THE SANDSPUR
Spring/Summer 2021
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA
95 YEARS STRONG
We Understand Moms!

The past three years have been crazy in the best possible way: our staff has had nine babies. We are thoroughly experienced to tackle the problems that pop up when a baby comes along: from stretch marks to melasma and splotchy discoloration, we’ve got you covered.
Ferman. Proudly Supporting Junior League for More Than 70 Years.
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editor's note.

95 years strong! As we celebrate this milestone for The Junior League of Tampa, we looked to The Sandspur archives for inspiration and nostalgia for this issue. In any other year, the 95th anniversary issue would be filled with celebratory events but the 2020-2021 League year was truly like no other. We have highlighted this year like no other in the Splinters from the Board. We borrowed the title from an article in an issue of The Sandspur from the 1950’s. Of course, it has a 2021 spin to it. Take the time to read how leaders from around the League adapted and showed resiliency throughout the last year.

THE SANDSPUR: LOOKING TO THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

The Sandspur Spotlight (page 52-53) was originally published in Spring 2012 issue. The article highlights every Editor from 1949 to 2012. Since originally published, there have been ten additional named Editors of The Sandspur.

2012-13 – Cynthia Valdez
2013-14 – Sommer Stiles
2014-15 – Tanya Egger
2015-16 – Heath Trkovsky
2016-17 – Chrissy Doligalski
2017-18 – Margaret Cashill
2018-19 – Kendra Lyman
2019-20 – Lauren Vagnoni
2020-21 – Sara Larsen
2021-22 – Lauren Sanchez

Looking into The Sandspur archives was amazing. From the early issues of The Sandspur that were clearly jammed out on a typewriter, to the 64 pages of beautiful design we currently call The Sandspur; there is a rich history of documenting the happenings of The Junior League of Tampa. There were a few things that stood out. I wanted to dedicate space to discuss publication frequency. It hasn’t always been the same. The Sandspur has been published monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, and a couple years I couldn’t figure out the frequency. Since going digital in addition to print in 2009, The Sandspur has been published quarterly. This year, in order to bring our members and the community printed issues of The Sandspur, we moved to two issues. As we finalize the second and final issue for this League year, I’m slightly in awe that everything came together.

Moving forward, we anticipate three issues next year. A smaller fall issue dedicated to The Junior League of Tampa Holiday Gift Market and two full size issues in a Fall/Winter issue and Spring/Summer. Like everything, this is subject to change until we send the final approval to print.

Sara Larsen
Editor, 2020-2021

WRITE AN ARTICLE

The Sandspur is always looking for a good article or two. If you have an idea or have participated in a League event, send write up and a couple pictures to then send to the Editor.

ADVERTISE IN THE SANDSPUR

If you’re interested in advertising in the 2021-2022 The Sandspur, ask the advertising coordinator for our media kit by emailing sandspureads@jltampa.org.
Faces of South Tampa is proud to offer CoolTone™, a great non-surgical way to tone, firm and strengthen your abs, buttocks and thighs.

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Schedule your COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION and discover more about the simple and safe way to tone muscles without surgery by visiting: FacesOfSouthTampa.com

CoolTone™ is FDA-cleared to strengthen, tone, and firm the abdomen, buttocks, and thighs. Common side effects include muscle, joint or tendon pain, muscle spasm, and skin redness.
Meet the SANDSPUR STAFF

Sara Larsen, Editor
Sara joined the Junior League of Seattle in 2015. She transferred to the Junior League of Austin then the Junior League of Tampa. She currently lives in Tampa Heights and has an adorable mini goldendoodle named Lincoln.

Lauren Sanchez, Assistant Editor
Lauren is an active JLT member who enjoys volunteering in her spare time as a Big Sister from Big Sister program, Heart Gallery of Tampa, Children’s Home Society Board, & as a Seminole Representative for their Boosters Program. Some of her favorite hobbies are reading, the beach, and, this fall, you can find her watching FSU & the Packers play football this season.

Lauren Pulido, League Resource Liaison
Ren is a third-year Active and works as an attorney for an insurance defense firm. She is the league resource liaison for The Sandspur this year. She holds a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in business law from Boston University and earned her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law. Ren enjoys volunteering, traveling, photography, time with her family and friends, and is frequently seen around town with her dachshund Stella.

Katelyn Giglio, Advertising Coordinator
I joined the Junior League to connect to my community, uncover ways to be of service and contribute to a better world. Through the years, I’ve been fortunate to meet a like-minded, passionate and diverse group of women collectively motivated to positively impact the lives of others. I love the energy, endless opportunities and friendships I’ve made along the way!

Lauren Guerrero, Contributing Writer
This organization is bursting with women who are out to empower each other, community members, as well as those we serve. There is nothing more inspiring than being around strong, beautiful, talented, like-minded women who get excited to get out there and serve others. It takes courage to be a servant and like each and every woman in Junior League, we use our courage to propel our initiatives forward. We build each other up and lead successful teams when we step outside of our comfort zone.

Lauren McNabb, Contributing Writer
Cameron is a third-generation JLT member and works as an Associate Professor of English at Southeastern University. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and being outdoors, and she looks forward to her daughter one day carrying on the legacy of service in the League.

Lauren Schwab, Contributing Writer
After moving back to the Clearwater area after college, I originally joined the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin as a way to meet and connect with new people in the area who value volunteering in the community. A few years ago I moved to Tampa to pursue my nurse practitioner degree at USF and decided to transfer into The Junior League of Tampa. As a result, I have met some of the most incredible women, made amazing friends, and have had the ability to learn about and volunteer for various organizations in our community.

Lila Gross, Copy Editor
Lila is a third-year active member of JLT. Lila is the feature reporter at WFLA News Channel 8 for four years and her live daily segment, “Living Local with Lila”, highlights the best spots in town while telling meaningful stories. Lila is passionate about giving back to the Tampa Bay community and has served as the Autism Speaks emcee for three years. When she’s not out on the town for work, you can find Lila cooking in the kitchen or playing with her mini Aussie puppy, Piper.

Amanda Partilla, Features Editor
Amanda Partilla joined The Junior League of Tampa in 2019 and is a third generation Tampa girl; earning her degree in Psychology and PMP© certification at University of South Florida. She’s a wife, mother of three, and Marketing VP at JP Morgan Chase. Amanda spends her free time volunteering at Quantum Leap Farm, visiting Disney and trying out new recipes in the kitchen.
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.

2020-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Meghan McGuire, President
Taylor Jones, President-Elect
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Emily Read, Finance Director
Meg Severino, Leadership Director
Brittany Stahl, Membership Director
Diana Hechavarria, Strategic Planning Director
Elizabeth Dunsmoor, Secretary
Barbara Ryals, Sustainer At Large

2020-2021 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Caroline Vostrejs, Managing Director*
Miranda Henderson, Managing Director-Elect*
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Nicki Mohr Hall, Community Education Manager
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Lindsay Seel, Operations Manager
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Laura Warren, Assistant Treasurer
Ginny Veit, Sustainer Advisor*
Ashley Zohar, Legal Chair*
Marysue Mathews, Office Administrator*
Ashley Stultz, Meeting Manager*

* denotes non-voting member

OFFICE STAFF

Marysue Mathews, Office Administrator
Madeline Morris, Member Administrator
Chelsie La Nore, Bookkeeper
April 2, 1926, twenty-two women who shared a mission of promoting voluntarism and advocacy to improve the community met for the first time. In just a month, the Tampa Service League adopted a constitution, elected Marion Partrick as its first president and welcomed 100 young ladies to their provisional year. First on the agenda for the motivated group of women was a circulating library and gift shop, located in the Crescent Apartments. By the end of the first year, the women of the League had worked 6,350 hours for welfare service agencies and netted $1,800 from a charity ball benefiting the Community Chest Drive.

During the Tampa Service League’s second year, attention was focused toward the management and partial financing of the Pine Health Preventorium, a temporary home for undernourished children and those affected by tuberculosis. With the help of the League, two wings and a pavilion for children were added to the building. But the League needed funds for other projects. In order to help raise money, Leaguers paid annual dues of $10 and a penalty of 25 cents if they arrived late to a membership meeting. Members also sold The Times, a newspaper created to share resources with the community and advertise to potential new members. The newspaper was sold for whatever others were willing to pay. After its first publication, The Times profited over $2,700.

Two years after the Tampa Service League was established, officials from the Associations of Junior Leagues of America made a visit, and granted membership into the AJLA on March 1, 1928.

Ms. Marion Harvey Partrick was the first president of The Junior League of Tampa.
“On behalf of everyone at the Museum, I’d like to thank you for your grant of $1,225.00 in support of Art for Kids, received on March 1, 2021. Your generosity helps us in our mission to enrich Tampa’s cultural community with a diverse and impressive series of exhibitions and educational programs, and we are very grateful. You can be proud of helping to give free admission to underserved children and families, connecting our community through art, and funding transformational education and outreach programs spanning 5 counties. Please accept my sincerest thanks and best wishes.”

“Thank you for the generous donation of $3,000 earlier this year to support End 68 Hours of Hunger. We are very grateful for your support, and you can feel proud knowing that 100% of the money received will buy and provide food to hungry local children, with the exception of those funds required by federal, state and local mandates or donor-designated for specific purposes.

We could not perform our mission without the support of the community, and we are very grateful!”

“We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and your recent grant of $1,225.00 to the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. We are excited to create Paws for Literacy reward bags.

We look forward to hosting your volunteers to complete this project.

Without the generosity of friends like you we could not fulfill our mission of ending animal homelessness. We are extremely grateful for you and your continued support!”

“Support from organizations like yours make it possible for us to eliminate barriers to consistent attendance and academic achievement so our students can get the education they need to become, not only productive members of society, but leaders in the Tampa Bay community....Your grant will allow OASIS to provide adult sized uniform clothing to our students who wear those sizes particularly in middle and high school...OASIS is also thankful for the Done In A Day volunteer component of this grant.”
Thank you for your generous gift $8,333.00 from The Junior League of Tampa to provide resources and support for the families we serve. Your generosity supports our mission to bring hope to struggling families in the Tampa Bay area and reflects how valuing people every day is so important.

In the last 12 months, we have distributed more than $5.2 million in relief to help families put food on the table and stay in their homes through rent and utility payments paid directly to landlords and vendors. We project to spend as much as $2 million more in emergency funds over the next few months.

As we continue to press on with the imperative work being done today to transform lives tomorrow, we thank you for taking action to help families who are experiencing uncertainty and despair. You are answering the call to rebuild the lives of those who most need it.

We see firsthand that you are in fact changing lives. Thank you for inspiring hope!

My thanks to the Junior League of Tampa for the delightful “Tea Party in a Box”. As I sip my tea, I will remember special times as a member — from Provisional to Active to Sustainer to Emeritus!

—Helen Straske

Thank you, thank you, thank You! Loved your precious box!

—Judy Lawson

Thank you for your generous gift of diapers and supplies which we received on 3/5/21. Your kindness provides hope to the at-risk boys and girls living on our therapeutic residential campus and also makes a positive impact in the lives of over 13,000 local families that benefit from the community programs we offer each year.

...Thank you for keeping the Children’s Home Network in your heat, and bringing wide-spread joy to those who serve. We appreciate you, and the support you give to help children and families in our community flourish.
Exceptional Professionals
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 look forward to meeting in person at Seasons 52 for lunch, to discuss a variety of topics and speakers. Please join us.

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

Come join us for lunch!

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THE 2021-2022
MEETING CALENDAR
11:30 - 1:00
☐ Friday, Sept 17
☐ Friday, Oct 15
☐ Friday, Nov 19
☐ Friday, Jan 21
☐ Friday, Feb 18
☐ Friday, Mar 18
☐ Friday, Apr 15
Over the course of our 2020-2021 League year, we have experienced unprecedented changes in our communities, schools, workplaces, life, and everything in between. However, I could not be more proud of The Junior League of Tampa, its members, and its partners.

Given the challenges faced over the past year, people came together and continued to not only focus on connecting with one another. They also continued to focus on JLT’s mission.

A mission that has helped so many in the Tampa Bay area over the course of 95 years.

Think about that, 95 years! Celebrating this milestone anniversary has been an absolute honor. To know that we are a part of a legacy that means so much to so many is special and inspiring. It represents decades of volunteer efforts, leadership development, community service, advocacy efforts, personal development, and lifelong membership connections.

The foundation was set in 1926 by 22 courageous members. Even as times change, the members keep the organization moving forward. I often wonder what members were facing at different times. How did they adapt to help others? What challenges were facing their community? How did they come together to face the unknown?

There is much to consider but, in those thoughts, I come back to strength in ourselves and in our community. Something that was truly highlighted this year. When we could have shut down or given up, the members and organization upheld their focus and let not a single opportunity go. Instead they took chances and adapted to find new ways to support the community, just as we have for past 95 years, by focusing on the critical needs of our Tampa Bay community.

Decisions were made and the hard work put in to maintain a healthy organization, reimagine fundraisers, adjust projects and programs, and continue to invest in our community and members. Throughout the year, major milestones were met, like the millionth diaper distributed in our community, a virtual match and drive adoption event, thousands of books distributed, a virtual world becoming the source for all things fundraising and leadership development, and more!

The most important part of it all, was the way we empowered each other. People led with empathy, lifted one another up, and supported fellow members. It was all about the human spirit and The Power of Us. You came together and made it happen.

That is the inspiration behind this expanded The Sandspur edition together. We want to take you down memory lane and highlight some of JLT’s 95 years of impact. You will see what members were doing in different times and how we have continued to evolve and grow. That evolution is represented today in each of you, the League, and our community. Thank you for being a significant part of JLT’s legacy.

As the year comes to a close, I reflect proudly on the last 12 months, our partnerships, who we are as an organization and the brilliant membership that continue to act as catalysts for lasting community change. You all make it happen.

Thank you for the most incredible experience and I am excited for our next 95! I am so confident in our leadership, organization, and members who will continue to champion our community and each other. I am leaving a different woman and honored to have been given such an extraordinary gift of representing this unbelievable organization and members.

With love and gratitude,

Meghan McGuire
President  2020-2021
sustainer president’s note.

As I reflect on next year, I look forward with optimism to the renewed commitments and new opportunities that will ignite our future! Condoleezza Rice says, “Life is full of surprises and serendipity. Being open to unexpected turns in the road is an important part of success.” While many of us will nod our heads and say “Of course, this is true.” you will also know that our Sustainer leadership team embraced this sentiment with vengeance this particular year. Certainly, we did not shift our goals! However, flexibility and adaptability became our mainstay as we partnered with Active members on our virtual platform to provide meaningful and engaging programs.

We intentionally opened our 2020-2021 Back to the League meeting with Vicki Clark’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program to ensure that Sustainer members were informed and aligned with this League initiative. The plan is to continue this collaboration as JLT’s goals evolve. This fall and spring we launched our Meet the Author series with New York Times Best Selling authors. This was extremely popular and we intend to continue this series. We also continued our popular Art series which included an internationally renowned portrait artist from the National Arts Club in New York City, where he is in residence. Many who attended envision a trip to NYC to visit his gallery! We also featured several of our talented Sustainers in a program that highlighted their art and inspiring stories. This event received rave reviews from the attendees and underscores the opportunity to continue to highlight “Our Very Own” talent. As always, it was an honor to celebrate our 50-year anniversary Sustainer members with testimonials and Judi Lisi, President and CEO of the David Straz Center for the Performing Arts as our guest speaker. She generated much excitement as she shared 2021-2022 plans and future vision for the expansion.

Throughout this year, to say we felt the need to connect in person with our members is an understatement! As soon as we got the word that we could have 30 members in a venue with appropriate space guidelines we scheduled a series of events including several of our Pop Ups, a Riverwalk / Armature Tour / brunch adventure, the Past Sustainers of the Year luncheon, and a visit with Richard Gonzmart at Cafe Santo Stefeno. The truth is, we were all really VERY happy to see each other!

We were poised in 2020-2021 to engage with our Active partners by expanding our community service options. We created a Sustainer Board position to ensure that this initiative was launched. We will certainly be in a position this Fall 2021-2022 to go forth with this goal.

Throughout the year, our Sustainer leadership team LISTENED TO and VALUED your wise and creative suggestions. Indeed, they inspired our programs and ultimately our venues! You have been generous, kind, supportive and extremely patient as we navigated this year! Looking forward to 2021-2022, we know that much was learned which will certainly impact the coming year. There are opportunities to continue and expand certain programs and advance new ideas. These new ideas include the option to execute in efficient yet engaging ways. The Sustainers, once again, demonstrated that we are a resilient and persistent group! It has been your leadership team’s honor and privilege to serve you as we embraced our challenges head on and powered through this year!

With much gratitude,

Louisa Van Eepoel

Louisa Van Eepoel,
Sustainer President
Beth Schatzberg,
Sustainer President-Elect
Barbara Ryals,
Executive Board Sustainer At-Large
Ginny Veit,
Management Council Sustainer At-Large
Angie Ammon,
Sustainer Recording Secretary
Janet Mendez,
Sustainer Corresponding Secretary
Denise Cassedy & Penny Parks,
Sustainer Event Co-Chairs
Genet Stewart,
Sustainer Community Service Chair
Ginny Charest,
Sustainer Treasurer & Communications Liaison
In Memoriam

Ann Crowder
Mary Louise Cutolo
Susan Gillet
Frances "Frankie" Harrell
Maude Pallardy

Dada Pittman
Phylis Russell
Patricia "Patty" Williams
Mary Audrey Wilson
Special guest speakers JLT Sustainers were able to engage with over the year thanks in part to being in a virtual environment.

- **MICHAEL SHANE NEAL** — renowned portrait artist, joined us from NYC
- **LISA UNGER** — New York Times Best-Selling author
- **MARY KAY ANDREWS** — New York Times Best-Selling author
- **JUDY LISI** — President/CEO of the Straz
- **CLARE ROBBINS** — our very own JLT Sustainer and portrait artist consultant
- **SUSTAINER ART SERIES EVENT** — focusing on our talented JLT Sustainer artists, featuring Cindy Coney, Becky Savitz, and Carole Guyton
- **RICHARD GONZMART** — speaking at June lunch at Casa Santo Stefano
Sustainer Pop Up Social!
Tuesday April 20th and
Thursday, April 22nd
5:30-7:30PM
CASA SANTO STEFANO
COME JOIN US FOR A FUN POP UP SOCIAL WITH YOUR FELLOW SUSTAINERS AND ENJOY CASA SANTO STEFANO, A NEW RESTAURANT WITH A FABULOUS ROOFTOP EXPERIENCE.
LIGHT APPETIZERS WILL BE PROVIDED. SEATING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR 20 GUESTS.
MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP TODAY TO SECURE YOUR SEAT. DON’T FORGET YOUR MASK AS THE RESTAURANT REQUIRES ONE WHEN YOU ARE NOT SEATED.
COMPLIMENTARY PARKING IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM RESTAURANT LOCATED IN THE LARGE COLUMN LIST LOCATED BETWEEN 21ST AND 25TH STREET.
PLEASE REGISTER ON DIGITAL CHEETAH.

“MEET THE AUTHOR” EVENT
WITH
MARY KAY ANDREWS

Please join us as we talk with the iconic New York Times bestselling author and St. Petersburg native, Mary Kay Andrews. Mary Kay is the author of 28 novels including her latest, The Newcomer. Known to the “Queen of The Beach Reads”, she is the author of many beloved page-turners, such as Hello, Summer, Sunset Beach, The High Tide Club and Hissey Fit. Mary Kay will share the details about her latest book and answer questions from participants.

MAY 18, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM
VIA ZOOM
*THE FIRST 50 REGISTERED WILL BE MAILED A SIGNED COPY OF THE “THE NEWCOMER”* 
PLEASE REGISTER VIA DIGITAL CHEETAH BY MAY 1ST.

“MEET THE AUTHOR” EVENT
WITH
LISA UNGER

Please join us to meet Lisa Unger, NY Times Bestselling Author and Tampa local, as she will discuss her just released book, Confessions on the 7:45. With millions of books sold in 26 languages, Lisa is regarded as a master of suspense. In the Blood won the 2015 Silver Falchion Award for Best Novel (Crime Thriller) and was a Goodreads Choice Awards Nominee for Best Mystery & Thriller 2014. The author will share her background and provide insights on her latest book. She will answer any questions about her other 17 novels.

NOVEMBER 10, 2020
5:30-6:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CALL
PLEASE REGISTER VIA DIGITAL CHEETAH BY OCTOBER 17TH AS A SIGNED COPY OF HER LATEST BOOK WILL BE MAILED TO YOU PRIOR TO THE MEETING.
In March 2020, as the world was shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Junior League of Tampa Executive Board was making headway through the annual budget process, which determines League and individual committee budgets for the year ahead. The Executive Board faced tough decisions in an environment of unknowns. After research and analysis on the current giving environment and League budgeting forecasts from Finance Director Emily Read, the Executive Board felt that it was appropriate and prudent to decrease committee budgets by 50%. This ensured operating and community budgets could still be funded if giving, donations, sponsorship, and fundraiser revenue decreased in amount. The Executive Board was hesitant of a 50% cut, which at the time seemed extreme. The Board agreed that this was the fiscally responsible action to take given the current environment. This decision ultimately put JLT in a better financial position. If fundraising exceeded expectations, more money could be dispersed to committees in need mid-way through the year. “Looking back, Emily saved us a tremendous amount of stress and time. Even though it was more work for the finance team, to sift through an already tight budget, they did so with the support of committee chairs.” Managing Director, Caroline Vostrejs goes on to note, “That second step should not go unnoticed. The chairs helped us to cut the budget in half. Many of these chairs were looking forward to a busy year with big plans. They graciously gave up half of their budgets AND kept their teams motivated to continue to do the community work as best they could. That level of teamwork is where the magic happened. It’s why, in my opinion, JLT is still thriving after 95+ years.”

This planning and budget change impacted every area of the league but it also helped us take a look at what our organization can change to be more effective as volunteers and members. So many lessons were learned so The Sandspur reached out to Managers and Committee Chairs and asked them to tell us about the issues they faced, how they overcame them, and what was learned that can be applied in future years.
EMILY READ, FINANCE DIRECTOR

In spring of 2020, the budget process was well underway and we were gathering input from our community chairs, managers and strategic input from the Board. The pandemic took its foothold about a month prior to the typical voting and approval process for the upcoming year’s budget. I initially reviewed our sources of community revenue - events and annual giving and adjusted expectations for expected economic impacts as well as reduced options for in person events. With reduced community revenue, by default we reduce community spend in the proportionate amounts. As giving continued to exceed expectations, we have been able to provide additional investments in our community based on significant additional needs - specifically literacy, diaper need, and food insecurity.

MEG SEVERINO, LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR

The Nominating Committee maintained a welcoming and encouraging process while staying virtual during COVID. The committee quickly realized we needed to pivot to keep our members safe and comfortable while preserving the slating process. The committee held two virtual trainings, offered a virtual mentoring experience, and held all interviews over Zoom. Each candidate received a welcome bag, hand delivered to their home, prior to the interview. This made each candidate know we were looking forward to seeing them shine on the computer screen! We highly encouraged each member to relax and “be themselves” while going through the big change. We know that interviewing can be nerve-wracking and moving to the virtual experience needed to be smooth. We interviewed and deliberated for over 55 hours as a virtual team to perfect our slate. We hosted the first ever virtual slate announcement, and it was a success! We were able to connect with women all over the Tampa Bay area and celebrate our newly appointed leaders! This committee is the epitome of servant leadership.

LINDSAY SEEL, OPERATIONS MANAGER

Our Member Meeting and Events Co-Chairs, Melissa Garitta and Karyn Rood, truly accomplished a lot in the face of COVID. They went from brainstorming incredible in-person socials and GMMs to moving everything to virtual. A favorite thing they did was to host virtual socials before GMMs, allowing members to move into breakout rooms and do “get to know you” bingo games. By the time Spring came, membership was clear they were ready to meet in-person, so they quickly organized an Annual Celebration and Girl’s Weekend in just a few weeks.
MARYSUE MATHEWS, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Serving as Office Administrator for the past 13 years, I have seen many changes to the structure and processes of our League. I am so proud of the way JLT stepped up to meet the needs of our members and our community during the COVID pandemic. Members who reached out to staff were accommodated in every way possible. JLT Headquarters was kept up and running and also updated with improved safety, storage, and functionality for the coming year. Your JLT Headquarters building is open for business and we cannot wait to see you!

ASHLEY ZOHAR, LEGAL CHAIR

This year, the Legal Committee handled the implementation of COVID-19 protocols at Headquarters along with the cancellation and renegotiation of contracts and events due to the pandemic. The pandemic required the committee to ensure key clauses were included in agreements that allowed JLT to pivot at a later date if it decided not to move forward to a certain event or project along with key terms, such as the allowance for the termination of a contract in the event of a national or global pandemic. This year also gave the legal committee the opportunity to take a broader look at certain legal agreements which had been in place for long-term partnerships. The slow-down in volunteer work and events allowed other committees to work with legal to consider revisions to their agreements to better suit their needs. All in all, the Legal Committee itself had a great year collaborating among its members and with JLT’s prosperous and vibrant committees.

MELISSA GARITTA & KARYN ROOD, MEMBER MEETING & EVENTS CO-CHAIRS

Meetings and events were not on a high-priority list during the heart of COVID. Of course we faced challenges with meeting in groups for GMM and socials in person, so we had to learn how to still see members without physically being together. In the beginning we did have several successful events, such as Painting with A Twist and Yoga on the Lawn, but as the we started to open back up people wanted to meet in person, so we started to incorporate in-person yoga along with virtual and offered outdoor events, like the Walk in the Park series.
Looking towards the 2021-2022 League year in operations:
Next year the Bylaws Chair will continue the Policy and Procedures revision needed after the Bylaws were amended in 2020.

MELISSA MORA, BYLAWS CHAIR
Bylaws and the policies and procedures in which govern us are important to ensuring the League’s success. They set the tone of our organization and address the fundamental rules that we must follow as the League conducts its business.

CASEY O’BRIEN, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION COMMITTEE
All League year we met virtually, which is a big departure from previous years, just like all other committees. During PDEC meetings, we review a lot of documentation and have a lot of discussion so doing this virtually was a bit of a challenge. The PDEC group is full of strong, resilient women and the entire committee handled it beautifully! [The pandemic] forced us to be a bit sharper with our communication since we held all of our meetings virtually.

MEAZA STEWART-MORRISON, PDEC ASSISTANT CHAIR, INCOMING CHAIR
PDEC was able to pivot and make the most of the situation by utilizing technology to achieve even more than expected. Next year, fortunately we will be able to have in-person meetings, but we will continue to use technology to boost our communication and outcomes.
COURTNEY RYALS, GIRL POWER! CHAIR

This year our partner had to close its doors due to a lack of funding. The Girl Power! team had to find a new partner and fast! We were excited to partner with the Children's Home Network and have had seven wonderful events. We learned that we are able to make an impact even though we were virtual and the pandemic created an opportunity for our team to creatively come together to make each event a success.

KATIE CROWE, COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE MANAGER

Our Diaper Bank Assistant Chair, Michele Davis implemented a "Feel Good Friday" email blast. This email was more than just upcoming volunteer shifts and committee updates — she introduced committee members by including a picture and a little blurb about them! In a year where we were not able to gather together and cultivate relationships in the same way, this email made members feel connected to their committee and helped us all get to know one another better! I definitely think this would be great to continue for years to come — by any committee.

LYNDSEY SIARA, DIAPER BANK CHAIR

The pandemic shined a bright light on the need that all humans have for their most basic needs to be met. Basic needs like diapers, wipes, and period products are critical for living a healthy, happy life with dignity. The pandemic showed how important the work is that we do in this space. We advocated for elimination of the diaper tax — something that has been presented before but the pandemic definitely demonstrated how devastatingly expensive basic needs can be for some. That sadly did not pass but it did get a lot of traction and support, so we’ll be ready to advocate and support again next year.

In times of crisis, look for the helpers. JLT has always been a foundational piece of this community, but during this pandemic, it is my belief that we stepped up, adjusted, and met the community need that emerged. It wasn’t the year that anyone expected, but we were a critical component of ensuring that families and children could continue to thrive throughout this challenging time.
LESLIE HODZ, ALLIANCE FOR PERIOD SUPPLIES COORDINATOR

Our committee definitely learned the need for period supplies is far exceeding what we expected in the first official year of this project. We also learned there are so many different ways organizations are distributing the products - some distributed through social workers, some sent as care packages, some included on food pantry shelves, etc. And finally, we learned that the need for products, particularly feminine pads, is much higher in the elementary school population than we assumed. Many of these children are menstruating before they have had any sort of sex education, which means they are relying on their teachers, mentors, and school nurses for products and education.

JENNY SCHROEDER, MILO CHAIR

This year marked MILO’s inaugural year partnering with the Tampa Family Health Centers and the University Area Community Development Corporation. We updated our little libraries to “Giving Libraries” emphasizing the importance of building in-home libraries for children. The Giving Libraries program really flourished during COVID through our parking lot book giveaways with our Giving Libraries at Tampa Family Health Centers, Children’s Board Family Resource Centers and University Area Community Development Center (UACDC), where we partner to fill their Dream Boxes. Through these events and our libraries themselves we have given away over 15,000 year to date. These partners strengthen JLT’s position in the community of promoting literacy by making books accessible to all.

KRISTEN ANTONELLO, SUSTAINER CHAIR

We had to really pivot this year from our traditional Sustainer events and move to a virtual environment! We had to help Sustainers become familiar with Zoom and Digital Cheetah quickly so they could participate in the virtual events. I created step-by-step “guides” to Zoom and Digital Cheetah so that Sustainers could better understand these platforms and engage virtually. We started the JLT year with a virtual “Art Series” event and we went full speed ahead after the success of that event! We’ve hosted virtual Art Series events, virtual “Meet the Author” events, virtual “Back to the League” and “Spring Meeting” events just to name a few. I think the virtual space, while challenging to introduce at first, led to more members being able to participate in events that they otherwise would not be able to due to work schedules, kids’ events, traveling, etc. Hosting virtual events allowed members to join while in the car, while on the way to pick up their child from baseball, while sitting in their home office, while being out of town, etc.
CASEY BARILE, TOASTMASTERS CHAIR

Toastmasters is a very social committee. It is about public speaking in group settings where handshakes and high fives are strongly encouraged. Trying to capture that same energy in a virtual environment can be a challenge. Plus all the added responsibilities of virtual learning among others made time challenging as well.

We met where the team was. We shifted the time of the meeting to be later so people could take care of work and family first. We hosted Zoom calls and learned how to be effective in a virtual environment. Many of the skills that the group learned in Toastmasters were translatable to this new virtual work environment. Presenting on screen with screen sharing, different eye contact and hand gestures, engagement from the group using chat functions, etc. are all important skills both for the league as well as your career/personal life.
ROBIN ROUP, PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ENGAGEMENT CHAIR

Our biggest challenge was how to engage women on a virtual platform for our Preview events. Historically we’ve had previews at Headquarters, and sometimes pop ups out in the community. We had to think through how to still give Prospective members a truly engaging experience and not just a PowerPoint on a Zoom call. Our virtual Previews allowed us to reach more women who may not have been able to make it to Davis Islands after work. Our most popular previews were actually the noon previews in the middle of the work-day. We used Zoom’s breakout room function to break into small groups and host conversations between 1-2 current JLT members and 3-6 Prospective members, leading to a more intimate experience. This year we also moved to a rolling application period, rather than a small window to submit applications. This allowed us to really engage with women all year, and to spread out the committee work throughout the year. We’ve already had over a dozen women start the applications for next year.

MONICA KIRKLAND, TREASURER

The biggest challenge faced this year was raising money for the League during COVID. The decision was made during the summer of 2020 to make Holiday Gift Market a virtual event. This was a huge risk, but members were supportive of the Market. HGM surpassed its fundraising goal by offering a variety of ways for members to support HGM. During the month-long event, members were able to shop online for offerings, donate for an opportunity to win a Peloton, and purchase mystery bags. The pandemic offered opportunities for us to not only support the community but our members also during this unprecedented year. Witnessing members support each other and lift each other up is what truly made this year special for me. No matter how big the obstacle, I knew we would get through it because of the support of JLT staff, members and leadership. I have never been more proud to be a part of this organization.

LAURA WARREN, ASSISTANT TREASURER

I will say that after a year of disappointment and not being able to execute the Gasparilla fundraiser, the majority of the members are coming back to the committee next year. The Gasparilla committee, led by Kat Lewis, did a great job of connecting members. She held a number of safe socially-distanced socials throughout the year including a Diaper Bank packing party recently at HQ. I believe that in a year where many were searching for connection, the Gasparilla committee was able to have fun together. So much so that most of the committee members are staying on the committee next year to execute an amazing Gasparilla fundraiser in 2022!
CARRIE BIEN, GIVING CHAIR

This year was financially challenging for our community and many members of the League. We worked hard to highlight the needs within the Tampa community that JLT helps support, while also balancing our messaging so as not to pressure or alienate members who were facing financial hardships this year. Personal connections within the league helped increase participation and volunteerism. We did the best we could this year, but once we were able to safely gather on the league lawn for an unofficial happy hour, overall member engagement and participation on the committee increased. This year was an important reminder of the value of our league space and the relationships that are built through volunteering together. We missed being together in person, as that is the secret sauce that makes the league so successful.

DOHNIA DORMAN, ENDOWMENT CHAIR

The Endowment Committee may be best known for recognizing members’ special occasions through the Commemorative Fund and honoring Sustainer Emeritus members with the annual 1926 Society Sustainer Emeritus Tea. The committee pivoted and re-imagined both activities to support a virtual experience, while still maintaining a personal JLT touch. We successfully designed an online recognition platform for Commemorative Fund donors. Plus, we hand delivered a unique Tea Party in a Box to Sustainer Emeritus members and hosted The Art of Tea virtual tea party for all members to celebrate each other and learn about the Endowment Fund and how to make the perfect cup of tea! In spite of the pandemic, the Committee is appreciative that members continued to give and support the Fund and investing in the sustainability of the League during such an uncertain time.
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A QUIET HEADQUARTERS ALLOWS FOR A TOTAL REORGANIZATION

by LINDSAY SEEL

In March of 2020, just before COVID–19 forced everyone to stay home, The Junior League of Tampa Headquarters had been bustling. Meetings and events filled the calendars, as members and community partners filled our halls. Committees were planning for year-end events, with our closets bursting with supplies.

After summer 2020 came and went, and the new League year started without our Headquarters reopened, I realized we had a once in a lifetime opportunity to really clean out the years of accumulated items. For decades, projects have come and gone, with the relics of the past lingering in closets. Past Chairs have left items for incoming Chairs to “use” and members have purchased decorations for single events and then donated them to the League, leaving them tucked into nooks and crannies.

By the time Marysue and I started opening closets, we realized how many valuable resources we had that membership did not know existed. We were excited about the possibility of making thousands of dollars’ worth of unknown resources available to our membership, which in the future would allow us to put more of our budget toward serving our community needs.

We began prioritizing current project storage needs and sorting through decorations, supplies and project resources. In the main room of the League, we set up three piles: trash, donate, keep. Then, we asked chairs to assist us in clearing out their areas.

MILO Chair, Jenny Schroeder, hosted a book sort and stickering to reorder the South Wing Closet. Love Bundles led by, Emily Boucher and Lizz Focazio, pulled everything out of the North Wing Closet to see what had been hiding behind the bins. Member Meeting and Events Chairs, Melissa Garitta and Karyn Rood, went through the kitchen.

Our number of “donate” items quickly filled six eight–foot tables. We then hosted two days for members to sign up for socially distanced shopping, after which all remaining items were taken to our community partner, Metropolitan Ministries, resale store.

With the main projects back into their locations and our community spaces cleared out, I began to focus on making our resources more accessible to members once headquarters reopened and projects resumed in-person. Marysue and I created the JLT Community Closet “Store” that could be shopped for projects and then members could simply return the items to a single bin for the Operations and Headquarters team to put everything back into its place for the next use.

During the clean out and reorganization, we found some awesome items from the past; my favorite being the original credit card plates for our cookbooks. We are going to have these framed for display.

We also were able to create a similar system in a second closet for event decorations. All of our decorations are available for member use for events or projects. With each bin containing a different theme, it makes it easy for grab and go use.

I am excited for members to be able to utilize our resources, making us all better stewards of our precious financial resources.
This year The Junior League of Tampa celebrates 95 years. As we arrived at this milestone, our leaders began asking the question:

“What does 95 years of impact look like?”

The Junior League of Tampa, like so many organizations, has been challenged and changed by the past year. We have been pushed to look at everything we do in new ways, including our legacy.

COVID-19 was not the first challenge The Junior League of Tampa encountered. Three years after the original 22 members had gathered together, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 led to the Great Depression. Once JLT navigated that crisis, it was not long before World War II began, transforming the lives of young women in Tampa and beyond. When the dust of the war was settled, the workforce began to change. Suddenly women were breaking glass ceilings and managing full time careers in addition to their volunteer work.

This roller coaster of history provides the context which makes JLT’s impact so outstanding. Despite the twists and turns, our members have continued showing up and giving back to their community. Their efforts have built some of Tampa’s most iconic institutions, invested in families of every shape and size, and made our community better.

In the following pages, we dive into the archives exploring the League’s history through past articles of The Sandspur. These stories provide a small window into 95 years of the relentless service of our members have given Tampa.
On April 2, 1926, twenty-two women who shared a mission of promoting voluntarism and advocacy to improve the community met for the first time. In just a month, the Tampa Service League adopted a constitution, elected Marion Partrick as its first president and welcomed 100 young ladies to their provisional year. First on the agenda for the motivated group of women was a circulating library and gift shop, located in the Crescent Apartments. By the end of the first year, the women of the League had worked 6,350 hours for welfare service agencies and netted $1,800 from a charity ball benefiting the Community Chest Drive.

During the Tampa Service League’s second year, attention was focused toward the management and partial financing of the Pine Health Preventorium, a temporary home for undernourished children and those affected by tuberculosis. With the help of the League, two wings and a pavilion for children were added to the building. But the League needed funds for other projects. In order to help raise money, Leaguers paid annual dues of $10 and a penalty of 25 cents if they arrived late to a membership meeting. Members also sold The Times, a newspaper created to share resources with the community and advertise to potential new members. The newspaper was sold for whatever others were willing to pay. After its first publication, The Times profited over $2,700.

Two years after the Tampa Service League was established, officials from the Associations of Junior Leagues of America made a visit, and granted membership into the AJLA on March 1, 1928.
The Amazing But True Tale of the RELUCTANT LOGO

How the idea that we had an official logo ever got started — no one will ever know. It remains a mystery to this day.

Actually, few people knew we didn’t have an official logo much less that we had a real mystery — not League president Sandra Gardner, not the board.

The mystery revealed itself when the Sandspur, that revered investigative tabloid, began looking into the origin of the “official” logo of the Junior League of Tampa. You know, the one emblazoned in rich navy blue on the cover of our new yearbooks.

Who designed the official logo? When was it created? What do the symbols mean? It would be a great story for the Sandspur.

A thorough reading of the history of the Junior League of Tampa (pages 26-37 in the yearbook) left no clues. A half dozen phone calls finally traced the origin of the logo to Mia Hardcastle, president of the League in 1974-75.

“What official logo?” Mia asked when questioned about the circular symbol. “Oh, that ‘ole thing. I just put it together for a Leadership/Training seminar we co-sponsored with the Chamber of Commerce. It was never an official logo.”

But, but — thinking it was the official logo, we just had it printed on our new yellow notebooks — and they’re supposed to last five years. How can we live for five years in the shadow of a logo that’s not officially ours?

The logo’s pretty symbolic, you know. Mia used the letters “J.L.T.” for the Junior League of Tampa. The “T” ended up resembling a T-square, a tool used by architects, draftsmen and engineers. After all, the League’s members are the builders and engineers of the community in their own special way. In the background, the University of Tampa’s minarets are visible as well as a stylized rendition of the Tampa skyline.

“I wanted it to look more like the First Financial Tower than it does,” Mia said.

It would be kind of nice having an official logo for our League. Most everyone thought we did all along, anyhow. Mia’s incorporated a combination of ideas, it is attractive and, after all, it’s already printed on the yearbooks...

On Tuesday, September 30, 1980 the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Tampa voted unanimously to accept Mia Hardcastle’s rendering as the official logo of the Junior League of Tampa.
The curtain rises on the second act of "An International Tragedy"—World War II.

The effect on the Junior League is immediate and permanent.
By 1939 the Fascist dictators in Europe and the forces of the Emperor in Japan were ready to conquer the world. The latest in battle equipment had been tried out on the proving grounds of Spain and Ethiopia, Manchuria and China, England’s Ww Chamberlain rolled his umbrellas and met with Adolph Hitler in Munich. He returned with promises of “peace in our time.” The French nodded cynically and poured troops into their “impregnable” Maginot Line. An equal number of German troops manned the facing Siegfried Line. Americans sat by their radios listening to H. V. Kaltborn translate the manicual ravings of Hitler.

Then a world which was familiar with and fairly complacent about trench warfare learned a new term – Blitzkrieg. German mechanized units swept around the northern reaches of the Maginot Line, and France fell. German planes strafed fleeing refugees and the British Forces struggling to escape from Dunkirk in an armada of small craft rushed to them across the English Channel. England shuddered under the impact of baobs, and the world knew at last how it was to be. Warfare was for everybody, not just soldiers. This was World War II.

America waited in the wings; it was not yet time for her entrance upon the international stage. America supplied the props for the action through Lend Lease, and tried to believe that the inferno would burn itself out.

In our city civic improvisation was the theme, and the Junior League carried the flag. The emphasis now was on volunteer service rather than on fund raising. After the Preventorius closed there was an interim of several years when the League had no major project, and in the process of Project finding a new idea was advanced which had far reaching consequences in the community. The greatest need appeared to be in coordination of welfare services in the city and county. An overall survey of existing services

Cast of Tampa Junior League’s Circus Cabaret All Ready To Perform Tonight
was necessary to accomplish this, and the League voted to finance a professional survey at a cost of $1,800.00. The survey, which was completed in 1941, was a blueprint of an ideal social set-up for the county.

At the same time the League sponsored a survey of the Tuberculosis Field. There had been hope in 1939 that the Fine Heath Home might be re-opened under League auspices, but professionals asked that a survey of existing services be made instead. A Tuberculosis Survey Committee of Ten, including League and Community members, was appointed, and their findings launched the League on another phase of work in the Tuberculosis field which was to last for years. A Board of Tuberculosis Control was appointed by the County Commissioners from a list of League and Community leaders. The League voted to pay the salary of a tuberculosis specialist for three years. The surveys had proved their worth. Once again we were solidly behind a major project.

Then, eighteen years ago this month, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. After the initial shock and the mustering to arms, America found itself afflicted with a form of paranoia. The strong arm of democracy reached out across the seas to do battle, but the functions of the internal economy, the legs of the corporate whole, were virtually immobilized for civilian purposes. Transportation was drastically curtailed, food was rationed, family life was disrupted. The life force of the nation was directed outward, and the energy of the immobilized portion was oriented toward complete recovery of the whole.

The years of training in volunteer service bore fruit for the Junior League. The need for volunteers was terrific in time of war. Plans for implementing the findings of the Welfare Survey were delayed until peacetime, and League members turned their energies to the Army Service Center, Traveler’s Aid, Red Cross, U.S.O., anywhere they could be of service. The Sustainers organized for war work under the direction of Placement. In June of 1943 the League was proud to announce the opening of the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office which was a community and League enterprise helped by the League financially and with trained volunteers.

Let us tell the young of our organization what it was like to be grown in a world at war. Happily our lives were safe in our so-called “Fortress America,” but our hearts were scattered all over the world where the bombs fall and the shrapnel flew. Nature women watched their sons go off to war and their daughters marry young strangers who also went off to war. The young counted their married life together in terms of days or weeks. You could not find a beautiful trousseau to buy even if you had time to buy one, stockings were made of rayon which swirled around the ankles in folds, you could not buy towels, sheets, or faying pans, you could not buy pepper, butter, mayonnaise, or soap, shoes were rationed, gas was rationed, tires were rationed, trains were un-airconditioned and took days to get anywhere, overseas mail was micro-filed and censored, babies were two and three years old before they ever saw their fathers.
Domestic help went to work in war plants, clerks in stores seemed glad there were no wages for sale, older men struggled to keep their businesses going in spite of war shortages. And at that civilian Americans were lucky. Only our hearts were jeopardized.

The Junior League suffered a shortage of women-power. Being a youthful organization, its members were constantly on the move, traveling here and there throughout the nation to be with their husbands. Children’s Theatre finally disbanded for the duration. Recording Secretaries led lives of quiet desperation trying to keep the membership lists up to date, AJLA sent out a Provisional Kit to be used by Provisionals on the move, and in 1942 there were five replacements on the twelve woman League board. The war work and the tuberculosis work went on, however. In October of 1943 the County Tuberculosis Sanitorium was opened. The next year the League voted to continue paying the salary of the tuberculosis specialist, on a decreasing percentage, for three more years. The culmination of the project came in 1946 when the County Tuberculosis Sanitorium was absorbed by the Southwest Florida Hospital at Drew Field. It had proved to be a perfect demonstration project. The League showed its continued interest in the tuberculosis program by voting to contribute for a two year period toward the salary of a fulltime physician at the County Clinic.

When the war was finally over in 1945, there was dancing in the streets, prayers of thanksgiving in the churches, joy and hope in some hearts, emptiness in others. The world was same again but much of it was in ruins. America had escaped the desolation and waste of other countries, but its way of life had changed all the same. This was not immediately apparent, but by the end of the forties older heads could see that nothing would ever be quite the same again. Suddenly, families were bigger, houses were smaller, life was more complicated. Americans on the whole were healthier, but the tensions of everyday life were resulting in a curious manifestation: bodies were healthier, but minds and emotions were sickening. The Tampa League embarked upon a program of self education in the Mental Health Field.

In April of 1946 the League voted to sponsor the Guidance Center of Hillsborough County as their main welfare project, paying the salary of a psychiatric social worker for three years in addition to providing volunteers.

Never once during the war years or the period of re-adjustment just after the war did the Tampa League lower its standards or the quality of its volunteer service, but in 1948 there came a great resurgence of energy. It was a period of rejuvenation, rebirth, renaissance. Children’s Theatre was revived and put on the road. Puppets were started for the first time and were troupes to the schools which had no auditoriums. And the League presented a Circus Cabaret, on six weeks notice, which was a huge success and netted $7,400.00. Viola Root, President that year, reported that the Cabaret had a therapeutic effect on the League, creating among the membership a healthy respect for each other’s talents. It also had an exhilarating effect on the Treasurer and the Projects Finding Committee which was in the planning stages for the aforementioned Guidance Center project.

Because of the war there were no fund raising events between a Horseshow in 1940 and another Horseshow in 1947. The little library of the thirties remained a
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The influx of women into the working world has evoked much discussion in recent years, as social and family roles are re-defined to accomodate changing lifestyles. League Women, by definition, are hard-working, dedicated individuals; thus, it is not surprising that over half of our members are presently employed and have somehow found that balance between personal, professional, and volunteer activities. With admiration and respect well-deserved, we focus now on the League’s professionals.

League professionals are currently pursuing a variety of careers. A recent printout reveals that the five job categories most predominant among our working women are teaching (42 members), management (15), law (13), sales (11) and real estate (11). In recognition of all our employed members, a representative of each from these five fields was selected for our Sandspur profile.

Cathy Hodge is quick to admit that upon graduating from St. Mary’s Dominican College with a degree in Chemistry, she could not have pictured herself someday having a career with Delta Airlines. Actually, she was anything but career-oriented at that time. Nevertheless, Cathy has been working for Delta for over eleven years. She has worked for Delta in both Atlanta and Tampa, and though she is not seeking to move into management, she plans to continue her current position. Cathy is in the reservations department of Delta. Her position became sales-oriented when deregulation increased the competition among airlines. She loves the challenges she encounters daily at Delta in her role as problem-solver for client and/or co-worker. Most of Cathy’s work is handled over the telephone.

Now in her third year in the League, Cathy especially loves working the Thrift Sale. Her present placement is on the Office Committee, which she finds structured ideally to suit her needs as a working mother. Cathy and her husband, Pete, have two children; their son Jamie is 4 and baby Melanie, just six months old.

Formerly a commercial lending officer with a Memphis bank, Suzanne Apple moved to Tampa just over a year ago and is now a commercial leasing agent for Paragon. With her husband, Jim, also in banking, Suzanne had begun to consider another field. Quickly recognizing Suzanne’s professional potential, Paragon hired and trained her while enabling her to obtain her Real Estate license. Suzanne’s primary responsibility is for the leasing of a certain property; she is currently the agent for Paragon’s Concourse Center. The job is not, however, exclusively sales-oriented. She is also involved in marketing the project, as well as coordinating with the construction company, interior designers, planners, etc., and it is this sense of diversity which Suzanne truly relishes in her job. Eventually, Suzanne hopes to become more involved in the development side of the business.

Suzanne’s League involvement also began with her move to Tampa. She was a provisional transfer from Memphis and is grateful for the introduction to Tampa that her League membership has provided. She is now enjoying being a member of the hospitality committee as her first placement.

Debbie Compton earned her degree in elementary education at Florida State University and began her teaching career at Tinker Elementary School, MacDill Air Force Base. Debbie taught at MacDill for five years after which time she took

Cathy Hodge has been involved in sales with Delta Airlines for over eleven years.

Suzanne Apple is a commercial leasing agent for Paragon.
Present Day

Marsha Rydberg was recognized as the 2021 Sustainer of the Year.

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on a new challenge — motherhood. Four years and two children later, Debbie resumed her work as a teacher and is currently in her second year at Mitchell Elementary. Debbie genuinely enjoys teaching and plans to continue. Even during her four-year interlude, she worked half-days teaching at Seaborn Kindergarten and tutoring, which further evidences her love of the profession. Debbie has been an active member of the Junior League for nine years. A Thrift Sale placement for the past three years has allowed her to maximize her League contribution during the summer months when she is not teaching. She also serves on the Admissions and Placement Committees and is on the Board at the Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Disease. Debbie enjoys her free time playing tennis and on family bike rides with her two sons, Carleton and David, and husband Bob.

Now a department manager and Assistant Vice President with Freedom Savings, Abby Childon got her start in banking ten years ago as a receptionist in the loan department. At the time, she had just moved to Tampa from Tallahassee with her husband Jeff. Since he was in law school, finding full-time employment was a necessity for Abby. From the loan department of Freedom, she moved into marketing to work on a temporary project. The next available position she found was in the accounting department. Lack of background and experience in the field did not hinder Abby from progressing to Accounting Operations Manager, the position she has commanded for the past three years. Right now, Abby is very satisfied at Freedom and sees banking as a highly progressive industry. Still, she admits there may be another step for her along the way — perhaps when her two girls, 4-year-old Ann and 2-year-old Jessica, are of school age.

After joining the League in Tallahassee, Abby served her provisional course here in Tampa and has been with us ever since. She has enjoyed a number of placements during her ten years in the League. Her three years as a Sunshine Player were particularly rewarding and afforded her the opportunity to really get to know the other members in the placement. Currently, Abby is a member of the League’s Training Committee and looks forward to her part in the upcoming series of Training Seminars.

The Junior League is fortunate to have the professional services of Marsha Rydberg available “in-house.” Marsha is an attorney and presently handles the League’s legal concerns as her placement. Her active involvement with the League began in 1972 at which time she was working as the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church. Deciding on a career change, Marsha took a student leave from her League affairs to obtain her law degree at Stetson; she has been active with the League, the community, her career and family ever since. She practices business and real estate litigation with Taub & Williams law firm. As the firm represents the city of Temple Terrace, she also practices municipal law. Serving on the DACCO Board of Directors for four years, Marsha acts as the liaison between the League and DACCO; she is an elder at her church and Vice Chairman of the editorial board for the Florida Bar Journal and News to cite a few of her current endeavors. Interestingly, Marsha’s husband Tom is also in real estate law. The two of them also share the joys and responsibilities of parenting five-year-old Kristen and three-year-old Nancy.

We commend all of our working members for their outstanding contributions to the professional world, as well as for their continued service and dedication to our League’s activities. Thank you — we are proud of you all.
A Legacy of Recipes Lives On

It may seem as though The Junior League of Tampa has always been in the business of developing award winning cookbooks. However, according to JLT’s President in 1958, Frances Knight Skemp, the suggestion of starting a cookbook was like, “dropping a bombshell.” In The Sandspur, an edition celebrating 50 years of The Junior League of Tampa’s service, Mrs. Skemp recounted how an AJLA (Association of Junior Leagues of America) financial advisor, named Ms. Chris Dingman visited the League and said, “You need a cookbook... it’s a natural. Call it the Gasparilla Cookbook.” Although the members were skeptical, they ran with the idea and Gasparilla was born along with a rich tradition of creating cookbooks of high quality and taste that have stood the test of time.

Gasparilla Cookbook

- Is The Junior League of Tampa’s oldest, most popular book and was first purchased for a whopping $3.75!
- Sold nearly 20,000 copies from its debut in 1961 to the end of the 1963-1964 League years.
- Is a National Tabasco Award Winner that has been inducted into the Southern Living Community Cookbook Hall of Fame and Walter S. McIlhenny Hall of Fame for Community Cookbooks.
- Was selected as a sale item for the Tampa/St. Petersburg exhibit at the World’s Fair in New York City in 1964.
Did You Know…?

A Taste of Tampa

• Took three long years to finally reach the shelves in 1978.

• Was originally published by Hillsborough Printing company and was in a spiral binder.

• 8,500 copies were sold in 90 days! All thanks to the 84 food editors who were in Tampa for the National Chicken Cooking contest. The league hosted a taste testing for the food editors and they must have really liked what they were fed. The food critics went back to their home towns and wrote about The Taste of Tampa in their newspapers and magazines!

Tampa Treasures

• Is out of print and there are only a limited number available for purchase. Make sure to get your copy before they are all gone!

• Has a collection of over 500 legacy recipes from sustainers, friends, and favorite restaurants in Tampa.

• At its debut in 1992, Tampa Treasures was featured in the Tour of Kitchens for South Tampa. Bayshore, Golfview, and Culbreath Isles homes were toured while guests sampled recipes and viewed photographs that would be featured in the book.

The Culinary Collection

• Consists of four books.

• The Life of the Party was the first volume in this collection, published in 2002. This cookbook focuses on spending less time in the kitchen and more time with your guests. All without sacrificing amazing food or fabulous presentation. The Life of the Party was honored twice by Favorite Recipes Press with Sales and Marketing Awards.

• Everyday Feasts was the second volume of the culinary collection, published in 2004. Inspired by the notion that food brings people back to the table for some good old fashioned family time! In 2006, this book received the prestigious Cookbook of the Year Award by Favorite Press Recipes.

• Savor the Seasons was the third to be published for this collection in 2006. Created to celebrate traditional year-round holiday menus with a twist here and there.

• Last, but certainly not least, in 2010 the Junior League of Tampa will debut the fourth and final cookbook of the culinary collection called Capture the Coast. Celebrating our location on the Florida Peninsula, this fourth and final book in the collection will bring seaside recipes to our homes. Can’t Wait!
since 1926 when The Junior League of Tampa was founded, the mission has been simple: to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women, and improve communities through effective action. But having a mission was just the beginning. Our twenty-two founding members set out to make a difference, and to do so, they needed a plan. Fundraising would become a vital piece of not only the success of the League, but also its history and traditions. To understand how our major fundraising efforts have grown over the League’s 88-year history, I set out to talk to the best sources possible – Sustainers. Sarah Jane Rubio, Joy Bell and Anne Clark are three Sustainers who have been with the League since the early 1950’s. I listened as they reminisced on their sixty years of service in the League. Their stories helped draw a clearer picture of how the League’s fundraising projects have evolved from the very first charity ball in 1926, to our current Holiday Gift Market, and everything in-between.

The Charity Ball
On December 20, 1927, the League set out to plan for its first major fundraising project, a charity ball to benefit the Community Chest drive (which would later be known as the United Way). The event was organized by the Entertainment Committee, chaired by founding member Willie Carter Blake. Admission to the event was $10 per couple and although the price was steep, equivalent to about $120 today, the ball managed to bring in $1,800, a huge accomplishment given the declining economic state of the city at the time. The charity ball would evolve between the 1940’s through the 1960’s and include the addition of yearly galas.

“The League put on a series of galas and the first ones that I remember were right after I joined the League in 1951,” remembers Joy Bell. A decade later, Anne Clark was chair for one of the first themed galas which promoted the arts and fine music in Tampa. It was held at the Cuban Club in Ybor City and featured entertainment by an up-and-coming opera singer, who would one day be a mainstay at the Metropolitan Opera. “I was in charge of the first themed gala and we brought in Beverly Sills, who turned out to be a very famous opera singer,” explained Anne. “We organized the event and sold tickets, which topped out at $15.”

“Back then, we held a New Members Gala once a year and introduced the new League Provisionals,” added Sarah Jane Rubio. “The event was considered a big deal and tickets were in high demand by members of Tampa society. It was one of our best fundraisers.”
Circulating Library and Tea Room

Other early fundraising endeavors included the Circulating Library and Tea Room. Despite having to change locations multiple times, the Circulating Library was successful in raising funds. Each League member was required to buy a membership for $2.44 or donate a new novel. “The Circulating Library was originally at the Marisol Hotel and then moved to the Maas Brothers Department Store,” recalls Sarah Jane. “I remember going there in the early days with my mother, who was one of the founding members of the League.” At the Tea Room, you could get a light lunch for 50 cents and for a quarter more, you could add dessert. The Tea Room was popular among both League members and locals. “My father was one of their best customers,” joked Anne.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop was the League’s primary source of funding from the 1930’s until it closed in 1963. It began in 1931 as a way to provide women with sewing jobs during the Depression. League members were required to donate salvaged items which were then repaired or repurposed to sell. Anne spent the majority of her tenure with the League working in the Thrift Shop, and was its chairman in the early 1960’s. “The majority of what we had in merchandising was clothing,” she explained. “But occasionally we would get a baby crib or some home goods. The year I was chair, we had a goal to make $8,000. We ended up meeting our goal that year. It was a huge accomplishment.”

Trinkets and Treasure

Trinkets & Treasures (also known as the Thrift Sale) took the place of the Thrift Shop and was held as a one–day bargain shopper’s paradise. Members collected items throughout the year and stored them in a warehouse where volunteers organized the items to be sold. Trinkets & Treasures was a great success requiring only half of the volunteers to execute and it brought in more than $7,000 in sales. “When they first opened the Thrift Sale, it was unbelievable,” remembers Joy. “People spent the night down on the street waiting in line to get in.” Trinkets & Treasures ended in 2002, after being a Tampa staple for 40 years.

Holiday Gift Market

Since 2003, Holiday Gift Market has become the League’s largest fundraiser, raising more than $1 million since its inception. Held at the Florida State Fairgrounds, Holiday Gift Market features approximately 140 vendors selling their goods during the three-day event. In 2013-2014, Holiday Gift Market had a record year, surpassing 13,000 attendees. Visitors can find just about anything - gifts, holiday décor, women's and children's clothing, jewelry, food and much more. There are also special events throughout the weekend including live music, cooking demonstrations, performances and pictures with Santa.

The Holiday Gift Market will be open November 7-9, 2014 and 100% of net proceeds raised by The Junior League of Tampa will support the League’s programs and community projects.
The MacDonald Training Center strives each day to "empower the people they serve to lead the lives they choose," all while working to change the perception of the world. This inspiring organization began in 1953 when Junior League President, Mrs. William C. Gilmore, read a Tampa Tribune article about children with disabilities and the lack of education they received from the state of Florida. She brought the article to her friend, J. Clifford MacDonald, and together, the MacDonald family and The Junior League of Tampa founded one of the first preschools in the nation for children with developmental disabilities.
Once the school opened, members of The Junior League of Tampa (JLT) continued to challenge the status quo to ensure that all children in Hillsborough County received the education that they deserved. Junior League members served as the first teachers at the preschool and funded numerous programs for the MacDonald Training Center (MTC).

JLT continued its intensive commitment in the development and growth of MTC for the next 25 years. By the mid 1970’s, the federal government passed the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, a law requiring states to establish free public education for all students in order to receive education funding. Since students with disabilities were now able to attend public schools, the need for JLT women who served as teachers was no longer needed, and the League assisted the Center in its transition into an independent nonprofit agency.

Rita Hattab, the current Director of Development at MTC, credits JLT with “strong vision, dedication and commitment which carried the ball for advancement for children with disabilities.”

The Junior League of Tampa has always been commended for paving the way for social change. The organization’s involvement in founding the MacDonald Training Center is just one of many examples of how JLT has consistently been a pioneer.

Today, the MacDonald Training Center continues to lead the way in service to people with disabilities. MTC’s mission is for the people it serves to have independence and the opportunity to make their own decisions about where they live and work. The MacDonald Training Center has established several unique partnerships with local businesses through its business to business program. The center is currently the exclusive packager of SUNPASS Transponders for the State of Florida which is a “great source of pride for the people we serve and our organization,” notes Hattab. “Skills learned through the steps of packaging the transponder continue as the hallmark of our innovative ‘Empowering People, Inspiring Change’ (EPIC) curriculum.” The skills learned through this program include timeliness, dependability, attention to detail and conflict resolution, which allows MTC participants to grow personally and professionally.

The center also provides residential services giving members the opportunity and resources to make their own decisions about where and with whom they live as well as paying their own bills. These employment and residential services truly make a huge difference in the lives of many and allows adults with developmental disabilities to live independently in their own homes.

Jim Freyvogel, President/CEO of MTC, is extremely proud of the strides MTC has made for the lives of people with disabilities, and in changing the way in which the world perceives them. However, there is still a long way to go. He encourages others to continue to put disabilities aside and to come together to change the world. He is grateful to The Junior League for its unwavering support and knows that, together, we can continue to shatter barriers and make progress for people with disabilities.
GIVING ABOVE
AND BEYOND

ENABLING FUND & COMMUNITY ACTION

by KATHRYN HALL

Promoting voluntarism is a major tenet of The Junior League of Tampa’s Mission. Members provide thousands of hours in volunteer service to the community through involvement in League programs and projects. The League also provides community assistance, including short-term volunteer and financial support to select organizations throughout the year. Carefully vetting these potential partners is the task of the League’s Enabling Fund and Community Action Committees.

According to Andrea Layne, Enabling Fund Chair, the Enabling Fund “allows [the League] to work with organizations that don’t necessarily need volunteers,” but would benefit from the League’s financial support. She goes on to state, “The Enabling Fund is the League’s way of putting money into the community to fund organizations which create activities and events that are an extension of our Mission.” Each year, the Enabling Fund Committee must determine how to best distribute $25,000 to local non-profit organizations. The maximum amount a single organization can receive each year is $2,500.

Applicants go through a rigorous investigative process. Applications are made available in the late spring and the deadline is typically on July 1st. This year, 39 applications were received. The applications are initially reviewed for anything that might immediately disqualify them. For example, an organization cannot receive a grant two years in a row. The applications are then divided into specific categories and assigned to teams of two women each to closely evaluate them. Criteria assessed include: length of time the organization has existed as a 501(c)(3), clarity of mission statement, degree of detail in the budget, and quality of audited past financial statements. Site visits are conducted to better understand how the donated money will be spent. Each team then presents their top 2 or 3-rated organizations at a committee meeting attended by the President-Elect, Treasurer, and PDEC chair. Proposed recipients are voted on by the Executive Committee and presented at the end of October to the Leadership Council. The recipients are announced at the November General Membership Meeting.

When asked how the Enabling Fund helps fulfill the League’s Mission, Andrea focuses on the committee’s ability to develop the potential of women. Serving on the Enabling Fund Committee gives women experience reviewing grant applications. Committee members also learn to analyze a non-profit’s financial statements.
The Community Action Committee (CAC) mirrors the efforts of the Enabling Fund Committee. However, instead of granting financial support only, the CAC endeavors to find community partners that need volunteers. Again, these organizations may not directly mirror the League’s key issue areas, but they offer the prospect of positively affecting the organization served. Non-profits selected as partners go through a rigorous application process similar to that described for applicants to the Enabling Fund. However, rather than focusing on the financial aspect of the organization, greater emphasis is placed on the project description and how volunteers will be utilized.

According to 2013-2014 CAC chair, Christina Thompson, events supported through the committee offer a unique service experience for all League members. The CAC hosts “done in a day” events with local charities. These events allow a member to contribute to a service project without the obligation of a year-long commitment. A recent done in a day event allowed League members to redecorate the intake room at The Spring, Tampa’s preeminent shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence, making the room more pleasant and welcoming.

Christina’s goal for the committee is to take its reach even further into the community. New events this year inspired by this vision include working with the Children’s Dream Fund to host a party in the pediatric oncology area of Tampa General Hospital and cooperating with the Tampa Bay History Center on a special child-oriented event.

Through the Enabling Fund and Community Action Committee, the League is able to give above and beyond its focus areas. The women on the Enabling Fund and Community Action Committees help ensure the Junior League supports these efforts in such a way that allows the League stay true to its Mission, and just as importantly, in a way that broadens its reach.
The Junior League of Tampa aims to improve the community by preserving and inspiring a legacy of luminaries who are catalysts for lasting community impact. As one of the preeminent leadership development organizations in Tampa, the League believes in the power of one individual to make a tangible difference in our community. Steeped in 89 years of rich Tampa history, the League stands in a unique position to preserve the life histories of these influential individuals, and through the power of storytelling, inspire a future movement of community leaders.

To that end, The Junior League of Tampa created The Luminaries, an annual award program to showcase such outstanding individuals, as exemplified by inspiring leadership, commitment to lasting community impact through empowerment and advocacy, and achievement of prominence or distinction in a particular sphere. Yet, this leadership award program takes recognition a step further by vividly capturing and preserving the influential stories of the award recipients through the creation and distribution of digital media biographies. The Luminaries – the permanent collection of digital media biographies – will be presented at an inaugural award ceremony in the spring of 2015.

The League has established partnerships with educational organizations to feature the digital collection of The Luminaries through online and permanent displays. As a result of the distribution and use of these biographies, we hope that Hillsborough County residents, in particular children, will learn about local leaders and be inspired by these relatable stories to be the change they want to see in their own community.

Through The Luminaries, we are certain that the power of one will impact many. So, who will you nominate?

Nominees will come from a variety of sectors. Be on the lookout for the launch of the award and nomination process online in mid-September 2014 at www.jltampa.org/luminaries.

For more information on the award and the nomination process, please contact Melissa Knight Nodhturft at leadershipaward@jltampa.org.

LUMINARY – a person who inspires or influences others, especially one prominent in a particular sphere.

MEET THE 2021 LUMINARIES

FRAN DAVIN
Board member of the MacDonald Training Center, past Hillsborough County Commissioner, Tampa City Council member, and Tampa Housing Authority board member.

DORETHA EDGECOMB
Former Hillsborough County School Board Chair, Children Board of Hillsborough County member, and Moffitt Cancer Center supporter.

RON WEAVER
Of Counsel at Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A., co-founder of Real Estate Lives and nonprofit board member.

WATCH THE FULL DOCUMENTARY AT: JLTAMPA.ORG/LUMINARIES
FINALLY... YOUR DIGITAL IMAGES PRINTED!
STRESS FREE PORTRAITS FOR THE BUSY MOMS OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA

Brittany Elise
PHOTOGRAPHY

BRITTANYELISE.COM | HELLO@BRITTANYELISE.COM | 813-4655-4420
PROJECT UPDATE

League Winds Up Five Projects

Maternal Child Health Coalition

1985-1986 - $3,500
1986-1987 - -0-
1987-1988 - $3,500

"A great project"

The Maternal Child Health Coalition is made up of doctors, nurses, health care professionals, and business leaders working to prevent low birth-weight babies and infant mortality in Hillsborough County. It has made great strides in creating awareness of the problem.

League members attended educational seminars and conferences to learn about current efforts in this area. Research was conducted which pinpointed geographical areas in the county where there was a large occurrence of low birth-weight babies. League members then began a public awareness campaign which targeted those areas. League volunteers also developed support pieces for the campaign such as posters and newsletters. A brochure was produced and distributed to various agencies, organizations, professional associations and private businesses. A slide presentation was produced in conjunction with Hillsborough Community College and shown to all local obstetrical and gynecological office staffs. A speakers bureau was formed and public information spots on radio and TV were recorded.

This project is in the process of becoming its own non-profit agency. It will then begin applying for grants and getting involved with fundraising.

The League is handling the incorporation procedures and will then turn the helm over to Marion Lake, who is the new president. League members will continue to sit on the Board of Directors. A great project.

OASIS — Older Adult Services, Inc.

1985-1986 - $25,000
1986-1987 - -15,000
1987-1988 - -10,000

"A dream come true"

The purpose of OASIS is to establish an adult day health care center for the frail elderly. This center will delay or eliminate nursing home care for many area elderly.

The League has generated widespread support for this project through a well-planned awareness campaign.

After providing the funds to hire a director, the League helped prepare support materials (a video and slide presentation) on the program and a speaker's bureau. Letters requesting support were mailed and the community responded. Many large companies, like GTE and TECO, became interested and made OASIS the recipient of proceeds from events such as the recent GTE Suncoast Seniors Golf Classic.

The Hillsborough County Commission appropriated $200,000 towards construction of the OASIS Center — to be built in Ybor City. Fundraising efforts continue for groundbreaking of Phase I (the Alzheimer's wing) planned for fall. League members will continue to serve on its Board and in creative placements.
Lowry Park Zoo

1985-1986 - $15,000
1986-1987 - $10,000
1987-1988 - $10,000

"The New Zoo"

Talk about a successful project and you're talking about the Zoo. If you've been to Lowry Park Zoological Gardens since its official opening last month, you know what we mean.

The League has been involved with this project since 1982 through Sally Baldwin, chairman of the Lowry Park Zoological Society and a League Sustainer.

In addition to the League's $35,000, which was used for public awareness mailings, the creation of a training manual for tour guides (docents) and an educational presentation which was taken out into the community, the League helped organize and staff special event fundraisers. The League recorded all of these events on video and in photographs. Some League members on this committee even took an eight-week docent training course and worked weekends in March and April educating the public.

Some Leaguers had a tough time letting go of this project... like Bet Mickler who is now a part-time, but "paid" special events coordinator at the Zoo! And Wendy Plant who will continue her placement there.

So, while we won't be funding the Zoo as a project next year, we will continue to offer placement opportunities at the Zoo.

Performing Arts Center

1985-1986 - $40,000
1986-1987 - $0-
1987-1988 - $10,000

"Bringing the arts to the people."

The Junior League's ticket subsidy program (Tickets for Tampa) at the Performing Arts Center has been very successful. In the first major donation awarded to the PAC by any civic organization, the League voted to create a $50,000 endowment to support the Center... not to build the Center, but to help subsidize ticket prices.

Interest from the endowment pays for 40 to 60 percent of ticket prices for special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped and the economically disadvantaged. This year, the League sponsored 100 residents from the Tampa Housing Authority to see Ramsey Lewis. Members of various community agencies and charitable organizations were assisted in seeing the Nutcracker and some kids from MacDonald Training Center got to see Kurt Thomas.

This project will keep on giving. And, you can continue to assist, as this project will still provide placement opportunities.

Mini-Grants

1987-1988 - $11,600

"Creativity in the classroom"

This project actually began in 1981. It was so successful that it was renewed for three years in 1984 and extended one more year this year. Mini-grants were offered to Kindergarten through sixth grade Hillsborough County school teachers for creative projects in the classroom.

The Junior League developed and distributed introductory packets to all county public schools with elementary students and all sixth grade centers before school began. Teachers were encouraged to submit proposals outlining creative and educational classroom projects.

A panel was formed to judge the proposals for originality and creativity and the grants were awarded accordingly.

The school system loved it. So did the teachers and the students. In fact the CTA (Classroom Teachers Association) has taken over this project, extended it to include K through 12th grade and increased the budget to $20,000.

Janet Henderson
One reason why many of us join The Junior League of Tampa is because of our commitment to service in the community. JLT embodies that commitment as we choose agencies to partner with, develop strategies with these project partners for sustaining the project without our assistance, and then “launch” the project back to the community.

Over the years, there are many examples of projects that have continued on after JLT’s involvement, and here we focus on four notable ones. MORE HEALTH and Baby Bungalow were both started as JLT projects and have grown into thriving organizations. JLT helped bring a Ronald McDonald House to Tampa, and our Academy Prep program provides an example of a project launched within an established organization. The impact of JLT’s projects still remains in all of these organizations today, and the staff and volunteers are so grateful and appreciative to The Junior League of Tampa for our support through the years.

MORE HEALTH
MORE HEALTH began as a three-year project in 1989. After visiting the Health Adventure, a hands-on health museum for kids in Asheville, North Carolina, JLT member Nancy Crane was inspired to bring the idea back to Tampa. Along with Marsha Martin, another JLT member, the concept morphed into training League volunteers on lessons purchased from Health Adventure to be taught in local schools. The students loved it!

The JLT was able to launch this project, and in 1992, Tampa General Hospital became the major sponsor. Karen Pesce, the current Executive Director and a JLT Sustainer, joined the organization that same year. Tampa General Hospital remains MORE HEALTH’S largest sponsor, and St. Joseph’s joined as a major sponsor in 2005.

MORE HEALTH has developed additional lessons and now teaches 23 separate lessons for grades K-12. Lessons range from the five senses, poison control, bicycle safety, dental hygiene, bone and heart health, nutrition and fitness and more. MORE HEALTH just celebrated its 20 year anniversary, and the milestone of teaching its two millionth student!

For more information or for volunteer opportunities, please visit www.morehealthinc.org.

Baby Bungalow
JLT’s five-year project with Baby Bungalow began in 1999 in collaboration with the Child Abuse Council (founded by JLT 30 years ago) and the Healthy Start Coalition to establish a place that would promote happier, healthier families. With the donation of a building in South Tampa, Baby Bungalow underwent a painstaking renovation process led by JLT Committee Chair Beth Schatzberg, now a JLT Sustainer. Says JLT Sustainer Alyssia Ekiyan, past co-chair of the Baby Bungalow Committee, our goal was to, “create a place that was functional, developmentally appropriate, and accessible for infants, young children, and their parents.” The renovation work received a
preservation award and was recognized by the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP). JLT volunteers continued to serve Baby Bungalow in a variety of ways through 2004.

Baby Bungalow’s “any baby, any family” philosophy serves all income levels of parents, and teaches parenting classes to expecting parents all the way through parents with four-year-olds. Baby Bungalow offers classes, support groups, and more. Most classes are taught with the parent and child together and range from developmental playgroups, infant and child CPR classes, to baby sign language. Patricia Pead, Baby Bungalow’s Program Director and JLT Sustainer, has been involved since the beginning. She was initially skeptical of the baby sign language class, until she witnessed an 8-month-old signing, “Pain. Ear.” She was instantly sold.

Since the launch, Baby Bungalow has served 2,505 parents, opened six additional locations: Town and Country, North Tampa, Brandon, Ruskin, Ybor City, and Plant City, and recently celebrated its 10th Birthday!

For more information or for volunteer opportunities, please visit http://babybungalow.childabusecouncil.com.

Ronald McDonald House

In 1974, after experiencing sleepless nights in uncomfortable hospital waiting rooms while his daughter was being treated for leukemia, Philadelphia Eagles player Fred Hill joined with his teammates and community to build the first Ronald McDonald House, located in Philadelphia. Since that time, close to 300 houses have opened worldwide in 30 countries.

Beginning in 1989, the JLT project was to contribute funds totaling $56,000 over three years towards the building of the Tampa Ronald McDonald House on Davis Islands, adjacent to Tampa General. The House serves families with sick children in Tampa General, St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital and Shriners Hospitals for Children. The House was opened in 1992, has 14 bedrooms, and can accommodate up to 56 people. JLT’s donation included funds for the House’s living room, which is warm and inviting, with large windows that overlook an expansive backyard. Carla Saavedra, Board Member and JLT Sustainer says the House’s goal is, “to make our families as comfortable as possible”.

Since opening, the House has served 5,815 families. Three additional Ronald McDonald Houses are located in St. Petersburg, offering 80 total bedrooms for families.

For more information or for volunteer opportunities, please visit www.rmhctampabay.com.

Academy Prep Center of Tampa

Academy Prep’s Tampa Center opened in Ybor City in 2003. Academy Prep is a private, co-ed middle school promoting educational, social and ethical development of inner-city students. Much is expected of Academy Prep students, with a focus on college preparation. The classrooms are adorned by pennants from high schools where previous students have received scholarships, adding a tangible incentive.

Beginning in 2004, JLT’s project involved training volunteers to teach 6th graders proper social skills. The social skills classes included writing thank you notes, dining etiquette, proper attire for all occasions and much more.

JLT celebrated the launch of this project with a graduation dinner in December 2009 at the Columbia Restaurant, where students were able to show off their newly learned skills. JLT Active Megan Berrigan, former chair of the project, recently visited a class on proper dress. This class was led by community volunteers who had been trained by JLT members. This allowed Megan to see first-hand that the classes are a continued success. Megan shared, “I’m thrilled that because of Academy Prep has committed to continue these classes, future students will also share the same smiles.”

For more information or for volunteer opportunities, please visit www.academyprep.org/tampa.
The Sandspur: Past and Present
By Sommer Stiles

The first two lines of this poem were taken from a past issue of The Sandspur announcing the new officers of the Junior League in an article titled, “The Top Brass.” The remaining six lines are my own rhythmic variation and the only way I found fitting to offer to you a retrospective of the official magazine of The Junior League of Tampa, The Sandspur.

Visit the publication archives at headquarters, and flip through the pages of any volume published between 1951 and 1959 and you will see what I mean. History as it relates to The Sandspur has several iterations. There is the history of The Junior League of Tampa; the history of the magazine; and, the history of the women who have built the League and contributed to its success. This is not a Cliff’s Notes version of the 70 plus volume of issues published over the last several decades. It is the story of how a single page, typed newsheet became a 58 page, high-gloss magazine and in the process became the documented history of women of The Junior League of Tampa.

From the onset, The Sandspur was a hands-on publication. League members developed the stories, illustrated the covers, typed the text and delivered each printed issue. Though over time, technology has improved and production has become more streamlined, the magazine is every bit as much hands-on.

It is with this dedication that the magazine has evolved into the voice of the League by telling the stories of League women. It has been a venue for announcements, member profiles, community news, recipes, fashion, and financial tips, book reviews, League projects, and editorials. It has helped raise funds for League operations and raise awareness of important issues related to women, children, and families.

Under Editor Isabelle Ferrell, the article “Viewpoint” shared the opinion of Patricia Morgan, contributing writer and League member, on the effects of changes in the modern world. Patricia writes, “Sometimes when the telephone is ringing, the television is blaring, and the kitchen appliances are grinding and roaring, it occurs to me that modern technology may well be the ultimate source of world peace... If progress has released woman from the kitchen and, this is open to question, what has it released her? Is she peacefully reading edifying books and listening to great music? Don’t be silly... I submit modern woman has exchanged one kind of work for another and has lost her peace of mind in the process. The basic problem is that since WWI America, ostensibly, has become a one class society, which should be fine, but the catch is that everyone is trying to be upper-class.”
Patricia’s article was published in a 1961 issue of The Sandspur at a pivotal time in for women in US history. In the 1960s, a powerful discourse over civil rights was occurring which re-invigorated a movement among women to demand equal equality to men. “Viewpoint” spoke to the second wave of feminism, the divisions between gender, race, and class, and the struggle for equality. The Equal Rights Amendment would later pass in 1972. The questions of modern convenience can be argued to still be in question for many women who seek to balance career and family as they continue to search for ‘peace of mind.’

Patricia is not the only writer for The Sandspur who has posed controversial question and opinion on current events. Many women would proceed and follow her taking on topics like the effects of war on the local community, the Equal Rights Amendment, and the League career woman. Though perhaps their voices have become louder over the years.

The text on the page has been a strong indicator of the times, while the cover art and featured photos further illustrate the trends of an era. A pencil sketch of a woman contemplating League projects, a duotone image of mother and child, a full color photo of the new Children’s Museum the League helped to build – all capture a particular moment in the history of The Junior League of Tampa.

From one volume to the next, you can see the evolution of The Junior League of Tampa, the League woman and the publication. The Sandspur tells our history, as much as it is a part of our history.
Meet the 2020-21 Leadership Council

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With 95 years of service, The Junior League of Tampa is proud of its commitment to financial sustainability in order to serve our communities for years to come. The Junior League of Tampa established the Endowment Fund to support the mission of the League in perpetuity and ensure our organization is able to maintain long-term fiscal stability. Whether through a donation to the Endowment Fund, honoring a fellow member through the Commemorative Fund or remembering JLT in an estate plan, the League provides several opportunities for donors to invest in the future of our communities. Endowment funds have become an essential fund development component for nonprofits and often present a win-win situation for the both the organization and the donor. For nonprofits an endowment provides an ongoing source of income, relieves pressure on annual giving in times of uncertainty and builds a pipeline of future gifts, while providing donors opportunities to align their legacies to the organization’s values, creating a sense of immortality, and ultimately helping to guarantee that the organization can fulfill its mission in the future without interruption.

The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund helps to preserve the League’s legacy by being a cushion during times of economic uncertainty as well as a catalyst in times of prosperity. Since 2006, the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay has managed the JLT’s Endowment Fund. The Fund has grown to $879,572, and the League has yet to draw from the Fund, preferring in the short-term, to grow the fund through the reinvestment of earnings.

SUSTAINING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TAMPA’S IMPACT WITH THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Junior League of Tampa Commemorative Fund supports the JLT Endowment Fund and was established to recognize significant events in the lives of League members. It is a way for fellow members to know that you are joining in their celebration or thinking of them in times of sorrow. A Commemorative Gift is less than $250 and a contribution of $125 provides unlimited recognition for JLT members.

Like many organizations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, JLT found a way to deliver the Commemorative Fund virtually. Members can recognize others via a digital clipboard, and recognitions are posted electronically on the JLT website.

IMPACT BEYOND ONE’S LIFE

Legacy giving is a way to leave an indelible mark on an organization. This major gift can be made in a person’s lifetime or at death as part of a person’s overall financial or estate planning. We highly regard this type of planned giving and recognize donors through membership in The Junior League of Tampa 1926 Society. The inaugural member of the 1926 Society, Martha Sale Ferman’s original gift to The Junior League of Tampa in 2013 planted a seed for countless supporters.

LOOKING FORWARD

While our projects and programs may change in the years to come, one thing that will remain the same is our dependence on donor support. Just as we cannot impact our community alone, we cannot sustain our financial future on our own. Your ongoing support of the Junior League of Tampa is critical to our organization’s success. We encourage you to leave a legacy and consider one of the many ways to contribute to our financial future so that we can deliver on our promise of making Tampa a better place for women, children and families.
The Junior League of Tampa’s Endowment Fund was established in 2006 with the vision to preserve the lasting legacy of our lifelong members. The Fund ensures fiscal stability for the League, allowing members to focus on our Mission no matter the circumstances. By acting as a cushion during times of economic uncertainty and a catalyst during times of prosperity, the Fund preserves the League’s legacy for years to come.

**GIVING TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

**COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS** recognize significant events in the lives of JLT members. Recognized members are featured in *The Sandspur*, and all donations support the Endowment Fund. Gifts can be made at www.jltampa.org/commemorative.

**PLEDGES** for current and future donations are accepted, allowing donors to pay over 3 years. Pledge forms can be accessed at www.jltampa.org/endowment.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** can be made online, via check, securities, stocks and bonds, or through Charitable Gift Annuities.

For more information, contact endowment@jltampa.org

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Lavinia Witt Touchton, in memory of Willie Carter Witt Blake

**1926 Society**
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 of the League and its members.

Thank you to our inaugural member of the 1926 Society, Martha Sale Ferman.

“**OUR LIFELONG MEMBERS HAVE CREATED A LASTING LEGACY WITHIN THE TAMPA BAY COMMUNITY. THE ENDOWMENT FUND HELPS PRESERVE THIS LEGACY.**”
Commemorative Gifts

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
Rose Barbara Bagge, daughter of Kelly Bagge
Lilith, daughter of Lillian Chor-Fiorin
Emmie and Brooks Cohen, twins of Courtney Cohen
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RB, son of Allison Smedley
Stevie Jo Sumby, daughter of Mychael Sumby
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BEST WISHES TO
Kara Bosworth Arnold, on her marriage to John Truett Arnold
Carrie Bien, on her engagement to Michael Ranon
Candace Cole Donnelly, on her marriage to Vince Donnelly
Michelle Fones, on her engagement to Mitchell Rolo
Marie Sabina Garcia, on her marriage to Jason Garcia
Ali Kinberger, on her engagement to Preston McMillan
Heather McKean, on her engagement to Erik Alper
Kelley Volenec, on her marriage to Rick Duarte

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Alison Avery, on being recognized in Tampa Magazine’s Top 10 under 40
Emily David, on her new position as Chief of Staff to the CEO at Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Monica Kirkland, on her new job with Summit CPA Group
Amber Lewis, on her acceptance in Leadership Tampa Bay 2021
Kiana Romeo, on her acceptance in Leadership Tampa Bay 2021
Lyndsey Siara, on being named Hillsborough County 13th Judicial Circuit Court’s 2020 Outstanding Judicial Staff Attorney
Kathleen Shanahan, on being named CEO to watch in Family Business Magazine for her role with Turtle & Hughes
Brittany Stahl, on her promotion to Chief Operating Officer at Stahl & Associates Insurance Inc.
Kimmy Stallings, on her new job as on-site sales executive for Smith & Associates
Ashley Stultz, on her new position as Compliance Assurance Sr. Analyst, Assistant Vice President with Citi
Ginny Veit, on her promotion to Principal in the Federal Tax Strategies department of Clifton Larson Allen (CLA)

IN MEMORY OF
Willie Carter Witt Blake, beloved member of The Junior League of Tampa
Susan Meighen Gillett, beloved member of The Junior League of Tampa
Shannon Lepre’s beloved father
Suzy Lopez’s beloved Dolly
Holly Moore’s beloved father, Randy Miller
Beloved JLT Merchant and Owner of Tipsy Candle Co., Steven Neher
Maude Fowler Pallardy, beloved member of The Junior League of Tampa
Dada Pittman, beloved member of The Junior League of Tampa
Phyllis Sutton Russell, beloved member of The Junior League of Tampa
Lauren Sanchez’s beloved grandfather, Frades Sanchez
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Donations to The Junior League of Tampa support our projects and programs in Hillsborough County. Our donors are individuals, foundations, and businesses, whose contributions help us further our Mission.
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To make a gift, visit jltampa.org/give. For questions about giving, contact funddevelopmentmanager@jltampa.org.

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