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Attorneys Trust Our Trust Department

The local legal community continues to refer the vast majority of our new business, further developing our extensive relationships with Tampa Bay area attorneys.

Our Trust Officers have in-depth experience in all areas of trust services, including asset protection, estate planning, money management, tax strategies and business succession planning.

A local relationship over the long run is essential for effective trust service. If you are concerned about the preservation and distribution of your wealth, contact Mary Mitchell at 998-2720.

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www.bankoftampa.com
The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) offers Leagues across the country a wealth of information and resources. I visited its website www.ajli.com in an effort to find some information regarding the theme of this Sandspur, Mentoring Our Members. AJLI encourages all Leagues to incorporate mentoring programs and clearly outlines various benefits:

• Development of a brain trust of highly capable and committed members, and of leaders skilled in strategic leadership, community building, relationship building, decision making and project management
• Heightened appreciation of diversity within the League and in the community
• Strengthened loyalty to the League
• Enhanced spirit of collaboration
• Improved continuity in projects and assignments

My hope is that this issue highlights how The Junior League of Tampa mentors its members and the positive impact this has in our own lives and the lives of so many members of the Tampa Bay community.

The Winter Issue Highlights

• The Cover - The cover photo was taken by Nicole Geller

Sandspur, exclusively educational and charitable.

Meet the Top 3

2011 Buick Regal
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U.S. News & World Report Best Upscale Mid-Size Cars®.


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FROM THE EDITOR

Our Mission

Founded in 1926, The Junior League of Tampa, Inc. is an organization of 1,700 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.
Our Values

The Junior League of Tampa is dedicated to the service of our community, members and partners and continually aspires to the following organizational values:

Voluntarism - Promoting voluntarism by creating a supportive, safe environment that encourages the continuous development of women to reach their highest potential as civic and community leaders.

Empowerment - Providing training and mentoring opportunities to develop and empower our members and those we serve to improve their lives and the lives of others.

Collaboration - Working collaboratively, effectively and strategically with our members and community partners to bring a legacy of positive community impact.

Advocacy - Acting as catalysts for change in our community and speaking as influencers for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Stewardship - Achieving organizational excellence to meet our Mission and Vision by responsibly managing the resources and relationships entrusted to us.

Throughout my 14 year Junior League career, I have had the opportunity to serve with many amazing and talented women. While our League placement process and training enabled me to learn how to perform many roles, it was truly learning from other dynamic women that had the greatest impact on my development. Many of these women are probably unaware of the impact they had on me, and consequently our organization and our community. The list of women that inspired and shaped my volunteer career is endless. However, I am proud to have the opportunity to publicly recognize ten of these women now.

I am specifically grateful to Mary MacKeev Merryday for “planting the seed” when she addressed my provisional class at our first League meeting. She told us all that one of us would one day serve as President of the League. It was my privilege to share this same advice to this year’s provisional class.

Thanks to Nancy Harvey Mynard, I received my first “phone call” to serve in a leadership position and then again to serve on The Junior League of Tampa’s Board of Directors. I later learned how to effectively serve as a member of the Executive Committee under her leadership.

From Susan Jackson Taulbee, I learned the true meaning of fiduciary responsibility, as she taught me how to manage the League’s budget and to question and research financial issues. This was a pivotal year in my understanding of financial nonprofit management.

Working with Lisa Cove Andrews, I was able to further develop my financial management skills, as together we made many of the operational decisions for the League. Thank you, Lisa, for your confidence in my work, despite my relative newness to the Board and the Executive Committee.

Renee Hoffner Dodds taught me that good things come to those who wait. Her volunteer career advice assisted me with further developing a better rounded and more impactful League career.

From Pamela Childers Divers, I learned how to initiate a new project partnership. She supported my efforts with sound advice, while still allowing me the freedom to implement my ideas. And, she was my biggest cheerleader throughout the process.

Under the leadership of Susan Lem Touchton, I learned the importance of clearly articulating the League’s community focus. Her efforts to better convey our focus areas still permeate every conversation and publication around the League’s community impact.

Jennifer Looney Johnson taught me how to better balance all aspects of my life. Her ability to successfully serve as President of the League and to continue to succeed in her professional career demonstrates that Junior League women can do it all!

From Jan Wilson Carlstedt, I learned you must have fun while serving as President of the League! Her engaging smile and always positive attitude encouraged and motivated many League members to do their best and to enjoy the process along the way.

Betty Street Graham modeled the true meaning of League stewardship. She consistently provided me with the tools, training and the numerous edits needed to accomplish any task, big or small. Throughout my expedited term as President-Elect, she continually served as a sounding board for ideas and plans.

As you continue your League career or external community volunteer efforts, always recognize and celebrate those mentors that assisted you with your development. It is never too late to thank those individuals that assisted with developing your fullest potential.

With Much Appreciation,

Allison B. Burden
President, 2011 - 2012

ChairScholars Foundation

In total, we have awarded 769 scholarships to young people with severe physical disabilities in 19 years – building a community where every person with a disability can achieve the education and employment necessary to live an independent and stable life. Your contribution to ChairScholars Foundation helped to make this all possible. We would like to thank you for everything that you do to support these deserving young people.

Caroll Vink, Program Director
ChairScholars Foundation, Inc.

Glazer Children’s Museum

I hope you heard of our acknowledgement by Women’s Day Magazine as one of the 10 must-see children’s museums in the U.S. We are very proud to be recognized nationally in less than one year since opening. We value this success and our efforts now are focused on continuous improvement and expanding on what we have achieved together. Your support and investment in our Museum is the corner stone of this success.

Al Najar, President/CEO
Glazer Children’s Museum

Meals on Wheels

The Hurricane Packets, which are vital to the growing number of homebound and seniors we serve in the event of a storm, are only made possible because of your generosity in the first place. Please pass along my thanks to all JLT’ers for the $10,000 grant used to purchase the five shelf stable meals, water and other storm related items, and for them going the extra mile by providing the volunteers to deliver them! It’s always encouraging to me to see the many JLT families and individuals who give of themselves and serve our recipients that day.

Steve King, Executive Director
Meals On Wheels of Tampa

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Your support will allow us to Start Something BIG by continuing our mission to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better. Statistics show children paired with a caring mentor will see an increase in their self-esteem, improvement in their grades and are less likely to get involved in the juvenile justice system. One of our Little Sisters in our program says it best, “My Big Sister has had a very positive influence in my life and I can’t thank her enough for all that she has done for me.”

De Anna Sheffield Ward, Chief Development Officer and VP of Partnership
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

Connected by 25

What an amazing sibling event! Thank you so very much for kicking off our year of events with such a well-planned, meaningful activity. I have heard nothing but wonderful reports from our youth. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication and planning. You can’t even imagine the impact you are having. Thank you!

Sarah Hart, Program Coordinator
Connected by 25
The Junior League of Tampa Endowment Fund was established to ensure that our League is able to sustain financial stability and permanently pursue our Mission, despite possible changes in the economic climate or decreases in membership. A strong Endowment Fund will ensure a revenue stream that will augment, but not replace, the Annual Campaign, Holiday Gift Market, cookbook sales and membership dues. Our long-term goal is to raise $500,000 or more, or “Hike to Half Million.” Please consider joining the generous donors listed below by making an Endowment donation to ensure The Junior League of Tampa can “Sustain Our Service” into the future.

Donor List as of October 30, 2011. Donations less than $250 are recognized through the Commemorative Fund.

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- Terri D. Parnell
- Mary, David and Abigail Persky
- Stephanie and Stephen Rumbley
- Lavinia Witt Touchton, In memory of Willie Carter Witt Blake
A gift to the League’s Commemorative Fund is a special way to honor a friend or family member's significant milestone or to remember a loved one. All commemorative contributions benefit the League’s Endowment Fund.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF

Penelope Jane Brownstein, daughter of Active Suzanne and Evan Brownstein
Tracie Domino
Andrea Layne

Claire Cathay, daughter of Active Collie and Tyler Cathay
Tracie Domino

Parker William Coram, son of Active Shannon Coram
Betsy Graham
Nicole and Matt Hubbard
Lee Lowery
Shannon Walsh

Delaney Price Gelwa, daughter of Active Melissa and Joey Gelwa
Nicole and Matt Hubbard

Baby Wade Hill, son of Active Lindsey and Ed Hill
Rosemary Anderson
Chloe Cullinan

Bennett Gabriel Luckman, son of Active Malloy Luckman
Allison Burden
Kim and Trey Carswell
Nicole and Matt Hubbard

Graham Edward Sober, son of Active Jennie Sober
Heather Barrow
Allison Burden
Sarah G. Evans
Betsy Graham
Jessica Kendall
Stephanie Wiendl
Brita Wilkins Lincoln

In HONOR OF

Francis Poe Brawley III, son of Patricia Brawley
Kim and Trey Carswell
Betsy Graham

Active Stacy Carlson, receiving her doctorate in Educational Leadership
Allison Burden
Sarah G. Evans
Betsy Graham
Jessica Kendall
Lee Lowery
Stephanie Wiendl

Bryan Carlstedt, son of Active Jim and Ed Carlstedt
Heather Barrow
Kim and Trey Carswell
Laurie Daigle
Jessica Kendall

Charles Driggs Dominguez, son of Active Gretchen and Joseph Dominguez
Laurie Daigle
Jessica Kendall
Stephanie Wiendl

Active Jessica Gilmore's baby bump
Marcelle Manuel
Stephanie Wiendl

Ansley Grace Hubbard, daughter of Active Nicole and Matt Hubbard
Laurie Daigle
Jessica Kendall

IN MEMORY OF

Sarah Beville Wilhite, mother of Active Wendy Brill
Heather Barrow
Allison Burden
Kim and Trey Carswell
Jessica Kendall
Lee Lowery
Lynette Russell
Stephanie Wiendl

Lt. Dimitri del Castillo, killed in action
Allison Burden
Brigid and William Futch
Stephanie Wiendl

Marta Ferman, Sustainer
Gail and William Rinaldi
Ann Sheppard
Claudia and Bill Young

Paulette Sasso Gross, mother-in-law of Active Hannah Gross
Nicole and Matt Hubbard
Brother of Active Jennifer LeBeau
Laurie Daigle
Laura Everitt

Geraldine Train, mother of Sustainer Campbell Burton
Allison Burden

This includes a cumulative listing of commemorative gifts received from June 1 - October 15, 2011. To make a contribution, visit the Support Us section of the JLT website at www.jltampa.org.

In Memoriam of those who have contributed to the League's Commemorative Fund.
Mentoring Our Members
by Lynette Russell
Membership Vice President

Training has been a cornerstone of the Junior League since its inception in 1901. Founding member Mary Harriman knew that it was not enough to WANT to do good; you needed to know HOW. Therefore, one of the first initiatives of the Junior League was an education program that quickly evolved into a more practical, skills-based training program. She brought in experts to provide lectures and instruction to the members and quickly realized with better preparation came greater engagement, ultimately leading to increased interest in membership. This Mission-based training continues today being the driving force for our League.

The Mission Of The Junior League Of Tampa
Founded in 1926, the Junior League of Tampa, Inc. is an organization of over 1,700 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.

How We Train Our Members
Training begins with the provisional curriculum, which is reviewed and updated every year. We share the League’s past, present and future with these new members, while orienting them to the culture of our organization, as well as the responsibilities and privileges of membership. Additionally, new transfers are encouraged to attend the provisional education meetings to learn about the Junior League of Tampa. By giving one of the largest provisional classes in the Junior League of Tampa’s history the knowledge, tools and motivation, we are encouraged to attend the provisional education meetings to learn about The Junior League since its inception in 1901. Founding member Mary Harriman knew that it was not enough to WANT to do good; you needed to know HOW.

This Mission-based training continues today being the driving force for our League.

Our Focus
The Junior League of Tampa focuses on providing children and their families with opportunities and services essential for their physical, intellectual, emotional and social well-being. Our focus areas include:

• Improving the lives of children in the foster care system
• Enriching children’s lives through literacy and education
• Providing basic needs for disadvantaged children

Another training initiative established in recent years, focuses on the importance of mentoring. The development of the Placement, Provisional and Transfer Mentor Programs has allowed our Membership to grow individually, and as a group. This dedicated group of Mentors is provided with special training from an external consultant, so they can ensure our members have a quality experience throughout the year. The Mentors focus on getting to know each member personally and strive to enhance the education and experience for these women. The Mentors also oversee our TLC (The League Cares) Initiative, which provides a way for the League to recognize an individual member’s accomplishments, accommodations and exciting news. Furthermore, it allows us to support each other in times of need or distress.

Willingsness to Lead
Training is the basic premise of The Junior League’s Placement and Willingness to Lead processes, which allow our members to change committees and responsibilities each year. Members are annually provided the ability to learn new things, select their level of time commitment and meet new people. The diverse paths of placement offer women the opportunity to personalize their experience and training each and every year. From choosing Administrative, Fundraising or Project committees to participating as a committee member, a coordinator position or at Board level, there is something for everyone!

What’s New
Training Requirement
As the League continues to grow in size and community impact, we have seen opportunities to increase the educational opportunities for our members. This year we implemented a new training requirement that states each active and provisional member must attend one training event for the year. This is an amazing opportunity for the Membership to become educated on many different topics. The Training Committee will be hosting monthly events on subjects like Resume Writing, Fundraising 101, Book Clubs on Breast Cancer Awareness and Civic Leadership, just to name a few. These events will be fun and educational, and promise to have something for everyone.

Informal Mentorship Program
Another new membership-driven initiative is the Development of a League-wide Informal Mentorship Program by the Training Committee. The committee is seeking information from all members about their knowledge, experiences and interests, and then will match them up based on the responses. This will allow our members to interact with each other based on commonalities. This initiative also has the potential for collaborative growth throughout the League.

The training that the Junior League of Tampa members receive as a core component of their membership strengthens communities and families around the Bay area and beyond, touching countless hearts and improving the quality of innumerable lives. Training to provide the know-how to do good is what the Junior League is all about.

Organized activity aimed at imparting information and/or instructions to improve the recipient’s performance or to help him or her attain a required level of knowledge or skill.

training
[train. ing] n.
Public relations, event planning, management, nonprofit development, sales, graphic design, culinary arts and journalism. This list may sound like areas of study from an academic course guide, but it is no such thing. This list represents just a few of the professions available through The Junior League of Tampa.

The League offers members at all levels – Provisional, Active, and Sustainer – the opportunity to develop skill sets in a variety of areas. Perhaps you are in the early stages of your fundraising career and are looking to gain additional experience outside your place of employment. A natural choice would be a fund development placement working on a committee such as Cookbook, Fundraising or Holiday Gift Market, where you could exercise your knowledge of fundraising best practices.

Conversely, let’s say you have worked ten years in a profession or out of a professional office environment, for that matter, and wish to make a transition to a new field like event planning. You have planned several successful events for your family and friends and are now ready to take your interests to the next level. Then a placement on the Arrangements or Social Committee, for instance, would provide you with opportunities to realize your event planning potential. The opportunities are yours for the taking – you just have to take them.

As a young provisional (okay, well, maybe not so young), a fellow League member once told me “the League is like anything in your life, the more you put into it…the more you will get out of it.” These words have remained in my memory and continue to motivate me to seek new opportunities for personal and professional growth within the League. Though I am not a professional journalist, I greatly enjoy writing and was eager to put pen to paper through a placement on The Sandspur. Gratefully, I have been encouraged to contribute to several issues over the past year. Each article has provided me with the unique opportunity to explore an area I am passionate about, learn how to communicate the message effectively and creatively, and further develop as a writer.

In thinking of the topic “How to turn your League placement into a career?”, I decided to look beyond my own experience and reach out to women throughout the League to learn their answers. Many similar responses were given, all perhaps best encapsulated in one statement given by Isabel Dominici Dewey, The Junior League of Tampa Training Chair and the Public Affairs, SPAC Chair. When I posed this question to Isabel, she responded with sage advice “…do things that [you] are passionate about and help grow [your] potential. Although I’m out of the political arena, I still have a strong interest in public affairs and shaping public policy. My career has taken me away from that, but I have been able to feed my interest through my advocacy work in the League. I have forged relationships with elected officials and policy makers that would have been impossible without the League. Even though I am happy where I am professionally, if I return to politics, I will be reaching out to colleagues I met through the State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior Leagues of Florida.”

That being said I suppose the only question that remains is when looking at The Junior League of Tampa academic course guide (more commonly known as the Willingness to Lead and General Placement brochures) what career path will you choose? How will you feed your interest?

by Sommer Stiles

Sommer Stiles has been a member of the Junior League of Tampa since 2009. Sommer is a graduate of The University of Florida and has her Masters from The University of Central Florida. She and her husband, Henry, live in South Tampa. Sommer is the Proprietress and Creative Director of Paper Anniversary Co., an online stationery boutique and design studio.

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The Members at Large are three women elected by the membership to represent their interests by serving on the Board of Directors. Their responsibilities include: recognizing outstanding members with the ProActive of the Month awards; spotlighting deserving committees; organizing a JLT Girl’s Getaway; honoring participants in the Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the Cure and Breast Cancer 3-Day Events; honoring outstanding Board members with the annual Inspiring Leader Award; and recognizing members who earned perfect attendance at the General Membership Meetings. Serving as a Member at Large offers multiple ways to mentor and train.

This year’s Members at Large are:

Nicole Geller, a Tampa native who grew up in Carrollwood. She now lives in South Tampa with her husband, David, their two sons and their dog, Carl. Nicole owns her own photography company and loves to train for triathlons. She volunteers with the JLT and at her children’s school.

Kealoha Deutsch, a Tampa native, who, at anytime, can be found either teaching a “BodyAttack” class at Lifestyle Family Fitness, designing and developing medical devices, or spending quality time with her husband and local family (when she’s not volunteering within the League, of course). She holds a strong passion for our membership and the community in which we live, work and serve.

Megan Duffey, a USF graduate who is a lifelong volunteer. Her first volunteer efforts began as a pre-schooler alongside her parents. She currently works in the non-profit field, serves on the Florida Bar’s Unlicensed Practice of Law 13B Committee and spends her free time as a local and state political volunteer, playing various sports such as soccer, softball and tennis or volunteering with other local nonprofits.
Love Bundles

by Jennifer Oliver-Simpson

A 10-year-old boy walks sheepishly into Mary Lee’s House. A Hillsborough County Sheriff’s deputy picked him up from his home in the middle of the night in response to a call of child abuse and neglect. The boy walks in and looks around at all of the strange surroundings and people; he is scared. He does not know why he has been taken from his home, but he knows his father is not in this place and cannot hurt him here. The kind staff of Mary Lee’s House presents him with a Love Bundle from The Junior League of Tampa. In it, he finds a clean change of clothes, socks, a book and a snack. Once he sees all that the backpack contains, he gestures to give it back to the nice woman who gave it to him. But she explains that the backpack is his. He hugs it close to his chest. And he smiles just a little.

It is a familiar and sad story. During this tumultuous time, children often feel scared and uncertain. They have lost all they know to be “normal.” Hillsborough County has the highest rate of domestic violence and abuse in the state of Florida. As a result, many children are removed from their homes every day. Many of the families do not know how to take care of themselves, let alone a child. In an effort to aid in the transition process and provide a little piece of comfort to these boys and girls, The Junior League of Tampa offers “Love Bundles.”

In 2004, the Love Bundles project started as an off-shoot of the JL’s Kids Connect project. It continues today and partners with Mary Lee’s House, the Children’s Home Society and the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Department. Lisa Gabler, Chair of Love Bundles in 2004, says that the goal of Love Bundles is to provide backpacks, or “bundles” to children, newborn to 17, removed from their home due to calls to the Department of Children and Families reporting abuse or neglect. The children are picked up by the Sheriff and taken to either Mary Lee’s House, the Children’s Home Society or taken back to the Sheriff’s Office. From there, the child is placed with another family, or sent into foster care. In the first year of the project, Lisa and her committee would spend countless hours shopping and individually assembling the backpacks. But they thought of a more efficient way to stock the backpacks, so that the partners would have what they needed each month. The committee started an assembly-line type of packing and, eventually, was able to stock the backpacks for the partners so that each month, they would have the supplies they needed, and would not be waiting until they were in desperate need to assemble the committee to restock.

Today, it is largely done the same way. On the third Tuesday of each month, the committee gathers to put together the backpacks and supplies based on the lists sent in by the partners. Each month, the needs primarily revolve around 50% boys and 50% girls, ages newborn to five years old. Based on these needs, the committee shops around the area for supplies, including toiletries, clothes, socks, a snack (or formula for babies) and a book or toy for all of the ages. Additionally, Love Bundles provides non-perishable food, such as Chef Boyardee meals, cereal, granola bars and fruit bars, and for older children the bundles include things like lip-gloss, nail polish, puzzle books, yo-yo’s and decks of cards. The Love Bundles Committee ensures that the children they serve are provided with age-appropriate items and hopefully a little comfort. Ginny Daniel, current Chair of Love Bundles, says the committee provides the necessities for the first 24 hours after the child is removed from the home, and also adds an extra something such as a toy or a book to call their own during this tumultuous time. According to Ginny the backpack is “comforting for the first 24 hours when they are alone and scared and are not sure where they will end up.”

Overall, Love Bundles bring more than just necessities to children that are removed from their homes for abuse or neglect. They provide these kids with something that brings them some comfort and joy during a time that is unimaginable for most of us. Each month, the volunteers help to deliver the backpacks and supplies to each partner. Committee members pack 200-300 backpacks each month from September through June. In June, the committee packs enough for the partners to sustain over the summer until the following September. The Love Bundles Committee provided a total of 1,400 backpacks to its three community partners last year.

The Love Bundles Committee provided a total of 1,400 backpacks to its three community partners last year.
Authentic New York pizza pies, rolls and calzones all hand tossed and cooked to NY standards in a deck oven. Dough and sauce made in house - no pre-bought or pre-made junk touches our pies.

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mentor
1. a wise and trusted counselor or teacher.
2. an influential senior sponsor or supporter.

“There has to be a place where women can be authentic and with like-minded women, where women can be lifted up. The Junior League offers rare and wonderful opportunities for this. [It] is the best kept secret in the world and I feel incredibly humbled and blessed to be in the company of so many giving and caring women.”  
— Vicki Clark, Senior Governance Consultant

Vicki Clark leads a training workshop at JLT headquarters for the Junior League Board of Directors.

Vicki Clark, a Senior Governance Consultant with BoardSource and owner of her own consulting business, has an extensive background in various types of non-profit organizations. She is frequently employed by AJLI to provide training services to Junior League chapters throughout the world. I was fortunate enough to steal a few moments with Vicki as she was preparing for a couple of training sessions at our own League.

How did you get started on this path of training Junior League chapters?
I started working with Leagues in 2000. I was working with Points of Light prior to that for 12 years. 2000 was the Year of the Volunteer and the three partners for that were Points of Light, AJLI and United Nations Volunteers.

What are some of the positive changes you’ve seen in Leagues throughout the country as a result of your workshops?
Leagues are microcosms of the world so when the world changes, the Leagues have to change in order to remain relevant. Now, Leagues are really following strategic plans and have become much more teamwork based rather than hierarchal.

How many chapters do you train at each year?
So many that I can’t keep track. I work with Leagues all over the U.S., in Canada and in London.

Do you tailor your workshops to suit the chapter that you are mentoring or do all chapters get the same information/train-
ing?
I don’t believe in canned presentations. A lot of the topics that I cover are similar, but the only way to be an effective trainer is to customize my presentation for a particular group [based on their needs]. I feel most strongly about this: the key to effective training is research up front; by the time I get to a group, I know as much about them as I can.

Is there one piece of advice that you give to all League chapters, regardless of membership size?
Be Mission-Driven and Member-Focused. Stay focused on adding value to members lives. In order to change the community, you have to change the members.

Where would you like to see the direction of Leagues’ focus from a training perspective?
More informal and formal training, as well as more technology. I would like to see Leagues doing more evaluations. It is really important that Leagues be serious about measuring outcomes.

What do you feel is the biggest challenge that faces League chapters today?
Everything changes so fast; women’s lives are changing so fast. It is a challenge for women’s volunteer groups to integrate all these changes. Also it is a “buyers market” for volunteers. In 1926, there weren’t many places to get training and volunteers. Today, the League has to compete with other nonprofit and women’s leadership organizations for volunteers.

A Chat with the Editor:
by Angier Miller

Vicki Clark, a Senior Governance Consultant with BoardSource and owner of her own consulting business, has an extensive background in various types of non-profit organizations. She is frequently employed by AJLI to provide training services to Junior League chapters throughout the world. I was fortunate enough to steal a few moments with Vicki as she was preparing for a couple of training sessions at our own League.

How did you get started on this path of training Junior League chapters?
I started working with Leagues in 2000. I was working with Points of Light prior to that for 12 years. 2000 was the Year of the Volunteer and the three partners for that were Points of Light, AJLI and United Nations Volunteers.

How many chapters do you train at each year?
So many that I can’t keep track. I work with Leagues all over the U.S., in Canada and in London.

Do you tailor your workshops to suit the chapter that you are mentoring or do all chapters get the same information/train-
ing?
I don’t believe in canned presentations. A lot of the topics that I cover are similar, but the only way to be an effective trainer is to customize my presentation for a particular group [based on their needs]. I feel most strongly about this: the key to effective training is research up front; by the time I get to a group, I know as much about them as I can.

Is there one piece of advice that you give to all League chapters, regardless of membership size?
Be Mission-Driven and Member-Focused. Stay focused on adding value to members lives. In order to change the community, you have to change the members.

Where would you like to see the direction of Leagues’ focus from a training perspective?
More informal and formal training, as well as more technology. I would like to see Leagues doing more evaluations. It is really important that Leagues be serious about measuring outcomes.

What do you feel is the biggest challenge that faces League chapters today?
Everything changes so fast; women’s lives are changing so fast. It is a challenge for women’s volunteer groups to integrate all these changes. Also it is a “buyers market” for volunteers. In 1926, there weren’t many places to get training and volunteers. Today, the League has to compete with other nonprofit and women’s leadership organizations for volunteers.

A Chat with the Editor:
by Angier Miller

Angier Miller has been a member of The Junior League of Tampa for eight years. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Angier graduated from Vanderbilt University and has her M.B.A. from The Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. Angier and her husband, Robert, live in South Tampa with their two English bulldogs, Lewis and George.

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Mentors: Guiding the Way
by Ashley Collado, Kathryn Hall and Brooke Iarossi

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a mentor as a “trusted counselor or guide.” But to the women whose lives she helps shape, a mentor is much more than that. A mentor can provide a safe haven in a season of change. She shares her time and expertise to guide her mentee along the right path. The Junior League of Tampa is fortunate to have numerous members that selflessly fulfill these duties and more.

PROVISIONAL MENTORS

We all remember the nerves and sheer excitement we felt leading up to our very first Junior League meeting. Once all of those initial emotions wear off, we suddenly realize that there are a vast amount of responsibilities and commitments to be made during our provisional year. With that being said, being a provisional can be overwhelming, thus our Provisional Mentors become our own personal guide and mentor, helping us begin our memorable journey into the League.

With our biggest provisional class yet (150 provisional members), the job of a Provisional Mentor is large and one that Caitlin Ralph is taking very seriously this year. “The Provisional Mentor position is one of the most important positions in the League. We are helping Provisionals make lifetime commitments to the League by giving them the knowledge of our Mission and helping them build relationships from the start.”

One of the steps Caitlin is taking to ensure that the new Provisionals become familiar with one another and the League is to focus on socializing with her group on a monthly basis and by reaching out to them weekly to answer any questions or concerns they may have.

The Provisional Mentors received additional training at the beginning of each League year via Vicki Clark, who was brought in to help them relate to the Provisionals that I mentor.” There are also a number of first year Actives that are on the Provisional Mentor committee, which offers a recent perspective on things that may have been helpful for them just one year ago.

Membership will ultimately benefit from this position, by ensuring that our new members have the right support and guidance to enable them to have a successful partnership with the League. When Lynette Russell, Membership Vice President, was asked about the changes that the Membership Advisory Committee is making to the Provisional Mentor position she stated, “We are researching the Provisional Education curriculum and process right now. Some issues we are hoping to resolve are the manageability of large class size, the mentor/mentee ratio and the overall experience for the provisional member. We are exploring different options and will have more to come on that. At the very least, we will add mentors to accommodate the growing class size.”

PLACEMENT MENTORS

Once a woman is an active League member, her next big step is choosing her placement. As she enters her first year as a Placement Mentor with the League Tiffany Harrington’s goal is to, “Ensure lasting friendships and lend an ear for League members working in concert to build a better tomorrow for the community we live in.” Tiffany is joined by twenty-two other Placement Mentors, who will also be assisting League members to develop their personal League goals throughout the year.

“Each member brings a different strength and point of view to the League,” states Tiffany, “derived from each individual’s reason for joining and goals they wish to achieve.” As a Placement Mentor, she looks forward to finding out what the League means to its members in hopes of assisting with developing their connection with the League and with meeting their League goals.

JLT Placement Mentors plan on achieving success in their positions by actively involving themselves with their committees’ meetings and activities. “We want to build lasting friendships and ensure a long and rewarding League career,” says Tiffany. In addition to attendance at committee meetings and activities, Placement Mentors may be spotted interacting with League members at General Membership Meetings and at the Placement Fair. “We look forward to a successful, fulfilling and rewarding year for our committee members.”

Tiffany is honored to be a member of the Placement Committee. She hopes that members “are comfortable approaching their Placement Mentors with joys, concerns and sorrows. We want to make a difference in the League career of our members while helping them down the path of success and fulfillment. We are here as your friend, your mentor and your sounding board.”

TRANSFER MENTORS

A third Mentor meets the special needs of members who transfer from other Leagues. Transfer Mentors help ease the transition for women new to the city and to The Junior League of Tampa. Laurel Lee, herself a former Transfer entered the role of Transfer Mentor this year because of the positive impact that Transfer Mentors had on her. According to Laurel, Transfer Mentors “serve as a resource for the women throughout the year, providing information about the Tampa Bay area and the League.”

The Transfer Mentors equip women “with information about our League, our activities and our community,” Laurel continued. Transfer Chair Britt Erekson believes that the mentors themselves also are enriched by their work. She cites meeting new people and forming friendships with them as her favorite things about serving on the Transfer Committee. Transfer Mentors plan social events to help the Transfers forge relationships with each other, as well as other League members. Gatherings might include coffee dates, shopping trips or movie nights. Transfer Mentors and their mentees are matched according to common interests and lifestyles to spark natural connections.

Integrating transfer members benefits not only the Transfers themselves, but also the League as a whole. Many Transfers have a wealth of ideas and experience to share with JLT members; some may have even served as leaders in their former League chapters. Mentors encourage Transfers to get involved in their new League, contributing with their diversity and insights.

Laurel suggests we can all serve as Transfer Mentors in a small, informal way. She encourages members to introduce themselves to the Transfers and welcome them to JLT. “Seeing a friendly face and feeling welcome and included in our meetings and events is a big part of ensuring the Transfers join and stay active. We should all try to meet someone new at membership meetings!” stated Laurel.

Whether instructing provisional members as they learn about the League, educating members about service opportunities or welcoming newcomers to Tampa, Mentors play a critical role in the League. Mentors share their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to strengthen individuals and the League as a whole, allowing us all to best serve the community. Mentors guide us all toward a brighter tomorrow.

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“Each member brings a different strength and point of view to the League”
—Tiffany Harrington, Placement Mentor

Ashley Collado is from Tampa, Florida and has been a member of The Junior League of Tampa for three years. Ashley graduated from Stetson College of Law and currently practices in the area of Real Estate Law.

Brooke Iarossi is from Gulf Breeze, Florida and this is her first year as an active with The Junior League of Tampa. She and her husband Tom, have a two year old daughter Isabella. Brooke is the Southeast Regional Sales Manager for Gynecor, a division of Boston Scientific Laboratories.

Kathy Hall is from Middlesburg, Florida and joined The Junior League of Tampa in 2010. She is a Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon with the University of South Florida. She and her husband, Eric, live in Tampa with their two year old son.

PRoVIsIonAL MentoRs

By Vicki Clark

PROVISIONAL MENTORS

By Caitlin Ralph

PLACEMENT MENTORS

By Tiffany Harrington, Placement Mentor

TRANSFER MENTORS

By Laurel Lee

MENTORING OUR MEMBERS

Mentoring Our Members
by Vicki Clark

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by Caitlin Ralph

Mentoring Our Members
by Tiffany Harrington, Placement Mentor

Mentoring Our Members
by Laurel Lee

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www.jltampa.org | WINTER 2011
Mentoring: Better Service is Borne of the Best Relationships
by Megan Ely, Brooke Palmer and Ellen Quintan

The skills in The Junior League of Tampa are meant to be shared with the community we serve as well as amongst each other. Everyone benefits from a good mentor and, with a new mentoring system put in place this year, the JLT encourages us to step out of our comfort zones and to take full advantage of an opportunity to grow. The League is a collection of extraordinary women, and the following interviews show how influential we can be. A common theme is how much more connected and comfortable one feels when someone takes an authentic interest in them. What is vitally important is that we are willing to do the work and make the effort to gain from those around us, and share with the talented women that surround us. Please read on to hear how the following mentoring relationships benefitted not only the mentors and the mentees, but those they serve as well.

How did your mentorship begin?

Renee and I are neighbors. About 10 years ago, I was contemplating my level of involvement with the League. Renee encouraged me to serve on her committee at the time, knowing that it would enhance my connection with the League.

How has mentoring impacted your involvement within the League?

I wanted to create an environment for women to be great, I believe that if you remind someone how great they are then they will ultimately exceed your expectations. When Jen considered leadership opportunities, it was her choice to step up, but I was there, regardless if it worked out or not, to see that Jen succeeded. Now as a Sustainer, I am more engaged in the League. Mentoring allows me to interact with current Actives, give advice and still feel connected to the League.

What qualities about each other would you want to emulate?

I didn’t know Kathleen personally, but knew of her. She then became my Executive Liaison which initiated our friendship.

What qualities about each other do you want to learn?

Kathleen absolutely understands balance in life. She knows that family comes first, and is so hands on yet at the same time is dedicated to JLT. She gets business done, but keeps the fun in it. It is a volunteer organization. We all might have different reasons for joining, but we all have the same goal. Kathleen understands that.

What is one of the best times you had together?

One of my favorite times was when I knew Nicole was getting the Inspiring Leader of the Year Award! It was so hard not to tell her, but to surprise her with that award was awesome. And we have just as much fun sitting together at board meetings!

Mentor: Kathleen Thaxton
Mentee: Nicole Hubbard

Kathleen was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania but has lived all over the US throughout her life. She has been in South Tampa 21 years. This is her 12th year in the League and 4th year on Executive Committee. Kathleen has been married for 18 years with three girls- Katty Ann (14), Laurel (12) and Jessica (8).

Nicole is from Winter Garden, Florida but has lived in South Tampa since 1998. This is her 6th year in the League. She has been married for 11 years with two children-Austin (3) and Ansley (1) as well as two Shih Tzus that are both 11 years old. She is a Nurse Anesthetist and has worked at Tampa General Hospital with Florida Gulf to Bay Anesthesiology for the last 8½ years.

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) provides a thorough and comprehensive overview to Mentoring.

Visit www.aili.com to learn more about the benefits of mentoring to mentors and mentees.

A Mentor...
Is a teacher or advisor who leads through guidance and example.

A Good Mentor...
Provides wise counsel and encourages the mentee to believe that her actions are a result of her own ideas and instincts.

Mentoring Is...
• A relationship in which an experienced person provides advice, support, and encouragement to a less-experienced individual.
• A powerful personal development tool that enhances the abilities of both mentor and mentee.
• Valuable at any age. Everyone has something that she can teach someone else.
• Leadership development: The mentor offers skills, abilities and knowledge that build the next generation of leaders – a strategic element of organizational survival.
MENTORING OUR MEMBERS

Danielle is from Clearwater, Florida, and is a volunteer, wife and mother. Her current JLT placement is Fundraising Chair and she is in the beginning stages of launching her own event planning business.

Crystal was born in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and attended The University of Florida and The University of Tampa. She is a volunteer, wife and mother and currently serves as JLT’s Electronic Communications Chair.

How did you come to know your mentor?

I met Danielle in my provisional class. Two years later we were Provisional Liaisons together. Soon after that I was a Placement Mentor on her committee (Kids Connect) while she was Chair.

How has your mentorship impacted your League experience?

Through my JLT training, I have learned that it is my responsibility to empower the women I serve with and to help strengthen their own leadership skills. Once I embraced that role, I learned to be a leader for the first time.

In what ways has your mentorship affected your involvement in the League?

We both put forth the time and effort to attend each other’s events, socials and activities. It’s great to see the benefits that abound when great women all around us work together.

Do you recommend mentoring to active members?

Yes! We have a new mentor training program that matches mentors with mentees based on a person’s interests, fits and skills.

Healthy relationships are the key to any well functioning organization, and nowhere is that more evident than in the mentoring relationships of The Junior League of Tampa. Connecting current Actives with Sustainers and asking experienced Committee Chairs to help new members helps to create a rich culture of learning and communication that sharpens everyone’s leadership skills. Like a family, we thrive in a wholesome and safe environment, where all of us are encouraged to take risks and grow. Creative and clear thinking enriches our community as we strive to help each other. Everyone is a winner as guiding principals are shared and learned skills are taught by a free flowing, efficient system of communication.
The Training Committee

by Meghan Weddle

The Junior League of Tampa offers many personal growth opportunities for its members from volunteering in the community to making new friends on committees and at social events. An additional benefit offered by the League is the opportunity to attend a variety of training events. According to Isabel Dewey, Training Committee Chair, these sessions are “monthly events that help League members grow personally and as volunteers.” In order to make training a priority within the League, training event attendance is a new requirement for the 2011 - 2012 League year.

The Training Committee facilitates many types of events to ensure that everyone finds something that suits her interests. One offering is a book club which has evolved from simple discussion groups to a speaker series about relevant topics pertaining to the chosen book. Dewey adds that, “people do not have to have read the books to attend, but they are encouraged to in order to get maximum benefit for the discussion.”

The October book selection was Promise Me by Nancy Brinker, founder of the Komen for the Cure Foundation. The book discusses her relationship with her sister and her journey creating the Foundation. Darby Steadman of Driving Ms. Darby, a foundation that supports clinical trials in breast cancer research, spoke during the October book club event.

Another training opportunity this year is in conjunction with The Nonprofit Leadership Center of Tampa Bay. Two sessions will be offered focusing on the skills necessary to run a nonprofit business through training, coaching and online resources.

The Training Committee

The Training Committee focuses on personal and professional growth opportunities for its members. The committee offers various training events throughout the year, which are required for members to attend. These events provide opportunities to learn new skills and connect with other members.

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Overall, the Training Committee always seeks to match its programs and events with League interests. The League uses surveys to gather information on relevant and pertinent topics. Using these results, the Training Committee offers programs and events with the most membership appeal in an effort to help members grow in their League career and in their own personal pursuits.

The Training Committee

Committee Focus

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Tanya Kayani
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Monica Helenek
Allison LaLonde
Jordan Land
Marcelle Lanoue
Erika Lee
Stephanie Leonard
Erika Lindsey

Elizabeth Helmer
Kirsten Higgins
Becky Ho
Lindsey Hodges
Michelle Huggins
Kelly Hughes
Frances Reed-Maclay
Melissa Madsen
Tara Mahtani
Margaret Markani
Kimberly Marinko
Danielle Marone

Allison Kimball
Jane King
Elizabeth Krueger
Allian Koeplke
Megan Koval
Heather Kurka
Michelle Owens
Melissa Palor
Lindsey Parks
Barbara Perez
Lauren Petersen
Molly Phillips
The 2011 - 2012 Provisionals are an amazing group of women who share a common desire to improve the Tampa Bay Community through voluntarism. I am in awe of these ladies at every meeting. They are already so engaged and dedicated. These women are lawyers, teachers, entrepreneurs, doctors, business executives, nonprofit board of directors members, stay at home moms and even Army Pilots!

— Suzy Mendelson, Provisional Education Chair

The Junior League of Tampa would like to thank Nicole Geller Photography for the Provisional Member photos.
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Application period for 2012-2013 Opens December 5, 2011!

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To explore other options in Hillsborough County Public Schools, visit our website at www.mysdhc.org/magnet or call the Choice Information Line at 813-272-4692.
Hello Sustainers! We have had a fabulous Fall with lots of activities and parties.

Back to the League Day was a great success. We learned what is going on in the League and got a firsthand look at the 50th anniversary edition of The Gasparilla Cookbook which not only has tried and true recipes, but also holds a special place in the history of The Junior League of Tampa. It is a fascinating read even if you don’t like to cook. To purchase a copy visit www.jltampa.org or call The Junior League of Tampa headquarters at 813.254.1734.

Lunch Bunch had a lively turnout thanks to our Chairs, Karen Perry and Flo Roberts. It is a fun way to see old friends and meet new ones. Watch for the next Lunch Bunch date in the Sustainer Sandblast, or call Karen or Flo.

The Holiday Gift Market Patrons’ Party was another success story. Sustainer, June Annis, and her husband, Mike, opened their home for “C’est Magnifique,” an Evening in Paris. It was truly magnificent. Thank you June and Mike for such a lovely evening.

Thank you to all of the Sustainers that have participated in the Annual Campaign this year. The Junior League of Tampa is unique in that every single cent of the money raised during Annual Campaign goes directly into our projects and programs. We are aiming for 100% participation from all of our members, including Sustainers. So, if you have not already made a donation, we need you! You can mail a check to the League office, or go to our website at www.jltampa.org. It’s not the size of your gift that matters, just the fact that you care enough to make the gift. We appreciate your participation at any level!

On another note, Carol Garner and Carolyn Carr chaired a fabulous Sustainer Cocktail Party at the beautiful golf course home of Frankie and Stan Harrell. The evening was perfect for dining under the stars, and Metro Chef Catering provided a wonderful array of gourmet dishes. A big “thank you” to Frankie and Stan for sharing their gracious home.

Our Food 4 Kids volunteer days were in November led by Sue Cox. Sue and her enthusiastic group of volunteers bagged groceries at Feeding America Tampa Bay and then distributed them to the children at the Belmont Heights and Sulphur Springs Boys and Girls Clubs. We will repeat this much needed service in the Spring, so if you’d like to participate, please call Sue.

I wish you and your families the happiest of holidays and send you many thanksgivings for all of our blessings.

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“The Hamwich”

INGREDIENTS
3 tablespoons butter, melted
2 teaspoons mustard
2 teaspoons poppy seeds
1/3 cup chopped onion
Dash of Worcestershire sauce
1 (16-ounce) package frozen dinner rolls
1/3 pound shaved ham
2/3 cup shredded Swiss cheese

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix the butter, mustard, poppy seeds, onion and Worcestershire sauce in a bowl. Remove the rolls in one piece from the foil pan and cut into halves horizontally. Replace the bottom half in the foil pan and spread evenly with the poppy seed mixture. Layer the ham and cheese over the bottom half of the rolls. Replace the top half of the rolls cut side down over the cheese. Cut into individual servings. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until light brown. The rolls may be frozen before baking.

Capture the Coast Cookbook p. 40

The Junior League of Tampa
2011 – 2012 Cookbook Order Form

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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tampa Treasures</td>
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<td>The Culinary Collection Volume 4: Capture the Coast</td>
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Who has been a League mentor to you and what did you learn from her?

Shannon Walsh
It is so hard to narrow it down to just one person... but Lisa Lockhart has been instrumental in my League experience. I admire her for her involvement and managing such a busy schedule (between serving on the JLT executive committee, work, school and personal life). She always makes time to answer my questions, help with an event or just grab a glass of wine & catch up. I aspire to do that for others!

October 3 at 4:38pm  Like · 3 people

Andrea Bridenback Layne
I am lucky to call Betsy Graham not only my mentor, but also my friend. She has thoughtful and thought-provoking advice that is always insightful and on target. She has taught me to not dwell on the mistakes, but take initiative to fix the core issue. I admire her poise and I trust her guidance.

October 3 at 5:51pm  Like · 3 people

Suzy Hays Mendelson
Stephanie Hendrix Wiendl has shown me that it is not only possible, but completely do-able to be a fully engaged mother, a full time working woman, and a devoted volunteer and League member, all at the same time! She is a big picture gal, while being able to focus on others individual league experience. She has taught me to find balance in all of my roles and how to be devoted to each one separately.

October 3 at 9:18pm  Like · 2 people

Jennifer Moyer
Jennie Sober is one of my mentors. She believed in me early in my League career and encouraged me to think big. She exudes such a caring attitude to all of her committee members that I can only hope to emulate.

October 3 at 10:23pm Like · 1 person

Nicole Perez Geller
Lynette Russell is my mentor. She is polished, patient and perfect. The three P’s of an amazing leader! Lynette truly makes me feel like I can accomplish my goals within the league. Although Lynette has a full plate, I never feel as if my concerns/ issues are not being addressed. Thank you Lynette for inspiring me to be my best!

October 6 at 5:43am Like · 3 people
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