WE BELIEVE

When given what they need, the possibilities are endless.

That’s why we’re proud to support those helping make our community a better place.

Publix Super Markets Charities
SEA OATS MAGAZINE [2019 - 2020]
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2020 CREATIVE SPOTLIGHT

BETSEY DISANZA | NEXT CUBE OVER INC.
[LAYOUT DESIGN]

Betsey DiSanza is a graphic designer and co-owner of Next Cube Over; a full service design studio started and owned by her and her husband, John.

Check out their work at: nextcubeoverinc.com

Pinellas Federal Credit Union
Member Service is Our Business!

Mobile & Online Banking
Loans Made Simple
Retirement Planning

Pinellas Federal Credit Union is committed to serving our community with the highest level of service. Our members are not just customers, they are family.
In this year’s issue of Sea Oats, we took a unique approach to the Presidential message by asking our President Mary Ellen Shaffer some key questions about her role and her vision for the League.

**What is your definition of leadership?**
I think because of my background in working as a Youth Minister, I have always tried to carry forward the idea of Servant Leadership. Servant leadership is a philosophy and set of practices that enrich the lives of individuals, builds better organizations and ultimately creates a more just and caring world. My motto has been that I cannot lead others to do something if I am not also willing to do that something myself. I strive to be collaborative by listening to many different ideas and building consensus in the direction to move forward.

**You’ve been active in JLCD for 8 years and counting. What is it that has kept you here?**
The League has been essential in helping me continue to learn and to grow since I joined in 2012. When we moved back to Florida, I transitioned to being a stay at home mom, unsure of what that was going to look like for me. The League allowed me to not only hone some of the skills that I already had but developed me into a completely different leader. I am also incredibly thankful for the friendships that I’ve developed over the years. It is special to build bonds with different women because of our many experiences together.

**Why was it important to articulate the vision for “developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers” at this particular moment in JLCD’s history?**
I think we have a unique ability to be change-makers because we can bring diverse viewpoints to the table. We are allowing women to develop skills that could potentially change the trajectory of their future work. In addition, our work is primarily focused on women. We think about community volunteer work, but it is so much more than that. There are so many facets of being a Junior League member. We teach leadership skills, membership engagement methodologies, event and project planning, financial acumen, as well as provide exposure to how boards work, plus much more. When we do this times 100, the impact in our community grows exponentially.

**How do you keep the mission of Junior League fresh for yourself in your work as president?**
I think the mission has to always be forefront in everything we do. It determines how we make a decision at the Board table, how we interact with one another, how we approach community partners, etc.
As our new League year begins, we’re thrilled to work with other Junior Leagues as we prepare our members to serve our communities. We welcome all who value our Mission, and we are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations & communities.

The History of the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin

Since its inception in 1948, the women of the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin (JLCD) have committed themselves to serving and improving the lives of women, children, and families in North Pinellas and West-Pasco Counties. During this time over 650 League members have raised over 1 million dollars and have contributed over 1 million volunteer hours to improving the local community. The membership of JLCD believes that the collective power of diverse women, joined together to identify unmet needs and forge coalitions, can dramatically improve our community. JLCD members believe that to most effectively cultivate positive community action, volunteers need educational opportunities for personal growth and volunteer leadership to develop their potential.

Current Community Focus: Fighting Poverty in Northern Pinellas

The current community focus of JLCD is fighting poverty in North Pinellas County through a multi-pronged approach that includes combating food insecurity and a commitment to literacy at partner Title I schools. JLCD’s Community Impact Committee works to provide 60 food insecure children with food through the Pack-A-Snack program at Tarpon Springs Elementary School. The Pack-A-Snack program is designed to help address the problem of chronic hunger in elementary age children in public schools and provides a nutritious group of snacks to eligible students who might not have adequate food over the weekends during the school year. Since its launch, JLCD has donated over 2,400 Pack-A-Snack bags to children in the community. In addition, JLCD supports a Holiday Relief Program to provide meals and gifts for these same children during the winter holidays. As part of JLCD’s literacy initiative, the League has donated over 1,540 books and hosted annual literacy events with students at Tarpon Springs and Sandy Lane Elementary Schools. These donated books help grow the home libraries of multiple students as added encouragement to read more frequently with their families.

If you are interested in more information about JLCD, please contact our headquarters at (727) 738-5523, info@jlcd.org or visit our website at www.jlcd.org
Janie Meadows on her engagement in December 2019.

Christian Delgado in her new role as the Program & Events Manager for the Epilepsy Foundation.


Lisa Hopen’s daughter’s graduation from Nursing School in May 2020.

Beverly Walker on her retirement in December 2019.

Elyse Miller in her new role as HR Generalist of IT Resources.

life, happiness, love, success, support.

The Marriage of:
Amber Acor and her husband on January 11, 2020

Antje Anderson in welcoming her daughter Jessica as a member of the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin.

Heather Weber on her new job as the Managing Director-Resident Director of the downtown Clearwater office of Merrill Lynch.

Jessica Anderson on her promotion to Central Unit Manager.

Ashley Hackl on her new position as the Director-at-Large for the Clearwater Bar Association.

The Birth of:
Erin Hamilton-Mullin welcomed her son, Derek, on May 31st, 2019.
Melissa Moré welcomed her son, Hudon, in July 2019.
Cristi Cruz LeFebvre welcomed her daughter, Vera Luisa LeFebvre, on August 28, 2019.
Karolina & Mike Roszel welcomed their second daughter, Maja Karolina, on September 15th, 2019.
Jessica Moreno welcomed her son, Daniel Moreno, on December 27, 2019.
Kathi Beckman welcomed her son, Brady Alexander, on January 6, 2020.
Sarah Calabrese welcomed her second daughter, Anastasia Belle Calabrese, on February 9, 2020.
Mel Whitehead welcomed her baby boy in May 2020.

The Anniversary of:
Carolyn Secor and her husband celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary on October 4th, 2019.
Kelly and Rob Kennedy celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on October 13th, 2019.
Karolina and Mike Roszel celebrated their 7th wedding anniversary on February 2nd, 2020.
Marisa and Daniel Guy celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary on Feb 4th, 2020.
Beth Chernes and Chris Lagasse celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary on April 25, 2020.
Lisa Hopen and her husband celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in May 2020.
We are so excited to welcome these 37 women to the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin and for the enthusiasm and dedication they bring to the League.

Jessica Anderson
Kylie Bryan
Christina Delgado
Alexis Flowers
Shelby Griffin
Meagan Heller
Angela Love
Nina Maron
Heather Miniello
Bianca Rodriguez
Kayley Swenson
Joellen Treherne
Maxi Wood
Leah Beck
Nikki Byers
Heidi Dougherty
Lauren Forbes
Marisa Guy
Lisa Hopen
Virginia Madden
Cindy Martinez
Teshanna Monfred
Jen Sirois
Brittany Thompson
Beverly Walker
Elizabeth Bouchard
Bernadette Cruz
Sara Dunne
Megan Forde
Melissa Helenek
Kelly Kennedy
MaryBeth Makrianes
Jenny McPherson
Danielle Morano
Cristie Subacz
Amy Tramer
Melissa Welker
Since its establishment, The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin (JLCD) has welcomed hundreds of new members.

While times have changed since JLCD formed in 1948, the women joining have continued to be attracted to JLCD for its commitment to training women to work for change in the local community.

The new member class of 2019 is no different than past generations of League women, as their decision to join was based on a passion to affect change in the community and to make an impact. Our new members represent a wide range of backgrounds, interests, and professional pursuits. With them they bring new perspectives and experiences to strengthen JLCD.

This year the new member class participated in a number of training sessions and events to raise their awareness of the community initiatives of JLCD. They also had opportunities to meet active League members and learn more about their own personal experiences in JLCD through social events and general membership meetings.

Additionally, new members gave back to their community by volunteering their time with a number of JLCD community partners. These included: The ARC of Tampa Bay, The Dunedin Fine Art Center, the Clearwater Free Clinic, High Point YMCA, and the Gateway Children’s Shelter.

Through the many activities and experiences, the new member class has a resounding shared sentiment: they are excited to be a part of League to make a positive lasting impact on their local community.

“I JOINED TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY THAT I LOVE.”  
- Marissa Guy

“I WANTED TO MAKE SOME NEW CONNECTIONS WITH LIKE-MINDED GIRLS IN PINELLAS. I’VE ALWAYS KNOWN ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE’S STELLAR REPUTATION AND WAS PLEASED TO EXPERIENCE THE FRIENDLY, WELCOMING TONE OF THIS CHAPTER. WORKING, BEING A MOM, LIVING LIFE -- IT’S HARD TO BALANCE ALL THE THINGS I ALWAYS LIKED TO DO WHEN I WAS YOUNGER/SINGLE. SO THE STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE IS JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR --- A LITTLE SOCIALIZING, A LITTLE PERSONAL GROWTH, A LITTLE GIVING BACK. GREAT GROUP OF LADIES. THANK YOU!”  
- Amy Tramer

“I JOINED TO STAY PRODUCTIVE AND ACTIVE DURING RETIREMENT”  
- Beverly Walker
In the Autumn of 2019, JLCD Sustainers gathered for a fall fashion fund and friend-raising luncheon at Belleair Country Club. More than 50 sustaining members of the JLCD were in attendance, all of whom look forward to the annual gathering every year.

Aside from fundraising, one of the key goals for this event was to support women-owned businesses. As an added bonus, both business owners are Junior League members! The clothing was from The Pink Palm in Tampa (owned by Mary Osiason) and the jewelry shown was by Susan Benjamin Glass Etc. of Safety Harbor.

All models in the show were JLCD sustaining members. This year, the fashion show was held on October 24, as a lead-up to Art Harvest, so in the finale of the show the models showed off the newest Art Harvest shirts to give audience members a sneak peak of the 2019 Art Harvest event. To provide additional awareness and marketing for the event, members of the Art Harvest Committee were on hand to answer questions, sell shirts, and provide sustainer the opportunity to partner as patron sponsors.

Sarah Thompson, sustainer, could not say more about how well the event was put together. "Kimberly Cass is an incredible Chair of this event. She coordinates the details effortlessly, creating a lovely and welcoming venue for our members to enjoy the time together."

This annual luncheon is a key way that more than 200 sustaining members of JLCD stay connected with each other and the work that JLCD is doing. It also provides important support for the JLCD Foundation – more than $400 was raised that will be added to the endowment fund.

Keep an eye on JLCD.org for information about the next event for sustainers, which will be held this fall.
Shop, Donate, and Support JLCD

Founded in 1943, the Clearwater Junior League ran a thrift shop on East Street near the railroad tracks in downtown Clearwater. It was a small building but was able to turn merchandise through its doors. It later moved locations to Broadway, north of SR 580.

When the Junior League of Clearwater merged with the Dunedin Service League, the joint League bought the current on Bayshore Boulevard, located across from the Gulf of Mexico just north of Downtown Dunedin. At that time the thrift store location was moved to Bayshore Boulevard and it became known as the Scot Shop.

The Scot Shop has a noble purpose:
All of the profits from the Scot Shop’s sales go directly to the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin (JLCD).

JLCD uses these proceeds to promote volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the community with the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Support JLCD by visiting the Scot Shop or donating.

The Scot Shop
1265 Bayshore Blvd. Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 733-4281
In Fall 2018, JLCD initiated a pilot request for proposals process to reconnect with non-profits with historical roots to the League. The goal was to create avenues to hear the needs among community partners and ways in which JLCD could be impactful. These organizations were asked to provide projects that would allow members to volunteer and get to know more about their mission and services. A financial commitment of $1,000 was granted to each organization in addition to volunteer support. Two partnering organizations were selected, RCS Pinellas and Suncoast Center.

**RCS Pinellas – Grace House**

Mission: To advance the mission of providing help and hope to the hungry and homeless through the organization’s five programs: RCS Food Bank, RCS Grace House, The Haven at RCS domestic violence shelter, RCS Affordable Housing and Basic Needs.

Inner-City Empowered Youth (ICEY) program held four 2-hour workshops intended to empower at-risk youth ages 12-19. RCS Pinellas shared in their proposal “Many teens are growing up without an effective adult mentor speaking into their lives. These workshops are geared to fill that gap and provide teenagers with information on how to become successful by creating a healthy mind, body, and spirit.” The workshops were led by Roderick Cunningham, creator of ICEY, retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant and served as Dean of Students at the Air Force Technical Training School in Biloxi, MS. He counseled, mentored, and coached 2,500 students annually and developed a student mentorship program that decreased academic attrition rate by 90% in three years.

**League Contributions:**

- $1,000 grant to fund Inner-City Empowered Youth (ICEY) program including facilitation and materials
- Members/volunteers provided childcare for four Tuesday evenings in January and February 2019 to allow families to participate
- Provided dinner for teens/families attending workshops
Suncoast Center
Mission: Provide services focusing on three core areas: child advocacy, emotional wellness and trauma services.

Suncoast Center requested support to help replenish their clothes cupboard/closet. Children and families receiving services may be leaving situations where they are unable to retrieve personal items and clothing. As shared by Suncoast Center “These children present in our office(s) usually with only what they are wearing; unsure of what is happening, and afraid of what the future is about to bring.” They strive to restore dignity after an assault or incident of abuse, which starts with providing them with fresh clothing.

League Contributions:
• $1,000 grant to purchase items for clothes closet and bus passes for clients
• February DIAM – Clothing, shoes, backpack and diaper drive
• “Fill the Backpack” and facility tour on March 6, 2019

With the great success of the pilot, JLCD initiated a second call for proposals in summer 2019. The League is excited to work with two outstanding organizations this year - Ready for Life and Guardian ad Litem.
The Junior League of CLEARWATER-DUNEDIN

Each year, the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin trains a group of first-year members to be effective volunteers and leaders in our community. Our new members complete a comprehensive training series that allows them to learn about our League structure and programs, as well as experience some of our community programs first-hand. The new member series includes educational courses, a bus tour of community partners, Scot Shop shifts, a community project, and attending League functions such as general membership meetings.

A great way to learn more about membership in The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin is to attend one of our Recruitment Events! Representatives of the Membership Development Committee will be on hand to answer all your questions and guide you through the process to join.

1. Must be at least 21 years old as of September 1 of the year in which provisional membership would begin (there is no maximum age to join).

2. Applicants should work or reside in Upper Pinellas (north of Ulmerton Rd.) and Pasco Counties.

3. Demonstrate an interest in voluntarism and a commitment to community service, with most community service activities occurring within Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

4. A prospective member will participate in an orientation program detailing the privileges and responsibilities of Junior League membership.

5. Show an interest in developing her potential for voluntary community participation. i.e. sign a contract stating that she understands the Responsibilities of Provisional Membership.

Shoot an email to Recruitment@jlcd.org

If you’d like to get a step ahead, feel free to fill out an application on our JLCD.org website under the MEMBERSHIP tab. We will contact you to attend our next recruitment event!
January 27 through 31 of 2020, JLCD embarked on its fourth annual Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) – a campaign to raise awareness of the challenges that face an estimated 10,000 North Pinellas County children living in poverty.

LBDI is a week-long, social media driven fundraising campaign that uses the iconic ‘little black dress’ to raise awareness about poverty and its effects. Participants wear one black dress for five consecutive days and are encouraged to harness the power of social media to drive online donations. The purpose of LBDI is not just to wear the same dress for five days. It provides a chance for us, as Junior League members, to discuss the needs in our community and what we can do to help.

JLCD continued our second year of Restaurant Week, and raising funds by partnering with local restaurants that graciously agreed to donate a percentage of sales to our cause on a given day. We are very thankful to the participating restaurants and for the extra $2,570 in funds that were raised. JLCD would like to give a big thank you to: Casa Tina’s (Dunedin), Hamburger Mary’s (Clearwater), Chick-Fil-A (Countryside), Tijuana Flats (Countryside), Clear Sky (Dunedin) for your gracious participation.

Between 2017 and 2019, our LBDI efforts raised over $98,000. This money is used as a sole funding source for the community projects that our League has initiated to break the cycle of poverty.

This year, we raised over $18,000.

A few of the ways the JLCD is using unrestricted donor gifts to address poverty are:

- to provide over 2,400 “Pack-a-Snacks” – meals and snacks bags – to feed hungry students over the weekends at two of our local elementary schools. We feed 60 children a week.
- to provide 58 holiday dinners for families in need,
- to provide 108 holiday presents for Pack-A-Snack recipients, and purchase over 1,540 books to give to local students.

The funds raised make possible the work and mission of the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin to combat poverty. All donations are fully tax deductible.
The Annual Art Harvest at Highlander Park in Dunedin has become an early November tradition for many in the area, attracting over 30,000 visitors each year. The event serves as the largest annual fundraiser for the Junior League of Clearwater Dunedin (JLCD) which reinvests proceeds into the local community through grants and League member driven community projects.

At this year’s festival, attendees were able to connect with 178 artists from across the nation, admire and purchase art from the artists themselves and hear the stories behind each unique piece. Art Harvest provides a casual yet intimate setting for viewers to discover and take in art of a variety of mediums and an opportunity to engage with the creative minds behind the inspired pieces.

Not just for the educated art connoisseur, Art Harvest is a family event and features a Children’s Pavilion for budding artists to create their own take-home pieces. This year following the Kaleidoscope of Color theme, volunteers helped youth create monogrammed posters, rainbow windsocks, painted pumpkins and the ever-popular rainbow pasta necklaces.

In between wandering the tents of oil and acrylic works, jewelry, sculpture, photography and beyond, attendees could break for a stop at the beer garden or sample from local food trucks and vendors.

By Chelsea Mulvin
2019 FEATURED ARTIST: LESLIE PEEBLES

What is the name of your featured piece and where did you get your inspiration for it?

LP: The featured piece is called “Flamingos”. The inspiration came to me after learning that Flamingos have, indeed, been a native bird to Florida. Ornithologists have confirmed evidence of their residence in very remote areas of the Everglades, hidden from our view. New reclaimed wetlands in Florida have attracted new populations, and Hurricane Michael deposited a lone flamingo to St. Marks State Park on the nature coast. It has created quite a stir!

The ongoing success of Art Harvest gives JLCD the ability to not only strengthen current projects, but also to continue to support past projects and invest in new needs of the community.
As a League member, you are making a difference – every time you Pack-A-Snack, with every Scot Shop sorting shift, through each committee meeting, and in each moment that you smile and make a new connection with another member.

But have you ever thought about the long-lasting legacy you want to leave to the League, your family, or your community?

By Megan Forde and Amy Tramer

The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI) envisions its members as “Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change.” Over 150,000 women in 291 chapters in the US, UK, Canada, and Mexico have earned a reputation as thoughtful and influential change agents for the good of their communities.

The mothers and daughters (and other family members) interviewed here were all influenced by a League member’s gift of experience and service and, in turn, have honored that legacy by working to make a difference for their community and peers in the League. In the League, we see multigenerational memberships (mother, Granny, & Great Granny!), sisters and aunts, moms and daughters active in the League at the same time, and those who have shared a special interest in the same committee or event that has sustained through the years.

Has another member influenced you by the legacy she left? Did you notice her passion for the arts or the welfare of kids and families, and find yourself inspired? How might your suggestions for change, creative ideas, energy, attitude, and volunteerism influence the League of the future? After watching you balance family with professional responsibilities and social life, all the while making time to nurture personal growth and making a difference in the community, will your daughter, friend, sister, or the young lady next door decide to join the League too?
Here are 10 great ways to leave your own legacy:

1. Write
Share your legacy through a blog, your memoir, a letter to someone you appreciate, or an article for a League publication.

2. Take a Photos
Capture a photo League events and socials and post them to social media.

3. Donate or Bequeath Funds to Missions That are Dear to You
A program that has supported you or a loved one, your alma mater, or a mission that simply tugs at your heart.

4. Pass Down an Heirloom
Share a piece of clothing, a collectible, or your family recipes and family traditions.

5. Make Connections
Invite young women to League community events.

6. Serve as a Good Role Model
Volunteer, step up, be honest, be good to yourself, be a friend.

7. Fulfill a Need
Start a business, a non-profit organization, or a new program in your community that fulfills one of your passions or a community need.

8. Right, a Wrong
Whether it’s in policy, in the community, within your family, or between League peers, right a wrong and be an advocate for change.

9. Develop and Share Knowledge
Identify your strengths, develop your skills, and be true to who you are. Then be a mentor and share your knowledge.

10. Get Out of Your Comfort Zone!
“The best experiences in the League are those that take you out of your comfort zone - trying tasks that aren’t familiar to you. Those can be the most fulfilling and valuable of all.”
- Margaret Michaels, JLCD Sustaining Member
**Why did you join the Junior League?:**

“I joined the league because, as a child, I was always watching my mom (Rhoda Lane McMullen) don her yellow and white apron and go off to her Junior League activities. I wanted to do that!”

- Margaret Michaels, JLCD Sustaining Member

“Growing up in Tampa and seeing my mother being an active member of the Junior League of Tampa, devoting countless hours to projects such as The Festival of Trees, The Child Abuse Council, and Mini-Grants, I knew I wanted to be part of something that created such an impact within my community.”

- Glenne Wortham, JLCD Sustaining Member

**Legacy Family Members:**

Glenne Wortham (Daughter/Sister) - joined 2011
Rhoda McMullen (Grandmother) - joined 1959
Judy McMullen (Mother) - Junior League of Tampa, joined 1983
Margaret Michaels (Aunt) - joined 1984
Lindsay Jackson (Sister) - joined 2007

**Fondest Memories in the JLCD**

“I always enjoy volunteering and shopping at Art Harvest! Both my mom and I have served on the Art Harvest committee for two years each - but never at the same time.”

- Vanessa Saetham, JLCD Active Member

“At the 2016 annual dinner, Vanessa and I co-won the JLCD award for Volunteer of the Year. It took us completely by surprise and we greatly appreciated the recognition for our volunteer time and effort during JLCD’s 2015-2016 year.”

- Cheryl Hurst, JLCD Sustaining Member

**Legacy Family Members:**

Cheryl Hurst (Mother) - joined 2013
Vanessa Saetham (Daughter) - joined 2015

**Quotes about Leadership:**

“Leadership isn’t just given to you; it’s learned.”

- Syd Entell, JLCD Sustainer-Emeritus

“The League makes you challenge yourself, but there’s always someone to support you.”

- Susan Benjamin, JLCD Sustaining Member

“If we can better our community” and make it “a great place to be” then the whole world would be a better place to be.

- Susan Benjamin, JLCD Sustaining Member

**Legacy Family Members:**

Syd Entell (Mother) - joined 1960’s
Susan Benjamin (Daughter) - joined 1986

**Legacy Family Members:**

Kat Tracy (Daughter) - joined 2014
Jan Tracy (Mother) - joined 1978

**Fondest Memories in the JLCD**

Antje Anderson joined JLCD “to meet like-minded friends who want to volunteer in the community.” And Jessica joined JLCD because “her mother joined and to meet new friends, learn public speaking and volunteer in our community.”

Jessica’s fondest memory of the JLCD is her experience “volunteering for the Pack-A-Snack program.” While Antje’s favorite memory in the League was when she served “at the Beer Garden at Art Harvest.”

**Legacy Family Members:**

Antje Anderson (Mother) - joined 2018
Jessica Anderson (Daughter) - joined 2019

**Quotes about Leadership:**

“Leadership isn’t just given to you; it’s learned.”

- Syd Entell, JLCD Sustainer-Emeritus

“The League makes you challenge yourself, but there’s always someone to support you.”

- Susan Benjamin, JLCD Sustaining Member

“If we can better our community” and make it “a great place to be” then the whole world would be a better place to be.

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