

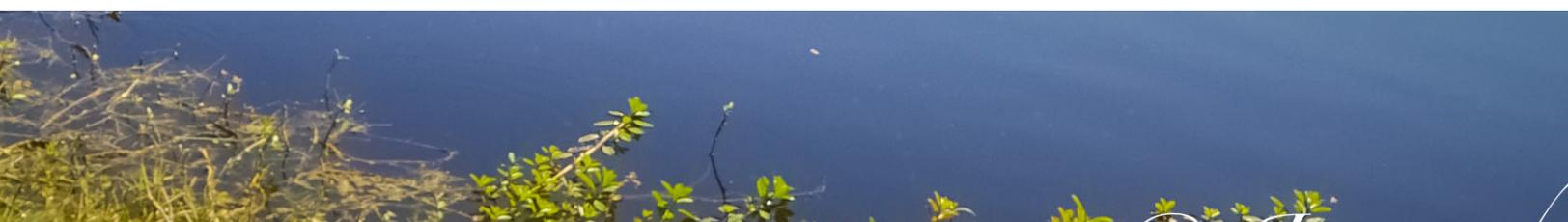


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seaoots

junior league of clearwater-dunedin, inc.

spring 2014



WELCOME TO MAY EVERY

of Clearwater-Dunedin



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President's Message

Terri Kontodiakos

It was an eventful year for the league. Our community focus began to come to fruition with the grand opening of the Ross Norton Teen Training Center in September of 2012. This facility has been a place for teens in foster care as a place they can come for their wellness, both internally and externally. I am proud of the hard work and tenacity that our ladies showed to make this dream become a reality. To watch the foster youth receive their recreation cards, and see the trainings the League has provided has been very moving. As we continue to find a permanent home for the teens in the foster care system, we thank the City of Clearwater for their partnership this past year. It was a wonderful way to kick off the 2012-13 league year and the fun did not stop there. We hosted General Membership meetings at the facility and hosted many other foster youth events there throughout the year finishing with the Provisionals, "Best Day Ever" project.

I am amazed at the talented, selfless, caring, giving, and strong women that make up our membership. We all come to the table with such unique gifts and together we are a powerful, life altering team with the ability to do such great work. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the president and I was blessed beyond measure when I was asked to serve as the president for the current 2013-2014 league year. Many League Presidents have mentioned to me that at the end of year of their Presidency, they felt they had learned so much. Our League's move towards a two year presidency will ensure that leaders are both able to learn and then take that knowledge to action, while allowing a second year to mentor their successor. This is a true gift to both the women in leadership and the League.

Full disclosure time- I admit that when it was first presented, it seemed quite daunting. Being the president comes with a host of responsibilities, but the more I thought about it, I was overwhelmed with the benefits. I would get to continue the work of the league and sit at the table with some amazingly talented women. I am exposed to their excitement, struggles, and inspirations. It was not something I could turn down. As I sit and write this article, I can tell you how honored I am to continue to serve as your President.

If you are reading this, it means you are a member, partner, sponsor, or someone who has an interest in the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin. Regardless, you are involved in our League, and for that I thank you. I look forward to all of the wonderful things that our League has coming in our future and celebrate the accomplishments that occurred in our past. Thank you for your partnership.

BY THE NUMBERS

29

Thanksgiving
Meals delivered

48

LIFESTART KITS DELIVERED FOR
THE 2012-2013 LEAGUE YEAR

Christmas
Stockings
delivered

424

Total number of
JLCD Members

24

NUMBER OF LADIES IN
THE 2013-2014
PROVISIONAL CLASS

50

Years the JLCD has
held Art Harvest

150

JL ladies from **25**
leagues participated
in the 2013 Hill Day
visiting legislators

Meals delivered to
members in 2013-2014

8

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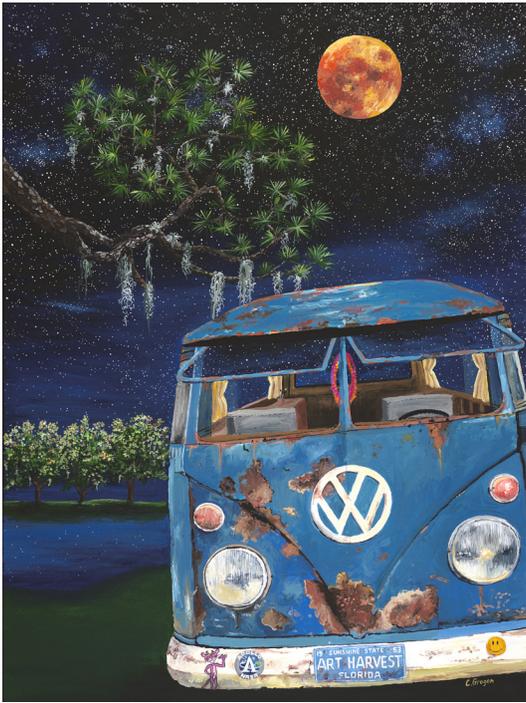
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Art Harvest 2013

A Flood of an Anniversary

We were prepared for everything; everything, except the torrential rain that kicked off Saturday morning. Thanks to a wonderful team of resourceful and determined women supported by a phenomenal park and rec staff and a few good men and women, hay was laid out, trenches were dug and temperamental artists were soothed. After a record rainfall on Saturday and contemplations of the value of rain boots, our dedicated Art Harvest fans make their way to Highlander Park as the skies began to clear. Now we could really celebrate fifty years of Art Harvest and the influence of the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin on our community.

The celebration was kicked off by our annual Patron's Party that embraced half a century of history. Syd Entel hosted the party at her Safety Harbor gallery and shared the memorabilia she has collected from her time in the League. News clippings from the League's many accomplishments showed a long tradition of care and commitment to our part of Tampa Bay. Did you know Junior Leaguers used to wear plaid skirts and white blouses topped with plaid scarves? Though quite fetching, this is one tradition happily left in the past. Patrons included Publix, Tech Data, Tampa Bay Times, Johnson Pope Bokor Ruppel Burns, LLP, T. Rowe Price, Dimmitt Auto Group, Tampa Bay Magazine and Brighthouse Networks. A delectable menu was provided by Carrabba's Restaurant of Palm Harbor. Few can resist lobster mac and cheese.

This year's featured artist was Cheryl Grogan of Gulfport. A six year veteran of Art Harvest, Cheryl is a true Floridian. Her painting and photography depict typical Florida scenes as seen by her unique eye. To design the featured piece she looked back to 1963, Art Harvest's first year, for inspiration. The oil on canvas painting features a 1963 VW bus under a harvest moon along the Bay. An Art Harvest vanity plate and a NASA bumper sticker commemorate the start of Art Harvest and the Apollo program. It's safe to say we have been to the moon and back. What we have achieved in fifty years! Discover Cheryl's work online, www.gulfportartstudio.com.



This year's featured artist was Cheryl Grogan of Gulfport. A six year veteran of Art Harvest, Cheryl is a true Floridian. Her painting and photography depict typical Florida scenes as seen by her unique eye

Sunday of Art Harvest dawned clear and bright and brought record numbers of attendees to Art Harvest. While a few braved the rain on Saturday, our dedicated art aficionados made their love of Art Harvest clear on the final day. Never before have we been forced to call Dunedin police to help manage traffic as a one hour wait to park built up. Golf carts could not make their way through the crowds and artists had docked at Highland Park.

Special gratitude goes to our wonderful chairs, Stacy Walker and Katherine Schmidgall, chair elect, Kelly Luense Dulin and Gwin Londrigan for her exceptional advisory role. These ladies were backed by a stellar committee including Kathi Beckman, Tamara Black, Karen Carli, Cristina Cruz LeFebvre, Betsey DiSanza, Leigh Ann Sarantopoulos, Laura Iosa, Meghan Justice, Kandy Pinkstaff and Jessica Rae.

Art Harvest

Art Harvest 2013 Committee Members include: **Chairs: Stacy Walker and Katherine Schmidgall**
Chair Elect: Kelly Luense Dulin

Kathi Beckman, Tamara Black, Karen Carli, Christina Cruz LeFebvre, Betsey DiSanza, Laura Iosa, Meghan Justice, Kandy Pinkstaff, Jessica Rae and Leigh Ann Sarantopoulos.



THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS:

MICHELANGELO

Stacey Shy and Jamie Cheek
Becky and Steve Cole
Amy and Gary Connors
Dr. Irwin and Syd Entel
Kelly and Casey Dulin
Angie Ewbank
Lauren Jennifer Goad
Sally Guthrie
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Jeanne Murrill
Katherine Schmidgall
Betsy Schweitzer
Syd Entel Galleries
Susan Benjamin Glass, Etc
Stacy and Jimmy Walker

BERNINI

Kathleen K. Markham

RODIN

Kathi Beckman
Tamara and Rob Black
Katie Coleman
Lora and Alex Iosa
Sara E. Barr Palmer
LeighAnn Sarantopoulos
Tampa Bay Highland Dancers

Artist Award Winners:

Best of Show
John Thursby
Oil/Acrylic

Award of Distinction
Richard Currier
Oil/Acrylic

Best Booth
Juliana Anca
Mixed Media

1-Award of Excellence
Unmarid Eitharong
Mixed Media

2-Award of Excellence
Judith Wood
Mixed Media

3-Award of Excellence
Fong Choo
Ceramics

4-Award of Excellence
John Kellum
Ceramics

5-Award of Excellence
David Hunter
Graphics

6-Award of Excellence
Carolyn Cohen
Graphics

7-Award of Excellence
Scott Mascoll
Wood

8-Award of Excellence
James Carter
Oil/Acrylic

9-Award of Excellence
David Figueroa
Scripture

10-Award of Excellence
Susanna Spann
Watercolor

1-Award of Merit
William Kidd
Ceramics

2-Award of Merit
Scott Menaul
Digital

3-Award of Merit
Andres Medina
Fiber

4-Award of Merit
Toby McGee
Glass

5-Award of Merit
Jeff Eckert
Graphics

6-Award of Merit
Rick Austin
Jewelry

7-Award of Merit
William Armstrong
Metal

8-Award of Merit
Rolly Ray Reel
Mixed Media

9-Award of Merit
Ernest Simmons
Oil/Acrylic

10-Award of Merit
Robert Clibbon
Photography

11-Award of Merit
Kostas Ulevicius
Sculpture

12-Award of Merit
Michael Webber
Watercolor

13-Award of Merit
Paul LaMontagne
Wood



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2013 Annual Dinner

A great party and good time was had by all at the 2013 Annual Dinner where we celebrated all our success and accomplishments together!

MAGNIFICENT MEMBER AWARD

A league member who positively influenced our League this year.

Meg Lokey

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE AWARD

League members who have worked hard setting the course for our League in the years to come.

Deona Cole & Meagan Decker

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER AWARD

An outstanding fundraiser for the League.

Jori Zarra

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

A member who helped our league make a meaningful impact on the community.

Jody Grutza

GOLDEN HANGER AWARD

A member who donates the most to the Scot Shop in each League year.

Amy Connors

SPIRIT OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE AWARD

Someone who embodies the spirit of the JL and volunteerism.

Salimah Kemp

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

A member who does outstanding League work and community volunteer work.

Sarah Miller

PROVISIONALS OF THE YEAR

Melissa More, Mary Ellen Shaffer & Genevieve White

LEAGUE ANNIVERSARIES

10 Years: Dawn Scott

5 Years: Helene Dalmanieras, Kristine Hann, Ellen Kent, Sarah Miller and Stevie Moore

SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR

Ernestine Bean



CELEBRATE

Congratulations to the members who went sustaining 2012-2013. The league is indebted to your service. Thank you for your hard work, expertise, and friendship.

Felicia Leonard Dawn Scott Kelly Miller Mila Carlisle



91st Association of Junior League's Annual Conference: Leadership Empowered

By: Genevieve White, Chair of Communications & Chair-Elect of Membership Development

Simply put, 'Leadership Empowered' describes what we as Junior League women are: 'an extraordinary breed of woman capable of leading her community and getting others to follow in tackling society's thorniest issues and orchestrating monumental, meaningful change while enhancing the social, cultural, and political fabric of our civil society.'

AJLI debuted the new "It Starts With A Woman" video that illustrates the premise of the Junior League Mission and the impact of the League's work on the problems faced in communities across all Leagues. It was an exciting, quick look into what being a member of Junior League is all about. JLCD's Membership Development Committee was able to show the video a couple of times throughout recruitment over the summer.

Our Key Note Speaker for the conference, Zainab Salbi, gave a very moving presentation on what it is like to be an agent of change and awareness for women around the world. Zainab, an Iraqi-American writer and women's rights activist, is the founder of Women for Women International, an organization that helps equip women from war- and conflict-torn countries with job skills and training. Zainab recently released her latest book, "If You Knew Me, You Would Care," which features many of the stories she told in her address from women in areas such as Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Rwanda.

With a placement in Membership, one of the more interesting presentations I attended included the PALS session, Presidents and League Sharing for medium-sized leagues. The focus of this particular session was presentations and discussions around membership retention and growth. We learned that most other like-size leagues are struggling with member retention, with most losing members between the 1-3 year active mark. Several inspiring practices other leagues have implemented included having multiple new member classes (over 29% of leagues have two or more), a flexible commitment (requirement) system such as our point system, additional training efforts outside of general meetings such as online or small group events, and simple methods to recognize and thank members for their time and effort as well as a method for thanking those employers or family members impacted by each member's volunteer service in the League. We hope to potentially incorporate some of these ideas into our Membership efforts.

It was an honor and privilege to represent the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin (JLCD) at the AJLI Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Our active delegates included Terri Kontodiakos, Gwin Londrigan, Kristine Hann, Angie Ewbank, Maggie Ciadella, Leslie Hanley, and Genevieve White. We must acknowledge the remarkable leadership JLCD has in two extraordinary members currently serving as part of the AJLI Board: Kathy Rabon and Gwin Londrigan. To have not one, but two women on the AJLI board is a true honor to our league that must be celebrated.



FROM GROUPER TO GRITS

The official cookbook of Clearwater-Dunedin, *From Grouper to Grits*, continues to be our League's contribution to the legacy of Junior League Cookbooks. It is through our cookbook that we are able to showcase our region's local fare and popular restaurants.

From Vidalia onion cheese dip to seafood gumbo to key lime pie with macadamia nut crust, one can get a delectable representation of our southern coastal flavor. Since 2005, the cookbook has been a vital contributor to the JLCD's fiscal health.

[Cranberry-Nut Bread with Cream Cheese Filling, Page 30- Grouper to Grits Cookbook](#)

Ingredients:

Cream Cheese filling:

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 egg
1/3 c. sugar
1 tbl. All purpose flour

Bread ingredients:

boiling water
juice of 1 orange
grated zest of 1 orange
2 tbl. butter
1 c. sugar
1 egg
1 c. chopped cranberries
1/2½. chopped nuts
2 c. all purpose flour
1/2½sp. baking soda
1/2½sp. salt

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Combine cream cheese, 1 egg , 1/3 c. sugar and 1 tbl. flour in a mixing bowl and beat until blended.

Combine enough boiling water and orange juice to measure 3/4 c. Add orange zest and butter and mix well. In another bowl- mix 1 c. sugar and 1 egg and beat well. Add to orange mixture and mix well. Stir in cranberries and nuts. Sift 2 c. flour, baking soda and salt together in a bowl. Add to orange mixture and mix well.

Pour 2/3 of batter into a greased 5x9-inch loaf pan. Pour the cream cheese mixture over the center of the batter. Pour the remaining 1/3 batter over the filling.

Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour.
Cool in pan for 15 minutes.
Remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

For best results, do not slice the bread for 8 hours.



THE BEST DAY



By: Mary Ellen Shaffer VP of Communications, Chair-Elect Membership Connections

This year's provisional class decided to take the provisional project in a new direction. At the September 2012 General Meeting, we all heard how Ashley Rhodes-Courter described growing up in foster care. For these youth, there is little time to celebrate the simple things, much less birthdays or holidays. When our class learned this, The Best Day Ever was born. We wanted to give the youth a day to celebrate being them, to let their guard down, even if for a moment, and have fun.

Planning went into high gear in January with meetings with Ready for Life's Youth board helping us out. JLCD members met with the youth to find out what would be the Best Day Ever for them. The youth spoke at 90 miles a minute with all of the things they would love (and not love, like pizza) for the event.

Our day would not have been so grand if it were not for some of the fundraising efforts made by some of our Provisionals. Kathi Beckman approached the Dunedin Blue Jays and they made the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin their charity of choice for 2013. By selling signed game balls and Opportunity to Win tickets, they helped us raise \$4539.00 for our event. The funds we did not use for the Best Day Ever will be spent helping buy equipment and other needed items for the Ross Norton Teen Center. The Best Day Ever also received donations from many other companies for the event. The companies are listed next to this article.

The day of the event arrived. We were nervous about attendance, would the youth show up? Would they have a good time? We sat apprehensively in the event space waiting for those first few faces to arrive. Slowly, thirty attendees made their way to the Ross Norton Teen Center for The Best Day Ever. There was a mix of activities for all interests. Aveda provided two beauticians to style hair or provide manicures. There was a photo booth for participants to take funny photos and a character artist to make pictures of the participants. There was a HUGE blow up obstacle course, basketballs, hula-hoops, and two Zumba instructors tore up the dance floor. Then, there was the food. There was a huge candy bar, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, healthy salads and sandwiches, and as all best days should include -- cupcakes! Finally, one could not forget the hilariousness of the Sumo Wrestling competitions that took place in the center of the gym.

The foster youth were so appreciative of the day, many commenting that it was indeed the best day ever. Many let loose, ready to try anything and everything we provided. One thing that many of us learned that day was that we need to keep offering the educational opportunities for these youth, but we also need to remember that they are kids. Being kids, they also deserve to have fun. Through the fun and good times, we are also helping round out their life experiences.

The provisional class would like to thank the Junior League members that volunteered at the event, those that donated some of the asked for items and for helping spread the word for the event.

EVER



Thank you for supporting
THE BEST DAY EVER
hosted by the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin

The Dunedin Bluejays

Aveda Walgreens

Desserts by Luke Sumo Fun Rentals

Clearchoice Photo Booth Custom Cakes

Ross Norton Teen Center




JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
CLEARWATER-DUNEDIN
Women building better communities™



Hill Day: Storming the Capitol

By: Leslie A. Hanley, Chair JLCD SPAC

The “unofficial” start to this 91st Annual Conference in Washington, DC was Hill Day, a day when US Junior League members visited their Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill - and non-US Leagues meet with their Consular offices – to educate them on issues important to League communities around the world.

The Junior Leagues of Florida State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) has been the advocacy arm of the Junior Leagues of Florida for nearly 40 years, monitoring the state legislative process and addressing issues of political importance to the members of the Junior League. The Junior Leagues of Florida have weighed in on various topics, including bicycle helmets for children under 16, the Environmental Growth Management Act of 1995, the ‘911’ Emergency Medical System, child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile justice and education. The State of Florida boasts 24 Junior Leagues as SPAC members, with combined representative membership of over 11,000 women. Each Florida Junior League that chooses to participate in the advocacy process, sends delegates to state meetings and conferences

throughout the year to research and debate the issues.

The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin spent the morning of Hill Day with other Florida SPAC members in Senator Marco Rubio’s office. We had the pleasure of meeting with Ms. Sally Canfield, The Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, in his office. The Florida women discussed the 2013 Florida SPAC Priority Issues of Improving Children’s Literacy, Stopping Child Sex Trafficking, and increasing Healthy Food Access.

The afternoon of Hill Day consisted of a meeting with Brad Stine, the Deputy Chief of Staff in Former Representative CW Bill Young’s office. Former Representative Young’s office also took the delegates from the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin on an informative tour of the US Capitol Building. Later that afternoon the delegates met with Representative Gus

Bilirakis and Miriam Keim, his Legislative Assistant. Both meetings were helpful in informing our local Pinellas County congressmen of the work that is being done with foster teens in our area by the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin, as well as the statewide SPAC Priority Issues for 2013. Our League looks forward to strengthening the relationships we have formed with our local Representatives.

The afternoon concluded with a Debriefing Rally organized by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) which allowed Leagues from all over

The State of Florida boasts 24 Junior Leagues as SPAC members, with combined representative membership of over 11,000 women.

the country to report on the successes of their day spent on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Photo Caption: The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin was proud to have six representative delegates participate in Hill Day in Washington, DC – Kristine Hann, Angie Ewbank, Terri Kontodiakos, Genevieve White, Maggie Ciadella, and Leslie Hanley.

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PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
C H A R I T I E S

2013 FIRST YEAR ACTIVES

Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin was fortunate to welcome a great group of women from the class of 2012-2013. Meet these women and the reasons they share for joining JLCD.



Kathi Beckman

Art Harvest

Meet new friends. I'm not originally from here and I work in a male dominated industry so I wanted to join an organization that connected me to the community and new "girl" friends.

Membership Connections

I initially wanted to join JLCD because I had been living overseas in Asia for 7 years. When I moved back to Pinellas County I wanted to reconnect with my community. My good friend (and former college roommate)



Elizabeth Constantine



Betsy DiSanza

Art Harvest

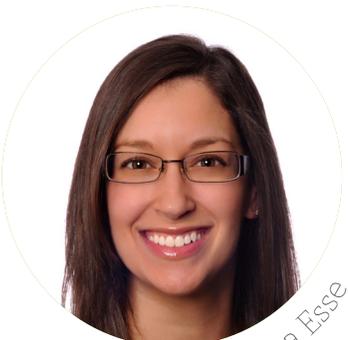
I joined Junior League because I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself.

ANGELS

The reason I joined the league was to have the opportunity to work with other women in our community to make a difference in the lives of others and to develop friendships with junior league colleagues. Also, I want to enhance my leadership skills.



Anne-Todd Eisner



Andrea Esse

Membership Development

I grew up in the Clearwater area and thought joining JLCD would be great opportunity to give back to the community that positively impacted my childhood.

Membership Training, Chair-Elect

I joined because I'm passionate about issues for women and children and knew the sustainable impact we could have in the community using a deep impact funding and volunteerism model. I also appreciated the idea of a safe space for women to grow and try on new skills in a supportive environ-



Amy Foster



Becca Gibson

ANGELS

After finishing college I realized I didn't have an outlet for helping people any more. I wanted to find a way to do something meaningful and after being told about Junior League I realized that not only could I help make a difference, but I could meet new like-minded people and make friends at the same time, it was the perfect solution! I loved my provisional year and think that our class has some amazing women in it, as first year actives now we still remain close as we continue to get to know more and more Junior Leaguers, old and new!



Shelly Ladd-Gilbert

SPAC

Junior League has wonderful volunteering opportunities that truly make a difference in our community.

ANGELS

Shortly after moving to FL I became aware of the Junior League after seeing an article in the Tampa Bay Times newspaper. I attended a Membership Salad Supper and the organization seemed a good fit as I had served 12 years on a city council in Minnesota – being active in the community is important to me. I was also looking to make new friends.



Cheryl Hurst



Salimah Kemp

ANGELS

I've often volunteered with many different non-profits but was in search of one that would be a more long term and whose focus was something I was passionate about. JLCD and I are a perfect match.

Membership Development

I joined JLCD to volunteer and give back to my local community and meet some new friends on this side of the bay.



Elyse Miller



Melissa Moré

Membership Development & Communications

Volunteerism has always been an important part of my life from a very early age to my adult career (I work in Volunteer Management). When my husband and I relocated to Safety Harbor I knew I wanted to be more connected to the community, an important cause, and professional networking – Junior League provides all of

Communications, VP & Membership Connections, Chair-Elect

I joined Junior League to work in the community. When we moved back to Clearwater, I became a stay at home Mom. When I made that decision, I wanted to find a way to volunteer my time with a worthwhile organization, have something to do that was just for me, and continue to put my training and skills to use.



Mary Ellen Schaffer



Alicia Tait

Membership Connection

I joined the JLCD to meet a group of smart, caring women leaders who share my passion for building better communities. Happy to report that's just what I found!

Membership Development, Chair-Elect & Communications, Chair

Since I travel frequently for work and had only recently moved to Dunedin, I was looking for a way to meet new friends while also giving back to the local community through an organization that I could continually be a part of, not just event by event. I'm also a bit of a nerd as I enjoy learning, so I was hoping to find a group where I would be exposed to new things. Junior League was the perfect fit!



Genevieve White

The Teen Training Center Project and Kick-Off

The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin (JLCD) kicked off the 2012-2013 with a proud accomplishment—a year of successful programs at the Teen Training Center (TTC) planned by the ANGELS (the Alliance to Nurture, Grow and Enhance Life Skills for Foster Families) Committee. As many of you may know, the JLCD embarked on a new project in serving foster teens in Pinellas County by opening the TTC this year in partnership with the City of Clearwater, and agencies, Eckerd and Ready for Life. Through a lease with the City of Clearwater, JLCD opened the doors to a new, but old facility. This facility is the Ross Norton Recreation and Aquatic Complex & Extreme Sports Park in Clearwater, Florida. Ross Norton is complete with swimming pools, a large gymnasium, teen lounge, skate park, athletic fields, weight lifting rooms, and baseball fields. With this partnership, JLCD was able to offer foster teens play passes to access the Ross Norton Recreation Center. In addition, the JLCD was able to offer foster teens a year of wonderful programs. Here is a year in review:

On October 24, 2012, the TTC officially opened! The JLCD welcomed teens to Ross Norton to celebrate the new partnership at an open house at the facility. The teens participated in a ribbon cutting. Teens were given guided tours of Ross Norton, the opportunity to sign up for “Rec Cards,” played games in the gymnasium, and enjoyed snacks. JLCD gave each teen a goody bag filled with items to use at the TTC; including, gym socks, water bottles, healthy snacks, and deodorant. The event was a success and built excitement for the new opportunities at the TTC.



Career Fair

On March 20th, 2013, the ANGELS Committee hosted the teens at a career event designed to be a career fair. The career fair presented the teens with an opportunity to learn about different career tracks, and possible employers, in Pinellas County.

We hosted individuals with careers in restaurant management, technology, military backgrounds, and in banking. The ANGELS Committee was very appreciative of all of the volunteers who came to the event to speak to the teens and who shared their career experiences.

Make-A-Meal

On February 27, 2013, the ANGELS Committee hosted the teens at another fantastic event at the TTC. The Make-A-Meal event featured a special guest who taught the teens how to make delicious and nutritious meals on a budget. Each of the teens sampled their culinary creations.

Teens learned how to read grocery store circulars with an eye for meal planning. In addition, each teen was given a goody bag chock full of useful kitchen items; spatulas, colanders, an assortment of herbs and spices, tongs, among other things – all useful when starting out in the kitchen!

Round Table with Ms. Teen America

On May 8, 2013, the ANGELS Committee hosted their closing event for the 2012-2013 JLCD year with 8 foster youth at the TTC. Ms. Teen America, Eleana Frangedis actually resides in Pinellas County and has taken on a platform of Youth Empowerment. She has been working as a Youth Ambassador for Eckerd and meeting with at-risk youth in various venues.

It was a powerful session with a small group of girls allowing Eleana, only 18 herself, to facilitate an emotional discussion about self-esteem, making good choices and believing in yourself. One exceptionally touching moment was when a 21 year old who recently aged out of foster care was drawn to tears as she pleaded with a younger foster youth to believe in herself and her dreams. In the end, some new friendships and informal mentoring partnerships were formed and Eleana donned her crown for pictures and autographs.



New Year, New You

On January 30, 2013, the ANGELS Committee planned a signature event for the teens. In the spirit of New Years' Resolutions, the New Year, New You event was designed to encourage healthy living and exercise.

Teens learned exercises that could be done at home with equipment such as resistance bands. Teens were able to play basketball in the large TTC gym and learn the proper use of workout equipment in the weight room.

The event wrap up included a healthy dinner and lessons regarding portion sizes and nutrition. The teens got to take home their own a resistance band for at-home workouts, and other goodies!





President: Terri Kontodiakos

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

I wanted to serve the League that I love. Being on the board has been such a wonderful experience and has really given me the opportunity to know and become great friends with some amazing women. I truly value the ability to sit at the table with these brilliant women and have wonderful discussions about each board member's vision of the League's future.

What is your favorite memory/experience in the league thus far?

As a second year active, I was asked to serve on Nominating and Placement. It was such a wonderful experience that gave me a true picture of the inner workings of the League and the leadership needed to keep us moving forward. It completely changed my perspective of Junior League and helped me see the League from 10,000 feet, made me value collaborative leadership, and pushed me to make decisions based on what is best for the League, and not my personal viewpoint.

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

It is hard to pinpoint my League take-away to one thing. Overwhelmingly, the opportunity to develop my own leadership skills and personal growth in a safe place where people supported and rallied around me has been so special. I owe many of my professional accomplishments to my placements and resume in the Junior League. The opportunity to sit on a Board of committed women and manage a non-profit has enriched my life and



VP Communication: Mary Ellen Shaffer

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

Communication is the backbone to an organization. If things are not properly communicated, then hard work of others goes unnoticed. When the position became available, I saw the opportunity to help out the league. There was an added benefit of being able to see the inner workings of the league.

What is your favorite memory/experience in the league thus far?

One of my favorite experiences so far is working on committees. It is so fun to collaborate with women who come from different backgrounds. We all have unique experiences but a common goal to make whatever project or goal we are working on the best that it can be.

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

I've learned that the more involved you are, the better your experience. I've watched the Art Harvest ladies bond over adversities due to weather. I have two great friends because we served together in the Provisional project. I've been exposed to wonderful training. All of these things happen because people throw themselves in to the League!



VP Community: Sarah Manthey

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

I wanted to be a member of the board because I wanted to be a part of inner workings of JLCD. I care about the future of our league. I am committed to to making to membership, no matter what kind, a special and treasured experience for all members. I also jumped at the opportunity to learn how to serve on a board.

What is your favorite memory/experience in the league thus far?

My favorite experience so far is seeing how the term "you get out what you put in" hold true. When I was a provisional, we were told that you would get out what you put in to the league. I now see what they were all talking about!

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

As you all know, JLCD is a training organization. So, the valuable thing I've learned while in the league is also my new mantra: "training organization." This mantra carries over in other aspects of my life. Challenges are training opportunities. Mistakes are part of training and we are not expected to be perfect. It is all about learning and growing in everything we do.

MEET YOUR BOARD



VP Finance: Gwin Londrigan

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

Felt that this was a way to utilize my background in Finance to fill this gap at the Board table after being a sustainer for two years. I had previously served on the Board in several roles prior to going sustaining.

What is your favorite memory/experience so far in the league?

I really loved being a part of the Art Harvest committee and chairing it for three years. It is the one placement, I believe fulfills every part of our Mission.

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

Leadership skills and development. I have gained transferable skills that I use in my professional capacity but have also been a huge part of being successful in my service to other non-profit boards.



VP Membership: Angie Ewbank

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

I have spent a large portion of my JLCD career on committees related to membership and I felt like I could use those experiences to bring insight to the board table.

What is your favorite memory/experience so far in the league?

Early in my JLCD career I was "mentored" by the president. I was a first year chair and didn't really know what I was doing. I can remember her taking me to lunch and teaching me how to set goals for the committee. That memory has stayed with me all these years, and I am so thankful that she took a chance on me as a chair. And I hope that I am a confidence booster for others the way she was for me.

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

You get out of the league whatever you put into it. I held back my provisional year and didn't get real involved and I didn't feel connected. My sister convinced me not to resign because she insisted that being on a committee would make me feel more connected to people. Seven committees & a board position later, her advice still rings true.



Secretary: Sarah Miller

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

After a few years of chairing different committees, I wanted to take the next step in league leadership. The board offers great opportunity to learn about the league as well as develop skills you will use in your personal and professional life.

What is your favorite memory/experience so far in the league?

I loved attending Annual Conference in Orlando in 2010. Definitely take the opportunity to go to a conference if you can!

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

Not only is the League an amazing way to give back to the community, but I have also made lifelong friendships that I never expected.

MEET YOUR BOARD

Continued



Treasurer: Kristine Hann

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

I felt like the JLCD has some great leaders and I wanted to be a part of the process. You really learn a lot being at the Board table and it takes women from all professional backgrounds to make it work. I like being a part of a diverse group because it does lead to different ideas which will take JLCD thru the challenges that every League faces.

What is your favorite memory/experience so far in the league?

There are so many! One of my favorite is the 1st Operation Gobbler food delivery. Everyone was so thankful and we had an invite to come back for the turkey fry.

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

That everyone is trying to do the best job they can for their community as a League member. I think we as women tend to try to "do it all" and that we overextend ourselves in our daily lives. It's nice to know that other ladies in JLCD will be there to help!



Treasurer Elect: Meagan Decker

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

To have an impact on the direction and future of the league

What is your favorite memory/experience so far in the league?

All of the Done in a Day Projects where I have had the experience of getting to interact with the foster teens.

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

It is amazing what determination and collaboration can get done.



Sustainer Advisor: Nola Johnson

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

When Terri asked me to be her sustainer rep to the active board, I was thrilled to get back in the loop of the League's activities. Becoming a sustainer can definitely remove you from the current and future focus of the League. It has been nice to get back involved and to get to know some of the newer League members.

Why did you want to be a member of the board?

I have had many wonderful experiences and opportunities since joining JLCD in 2001. Co-chairing Art Harvest was a very exciting experience as I truly learned what it entailed hosting such a huge event and creating a successful fundraising art show. I also enjoyed being involved at the very beginning of the League's foster children focus, from the giving of Christmas gifts to creating a teen training center. It has been amazing to discover how to truly impact such an important group of people in a positive way.

What is one valuable thing you've learned while in the league?

I have learned so many things since becoming a JLCD member! However, working with this diverse group of women and each bringing our own strengths to every event, meeting and idea has helped me learn more than I ever could have imagined. We are a very powerful voice and strong force that continues to make me proud to say that I am a member of the Junior League.



First Year Active Spotlight

Salimah Kemp, 2012-2013 Provisional Class

By: Melissa Moré, Communications and Membership Development

It is with great honor that I had the opportunity to interview a fellow first year active member of JLCD. While she is new to the organization, she has already hit the ground running. Salimah was chosen as the Spirit of Junior League Award for her outstanding dedication to Junior League and the ANGELS committee. For those who see her in action it is no surprise how passionate she is about the mission of JLCD and our current focus of supporting foster youth.

Tell me a bit about yourself? Are you from the area?

I was born in Belize City, Belize and lived there until I was nineteen. Then I moved to Chicago and lived there for 10 years before moving to this area on December 27, 2002.

What drew you to join JLCD?

I have always been involved with a lot of charities. I really wanted a home base, a non-profit that was near and dear to my heart. I did not actually think about this until volunteering with JLCD for a while, but I used to work with foster kids in Belize. When I was thirteen I would go to the orphanage to hang out with the kids; my mom reminded me of this a little while ago. Neighbors of my mother-in-law were sustainers and told me about JLCD. I went to my first salad supper not knowing very much but after attending I knew it was for me.

Tell me a little bit about your family. Are you married? Do you have children?

I come from a really big family of nine children. I have been married to Shane for four years. I am actually also a widow after losing my first husband at age 31. I have had many challenges in life but I am also very blessed to have two loving marriages.

What do you do for work?

I had this crazy thought earlier in life that I would be a housewife, which lasted only about a month. I decided I wanted to start my own business where I could have a family and maybe bring my children to work. I own a packing and shipping store which also includes a warehouse/distribution center for moving supplies. I have owned this company for eleven years. My husband and I also own a disaster restoration company and have been in that business for two years. No one would ever guess that about me. I also used to sell my own women's clothing line but decided to give that up after I joined Junior League. I had to evaluate my life and give up something and it felt like it was the one thing I could give up. So instead of selling my own line I now work part-time for a friend who wants to grow her business.

What committee do you serve on and what do you enjoy most about it?

I serve on the ANGELS committee. I enjoy its strong connection to the community and the foster youth. It is nice to be able to see some of the same foster youth again this year and getting to know them and them to recognize me.

What has been your favorite part of joining JLCD?

What we do for the community is great, but the friendships I have gotten out of the league are amazing. I have made a friend that I talk to now every single day and see several times a week. I'm thankful for the women I have met.

What are you most interested in as you progress in your League career?

I want to look at more leadership opportunities in the future, maybe chairing the ANGELS committee. Right now I'm just enjoying learning more and training for the work. If I'm going to do something I feel like I need to be trained for it and do my homework to make sure I get the job done right. I want to do the best job possible.

If you could wrap up your experience with JLCD in one line to a prospective member, how would you describe it?

Great group of like minded women that are not just about volunteering, but making a difference in the community and building relationships ourselves.

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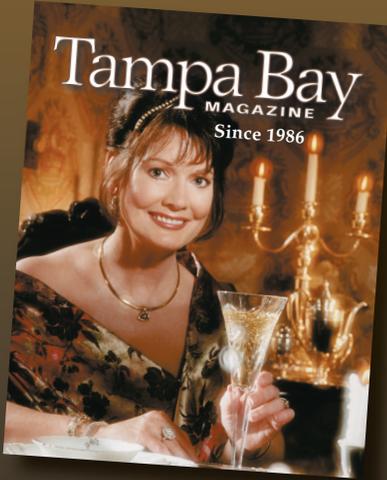
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Sustainer Spotlight

Ernestine Bean, Sustainer

I had the wonderful opportunity of meeting with and interviewing Ernestine Bean, a long-time member and now sustainer of JLCD. As a newer member of JLCD, it was a delight to hear from Ernestine the wonderful lessons, experiences, and enjoyment she has brought away from the League. I hope you enjoy learning a little bit more about Ernestine and the continued support she provides to JLCD as a sustaining member.

Tell me a bit about yourself? How long have you lived in this area?

I moved to this area from Atlanta seventeen years ago. Before I began my career with the Morton Plant Mease Foundation, I was a home decorator. At that time, one of my clients was Marion Rich who was President of JLCD. She invited me to join an event committee she was chairing called "Caring Times" – a breast cancer luncheon to raise money for a mammography voucher program to provide breast cancer screenings and services to those unable to afford care. That was my first exposure to the Morton Plant Mease Foundation. After having my own business for many years, I decided I wanted to try something different. I had been a volunteer for many years which gave me exposure to the not-for-profit world. When a Special Events Coordinator position opened at the Morton Plant Mease Foundation, I figured I would just try it ---and that was thirteen years ago. Holly Duncan, President Emeritus of the Morton Plant Foundation, was also part of JLCD and having that connection certainly helped open the door. Holly has also been a great mentor over the years for not only me, but other league members as well. Being a part of Junior League really set me up for success; the training you receive from Junior League is truly phenomenal.

Tell me a little bit about your family. Are you married? Do you have children?

My daughter, Brianna, is twenty-seven and lives in Tampa. She grew up knowing the importance of volunteering. There were many times that I had to take her to committee meetings or events. She volunteers for Homeless Emergency Project and Morton Plant Mease Foundation's Skip Cline Society.

What do you do for work?

When I explain my job, I describe it as 'building and cultivating relationships while leading an exceptional team'. The best part of my job is the amazing stories I hear and the people I meet. It is a privilege to do the work that I do every day. I love coming to work! As President & CEO of Morton Plant Mease Foundation, I see my role as leading a team of committed team members to meet the vision of the organization. There is an art and science to successful fundraising. We are here to support the hospitals of Morton Plant Mease – the foundation is the art, the hospital is the science.

I went back to school in my forties to finish my degree in Bachelors of Arts in Business Management from Eckerd College. I also have my Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) certification.

What drew you to join JLCD?

When I moved from California to Georgia, I met someone who was a current member in League and we became friends. She suggested I might be interested in joining the league and learning about the programs. What drew me in the most was the focus on volunteerism, education, and training. I was a stay-at-home mom with a young daughter and I was looking for outlets in the community that were part-time and allowed me to do meaningful work with flexibility.



By: Melissa Moré, Communications and Membership Development

How long have you been involved with Junior League?

Twenty five years in total; seventeen years with the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin.

Tell me a little bit about your history with Junior League. What committees have you been a part of? Have you served any leadership roles?

I was active in Junior League for quite some time. I served in many roles but I have to say one of my most enjoyable experiences was serving on Art Harvest; I have very fond memories of working on that event. Since becoming a sustainer, I have remained connected to things happening within the League. I also had the opportunity to serve as President of the Sustainers a few years ago.

I also met some of my dearest friends in Junior League too. It not only gave me the tools and skills in a professional career, but also the links to wonderful friendships with other women that were like-minded and passionate about helping others and the community. They knew how to have a good time, while doing good work. In addition, my work on Junior League committees as well as being a volunteer myself has helped me when working with volunteers in our organization.

What was your favorite Junior League experience?

I would say serving on Art Harvest – the planning, camaraderie amongst the committee, the execution, culmination of all your efforts, and then celebrating your successes. And then the funny little stories that happen that only you and your committee know about; nobody outside of your committee really understands so you have this special, unique bond.

What has been your favorite part of joining JLCD?

Friends, training, and feeling like you are doing something meaningful.

How do you stay connected to JLCD as a sustainer?

This will be my second year hosting the Sustainer's Old Bag Brunch. We collect slightly used purses and hats and auction them off at an event at the Bellair Country Club. Whatever we are not able to sell we donate to the Scot Shop. The proceeds help support our Junior League. This year's event will be held on April 9, 10:30a-12:30p. Please join us. It's a lot of fun!

If you could wrap up your experience with JLCD in one line to a prospective member, how would you describe it?

Junior League has given me the tools to empower me to be a success in my work and my life.

Any words of advice you could offer to active members who are just starting to get involved with JLCD?

Be open-minded and patient because you are dealing with a lot of different dynamics and personalities. Most everyone there wants to do something meaningful, so give it a chance – don't give up without giving it a chance. If you are working on a project you dislike, know that there are other committees and projects you can get involved in and find rewarding – you just have to find what you enjoy. We are all volunteers making our communities a better place to live, work and play!

Together, we're making a difference.

From one community-minded organization to another, the *Tampa Bay Times* salutes the **Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin**. Thanks to the hard work of your members, Tampa Bay is a brighter place to live.



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Area III Conference

By: Laura Hudson, Chair, Membership Development



Actives Laura Hudson (Chair, Membership Development) and Mary Ellen Shaffer (Vice President of Communications and Chair-Elect, Membership Connections) attended the Junior League Area III Conference in August, GA this summer. Area III is a training conference held annually and hosted by Junior Leagues in the South East. This year's conference was hosted by the Junior League of Augusta and brought together over 100 Junior League members from throughout Florida, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.

The three day event gives members of the Junior League the opportunity to train in areas important to every League. This year's conference offered training primarily focused on membership retention, special events, and donor giving programs. Vicki Clark and Carol Scott, well-known Junior League consultants, supporters, and non-profit trainers led sessions. Mary Ellen and I spent our time with Vicki Clark and Carol Scott. Ms. Clark led sessions pertaining to member retention, engaging sustainers, and effective meeting strategies. Ms. Scott, a nationally recognized non-profit executive, led sessions on special events, donor giving programs, and non-profit fundraising.

The conference was held at the Augusta Marriott, ideally located in the heart of the downtown business district on the banks of the Savannah River. Laura and Mary Ellen enjoyed delicious local restaurants, beautiful views of historic homes, and even had the opportunity to tour the newly renovated Augusta Imperial Theater.

Area III gave me a unique opportunity to meet other women from local Junior Leagues. Every League is different and I enjoyed discussing different ideas with these women, some much bigger and some much smaller than JLCD. The training sessions were interesting and informative, and Augusta was a beautiful host city.

Conference attendees are selected throughout the league year by the Nominating and Placement Committee. If you would like to be considered for attendance at a future Junior League conference, please let your placement advisor know.

Photo credit: Junior League of Augusta

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