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Looking Forward



As The Junior League of Tampa wraps up yet another incredible League year, it seems fitting to reflect on our achievements through the lens of progress. Much like a student's graduation is often referred to as "commencement," the end of one League year also marks an exciting beginning for the next. With far too many significant and inspiring successes to recount in a single letter, the 2018-2019 year has once again cemented JLT's commitment to its Mission and to its continuing improvement and progress.

For an organization with such vast, long-term aspirations, it can sometimes be difficult to pinpoint or clearly define progress when there is no single or end goal in mind. But this ambiguity is also what makes all of our smaller, ongoing accomplishments so important as part of the larger picture. Each time an individual member, committee or initiative crosses its own finish line—whatever that may be—the League as a whole benefits and moves forward in its overarching journey.

As a result of tireless and dedicated leadership and members, as well as invaluable community support, JLT continues to operate as a veritable well-oiled machine, but none of its progress would be possible without the efforts and achievements of all its moving parts. As we enjoy the summer and take time to recharge for the 2019-2020 League year, I remain proud and honored to be a part of The Junior League of Tampa's continuing efforts to empower women and better serve our community.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Kendra Lyman in black ink.

Kendra Lyman
Editor

THE SANDSPUR

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MEET THE SANDSPUR'S EDITORIAL STAFF



KENDRA LYMAN, Editor

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer and as Assistant Editor for *The Sandspur*. She works as a construction law attorney and has lived in Tampa since 2013. In her free time, Kendra enjoys running, attending concerts with her husband Chance, and spending time with friends and family.



LAUREN VAGNONI, Assistant Editor

Lauren is a first-year Active member of JLT. By day, she works as an attorney for a property insurance company. She holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor degree from Florida State University College of Law. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering within the Tampa Bay community, spending time with friends and family and watching Gator football. Lauren also loves planning socials and events as she serves as this year's League Resource Liaison for *The Sandspur* Committee.



ELIZABETH WEIBLEY, Features Editor

Elizabeth first joined JLT in 2017, and this is her first year as an Active member. By day she is a Financial Aid Administrator at the University of South Florida, and by night she is a Disney-obsessed, dog-cuddling bookworm.



KATE DOUGLASS, Copy Editor

Kate is a first-year Active member who, outside of the League, works in stewardship & fundraising communications. She studied nonprofit management at FSU before working at a museum in NYC. Now living in South Tampa, Kate enjoys horseback riding, yoga, traveling and spending time with family.



CARRIE MINERVA, Photographer

Carrie has been an Active member of JLT since 2016 and previously served two years as an Active member of the Junior League of Fort Lauderdale. She is a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for the Veterans Health Administration. She is a woman of faith who enjoys photography, fitness, and conjuring up creative meals in the kitchen. Carrie and her husband live in South Tampa and recently welcomed their first child, Amella!



NICHOLE VILD, Photographer

Nichole has been a Junior League member since 2013 and belonged to the Emerald Coast and Northern Virginia chapters before transferring to Tampa in 2015. Nichole is a logistics planner for the U.S. Army and enjoys travel and photography in her spare time.



SAMANTHA LITRICO, Advertising Coordinator

Samantha is a first-year Active member of JLT as Advertising Coordinator for *The Sandspur*. She graduated from St. Leo University with a degree in psychology and marketing, and she currently works as a training and development manager. Samantha is passionate about public speaking, writing and volunteering. She loves being a part of the League and the many opportunities it provides to serve in the community.

Learn more about *The Sandspur*
Contributing Writers throughout the magazine.

OUR MISSION

Founded in 1926, The Junior League of Tampa, Inc., is an organization of 1,900 women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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When I think of the singular word to summarize this past year, it is progress. Progress does not denote completion but momentum. I am proud of the progress our volunteers and leadership team have made this year moving the needle on important initiatives like diversity, equity and inclusion, advocacy, leadership development, and community impact.

This landmark year started with our headquarters remodel last summer, record-breaking fundraising, hosting neighborhood meetings, adding a Sustainer of the Year luncheon, launching The Junior League of Tampa Diaper Bank and distributing 100,000 diapers in our first year, re-engineering our communications strategy, and reaching community groups that we had previously never worked with. All of this while continuing business as usual in internal and community functions. We have been successful because of the dedication, hard work and willpower of our members, sponsors and community partners.

The beautiful thing about the League is that you know that the progress we make one year will continue and build on itself. Not to mention that we have been able to make progress because of the foundation that was set for us. I am proud and confident of our work this year and cannot wait to see what the future holds for the League and our community.

We have all heard the cliché, 'by volunteering, you get more than you give.' Over the past year as President and the past 17 years as a Junior League member, I can 100% attest to that truth. The richness of experience has been more than I ever could have known or expected when walking into the Junior League of Las Vegas in 2002. I have had the honor of witnessing lifelong friendships form, watching women have an idea and seeing it through to completion, beholding the sparkle in the eye of a child who is meeting their forever family for the first time or being impacted by one of our volunteers.

It has been a true distinction representing this fabulous organization and our 93-year history. It will forever be one of the highlights of my life. I cannot thank you enough for the honor and I look forward to working together in the future to continue the progress of developing women leaders and improving the Tampa Bay community.

Yours in Service,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabel'.

Isabel Dominicus Dewey
President, 2018-2019

LETTERS TO THE LEAGUE



Dear Sarah and the Junior League Enabling
Fund Committee,

Thank you for choosing Frameworks of
Tampa Bay as one of the recipients of
the Enabling Fund Grant. We know that
there are a lot of organizations out
there, and we are so honored that you
have chosen to support the mission of
Frameworks. Like you, we believe in

the power of investing in the next
generation of leaders who will change
the world and make our community
a better place for all. You are a part
of this movement, and we look forward
to the continued partnership. Thank you!

- Pat
Tango

Sarah,
High Risk Hope is honored to be the
Junior League of Tampa Enabling Fund
Grant recipient for our Books for Babies
Program. These funds will enable HRH to
provide premature babies in the NICU
with books. Studies show reading to
babies in the NICU improves their overall
health outcomes. We are so grateful for
JLT's support & dedication to making
a lifelong impact on the lives of
Tampa's tiniest newborns.

Best wishes,
Bailey Nunn

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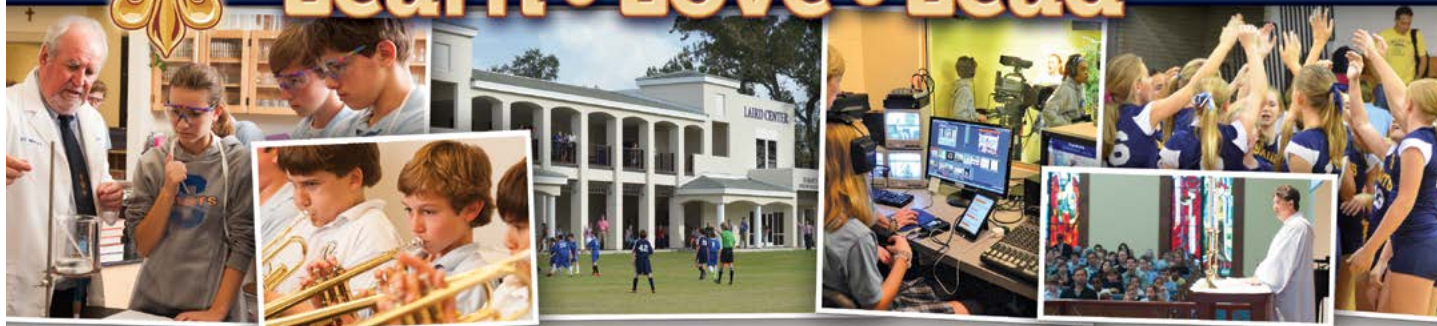
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Tara Curry

Andrea Webb
JLT Active
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Katie Crowe
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MEET *Meghan McGuire!* GETTING TO KNOW JLT'S 2019-2020 PRESIDENT-ELECT

by LAUREN VAGNONI

There are three words that aptly describe The Junior League of Tampa's incoming 2019-2020 President-Elect, Meghan McGuire: Involvement, Adventure and Excellence. Born in London, England, Meghan moved quite a bit as a child and spent the most significant amount of time living just north of Atlanta in Roswell, Georgia. Her unique life experiences include performing in the Opening Ceremonies for the 1996 Olympic Games and in the Super Bowl XXVIII Halftime Show! Growing up, Meghan played tee-ball, ran track, and also

Gators, 24-21. At the end of the exciting game, however, fans rushed the field and unintentionally pushed Meghan and a fellow cheerleader to the ground. An FSU football player picked them up and brought them safely to the field's exit, but team staff still felt bad about the incident – so they took Meghan to meet Bobby Bowden! Needless to say she was ecstatic!

In addition to cheering the Seminoles on to multiple victories, Meghan was also a Seminole Ambassador



participated in gymnastics and cheerleading. In high school, she was a member of the Key Club and National Honors Society. Meghan is also an avid football fan and has very fond memories attending football games with her family.

Meghan attended Florida State University beginning in 1996, and was also a member of the Seminole cheerleading squad. Notably, she cheered on the sidelines during the 1996 Florida State v. Florida football game when the Seminoles defeated the

and a member of Delta Gamma Sorority, serving as its Vice President of Membership and Recruitment. She ultimately earned a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in sports management. Meghan's time at Florida State helped her grow as a young adult and taught her to be comfortable with who she is—and that individuality is something to celebrate.

Following college, Meghan moved to Tampa, Florida, and joined JLT in 2009. Since then, she has served the League tirelessly, including roles as Strategic



Did You Know?

Fun facts you may not know about Meghan:

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS:

FSU, Notre Dame, Chelsea Football Team, Tampa Bay Lightning

FAVORITE COLOR: Orange

MOST DESIRED TRAVEL DESTINATION: Egypt

FAVORITE MOVIE: Almost Famous

FAVORITE QUOTE: *"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."* – The Dalai Lama

Planning Assistant Chair and Chair, Community Projects Manager, Fund Development Planning/Research Chair, Dragon Boat Co-Chair, Nominating Committee member, Membership Manager and, most recently, Strategic Planning Director.

Though Meghan has many wide-ranging goals for the League, in particular she hopes to: further implement JLT's recent diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) initiatives throughout the League's internal operations and community projects; increase member satisfaction, training and interaction; enhance the fund development plan and community/advocacy focus; and continue to develop internal and external brand awareness of the League. Most importantly, Meghan hopes that each and every member of JLT can become better connected to their "why"—their unique, individual reasons and goals for service with the League. She notes that every member at every stage of membership and in each particular placement plays a critical role in the organization as a whole.

Outside of her service to the League, Meghan works in the marketing department for an interconnection and colocation global technology company. She enjoys ancestry research, reading, playing Texas hold-'em, and watching

documentaries or anything history-related. She is also involved in Equinix Impact, a division of her company that drives corporate social responsibility and connects employees to charitable giving and initiatives.

For this upcoming League year, Meghan is particularly excited about continuing JLT's reinvigorated emphasis on DE&I, noting that we are fortunate to have many brilliant leaders throughout the Junior League organization as a whole who are dedicating time, expertise and energy to this important effort. Meghan is grateful to be a part of the League, and she is honored to serve as the 2019-2020 President-Elect of The Junior League of Tampa.



LAUREN VAGNONI

Lauren is a first-year Active and works as an attorney for a property insurance company. She holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor degree from Florida State University College of Law. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering within the Tampa Bay community, spending time with friends and family and watching Gator football. Lauren also loves planning socials and events as she serves as this year's League Resource Liaison for *The Sandspur* Committee.



PADDLING FOR A PURPOSE:

The 2019 Tampa Bay International Dragon Boat Festival

by BRIDGET ABBAS, CAMERON HUNT MCNABB AND LAUREN VAGNONI

For weeks, the steady beat of dragon boat drummers pulsed through the river waters of downtown Tampa, as teams and competitors of all ages and levels of experience prepared for the 2019 Tampa Bay International Dragon Boat Festival. This year's Festival, proudly presented by The Junior League of Tampa and Pan Am Dragon Boat on April 27, drew hundreds of participants and spectators to enjoy the event and festivities at Cotanchobee Ft. Brooke Park. As the League's newest signature fundraiser, the Festival aims to drive community awareness, engagement and involvement, and to promote health and wellness throughout the Tampa Bay area.

On the day of this year's Festival, downtown Tampa's Garrison Channel was energized with community, corporate and professional paddlers racing to the finish, while spectators and attendees enjoyed food trucks, live music, entertainment, local merchants and family-friendly activities.

For those interested in attending future events or learning more, this may beg the question:

***What exactly is
Dragon Boat racing?***

"Dragon Boats originated in China more than 2,500 years ago and first docked in Tampa in 2004."

BRIDGET ABBAS

Bridget is a fifth-year Active member of JLT and a veteran educator. She is passionate about teaching her middle school students to read, write and think critically about the world around them. When not teaching, Bridget also serves on the boards of several nonprofit educational organizations.



Tampa Bay *International* Dragon Boat Festival

BASICS OF BOATING

Dragon Boats originated in China more than 2,500 years ago and first docked in Tampa in 2004. A standard Dragon Boat crew consists of 22 members, including 20 paddlers, one person who drums at the bow and one person who steers. Paddlers sit in pairs facing the bow of the boat. The first pair of paddlers set the pace for the boat. The drummer, located at the front of the boat, creates the “heartbeat” of the boat, which guides the frequency of strokes for paddlers. The “sweep” stands at the back of the boat and steers it with a rigged oar. Working together, an ideal Dragon Boat crew navigates a race at high speeds with impressive precision.

All skill and experience levels are invited to participate in the races at the Festival, with each team and individual paddler placed in the appropriate skill-level racing division. To prepare for the race, all teams and paddlers can participate in up to three optional practices with a Dragon Boat professional.

READY TO RACE

Kathryn Crowe, 2018-2019 Co-Chair of JLT’s Dragon Boat Committee, describes the event as “unique, vibrant and fast-paced.” Races run throughout the day, with winning boats advancing to additional rounds. Paddlers enjoy competition on the water as well as a bonding experience with other team members. Of course, participants get a great workout too!

In addition to enjoying the fun and impressive competition on the water, spectators on land can play family-friendly lawn games, nosh on fabulous food truck meals, and enjoy unique shopping with a variety of local vendors in attendance.

EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF SUPPORT AND COMPETITION

The 2019 Festival continued the tradition of not only fun competition and community interaction, but also support and awareness of important local issues, efforts and organizations. Every paddler brought something of themselves to the water and paddled for a cause, and every spectator joined in support, their cheers echoing with the dragon boat drums. This year’s event included boats sponsored by local businesses and by community organizations including The Junior League of Tampa, the Special Olympics, as well as multiple inspiring groups of breast cancer survivors. In fact, as a group at large, breast cancer survivors have dragon boat teams all over the nation, as paddling offers a safe and healthy form of exercise for those who are facing or have undergone treatment, and the spirit of competition and teamwork provides a unique opportunity to bond with and support women in their journeys. The Festival honors survivors each year with a special tribute.

JLT Membership has also embraced the infectious spirit of the Festival, with multiple teams participating each year. Active Member Jenna Gough Milavickas joined the dragon boat team

LAUREN VAGNONI

Lauren is a first-year Active and works as an attorney for a property insurance company. She holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor degree from Florida State University College of Law. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering within the Tampa Bay community, spending time with friends and family and watching Gator football. Lauren also loves planning socials and events as she serves as this year’s League Resource Liaison for *The Sandspur* Committee.



her Provisional year and has participated ever since. "I have been on the Special Olympics boat as the drummer for a few years now and there is nothing more exciting than seeing the athletes' faces light up as we start moving together. We all have so much fun getting together and doing this each year!" Provisional Member Melissa Garitta remarked that the Festival "is a great team bonding experience and a way to meet Active and Sustaining Members, building a bond with people you wouldn't have the chance to meet otherwise."

Volunteers and spectators also enjoyed this year's event on land. JLT member and volunteer Fiona Lake has served every year and boasts that it is her favorite shift. Outside of the League's Membership, Tampa resident Lee Davidson attended for the first time this year and found herself drawn to the community of paddlers. In fact, after meeting and chatting with one crew participant, she plans on joining their practices over the summer.

PADDLING WITH A PURPOSE

The Junior League of Tampa is proud to present this signature event as a critical part of its ongoing efforts to facilitate community engagement and involvement, and to promote health and wellness in a unique celebration of the Tampa Bay region and its natural beauty.

Through its partnership with Tampa-based Pan Am Dragon Boat Association, a leading Dragon Boat production company, The Junior League of Tampa is honored to be designated as Pan Am's exclusive non-profit beneficiary of the Festival for years to come. All net proceeds from the Festival will support the League's life-changing community projects and advocacy efforts throughout Tampa Bay and beyond.

Although this is only the third year of the Tampa Bay International Dragon Boat Festival, the event has become a staple of the downtown spring season and the League itself. JLT encourages all to participate in the annual event, as the Dragon Boat Festival is the League's only competitive annual fundraising event and offers a truly unique experience for anyone looking for springtime fun!

For more information about tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or to form or join a team, please visit: www.jltampa.org/dragonboat.



CAMERON HUNT McNABB

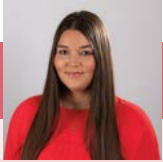
Cameron Hunt McNabb has been a member of The Junior League of Tampa since 2016 and is part of the third generation in her family to serve in JLT. She works as an English professor and enjoys running and traveling in her spare time. Cameron looks forward to raising her daughter to serve in the League as well!



PROVISIONAL CLASS OF 2019

Congratulations to the Provisional Class of 2019!

After a year of tireless provisional education and service, The Junior League of Tampa is proud to welcome its newest Active members!



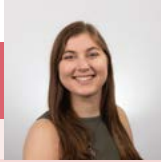
Julia Allen



Alexandra Andrews



Lydia Atkinson



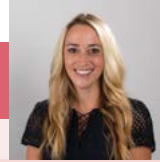
Alison Avery



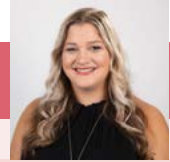
Mirjam Ball



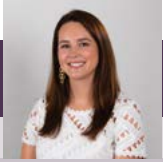
Gina Barry



Haven Bassett



Jessica Berroth



Kelly Bjorkquist



Youstina Bolos



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Megan Bryant



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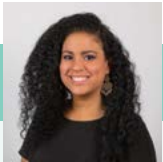
Kathryn Clarke



Jessica Cochran



Jacqueline Cole



Jessica Couvertier



Mary Crescentini



Katelin David



Jeannine Davis



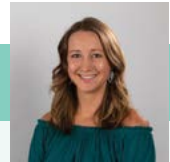
Lindsey Dewey



Alexandra Diaz



Robin Dreier



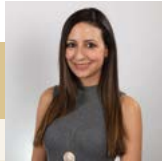
Alexandra Ellison



Brittany Erigo



Stephanie Ewell



Rawan Faramand



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Kelly Fearon



Molly Fitzpatrick



Melanie Foley



Chelsea Fredrickson



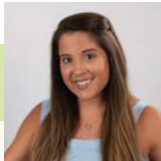
Amanda Fritz



Adrian Gaffney



Taylor Gari



Melissa Garitta



Alexandra Gerecke



Christina Gerecke



Patsy Giarda



Elizabeth Giles



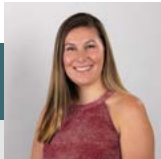
Catherine Godwin



Chelsea Grau



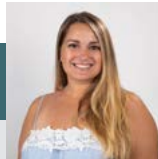
Elizabeth Greminger



Katie Hanneken



Michelle Hernandez



Geneva Holland



Kristin Horne



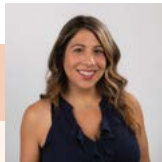
Tania Horst



Lauren Humphries



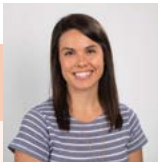
Melissa Isabel Keel



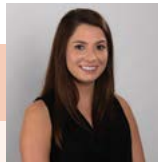
Crystal Jacovino



Mathilde Jarrett



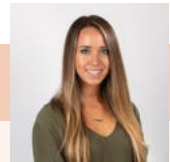
Christy Johnson



Brianna Jordan



Elisabeth June



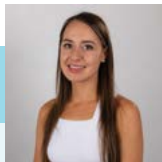
Lauren Kay



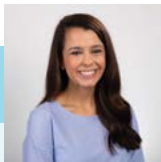
Amber Kessler



Stephanie Key



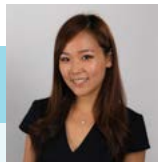
Elizabeth King



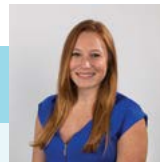
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Jasmine Lane



Tracy Lanning



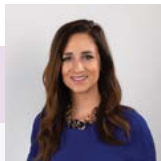
Lauren Leavine



Jessica Lee



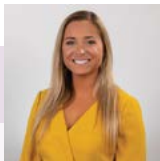
LaToya Lemons



Rebecca LoCascio



Lauren Maguire



Stephanie Marsan



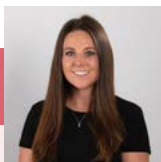
Jude Masannat



Jamiel Maze



Tiffany Miller



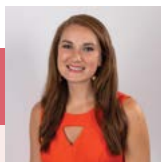
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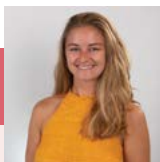
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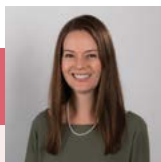
Rachel Moskovitz



Marie Moyle



Kathleen O'Brien



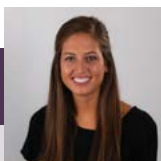
Kara O'Connor



Melissa Page



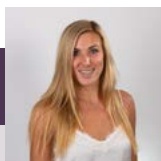
Michele Panetta



Talia Pappas



Tara Payor



Katherine Pederson



Katie Peterson



Christine Phan



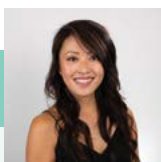
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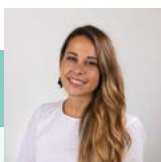
Amanda Post



Cara Powell



Jennie Radu



Rachael Rahrig



Jamie Rametta



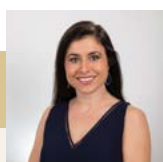
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Stephanie Rescigno



Lauren Rice



Ashlyn Robinson



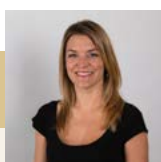
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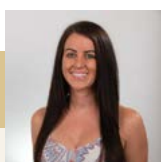
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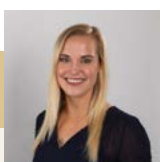
Suzanne Rondeau



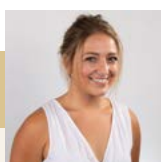
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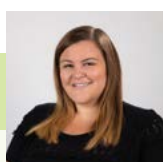
Katie Schab



Emily Segoviano



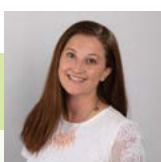
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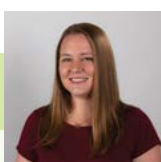
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Amy Simon Gross



Haley Simpson



Paige Skinner



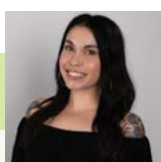
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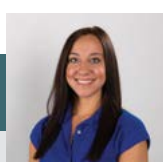
Caroline Sosa



Alexia Stalpes



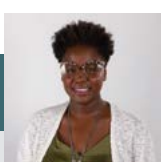
Kristin Stephan



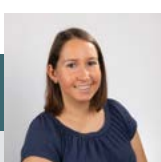
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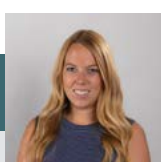
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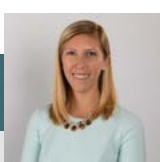
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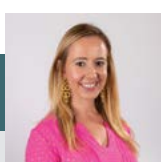
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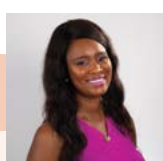
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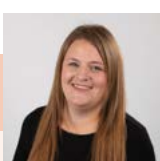
Emily Tang



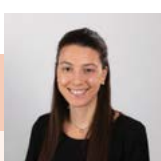
Kate Tarokh



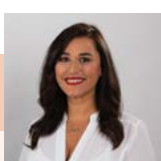
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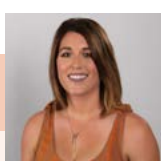
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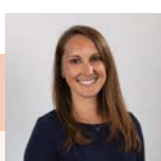
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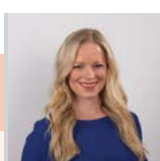
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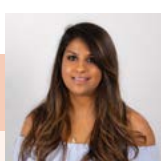
Nicole Tribbett



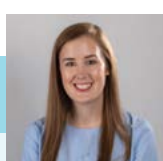
Rebecca Truitt



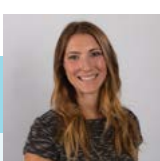
Molly Venters



Amrita Wheeley



Caroline Wherley



Nina Wright



Angel Wynn



April Young

NOT PICTURED:

Lauren Graham

Kate Hall

Ashley Powell

Sarah Purkey

Danielle Shepard

Lila Gross

Ashlee McGeehan

Aditi Purandare

Kelly Ravens



THE LUMINARIES

Preserving the Past. Inspiring the Future.

by KENDRA LYMAN

As part of The Junior League of Tampa's commitment to recognizing community leadership and service, The Luminaries program celebrates individuals whose contributions to the Tampa Bay area serve as inspiration for all. Each year, The Luminaries honors three individuals for notable leadership, advocacy and distinction within their respective areas of service.

The 2019 Luminaries honorees—Rosemary Armstrong, Dr. Judy Genshaft, and Joseph Capitano, Sr.—were recognized at JLT's annual Luminaries luncheon on May 10 at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC. Attendees enjoyed meeting and hearing from each of the honorees, while celebrating their many accomplishments and legacies of service.

The League invites all members of our community to consider nominating individuals who have achieved significant, lasting impact in serving and helping to improve the Tampa Bay region. For more information regarding the 2020 Luminaries, including the nomination process and upcoming deadlines, please visit jltampa.org/luminaries.





KENDRA LYMAN

Kendra has been an Active member of JLT since 2015 and previously served as a contributing writer and as Assistant Editor for *The Sandspur*. She works as a construction law attorney and has lived in Tampa since 2013. In her free time, Kendra enjoys running, attending concerts with her husband Chance, and spending time with friends and family.





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is a group of Junior League women who gather monthly over lunch to share ideas and support one another as we navigate work, family and life in general. We have planned an amazing year ahead focusing on our chosen theme: Be Present. Our speakers will touch on this theme throughout the year and will teach us how to be mindful in our everyday lives. We hope you will be present at this exciting series of events.

Contact Krista Allred, 813-766-3313 and we will send you more details.

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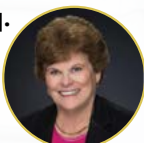
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THE 2018-2019 LUNCH CALENDAR:

- Aug 16 – Keeping Balance
- Sept 20 – Your Vision
- Oct 17 – Interpersonal
- Nov 15 – Nutrition
- Jan 17 – 2020 is Here
- Feb 21 – Marketing You
- Mar 20 – Mindfulness
- Apr 17 – Wrap Up

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CELEBRATING A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

JLT's 2019 Annual Dinner

by MORGAN BLAKE

Each spring, The Junior League of Tampa celebrates the end of the League year with its Annual Dinner, inviting all members to join in commemorating the year's accomplishments and JLT's most inspiring women and community initiatives. Organized by the League's Member Meetings and Events Committee, this year's event was thoughtfully planned and beautifully presented on May 16 in Tampa.

The stunning Gathering Hall at Armature Works served as an ideal venue, and there was plenty to celebrate as attendees reflected on yet another successful year for JLT and its work throughout the community. Following a cocktail hour, JLT's 2018-2019 President, Isabel Dewey, opened the evening by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and by congratulating all Provisional, Active, and Sustaining Members for their invaluable contributions to the League over the past year.

The first award of the evening, presented by Provisional Education Chair Elizabeth Dunsmoor, recognized **Lindsey Dewey** as the **2018-2019 Provisional of the Year**. As Elizabeth proudly described, Lindsey is calm, poised and diplomatic. As a busy wife and mother, Lindsey nevertheless attended every Provisional Education course meeting throughout the year and went above and beyond to volunteer for several other League committees while also completing her Provisional service with



MORGAN BLAKE

Morgan is a first-year Active member who, outside of the League, works on the Real Estate Asset Management team at Bloomin' Brands. She graduated from Florida State University and is so happy to have moved back to her sweet hometown of Tampa. Currently residing in Hyde Park, she loves spending time with her boyfriend Anthony and her family, trying new recipes and foraging for flowers around town.



the Kids in the Kitchen Committee. Lindsey is also appreciated for her punctual, valuable and insightful feedback, and she will surely continue to set a wonderful example as she continues in her League career. In her first year as an Active Member, Lindsey will serve as the 2019-2020 League Resource Liaison for the Diaper Bank Committee.



The **2018-2019 Active of the Year** award was presented to **Casey Barile**, upon unanimous selection by the League's Executive Board. As the 2018-2019 Design Coordinator for the Public Relations Committee, Casey "brought JLT graphics to a whole new level," reviving the JLT social media platforms with fresh and original content as part of the Committee's overall initiative to implement a new branding

strategy for the League. Casey's work to highlight one of the League's newest public affairs initiatives, Activate813, led to one of JLT's most highly viewed and engaged social media posts ever, which was ultimately shared and publicly recognized by The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). As she continues her service to the League, Casey will serve as the 2019-2020 Vice President of Public Relations for the Toastmasters Committee.

The next award was presented by JLT's Finance Director, Caroline Vostrejs, who announced the **Public Affairs Committee** as the League's **2018-2019 Committee of the Year**. JLT President, Isabel Dewey, recognized the Committee's significant accomplishments, noting "As a past chair of this committee, it has been exciting to watch the Public Affairs Committee soar to new heights." The Committee's most notable success over the past year is inarguably the Activate813 initiative, through which The Junior League of Tampa has collaborated with other nonprofit community organizations to address local public affairs issues and promote nonpartisan community awareness and involvement. In particular,

Activate813 focuses on voter education, registration, and engagement throughout Tampa and Hillsborough County. Congratulations to the 2018-2019 Public Affairs Committee, including Co-Chairs Maggie McClelland and Melanie Brown.

Following recognition of her own Committee's accomplishments, Public Affairs Co-Chair Maggie McClelland presented the **2018-2019 Inspiring Leader of the Year** award to **Caroline Foss**. Described as a visionary with a big-picture mentality, Caroline was recognized for always leading by example and ensuring that others feel empowered and important. As Maggie explained, "Caroline embodies the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote: 'Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.'" Caroline's inspiring enthusiasm helped JLT's Diaper Bank, one of the League's newest initiatives, to expand from working with one community partner to seven, and to surpass 100,000 diapers now distributed to local families in need since the initiative began less than one year ago. In line with the spirit of her award, Caroline has personally gone above



and beyond by hosting a diaper drive to assist recent hurricane victims and reached out to elected officials in Tallahassee to advocate for the proposed diaper sales tax exemption bill. Caroline will continue her service to the League and community as Co-Chair of the Diaper Bank Committee.



The **Martha S. Ferman Spirit Award**, given each year in honor of one of the League's most cherished members, was presented to **Laura Everitt**. Laura began her League career with the Junior League of Charlottesville and subsequently served the New Orleans and Nashville chapters before joining JLT in 2007. As an integral part of JLT's success and growth, Laura has tirelessly served

throughout the past 12 years as chair of multiple committees and on the Executive Board as Secretary, Community Director and Membership Director. The League is grateful for Laura's invaluable contributions and looks forward to her continued presence as a Sustaining Member.

In a particularly moving end to the evening's awards, Sustainer President Leslie Jennewein presented the **2018-2019 Sustainer of the Year** award to **Patricia "Pat" Carter**, who has demonstrated an outstanding lifetime commitment to serving others. Aptly described by Leslie as the most prestigious honor a League member may receive, the Sustainer of the Year award humbly recognizes JLT Sustaining Members whose lifetime accomplishments and commitments to the League serve as inspiration for



all who follow. Selected by two former recipients of this award and a past Sustainer President, Mrs. Carter was recognized with great appreciation for her lifelong dedication to serving her community through the League and otherwise. As a friend describes, "Her leadership since becoming a member of JLT in 1967 has been exemplary. Her desire to improve her community has been constant and her passion to develop the potential of women is the most impressive." As a native Floridian and proud graduate of Florida State University, she has enjoyed a successful career as a business professional in addition to her years of volunteer service. As Mrs. Carter accepted her award, she was joined by her husband and lifelong partner, Calvin Carter, as well as their children and grandchildren.

The 2019 Annual Dinner concluded with the symbolic passing of the gavel to the incoming 2019-2020 JLT President, Melissa Knight Nodhturft, whose leadership and vision for the coming year will surely continue The Junior League of Tampa's legacy of service, collaboration and community.





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JLT and Tampa General Hospital Come Together to Bring Nutrition to Food Deserts

The Junior League of Tampa is proud to partner with organizations who share our values and mission. This year we were fortunate enough to work with Tampa General Hospital (TGH) as they create a healthier community by meeting the physical and nutritional needs of at-risk youth. JLT was the beneficiary of a generous \$10,000 donation from TGH to fund our Kids in the Kitchen Program.

In 2006, the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) created the Kids in the Kitchen Program for Junior Leagues across the country to tackle this difficult issue. The program brings together volunteers and youth to learn how to make healthier nutritional choices. The Junior League of Tampa was an early adopter of the initiative and it continues to be our Provisional Project.

The youth that we serve often live in food deserts, without access to fresh foods. Food deserts are problematic because the most accessible food in these areas typically comes from convenience stores that sell processed, high-sugar and fat laden foods, which contribute to obesity and long-term health issues. Through the Kids in the Kitchen initiative, volunteers work with children living in food deserts by showcasing healthy meals and snacks that require minimal ingredients and preparation to develop healthy long-term eating habits.

Heather Hall, JLT's 2018-2019 Kids in the Kitchen Committee Chair, knows how TGH's generosity was felt throughout the community. Heather notes, "We are extremely grateful for our partnership with TGH with the Kids in the Kitchen program. The funds provided food and materials for 54 Kids in the Kitchen site visits and served over 1,000 kids, teaching them the importance of healthy eating habits and exercise and how to incorporate it into their daily lives."

The Kids in the Kitchen committee also hosts Family Food Fest, a free family event to kick off the summer season. The 2019 event, hosted at the University Area Community Development Center Complex, featured a mobile food pantry, games, culinary demonstrations, and book giveaways.

Creating a culture of health and wellness is paramount to a strong city and region. The partnership between Tampa General Hospital and The Junior League of Tampa is working hard to improve the lives of our most vulnerable. We are fortunate enough to renew this partnership in the 2019-2020 year and will continue to make an impact to youth throughout the region.





THE SUSTAINER SPUR

THE SUSTAINER SPUR'S EDITORIAL STAFF:

Teneille Kuznicki, *The Sustainer Spur* Editor

An Active Member of JLT since 2011, Teneille works in Program Management. She was previously the Co-Chair of the Luminaries Committee, and also part of the Inaugural Committee. Teneille grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, just got married and enjoys travelling the world.

SUSTAINER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2018-2019:

Sustainer President: **Leslie Jennewein**

Sustainer President-Elect: **Marsha Lane**

Sustainer Corresponding Secretary: **Catherine Marston**

Sustainer Recording Secretary: **Ann VonThron**

Our path forward through Progress

It's SUMMERTIME! With kids out of school, families taking some much-needed vacation time and friends catching up with each other; it's great to see the continuation of activities, outreach and the relationship building that continues to grow within our group. Our Sustainers have been using this time to shake things up, step out more to meet each other through multiple pop-ups and events.

It is an exciting time we are in with all the changes we have folded into our organization over the past few months, and it is a true testament to our evolution and progress. When I look back into 2018 and coming on board as the editor of *The Spur of the Moment*, we took on an opportunity to get more Sustainer exposure, starting with the re-branding of the Bi-Yearly communication that went out to our Sustainers. It was time to grow our footprint with Sustainers in the league wanting to participate in events, and continue to support the League.

In the Fall 2018 edition, we had the inaugural inclusion of *The Sustainer Spur* within our quarterly release of *The Sandspur*, bringing the face of the Sustainers to our entire League. What started out as a simple vision, has seen *The Sustainer Spur* grow to include a Sustainer Spotlight, highlighting our Sustainers through the Decades, recognizing a Historical aspect that played a pivotal role in our League's history, and spotlighting major Sustainer events occurring throughout the year. What an AMAZING opportunity!

Coming together as a group was the beginning by creating the vision of *The Sustainer Spur*, keeping this going is progress, especially with our growth over the past league year, and working together will make it a success as we continue the vision of the Sustainers.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to work on *The Sustainer Spur*, to give advice and to support this vision. As we go into the new league year, let's keep this forward momentum!



Teneille Kuznicki
The Sustainer Spur Editor



*Life is not easy for
any of us. But what of
that? We must have
perseverance and
above all confidence
in ourselves. We must
believe that we are
gifted for something
and that this thing
must be attained.*

— Marie Curie

LETTER FROM THE SUSTAINER PRESIDENT— LESLIE JENNEWEIN

The JLT Sustainers includes a vast age-range of women—a direct result of the Decade of Dedication designation. Many of our Sustainers are increasingly becoming younger and we understand that change and progress are both inevitable and welcome. The demand to deliver entertaining social events, as well as, educational and volunteer opportunities to this varied and talented group of women is critical in order to maintain, and ultimately increase, everyone's engagement.

I am certain that many Sustainers enjoy seeing and participating in the usual tried-and-true events on the yearly JLT Sustainer calendar, yet many of the newer Sustainers yearn for additional options that provide both fulfilling and entertaining membership experiences on a more frequent basis. The good news is that every year new ideas surface for valuable and exciting opportunities to offer the Sustainers, and this year was no exception. In every organization you will find those who are team "old school" and then there are those who enjoy and embrace change. By remembering this and by continuing to keep our hearts, minds and options open, our entire organization will benefit as a direct result of this blend of ideas.

Every organization needs goals to strive for. Not only do our goals give members direction and purpose, but they ensure that we are working towards the benefit and progress of the overall organization, while having fun in the process. I encourage all of the Actives to make sure that you set aside time to get to know the Sustainers. They bring a treasure trove of knowledge to the table and their accomplishments over the years should be recognized and celebrated. It can never be overstated that the landscape and breath of our Sustainer network has laid the groundwork for a sustainable foundation for the future of The Junior League of Tampa.

I want to thank my predecessor, Betsy Chambers, and the 2019-2020 Sustainer President, Marsha Lane, for their insight, support and friendship. I know that Marsha has much in store for the Sustainers and I wish her the best! My only advice is to have fun along the way and don't take it all too seriously.

In closing, I have enjoyed getting to know so many Sustainers and Actives this year. It has been a true pleasure working with Isabel and the staff at JLT Headquarters. My committee was amazing, and without the dedication of a few of you, we could never have pulled off so many events. I look forward to being with all of you at a future JLT event soon!



Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leslie Jennewein".

Leslie Jennewein
Sustainer President

Save the Dates

POP UP HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH AT 5:30PM

AMERICAN SOCIAL

BACK TO THE LEAGUE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

JLT HEADQUARTERS

POP UP HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 5:30PM

ELEVAGE

POP UP HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH AT 5:30PM

SALT SHACK

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUSTAINERADMIN@JLTAMPA.ORG OR 813.254.1734 EXT 1

Exceptional Professionals

by TENEILLE KUZNICKI

Our group started as a simple “wish we knew more Junior Leaguers, why don't we have a monthly lunch group to get to know each other”



— states founding member Krista Allred. This was the starting conversation Krista had back in 1998 in the parking lot at the Holiday Boutique held at Junior League Headquarters. At the time, the casual lunch group was

mostly working women who valued a chance for ‘girl talk’ and ideas on how to be more time effective juggling family, work, and volunteer commitments. They soon had the idea to support the League financially by running an advertisement in The Sandspur, and a name was needed hence ‘Exceptional Professionals’ was born.

Mission Statement: Exceptional Professionals is a group of JLT women who gather monthly over lunch to share ideas and support one another as they navigate work, family and life in general.

Current Sustainer and member of this group Kimberly (Kim) Davis joined the Exceptional Professionals in 2008 as a way to broaden her overall JLT experience. Kim had been in the League for about four years, had three young kids at home, and had just started a brand new business. She was loving the service and leadership aspects and wanted to expand her overall JLT experience to work on personal development and professional growth. At that time, The Exceptional Professionals were comprised of successful Sustainers who had founded the group to ensure the connections and friendships they started as Provisionals and Actives bridged the gap and continued into Sustainerhood. To herself she thought – “what better way to navigate my personal growth than to connect with women who were already on the path to where I wanted to be in life!”





Hannah Gross brings the lens as a current Active member within the League. This group has impacted her in many ways. Mainly, the ability to truly understand “work life balance”. Many of the women in the group are wives, mothers, and volunteers, all while

holding full time careers. Hearing the women share their monthly success stories allowed her to truly implement “work smarter, not harder”, allowing her to truly gain balance in many areas of her life, especially as a working mother.

Kim also states, “The evolution of this group has been extraordinary! What started as a mainly socially driven group of Sustainers has expanded to include all JLT member levels and is really constantly exploring ways additional value can be provided during the monthly lunches in all aspects of our lives — social, personal and professional.” She is excited to see how the group can develop and evolve with a continued impact on our members and our community at-large.

Krista is also excited with the growth and progress over the past few years. This group of women continues to evolve and grow year over year — “At a recent meeting, several ladies decided to offer more value in the lunch hour, and so we now have a calendar of speakers for the Fall 2019 — Spring 2020 season. Come join us for lunch, you may meet a new friend, or learn a new skill.”

TENEILLE KUZNICKI

An Active Member of JLT since 2011, Teneille works in Program Management. She was previously the Co-Chair of the Luminaries Committee, and also part of the Inaugural Committee. Teneille grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, just got married and enjoys travelling the world.



DAVIS ISLAND YACHT CLUB



BULLA SUSTAINER SOCIAL



AVA SUSTAINER SOCIAL



SUSTAINERS THROUGH THE DECADES

by STEPHANIE HAAS

In celebration of The Junior League of Tampa's inspiring history, we are honored to introduce some of the League's earliest founding members and leaders, each of whom has helped guide the League through its many decades of service and growth.

1980s Members



THE HONORABLE KATHERINE G. ESSRIG

What defined your time in the League? Was there a noteworthy project or fundraiser that galvanized the Membership?

I don't know that any one particular project or fundraising activity of the League "defined" my time as an Active member, however I found a number of projects and activities enabled the Membership to feel connected to each other and, more importantly, to feel that they understood many of the needs of our community and the ways in which the League could meet some of those needs and fill some of the voids that existed.

During the entire time that I was an Active member of the League, the League hosted a Thrift Sale for the community; all Active League members participated in some fashion, by both donating items to be sold, working at the warehouse and/or the day of the sale (stocking items on shelves, tagging items, working cash registers, etc.); though the League subsequently decided that the efforts of its members could better serve the community in other ways, this was a project that, back in "the day," enabled us to reach out to those members of the community who were less fortunate and to directly provide to them goods at greatly reduced prices. It was an annual reminder of how easy it is to give a helping hand to those who are less fortunate, and, while we no longer have a Thrift Sale, the League continues to do much to better the lives of those who can use some assistance.

What is your favorite League memory?

My favorite League memory is listening to Jean Ann Cone present "the history of the League" to new Provisionals.

The League is first and foremost a training organization. How did the League prepare you to serve in the community more effectively?

The League helped prepare me in so many ways, for much of the community and professional work in which I have been involved over the years. I served on the Board of Directors of the League, which, especially given how large the Board is, really enabled me to learn Robert's Rules of Order, organizational structure, board governance, to name a few, which has been of great assistance to me as I've served on numerous governing boards of organizations.

Also, the League taught me that volunteer roles are not positions of fluff, but are to be taken seriously and approached in a businesslike and professional way. I think that two League placements, in particular, assisted me in my professional endeavors:

I served on the Public Affairs Committee, and, as a member of that committee, I attended a State Public Affairs Committee ("SPAC") meeting; through that placement, I learned about legislation and issues of import, on both the state and local level, that impacted Hillsborough County citizens. I also served on the Provisional Education Committee, and that placement involved partnering with a Provisional member of the League, shepherding her along as a member, teaching her about the history and the structure of the League, and ensuring that she had a solid beginning to her future service as an Active member of the League. I loved that placement, as it forced me to see the League through the eyes of a new member; I enjoy mentoring young lawyers and new judges, and this placement was the start of what has been a long process of mentoring those who are starting out in their careers.

How has the League changed (good or bad) since you were an Active?

The League has changed in size; it is much larger than it was "back in the day," and its economic impact, as well as forcefulness, in the community is greater. Also, the League has become much more diverse in every way, which, of course, is a great thing. Also, the vast majority of League members now are employed outside the home full-time, whereas when I first joined the League, a higher percentage of its members did not work outside the home. But the League has been steadfast in its commitment to focusing on specific areas of need in our community and to galvanizing its members to assist in strategic and meaningful ways. The projects and fundraisers change, but the overarching goals remain the same – to promote voluntarism, to develop the potential of women, and to make a positive impact upon our community through effective action and leadership.

What do you hope to see the League accomplish in the next decades? What advice would you give to future League leaders?

I hope to see the League continue to focus its efforts on child welfare and on education. As someone who works on a daily basis with children in the foster care system, I can assure you that the League's impact upon foster children and at-risk youth is tremendous. Through Kids Connect, Love Bundles, Food 4 Kids, Human Trafficking Awareness, and the Diaper Bank projects, the League is touching directly the youth in our community who are truly in tremendous need – of families, of love, of basic necessities, and of human dignity. And, through Family Literacy Nights and the Children's Literacy Project, the Milo Book Bus, as well as Girl Power!, the League is enabling youth to gain the tools they need to be able to become self-sufficient and productive members of our community.

To future League leaders, I would say to find your niche within the League and to learn about a particular focus area and how you, outside of the League, can continue to pursue that passion, either in your professional endeavors or in your avocations.

Tell us about your career post-JLT.

While I was still an Active League member, I ran for County Court Judge and served as such for six years; I then ran for Circuit Court Judge, and I have been serving in that position for twenty-three years. For the vast majority of the time I have served as a Circuit Judge, I have heard cases involving children who have been abused, abandoned, and neglected. I also have served for the past 19 years as a member of the Hillsborough County Children's Board, which uses ad valorem dollars to fund projects for children and families in Hillsborough County. My League activities and training contributed greatly to my being able to serve in each of those positions; I learned the value of listening, of being a good Board member, of galvanizing resources and volunteers to accomplish good, especially for those in the community who are at-risk and in great need. I learned the importance of all three branches of government not only fulfilling their responsibilities, but also of listening to and working with those in the other two branches. I learned to look at our community through a variety of lenses and to address its many needs in focused, strategic, approaches.

"The League taught me that volunteer roles are not positions of fluff, but are to be taken seriously and approached in a businesslike and professional way."

1990s Members



DENISE CASSEDY

What defined your time in the League? Was there a noteworthy project or fundraiser that galvanized the membership?

The League gave me mountains of lifelong memories. From my beginnings as a Junior League of London provisional, to my career as Sustainer President of our Tampa League, each placement has held a special place in my heart. I love everything the League does for the community, and the crop of passionate, talented women I meet are what I can only describe as inspirational. My greatest challenge with the League was serving as the first fundraising chairman. I had never been involved in fundraising, so my start was humble. I printed all the fundraising letters from my home printer and sent them to companies and non-League individuals, successfully resulting in new supporters. The hard work that paid off and ultimately led to uplifting the community - this turned my spark for the League into a fire. Today, fundraising is well-developed placement with a full team reaching out to our community for support, but I'll never forget my early days that defined my League drive.

What is your favorite League memory? Why?

When I chaired Kid's Connect with both Love Bundles and the Adoption Picnics under the umbrella, I had the pleasure of meeting the president of Nutmeg Industries. His company produced t-shirts and sweatshirts, and I knew that our Love Bundles went to children during the cold winter months. I was impassioned explaining our project to the president, and I asked for any overruns from his mills. The next week, his office called me and asked for a list of what sizes I might want in 900 sweatshirts! Nutmeg Industries delivered every size we requested to our warehouse. That moment was pivotal for me in seeing what I could do to make a difference. I realized that it is always about relationships and the ask! Our League passion was contagious.

The League is first and foremost a training organization. How did the League prepare you to serve in the community more effectively?

As a trained volunteer, I was given the tools to look at League placements that were out of my comfort zone. This new confidence led me to serve as a Public Relations chair and create a slideshow highlighting our League's projects and opportunities. I spoke to 37 civic groups about our Enabling Funds grants and Done in a Day projects. Because of training, I tried this project I would have never done otherwise, and I educated many nonprofits unfamiliar with JLT's benevolence.

"I think it is very important for our leaders to keep their eyes on our community partners and continue to find meaningful ways to collaborate with them, as the community grows, shifts, and changes."

How has the league changed (for good or for bad) since you were activity?

There continues to be a lot of need in the community, but 95% of our membership works outside the home. This makes it more difficult for our League to marry our membership's placements with community projects that will address a distinct need and that can be facilitated on the weekends or evenings. I continue to marvel at League members that are juggling it all and making a difference in the community. The family and career demands have increased for women. It is a testimony to what Junior League is doing right.... Women are still lining up to become members. I am thrilled to see more diversity in our membership, diversity that parallels our community. I feel community members can connect to us more.

What do you hope to see the League accomplish in the next decade? What advice would you give to our future leaders?

I would like to see our Love Bundles project duplicated across the US at our other 290 Junior Leagues. This project exemplifies what the League does best - finding a very distinct need not yet met in a community, and working to fulfill it. It also marries the League member interest with placement.

I admire all our leaders and their commitment to our community. Their continual energy is contagious. I think it is very important for our leaders to keep their eyes on our community partners and continue to find meaningful ways to collaborate with them, as the community grows, shifts, and changes. Our world is evolving, and what may have worked ten years ago is obsolete today.

All our leagues need to find ways to retain our well trained membership. We need to keep these women engaged and not lose them to other organizations. It is our League training that makes them valuable for the community.

Tell us about your career - post JLT.

The "Can Do" attitude of our league has empowered me to contribute in many other areas. I served on the Davis Island Civic Association three times and chaired the Girl Scout Dance for fifteen years. The League helped me realize the importance of finding something you can really connect with and using that connection to give back in the fullest way possible. My daughters were both Girl Scouts for twelve years, and I have been a local DI resident for over twenty years. Training empowered me to be courageous and challenge myself in these community positions. My community volunteerism has increased since joining the League and receiving their training. Through JLT, I saw what can be accomplished when we all work together for a common cause.

STEPHANIE HAAS

Stephanie Haas is JLT's Communications Manager. She lives in New Tampa with her husband, John, and her two very stubborn french bulldogs, Wrigley and Mattingly. An avid music and sport fan, if you can't find her at headquarters, you can find her cheering on the Gators and Bucs, or at a concert somewhere in the world.



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Donations to The Junior League of Tampa support our mission-driven programs and projects. Each year, our annual donors support special events and contribute as individuals, foundations and businesses in support of our mission.

To learn more about the Annual Campaign or to make a gift, visit jltampa.org/annual-campaign.
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A gift to the Commemorative Fund is a way to recognize a significant event in a Junior League of Tampa member's life – joining in her celebration or thinking of her in a time of sorrow.

Any occasion may be commemorated; below are a few ideas:

- Celebrate birthdays, engagements, marriages, anniversaries, births, new jobs or promotions.
- Honor someone's service to JLT.
- Offer condolences to a member who has lost a loved one.



To make a commemorative gift, simply fill out an envelope and place your donation inside (cash or check only) or scan the QR code to be taken directly to our online donation site (credit or debit card). All commemorative gifts support JLT's endowment.

To learn more or to make a gift, visit jltampa.org/commemorative-gifts.

For questions, contact funddevelopmentmanager@jltampa.org.

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on her marriage to Josh Williams

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This includes a cumulative listing of commemorative gifts received March 12, 2019 through June 6, 2019.



#MYJLTAMPA



The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund

Leaving a Legacy ... Sustaining Our Service

The Endowment Fund was established in 2006 in partnership with The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. The fund ensures fiscal stability for The Junior League of Tampa, allowing members to focus on the League's mission independent of the state of the economy or the size of membership. A strong endowment fund will ensure a revenue stream that will augment, but not replace, annual fundraising revenue generated through individuals, events, grants, corporate sponsorships and membership dues. This provides the opportunity to pursue new opportunities or deal with unforeseen circumstances without creating an additional financial hardship for JLT or its members. Commemorative gifts support the Endowment Fund.

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Donor List as of December 10, 2018. Donations less than \$250 are recognized through the Commemorative Fund.

**Thank you to our inaugural member of
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The Junior League of Tampa considers it an honor to be designated as a beneficiary of an estate or foundation. We regard this type of planned giving highly and recognize donors through membership in The Junior League of Tampa 1926 Society.

The program allows you to leave your legacy in our community by supporting the future of the League and its members.





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WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE

by LAUREN GUERRERO

Get to know a few of our inspiring members who have shared with us their passion for JLT, as well as their exciting lives and accomplishments outside of the League!

KAITLIN HOWELL, ACTIVE

Kaitlin Howell is a third-year Active Member of The Junior League of Tampa. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas, where she was named Outstanding Master's Student of the Year and served as president of the Sports Professional Association. During both her undergraduate and graduate years, Kaitlin worked in intramural sports for her campus recreation departments and was also a certified high school basketball official in both Florida and Arkansas.

After spending several years away from Tampa for graduate school, Kaitlin was excited to reconnect with the city she fell in love with and decided to join the League. She looks forward to her role as Co-Chair of the Member Meetings and Events Committee next year. Having previously served as Social

Coordinator for Member Meetings and Events, Event Coordinator for Kids Connect, and as a Placement Mentor, Kaitlin is ready and eager to take the next steps in her League career and serve as a committee chair.

Kaitlin's passion for helping others extends beyond her service to JLT, and she is currently the Youth Outreach Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. In her role with the Bucs, she facilitates the organization's elementary and middle school programming, as well as youth and high school football initiatives, and she recently led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundation's inaugural girls flag football weekend. In her free time, Kaitlin enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, and trying new restaurants—especially for brunch!



CHELSEA JOHNSON, ACTIVE

Chelsea Johnson joined The Junior League of Tampa in 2013, and she has served as a committee member of Kids in the Kitchen, the Social Committee, the Scholastic Success Committee and the Sustainer Committee. As a member of the Social committee, Chelsea planned that year's successful JLT Girls' Weekend trip to Savannah, Georgia. The following year, she served on the Scholastic Success committee, which gave her the opportunity to share her beloved horse, BayPony, with Tampa children through a partnership between the League and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. She has most recently served as a member of the Sustainer Committee--and some JLT members may have enjoyed her family Champagne Punch recipe at recent Sustainer events!



Outside of the League, Chelsea is a graduate of the Mayor's Neighborhood University and serves as the president of The Bayshore Beautiful Homeowners Association. She is a lifelong resident of South Tampa and a second-generation City of Tampa Neighborhood Association president, following in the footsteps of her dad. Since becoming president, she has updated the association's administrative functions and social media presence, reinstated the police patrol program, organized numerous community activities and fundraisers, and works as a liaison between residents and the Tampa Police Department, press and media, property developers, and local municipalities. Chelsea also volunteers with LAMPLighters and her church.

Early last year, she founded Tree Something, Say Something, an inter-neighborhood group of concerned volunteers who are active in preserving and promoting the urban forest and tree canopy in Tampa. Through this initiative, Chelsea meets and works with builders' associations, City staff and City Council members, tree experts, and other tree lovers to collaborate with ongoing efforts to update Tampa's tree code and related ordinances.

Chelsea is a collector of vintage pieces and enjoys hosting and entertaining, reading, and spending time with her family and her husband. They have an American Foxhound named Sophie and reside in Bayshore Beautiful.

LAUREN GUERRERO

Lauren is a fifth-year Active and Tampa native. She holds a psychology degree from the University of Florida and a master's in Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling from the University of South Florida, and is dual licensed as a mental health counselor and a marriage and family therapist. Lauren enjoys spending time with her fiancée and step-daughter, going to concerts and trying new restaurants.



2019 Annual Dinner



2019 Luminaries



CONNECT WITH US

This and every 2018-2019 League year edition of *The Sandspur* highlights The Junior League of Tampa's social media channels and web presence. We encourage members to join the conversation by linking up with us on social media. Share your favorite League pictures using the hashtag **#myJLTampa**. You can also access the latest *Sandspur* online. We look forward to connecting with you!



Read about our great community projects, interesting membership, fabulous donors and issues affecting the Tampa community.
jltampa.org/sandspur

Keep your finger on the pulse of the League.
jltampa.org

Learn about our impact in the community.
jltampa.org/community

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QUANTIFYING OUR IMPACT

The Junior League of Tampa is committed to helping break the cycle of poverty for our most disadvantaged children and families. Our Community Projects in the areas of child welfare and education aim to directly impact, provide and build a better community for all.



750

volunteer hours for JLT's Kids in the Kitchen project last year



900

books distributed to children this year at JLT's MILO events



950

children served this year through JLT's Family Literacy Night



10,000

bags distributed by Food4Kids last year



30,000

diapers packed into kits by The Junior League of Tampa Diaper Bank in March for distribution to JLT's Diaper Bank partners throughout Hillsborough County

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Photo courtesy of Hunter Ryan Photography

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