educational programs at Little River Elementary School and COPE Center North for teen parents.

**Pearls, Pumps, and Portfolios** Client Employee Development training for victims of domestic violence.

**Suited For Success** START Now job training work experience for CHARLEE foster care girls.

**Notre Dame d'Haiti** Summer camp for children in Little Haiti.

**Boys and Girls Clubs of Miami** Computers for after-school program at Northwest unit.

**Humane Society of Greater Miami** Education program through pet therapy for at-risk youth in transitional housing and shelters.

**Educate Tomorrow** Meals and supplies for foster care children in the College Tour program.

**PACE Center for Girls** Spirited Girls program for at-risk girls.

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# Annual Meeting

By Valerie Harvey

The atmosphere was electric at the General Membership Meeting at Fairchild Tropical Gardens on May 16th as another great Junior League year was wrapped up. The crowd cheered on as Annual Awards were announced and this year's accomplishments were reviewed in a video presentation. The night ended with the gavel coming down, signaling the end of a successful 2005-06 year of leadership by Andria Hanley, and the start of another



undoubtedly fun and productive year, under the leadership of Susan Lerner.

*We thank Paper Boutique for their generous donation of Annual Meeting Invitations*



# Policy Update

by Lynn Sands, Journal Staff

## What's New in JLM: Policy Changes for 2005-2006

Policy changes do not have to be approved by the membership, as they are matters that are voted on by the Board. However, all members should be informed of them, as they could directly affect membership. While the board minutes are available online if anyone is interested in the details, here is a brief synopsis of the approved policy changes for the upcoming year.

**Kathryn Menke Miller (KMM) Award:** This year, the deadlines, process and terminology have been changed. Each public high school in Miami Dade County is asked to select one female who best exemplifies a commitment to the community as a nominee for the Community Service award by March 1. Each nominee is eligible to apply for the scholarship, and will be invited to a reception during the April

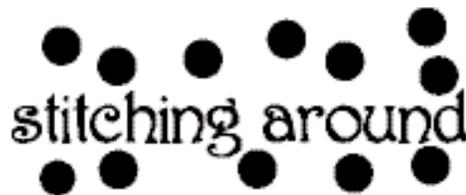
General Membership meeting, during which time all nominees will be honored and the KMM scholarship winner(s) will be announced.

**Volunteer Requirements:** Under "Placement Committee - General Policies" section (e) has been modified to reflect that a \$75 penalty shall be assessed at the close of each Junior League year prior to May 20th to each member who fails to fulfill her requirement of either purchasing a ticket to a JLM fundraiser or working a community or fundraiser shift.

**Managerial Calendar Requirement for all Chairs:** This

passed at the board meeting, but the final language has not been selected. All committee chairs, please be aware of and look for this change that requires that a Managerial Calendar be created for each committee and passed on to the incoming chair every year with updates.

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# Provisional Year in Review



by Heather Shueppert

It was not so long ago that we welcomed the Provisionals to Super Saturday on September 10, 2005. Now, we are very proud to announce the graduation of 55 amazing women as the newest Actives of the Junior League of Miami. The Provisional Commencement took place on April 18 at the Miami City Club, which was the perfect setting to celebrate their achievements and share stories from the past year. We were honored to have

Claudia Kitchens, past President and Executive Director of the Women's Fund as our keynote speaker – definitely inspiring! Overlooking the beautiful Bay and skyline of Miami, each woman received a rose and gift bag as our special thanks for all that they have done. Their accomplishments in the past year have been vast, giving over 2,310 hours of volunteer time to the local community. Their projects this past year included an outstanding festival of fun at Inn Transition South, a building of a library,

landscaping and painting of a mural at Inn Transition North, the Spring Cleaning and painting of picnic tables at Hurwit Crisis Nursery, the landscaping and painting at Kristi House, the fun outing with the kids through Big Brothers Big Sisters, a Valentine's Day party and poetry contest at PACE, arts and crafts with the kids from Gladstone and an informative and life-saving CPR event at CHARLEE. Aside from fulfilling their requirements, I am sure you saw many of their smiling faces at meetings and socials eager to meet other members in the League. Each and every one of our newest Actives went above and beyond the League's expectations and truly made a difference. We are also happy to announce that many of these women will be taking leadership roles next year. If you are still looking for some outstanding members for your committee, definitely call upon them – that is, if someone else hasn't snatched them up first! Congratulations again to this fantastic group of women. We look forward to watching you grow in the League and become the future leaders of this community. 🍷



## New Actives

Nicole Andrejko  
 Alexandra Bach-Armas  
 Jane Bhatt  
 Lauren Bowman  
 Alina Callahan  
 Martha Clarke  
 Linda Criblez  
 Courtney Denaro  
 Elizabeth Dougherty  
 Misha Ebbert  
 Mary Claire Espenkotter  
 Adriana Farelo  
 Lizbeth Flores  
 Kari Garland

Laura Goldberg  
 Isabella Henry  
 Jennifer Herskowitz  
 Reagan Hoy  
 Kathy Huxley  
 Nhu Lam  
 Kristen Landis  
 Betsy Magde  
 Elizabeth Martialay  
 Lavonia Martin-Chambers  
 Leslie McQueen  
 Sarah Michel  
 Sandra Millor

Mary Jane Miranda  
 Anne Marie Muller  
 Nicole Nagel  
 Stephanie O'Day  
 Lauren Ozbolt  
 Stacey Packman  
 Ameli Padron  
 Helen Picard-Malfavon  
 Nicole Portal  
 Veronica Ramirez  
 Courtney Rankin  
 Daru Ransford  
 Erin Ryan  
 Kim Sarkisian,

Meredith Schmidt  
 Christine Scholl  
 Trang Schwartz  
 Kara Sharp  
 Natalie Solis  
 Lisa Squiers  
 Keri Touby  
 Lucy Ulmer  
 Anna Marie Valladares  
 Elizabeth Vargas  
 Cristina Velasquez  
 Chelsea Wilkerson  
 Lauren Zuckerman  
 Sarah Zuckerman

# Sustainer News

By Allison Freeland



**T**hank you to everyone who attended the Spring Sustainer Cocktail party. It was a beautiful evening, and we are very appreciative to Lindy and Dean Colson for opening their home to the event. Thank you also to Sara Sharpe Catering for providing us with such a wonderful buffet.

As the JLM year draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone on the Sustainer committee for their help in planning the events this year. From start to finish and from hurricane to hurricane (and the disarray after), we had a great year. In particular we would like to thank Maggie Blake, Lindy Colson, Anna Ehlert, Severy Gautier, Priscilla Greenfield, Theo Long, Karen McCammon, Susan McGrath, Ellen Oppenheimer, Galia Pennekamp, Leslie

Rivera, Sandra Steenrod, Sarah Woods and Mary Young for their leadership, ideas and commitment to the JLM Sustainers.

Thank you also to Andria Hanley (President), Susan Lerner (President-Elect), and the JLM Board of Directors for their ongoing enthusiasm and leadership. It has been wonderful working with all of you.

We welcome Sally Doerner (sallyro1@aol.com), incoming Sustainer Chair, and Caroline Blake (mcblake@hotmail.com), incoming Sustainer Liaison, and wish them well as they start off the 2006-2007 JLM Sustainer year this September. If you are interested in participating in Sustainer events next year, please contact them. They are hoping to recruit more members to the Sustainer committee and would love your input.

## New Sustainers

Thank you to all these Actives for 134 years of volunteer service. We wish them well in their Sustaining years!

- Jessica Bennett-Porto, 1997
- Kim Brigham, 1995
- Laura Decker, 1996
- Allison Freeland, 1994
- Stephanie Kirby, 1998
- Brenda Murphy-Love, 1998
- Margaret Nee, 1997
- Alden Pimental, 1998
- Laura Rick, 1996
- Cybelle Santo Domingo, 1998
- Gail Scott, 1995
- Roselyn Smith, 1996
- Amy Sussman, 1995
- Christine Griffard
- Tochtermann, 1997

### 2005-06 Active and Provisional Year In Review

7731 volunteer hours worked    2298 children served    140 events    \$249,870

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# Spring SPAC Conference in Tallahassee

## Features Miami's Own Speaker-Designate Representative Marco Rubio

By Kimberley Thompson

Florida's legislative session officially opened March 7, 2006. For the Junior League's 24 statewide Public Affairs Committees (PACs), it marked the culmination of a year long advocacy effort focused on foster care/aging out, human trafficking, the prevention of childhood obesity and getting funding reinstated for Guardian Ad Litem. Therefore, it was no surprise that when the 40-plus SPAC delegates, officers, and other honorary guests gathered for Junior League's Spring SPAC Conference in Tallahassee, the room at the Governors Club was buzzing with enthusiasm and excitement.

During the two-day conference April 5-6, attendees heard from distinguished guest speakers such as Representative Randy Johnson from Orange County, Representative Adam Hasner from

Broward and Palm Beach Counties and Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings (the first woman to hold the office as well as Florida's first, and only, two-term State Senate President). SPAC Delegates had the rare opportunity to get some one-on-one time with Miami's own Speaker-designate, Representative Marco Rubio who detailed his "100 Innovative Ideas" (please see [www.100ideas.org](http://www.100ideas.org)) platform and how Leaguers could utilize this initiative. SPAC hosted a legislative reception with special guests including noted children's advocate Jack Levine, education lobbyist Doug Martin and renowned human rights professor, Dr. Terry Coonan. More than 16 Florida legislators attended the reception and break-out sessions over the two day conference.

Dr. Coonan urged a fervent "call to action" in the fight against human trafficking. Human trafficking significantly impacts South Florida and its devastating effects

dren—fall victim to human trafficking forcing them into a tragic life filled with threats and physical abuse to prevent them from escaping.

The last day of conference focused on appointment of officers and voting. Incoming SPAC officers for FY2006-07. Carol Bryant (a former JLM member who recently transferred to Tallahassee) was named Legislative Analyst and a new position called "Sustaining Advisor" was created and will be filled by JLM Sustainer Vicki Lopez-Lukis.

The upcoming year and next legislative session offer a tremendous opportunity for JLM and its members. The South Florida legislative delegation is probably the strongest it has been in more than 12 years. Your voice can truly make a difference. JLM members have the ability to both educate and motivate our legislators regarding vital issues for our children. Florida's current legislative session addressed many important decisions affecting both programs and adequate funding for women, children and families. Key issues such as student safety/violence prevention (SB 1384/ HB 0087), education funding and class size (ASB 1148/ HB 0447), stronger laws against sexual offenders (SB 0508/ HB 0339 and SB 0640/ HB 0763), adequate funding for KidCare (SB0972/ HB 0241), prevention of childhood obesity (SB 1324/ HB 7203), as well as various bills addressing juvenile justice.

If you would like to check on the status of any of these bills, you can go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov) or [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov). And if you have any questions about JLM's role in the State Public Affairs Committee or how to get involved during the coming year, please contact Kimberley Thompson at [kimberdt@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberdt@hotmail.com) or directly at (305) 495-2512. 

touch many of our JLM community projects including Inn Transition North and South (domestic violence), Kristi House (sexual assault), Children's Bereavement Center, and Mentoring Moms. It seems inconceivable that in this day and age—and especially here in South Florida—people are being bought, sold and traded for servitude or for sex. Sadly, the staggering truth is that, every year, an estimated 700,000 to 4 million people—most of them women, and an alarming number of them chil-

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### WHERE DO YOU SHOP?

We want to get those stores where you really shop signed on to the shopping card fundraiser. Please e-mail the names of stores to klykendrick@adelphia.net. Also, if you know any retailers and would be willing to assist in introducing the Junior League please let us know.

#### 2005-2006 SuperLeaguers

SUMMER 2005: Betsy Harper,  
Jennifer Quezada

SEPTEMBER 2005: Liza Winklejohn

OCTOBER 2005: Jamie Adams

NOVEMBER 2005: Caroline Blake

DECEMBER 2005: Cristina Lunsford

JANUARY 2006: Kim Sarkisian,  
Provisional

FEBRUARY 2006: Ashley Adorno  
and Sharla Wilson

MARCH 2006: Jennifer Wilson

#### 2005-2006 Leadership Awards

SUMMER 2005: Valerie Harvey

SEPTEMBER 2005: Bonita Whytehead

OCTOBER 2005: Lorrie Martin

NOVEMBER 2005: Katie Lane Arriola  
and Jennifer Buttrick

DECEMBER 2005: Allison Freeland

JANUARY 2006: Candace Vassillion

FEBRUARY 2006: Betty Lopez Castro  
and Christina Urena

MARCH 2006: Jessica Bennett-Porto

### President's Volunteer Service Award Winners

#### Bronze

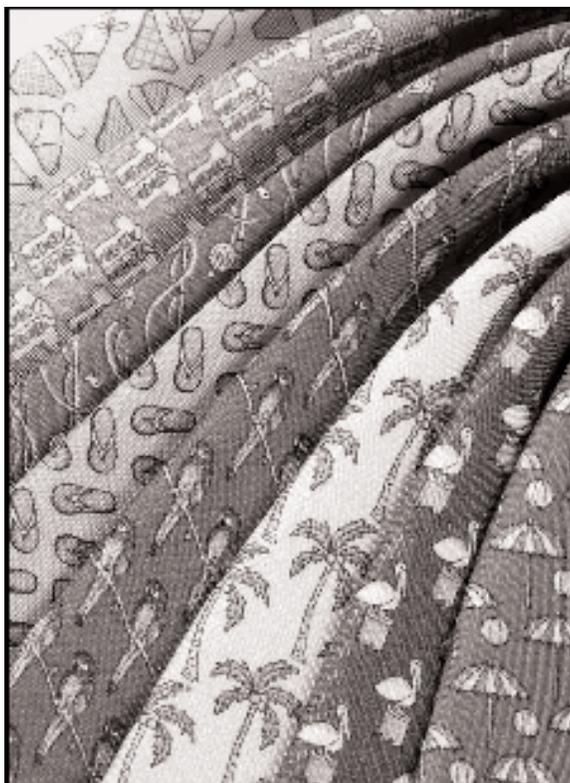
Tina Towery  
Betty Lopez-Castro  
Aniella Gonzalez  
Christie Wolfe  
Valerie Harvey  
Caroline Blake  
Lori Tashman-Corrada  
Lorrie Martin  
Bibi Cruz-Ledon  
Betsy Harper  
Juliet Bianca  
Sandra Nojaim  
Michelle Ramirez-Patricios

#### Silver

Catherine Grieve  
Jennifer Buttrick  
Heather Schueppert  
Susan Lerner

#### Gold

Andria Hanley  
Bonita Whytehead



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# Lauren Harrison Genovese, 2006-07 President Elect

Interviewed by Susan Lerner

**Where were you born and raised?** I was born in Houston, Texas, just after my parents returned to the States after living in Venezuela for 14 years, where my three older siblings were born. I was raised on a working farm and cattle ranch in south/central Texas.

**What were your favorite things to do as a child?** Riding my Shetland pony, Sam, bareback and barefoot. Also reading Nancy Drew mysteries and writing fiction.

**Where did you attend college and what did you study?** I completed my BBA in Finance from Texas A&M University in three years with honors. I plotted out my curriculum upon graduation from high school, informed my Mother that I would be able to finish early, and when she scoffed, internalized my goal! After working for a couple of years, I attended The University of Texas at Austin, for my MBA, Finance.

**Tell us about your career.** I worked for 21 years as a financial and accounting consultant for several firms including Price Waterhouse and Arthur Andersen. My projects involved providing advice to companies in financial distress (sometimes in bankruptcy, sometimes not) or to their creditors. I also performed fraud investigations and provided testimony as an expert. The most rewarding part of my work was to help companies avert the need to file bankruptcy, or to successfully reorganize. I also loved developing and mentor-

ing younger professionals. The most difficult part of the work was advising clients to reduce their work force by as much as 50%, and working with executives at one of the worst times of their lives. I worked long hours and traveled significantly.

**Tell us about your family life and your hobbies.** My husband John and I have been married for 11 years. John is an attorney specializing in bankruptcy and litigation and has his own firm. After three and one-half years of hard work with fertility specialists, I finally became pregnant with our beautiful twins Stefan and Alessandra, who are now 18 months old. John and I love to travel although we travel a bit less these days, and we enjoy movies and film festivals. I also enjoy pilates and reading history and historically based fiction.

**What have been the most challenging parts of your life to date and how have you dealt with them?** My father died unexpectedly when I was nine, and my mother died when I was 36 after a lengthy illness. I think that at times like these we have no choice but to reach deep within ourselves to find a source of strength. From life experience and my mother's example, I learned the importance of self-reliance at an early age.

**What inspired you to join the League and then to commit yourself as a leader?** I joined the League for two reasons: I wanted to learn more about the various charitable organizations in our

community, and I wanted to expand my social network beyond my professional acquaintances. Time is a very precious commodity to me; I would only choose to become involved in an organization that I am willing to be involved in a meaningful way. I believe in mutually beneficial and rewarding relationships.

**Tell us your path to President Elect of the League.** I have co-chaired and chaired the Women Who Make a Difference Luncheon, and have served on the Board the past three years as Treasurer, VP Finance, and most recently, VP Development.

**What is your vision and wish list for our members during their League experience?** My wish for each and every one of our members is for them to emerge as Sustainers with enhanced relationships and skills that they will bring to bear in a meaningful way in a community charity of their choice. I want our members to learn how to become better citizens of the future.

**What do you think the League will look like when it turns 100 in 2026?** The only thing certain is that change is inevitable. The League must remain flexible, guided by our smart, caring and competent members to remain viable and relevant in the future. 



## Cristi's Closet

- Bring your teen girls' or womens' clothing and accessories in good condition (and household items too!) to Cristi's Closet!
- Cristi's Closet is located in downtown Coral Gables at 241 University Drive. The store is open (and accepting merchandise) Tuesday - Saturday from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm. The store's telephone number is 305.446.7777.
- Spring and summer merchandise is preferred at this time. Be sure to leave your name and indicate that the donated merchandise is for the JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIAMI! JLM will receive 50% of the sales proceeds from all items donated by our members!

# CELEBRATING OTHERS' SUCCESS

It's been seven years since I've had an opportunity to thank our League for enriching my life... while enriching those that we serve and those that I have served "with". In those years that passed, however, I don't think I ever forgot the first lesson that I learned the year I was a Provisional; "We have the responsibility to act and we have the opportunity to conscientiously act to affect the world around us". More importantly we have the opportunity to "share success" and celebrate the successes of those around us as we serve others.

Andria afforded me the wonderful opportunity to re-connect with her and each of you and most interestingly to re-unite with four of your leaders (who became active members during my Presidency): 2005 – 2006 Board Members: Susan Lerner, Michele Ramirez-Patricios, Bonita Whytehead, and Lori Tashman-Corrada.

I had the good fortune of watching Valerie Harvey (who I proposed that same year as a Provisional ) launch our League into the "hi-tech world" of on-line service while sharing in the joy of Erin Knight's son Rainey's birth and Vicky Huck's daughter, Gracie's arrival.



BY:  
**MARY M. YOUNG**  
SUSTAINING ADVISOR  
PRESIDENT 1998 - 1999

While re-uniting with my former Assistant to the President, Allison Freeland; I enjoyed watching Candace Vassillion, Maria Beguiristain, Lorrie Martin and Catherine Grieve's careers sometimes change...but always flourish.

President Elect-Elect Lauren Harrison never ceased to amaze me as the "calm, collected" mother of one year old twins while Loretta Nido celebrated an "important birthday" with hardly letting any of us know.

This was a year that I returned to two of my longest League friendships...Sondra Space and Kim Prebish (our bookkeeper who was my 1990 Provisional classmate) and forged a special new friendship with Juliet Bianca.

Celebrating your success and the success that your President, Andria Hanley, has lead you to has been A JOY!

I am grateful to each of this year's Board members and to you and thank you for allowing me to share in "celebrating others' successes"!



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For photos of Junior League  
events, please see  
[www.jlmiami.org/gallery](http://www.jlmiami.org/gallery)



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