Junior League of New Orleans

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JLNO: HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS

2011 MEN OF THE LEAGUE -CHECK OUT THE CENTERFOLD

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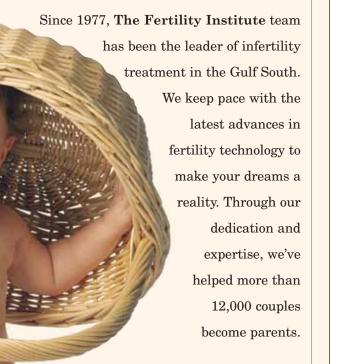


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On the Cover

Little Leaguers Harry Leche and Daphne Fahrenholt (in a dress purchased for \$3 from Bloomin' Deals) enjoy the simple summer pleasure of a slice of watermelon at City Park.

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Photo by Jorge Menes Photography

In Every Issue

Letter from the President Letter from the Editor



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Publisher



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from the President

"Today holds renewed strength and opportunities to help others"



DEAR FRIENDS,

The Junior League of New Orleans is celebrating the summer of 2011 with family and friends. We hope you enjoy the feature article about vacations and staycations and remember that personal renewal occurs when you spend time with those you cherish.

In this issue of Lagniappe we thank our members for their loyal support, acknowledge our Preferred Partners, Capital One and Ochsner Foundation and celebrate our new major fundraising sponsors, Iberia Bank, Peoples Health, and Whitney Bank. We want to thank Mr. Randy Smith, who is our first major project sponsor, and most importantly we want to thank the community for supporting our Sixth Annual New Orleans Kitchen Tour and First Annual 5K Etouffee. Both events exceeded our expectations and have made our programming goals possible for 2011-2012.

In late spring, the Junior League spends its time ensuring proper transitions, meeting with staff and annually reviewing our Thrift Shop and Cookbook businesses. We plan ahead as an organization to support our 3 new community projects and 11 renewed projects. We train our new board and council leaders and ask our members to renew their commitment of time, talent and treasure to the next Junior League by paying dues and choosing a placement. The cycle of the Junior League could be an example to all of us. It does not end because each member personally renews and the organization simply finds new spirit within to move on and address current challenges through engagement with our community.

Summertime is when we remember that where we are as an organization is less important than who we are with. It is the power of the members that overwhelms us and the company we keep that renews us. The meeting minutes are shelved but the memories we make stay in our heart and transform our values.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the people who have given so much of themselves to the Junior League over the past year. Thank you to the 2010-2011 Board of Directors for their commitment. Dee, Gwathmey, Erin, Lilla, Eryn, Jeanne, Chris, Charlotte, Mandi, Stacey, Connie and their Council Chairs made our organizational dreams a reality.

Thank you to our Lagniappe Staff. What a fabulous team, lead by our editors Enid Fahrenholt and Meg Leche. Your dedication to the Junior League was evident in every issue.

Thank you to the 2011-2012 Board of Directors and the Council Chairs for your time and dedication this upcoming year. You will be magnificent leaders and will have each other.

Finally, I want to thank Mason, Aidan, Bryce, Blake, my family, my friends, and the members for this opportunity to serve the Junior League. What a blessing and a journey it has been!

Gratefully, Jennifer Couvillon President, 2010-2011







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Letter

from the Editor

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, **is hardly a waste of time.**"

John Lubbock



THIS SUMMER, WE SHOULD ALL take time to enjoy the simple pleasures in life by spending time with friends and family, discovering local places of interest, and helping those in need. In our Living Well feature this month, we give you a few ideas on how to spend your summer. We wanted to focus on the local area because we've been through some hard times in the past few years. Sometimes it just takes a drive around town to remind ourselves why we live here and the beauty and originality of the city that JLNO works so hard for.

Since it's the end of the League year, we wanted to highlight some of the projects that have been successful this year. Meeting Boutique was new this year and really took off. Get on Board! had another successful year, training participants for their upcoming roles on boards of local nonprofits. And as usual, Kitchen Tour and the Patron Party were wonderfully successful, raising even more money that will go toward our community projects.

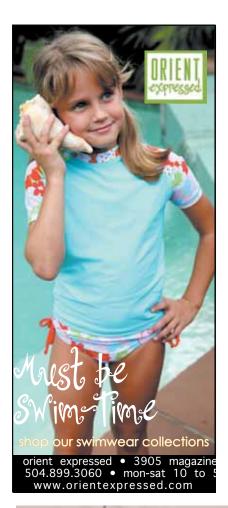
If you flip to our centerfold you will see the 2011 Men of the League. These are the "men behind the women," family members that usually don't get credit for all that they do to help the League. They give selflessly of their time, talents, and treasure to help the women in their lives and JLNO.

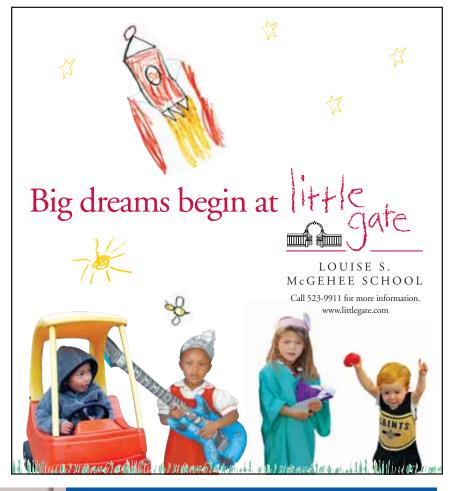
The women of Lagniappe would like to thank the men that have helped us this year. They proofread our stories, help us choose pictures, and assist with our various shifts and meetings. Thank You to Fritz, Glenn, Greg, Harry, Hyder, John, Kevin, Marco, Medlock, Richard, Rob, Ryan and Stephen.

I would also like to say a special thank you to all the members of the League. It was such a pleasure getting to learn about so many of you this year. And I know that Lagniappe could only scratch the surface of all that you did. Thank you especially to the board members and committee chairs for taking the time to help our writers and photographers get the necessary information and pictures for their articles. It was my honor and privilege to serve as the Lagniappe Editor this year and I appreciate all that you do!

It was wonderful to work with Caitlin Brewster, Meg Leche, and Meghan Hays this year, as well as the entire Lagniappe Committee, and I look forward to reading each issue of Lagniappe next year. The first of which, coming out in the fall, will feature the new Board of Directors, the 5K Etouffee and the new class of Provisionals!

Thanks sincerely, Enid Fahrenholt Lagniappe Editor, 2010-2011







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League Member in the Community

Jessica Bride

By Sarah Roy

JESSICA BRIDE is changing the look of New Orleans' restaurant kitchens, one young chef at a time. Chefs Move! The John Besh and Bride Mayor Scholarship, is a program Jessica started with her husband, Nick Mayor, and Chef John Besh. Aspiring minority chefs are eligible to apply, and the winner receives a year-long scholarship to The French Culinary Institute in New York City.

"The idea is to diversify kitchen management," explains Jessica, who attended culinary school in New York. She got the idea for the scholarship while running along St. Charles Avenue one day, thinking about the fact that many members of the kitchen staffs in New Orleans' favorite restaurants have had limited travel experience.



Jessica Bride brings her cooking expertise to the kitchen, chopping vegetables for a healthy, homemade dinner.



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"I was thinking of how neat it would be if these guys and girls who are actually in the kitchen...had the experience of going to the Culinary Institute of America... and experiencing other cuisines, and bringing it back to New Orleans." Jessica thought John Besh would be a natural partner for the endeavor, and as luck would have it, she ran into him at the airport, and successfully pitched the idea of the scholarship to him.

Jessica, a New Orleans native, joined Junior League in New York, and then transferred to London. In New York, she was a member of the NYJL Non-Profit Boards Clearinghouse, which is similar to JLNO's Get On Board program. Her most recent placement in New Orleans was Kids in the Kitchen. Jessica credits her Junior League experience for her success in establishing the scholarship. "Everything I know about non-profits, I learned from the Non-Profit Boards Clearinghouse," she says. Her work with community centers through the London League, and with Kids in the Kitchen, taught her that "the best way to make a difference is through consistency of interaction."



Jessica Bride gathers ingredients to prepare a deliciously healthy meal at home.





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JLNO is the Hostess with the Most-ess New Orleans hosts the AJLI Winter Leadership Conference

By Samantha L. Daniels

THE ASSOCIATION of Junior League International (AJLI) 2011 Winter Leadership Conference came to the New Orleans Marriott this past January. Two hundred and twelve Leagues and 360 delegates came from all over the United States and international locations to attend the three-day event.

The women had a great time and left with positive impressions of New Orleans and JLNO. Networking opportunities were abundant, as were good times with interesting League leaders.

Laurie Dodge, AJLI director of marketing and communications, says the Winter Leadership Conference continued the theme, "Roadmap for the Future."

"At this conference, new League leadership teams (Presidents-Elect and Presidents-Elect-Elect) had the opportunity to work together and with counterparts from other Leagues," says Laurie. "They gained skills, tools and insights to use to create their own goals and plans for the coming year, and for years beyond."

Photo by Sama



AJLI Committee Members Jessica Cook and Elizabeth Janke greet Junior League delegates at the AJLI Conference Welcome Reception.



Alicia Malinowski and Gina Reynen from the Ft. Lauderdale league browse the AJLI boutique.



AJLI Committee Co-Chair Leigh Thorpe and Committee Member Courtney Lane prepare to stuff over 300 AJLI Conference gift bags with wonderful New Orleans goodies.



President-elect-elect Brandy Whisnant with Dee McCloskey, President-elect.

Jennifer Couvillon, 2010-2011 President, agrees. "The most important result of these trainings is that the leagues learn from each other and improve based on best practices," she says. "The unexpected benefit is that the individuals benefit from peer and organizational support."

Jennifer says she was surprised and delighted to learn that JLNO is the tenth largest League and that we are growing in membership.

The delegates moved throughout the rooms of the Marriott Hotel to attend workshops, plenary sessions, and a Keynote luncheon presentation by JLNO's Anne Milling. Workshops included "How to Lead Through Change," "Servant Leadership" and "Implementing Strategic Direction: The Shift from Governance to Management."

Attendees could also shop at the AJLI Boutique or browse the cookbooks for sale by Southern Leagues. The Conference Committee handed out gift bags that included fun New Orleans treats like beads and masks.

The Presidents-Elect and Presidents-Elect-Elect were learning best League governing practices, yet they were also having lots of fun!

Dee McCloskey, 2010-2011 President-Elect, attended the conference with Brandy Whisnant, 2010-2011 President-Elect-Elect. "While there were several interesting sessions, nothing beats welcoming 400 women to New Orleans," says Dee. "It was incredibly gratifying to hear all of the compliments and thanks from conference attendees who felt so welcome in our city. Our JLNO conference committee did a great job!"

Many of the attendees arrived a day early to enjoy a bus tour coordinated by Planning & Development Council Director Erin Bolles and the AJLI Conference Committee. President-Elect-Elect Brandy emceed the bus tour.

Brandy says that the bus tour was an excellent opportunity to show off JLNO community projects, including Bloomin' Deals Thrift

Photo by Samantha Daniels



Attendees from All Over! Jill Nagle, San Angelo, Texas Dawn Zuerker, Lubbock, Texas Crystal King, San Angelo, Texas Beth Bridges, Lubbock, Texas Candace Christman, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Shop, Rebuilding Together homes and the Louisiana Children's Museum.

Dee adds, "Sharing our city was a great privilege, as was giving a JLNO hat to the first visitor who could spell 'Tchoupitoulas!"

Christina Brady attended the conference from the Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois League. She says one of her favorite moments was the bus tour. "This is the first time I've ever been in the South. The architecture is different and interesting to



AJLI Committee Co-Chairs Wesley Janssen and Leigh Thorpe mingle with President Jennifer Couvillon, and Ways and Means Council Director Mandi Frischhertz at the Welcome Reception at the AJLI Conference.

me. I've never seen anything like it."

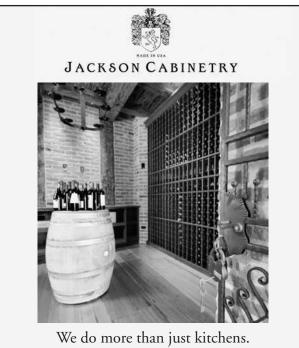
"I think JLNO did an excellent job of showcasing our city and our League," says Brandy. "I am still receiving comments from other League's Presidents-Elect-Elect about how much they got out of the conference and how impressed they were with the hospitality that we were able to show everyone."

Dee says that the connections JLNO and

the community make through conferences like these are invaluable. She even had League leaders calling her to ask how they could support New Orleans rebuilding organizations and how they could educate their members about the importance of Louisiana wetlands.

oto by Samantha Da

Dee sums up the valuable experience for JLNO and New Orleans: "Whenever AJLI asks us to host a conference, say yes!"



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Maggie Katz admires the features in Greer and David Monteleone's kitchen.

Kitchen ⁻

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR for the Junior League Kitchen Tour! "An Evening with Nathanial Zimet of Boucherie Restaurant" on April 14, 2011, at Latrobe's on Royal kicked off the weekend, hosted by Kitchen Tour Kick-Off Party co-chairs, Stephanie Boh and Skye Fantaci, along with their vicechair, Jennifer Hawney, honorary chairs Patricia Denechaud and Jan Hayden, and the committee. Party-goers were treated to a cooking demonstration by Chef Zimet, a raw oyster bar provided by Acme Oyster House, sweet treats from Hubig's Pies and a specialty cocktail, "The Bid Increaser," made especially for JLNO by Cure. Armand St. Martin's Maison C'est Bon Jazz Trio provided entertainment. The entire party was sponsored by a generous donation from People's Health.

Guests also enjoyed live and silent auctions, which raised more than \$30,000 for the League. A private dinner with Chef Zimet was the grand prize, and Chef Zimet was kind enough to match the winner's \$2,500 bid as a donation. A gas lantern from Bevolo and a football signed by Drew Brees were also hot-ticket items at the auction.

The Kitchen Tour, which is the second-largest fundraiser for JLNO, was held on April 16, 2011. Co-chairs Merisa Pasternak, Kristen Ponthier and Amy Rosato, vice-chair Melissa Beaugh, and the Kitchen Tour committee selected 14 distinctive kitchens in the Garden District and Old Metairie. Guests sampled tasty bites from Slice, Mondo, Creole Creamery and Maple Street Patisserie, and cocktails from Glazer's. Several homeowners graciously opened the



Eye-catching details abound in one of this year's spectacular kitchens.

entire first floors of their homes to Kitchen Tour guests.

Merisa was especially pleased with the success of this year's tour. The goal of the committee was to "take Kitchen Tour to a higher level," she says. Many attendees came from as far as the Northshore and Mississippi, and more guests chose the "Tour in Style" limousine option than ever before. The committee made a special effort to market the event to non-League members.

Congratulations to the Kick-Off Party committee and to the Kitchen Tour committee for fabulous events!



Tour-goers are delighted when entering one of the state-of-the-art kitchens on the tour this year.

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JLNO would like to express our well wishes for the full recovery of Chef Nathaniel Zimet who is recovering from gunshot wounds suffered during an attempted armed robbery near his home. To learn more about how you can help Chef Zimet, who has done so much for our community, please visit http://benefit4nathanial.wordpress.com.





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Meeting Boutique a success! JLNO and small businesses profit

by Allison Dalton McCammon

THE INTRODUCTION OF Meeting Boutique has been an exciting addition to this year's Junior League membership meetings. Meeting Boutique, which was proposed by Cherie Moore, begins an hour before membership meetings and gives local businesses the opportunity to connect with many Junior League members at one time. Cherie came up with the idea while acting as the Events Chair for JLNO in 2009-2010. Cherie, who is a small business owner herself, thought Meeting Boutique would be an opportunity to benefit both the Junior League and the vendors who participate.

Meeting Boutique has been extremely successful and JLNO has benefited from it in several ways. Prior to the start of the membership meeting, JLNO members get to sample a variety of foods and beverages donated by vendors. By having vendors provide the food and beverages, JLNO members are able to enjoy a wider variety of fare than has traditionally been available before meetings. In addition, members have an opportunity to shop and meet local small business owners and other professionals.

One of the most important benefits of Meeting Boutique to JLNO is the money raised for community projects. The booth fees paid by the vendors go toward JLNO's fundraising budget which goes directly into the community through the League's community projects. Cherie notes that as of April 30, more than \$7,000 had been raised for JLNO as the result of Meeting Boutique.

In exchange for the booth fees that are paid by the vendors, the vendors receive a number of benefits. Vendors get access to many Junior League members in one setting. In addition to sales that actually occur during Meeting Boutique, the vendors are able to network with JLNO members and with one another. As Cherie puts it, "It's not necessarily what you will sell in one hour



Feet First owner Evie Poitevent and customer Ashley Lipari looking at a leather Tiffany and Fred bag.



Feet First owner Evie Poitevent with customers Temple Hayes, Barbara Bertucci and Celeste McShane having fun trying on the merchandise!

before the meeting, but it is also about getting your name out and having people see your business."

Vendors are mentioned in Tout de Suite and may include a postcard or brochure in the seat sheets at the meeting that they attend. Several vendors have attracted members to their booths by serving wine before the membership meeting or by offering raffles or door prizes.

Many of the vendors that have participated are actually JLNO members. Evie Poitevent, a JLNO Provisional Member and coowner/buyer of Feet First Shoes, Handbags & Accessories has participated in all of this year's Meeting Boutiques. Evie states that participation in Meeting Boutique "landed an amazing growth opportunity for my company." In fact, after seeing the Feet First, Handbags & Accessories booth at a recent Meeting Boutique, JLNO member Tricia Phillpott, the Director of Sales at Lakeside Mall, called Evie to invite Feet First, Handbags & Accessories to open a pop-up accessories boutique kiosk at Lakeside Mall.

Meeting Boutique is "without a doubt" worthwhile because news of the business spreads through word of mouth. Evie also notes that this has been a good opportunity to educate customers about her business since Feet First Shoes, Handbags & Accessories carries more than just shoes.

A wide variety of vendors have participated in Meeting Boutique, including children's clothing companies, jewelers, caterers, photographers and dermatologists, just to name a few. Vendors have the option of either setting up a booth or sponsoring food or beverages for the event. Vendors interested in participating in future Meeting Boutiques can access the sign-up form on the JLNO website.



Evie Poitevent and Lady at her boutique, Feet First.

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Gift to Junior League funds good decision-making projects for youth in New Orleans

By Allison Waldron

RANDALL SMITH, local lawyer with Smith and Fawer LLC, saw that there were problems causing the youth of New Orleans to make bad decisions. These bad decisions led to jail time, delinquency and a lifetime of trouble. Smith decided that he wanted to do something to help these troubled youth and chose to make a remarkable gift of \$50,000 to the Junior League of New Orleans in order to fund projects to help youth become better decision makers.

"The Junior League has the power of time, brains and volunteers," Smith says. Smith wants the project to focus on children 9-13 years old who are underserved and children who have family members who are in and out of the justice system.

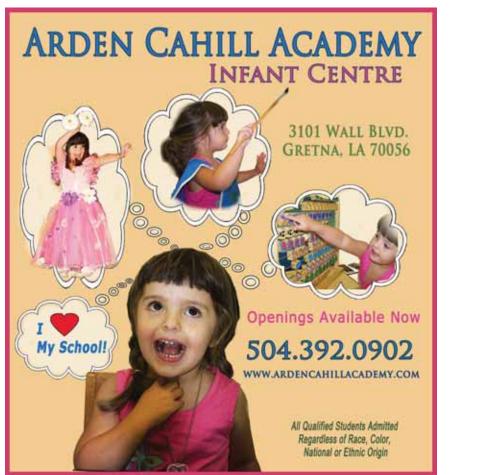
When deciding on what to do with his large gift, Smith looked to his mother and his daughter.

"My mother started a school," he says, "and I want to leave a legacy to help the city."

Jennifer Couvillon, President of JLNO, said, "We are thrilled with



Jeanne Boughton, Lilla Wright, Jennifer Couvillon, Erin Bolles, Randy Smith, Dee McCloskey, Christine Zazulak, Eryn Melancon and Mandi Frischhertz.





Mr. Smith's commitment to improving the community by funding a new program through the Junior League of New Orleans. The funds will make a greater impact because there are 2,200 women who are behind the project and the Junior League of New Orleans volunteer resources are immense. This initiative lays a foundation from which we can grow a program for years to come."

The programs this gift will fund are numerous. JLNO will build

on the success of the Power Ties program and revisit the participating eighth-graders with a speaker and a game on juvenile justice issues. Programs will be created to be utilized during Freret Fest, and there will be afterschool programming that focuses on nonviolent conflict resolution, good decision-making, and an introduction to the justice system. The



Rebecca Schultz, Alicia Corcoran, Randy Smith with his daughter, and Caroline Fayard.

League will work with the current Big Brothers/Big Sisters program to provide speakers and interactive experiences during Saturday workshops to young men and women in the foster care system.

Another program that will be created is an outreach program to middle school children to teach nonviolent conflict resolution, responsibility and good citizenship through community partners.

These programs will allow Smith's gift to reach children in the New Orleans area and make a positive impact on their lives.

"I want to make a bigger impact in New Orleans," Smith said. Through the Junior League, Smith's wish to help the children of New Orleans will become a reality.



Randy Smith signs a check before presenting it to JLNO President Jennifer Couvillon and the Board.

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201 Hereague

by Caitlin Brewster and Enid Fahrenholt

THIS SUMMER we would like to introduce you to our 2011 Men of the League. We think our guys are pretty special! From drywall repair to decorating cookies, these men have gone above and beyond for the JLNO women in their lives by volunteering their time to help out and support us. Without our family, the women of the Junior League would not be the strong leaders who lead our community to bigger and better things. THANK YOU Men of the League!



Larry Demarcay

(husband of Lorie DeMarcay)

"Larry has really been a tremendous help to me during the time that I've had the privilege of working with JLNO. When I was first asked to serve on the Board, Larry was so proud I think he had a harder time keeping the secret than I did. And since the day the Nominating Committee stood on my front porch, Larry has continued to be a proud and supportive husband in my service in the JLNO. He is always willing to take care of our girls, make dinner and help out around the house whenever I have a meeting, or need to catch up on paperwork and emails. And most importantly, he's never complained even once!" says Lorie.

Thomas Duffy

(nephew to Dee McCloskey)

"As a young man, Thomas Duffy of Pass Christian, Mississippi, helped me, his Thrift Shop Chair Aunt Dee, by attending Toy Sale and decorating (and testing) cookies. During my time on the board, he has shown patience beyond his years with my more limited availability for sailing clinics, kayaking, art projects and guitar lessons," says Dee.



Ted George

(husband of Julie Livaudais George)

"The number one way Ted has supported the Junior League has been in supporting me when I was President in 1996-97, and in the years leading up to that....right through the present day when he was at the Sustainer's Mint Julep Party smiling away when I was honored as the 2010 Sustainer of the Year. He has provided pro bono legal advice to the JLNO through the years (he is with the law firm, Chaffe McCall

LLP), and I think his words from the 1997 Tout de Suite say it all. *"Tve learned the phone number of every pizza joint and Chinese takeout within a radius of five miles. But what I've really learned is that the* Junior League has done so much good for this city: that you address community problems in a serious, positive and effective way. I've learned about the high regard that the business community has for the League and the frank admiration that many have for your energy, ingenuity, capability and dedication. I've learned that your time and effort have made our city a much better place to live."

He wrote this, describing his year as the president's husband, during which he necessarily assumed a bit more hands-on childcare of our kids Will (then 6)

and Ellie (then 3). This was a guest editorial in Tout de Suite in February, 1997, the year I was JLNO President. It was essentially a Valentine's Day message to the entire JLNO membership," says Julie.

Ryan Pasternak

(husband of Merisa Pasternak)

JLNO husbands have to put up with their wives away on many Tuesday evenings when JLNO meetings are in gear, but there are a small handful that have to leave their own home and take their 2-year-old child in tow with them. Ryan Pasternak has taken Merisa's commitment to the league in stride these past two years. Tuesday evenings never worked for the Kitchen Tour committee members' schedules, and Merisa offered to host the meetings at her home since Headquarters isn't open after hours any other evening.

For the past two years, Merisa has had committee members convene in her home, all the while temporarily displacing her husband and 2year-old toddler. Husband Ryan would tell his son, Hayden, "Mommy has ladies coming over tonight for a meeting, so we're having a boys night out." Ryan and Hayden would routinely return from the outing just as meetings would wrap up. He would send a warm "hello" and give Hayden his evening bath before bedtime. There were many evenings where members and co-chairs would have to stay hours later, and Ryan would serve as a bartender and provide lovely libations to keep them going. Throughout the year, Ryan was able to see first hand the commitment Merisa has for the league. His appreciation and respect continues to grow for JLNO as he had the chance to get to know more women in the league, simply by welcoming them to his home.





Roy Frischhertz III

(husband of Mandi Frischhertz)

Roy Frischertz has supported the League in so many ways. He is a wonderful husband to Mandi and has been there for her from the beginning of her pledge to the League and with all of her volunteering efforts. He also has been a huge financial supporter by sponsoring different League events.

In the past couple of years Roy has really been there for the League all on his own. Roy has significantly helped the Junior League by overseeing the renovation of Bloomin' Deals and the Annex. Not only has Roy volunteered his time to give advice to our property management group, he has also given significant contributions. He was contracted to provide a roof and new air conditioning systems for the Thrift Shop as well as doing drywall repair, painting, replacing ceiling tiles and providing a new dumpster pad. He did interior repairs and replaced the roof and vinyl siding on the Annex. His efforts have taken Bloomin' Deals and the Annex to another level and given stability to the facilities that house our largest fundraising venture.

"All in all Roy has really enjoyed getting to know the League and our wonderful members and staff," says Mandi.

Warren Sherman "Mann" Boughton

(son of Jeanne Boughton)

"Mann Boughton has participated in various Junior League activities, including the Second Harvest the Music Festival events in the fall of 2010. In addition to monthly trips to the Thrift Shop to deliver rummage, Mann enjoys being a customer at the Thrift Shop, too! (His favorite Saints' jersey is one of our prized possessions from Bloomin' Deals.) Like many Junior League children, Mann spends most of his "volunteer" time vistiing HQ where he enjoys drawing pictures for Holley Payne and playing on "the stage" where the podium is located. When not at HQ, Mann is a huge help with chores preparing for the Placement, Transfer and Provisional meetings that were held at his house this year!" says Jeanne.



Stepping in for St. Michael's

By Kelly Grant

THE LEAGUE steps up for many projects, but few are as special as a beautification project for St. Michael's School, located in the Lower Garden District. On an early Saturday morning in April, six League members came together to provide a needed 'facelift' to the playground area at the school.

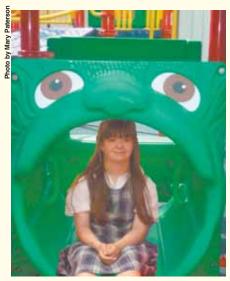
Earlier in the year, St. Michael's received funds from Zurich Financial and FH Myers Construction to build a playground and putt-putt golf course for the students. Following all of the major construction, a few details remained and that's when the League stepped in.

"We spent three hours on a Saturday to lay sod in areas that needed grass, and we painted some metal tables," says Lilla Wright, the chair of the project. "I loved how everyone who was out there put their hearts into it — all while laughing, making new friends and having a great time."

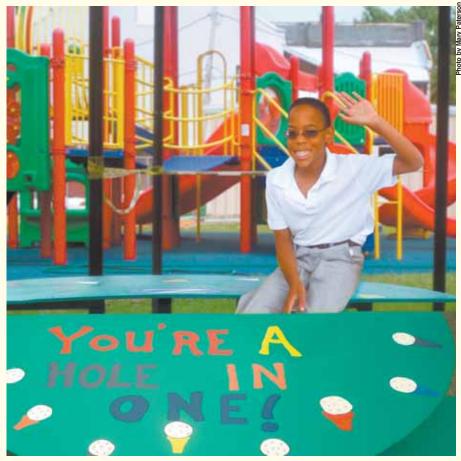
Lilla was joined by League members Erin Bolles, Jennifer Couvillon, Gigi Roth, Dee McCloskey and Katherine Miller.

"Not one volunteer needed a shift credit – everyone went out to volunteer because they love St. Michael's, and they wanted the kids to have a wonderful place to play," Lilla says.

But the League volunteers were not alone; they were joined by two husbands – John Bolles and Mason Couvillon as well as



Sharida Hogg poses while playing on the updated St. Michael's playground.



Michael Garner enjoys the newly refurbished St. Michael's playground including colorful new benches painted by Junior League volunteers.

three children – Aiden, Bryce and Blake Couvillon.

In fact, one of Lilla's favorite memories of the day came from Aiden Couvillon who jumped out of the car as soon as it pulled up to the site with his parents and promptly asked, "What can I do to help?"

"I just loved it because that is a child who knows that volunteering and helping is what the world is all about," Lilla says.

The St. Michael's playground is not an ongoing League project, but it gave a few of the JLNO members a chance to jump in and make a difference in one day. In just three hours, this small group

of family and friends made the playground accessible to St. Michael's students by providing the needed finishing touches. Jane Silva and Ann Higgins of St. Michaels told Lilla that the St. Michael's students had not been able to play since it was not finished.

"It would have been great to see them run out there for the first time and play!"



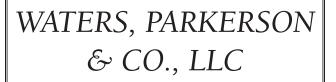
Volunteers are all smiles after working hard to improve the playground.

says Lilla, the outgoing Community Council Director for the League.

"This year has been very enlightening because as Community Council Director, I get a taste of every project – not just one," she says. "I am amazed with what the League does for New Orleans. We touch so many lives – I never realized what an impact we make."

JINO.Org...... Visit our website for the latest on the Junior League's

Projects! It's Summer at **Bloomin'Deals!** Freret Get the scoop kitchen on Thrift Shop TOUR specials and events at ilno.org/ Bloomin agniapp thriftshop. Deals Missed an Freret Street is issue of thriving again! Lagniappe? Check out our Find past issues neighborhood in our archives projects at at jino.org/ jlno.org/ lagniappe. projects.



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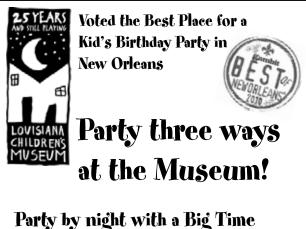
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Simple Summer Pleasures: Big fun on a small budget



Visit the beautiful Butterfly Garden at the Audubon Insectarium.

AS SUMMERTIME CREEPS UP

on us this year, we find that our pocketbooks may be a little thinner than in previous years. There are, however, excellent ways to spend the summer, take a vacation with the family or do a little bit of good without spending beyond our means.

ONE-TANK TRIPS

One-tank trips are a great way to spend time with the family on a smaller budget. Some of the places that can be considered one-tank trips may be on your vacation list already, but others you may not have considered.

Destrehan Plantation

• (985) 764-9315 or (877) 453-2095

• Costumed guides take you on a tour through the home to see what 19th-century living was like. Artisans show what crafts were made to make life in the 1800s easier. Since it's only about 30 minutes from New Orleans, you can be back in time for dinner.

Global Wildlife Center

- 26389 Highway 40, Folsom, LA
- (985) 796-3585, www.globalwildlife.com
- Free roaming animals offer visitors a look at life in other parts of the world without having to travel too far. Giraffes munch on cups of corn from the jeeps, wildebeest roam as herds, and lions roar and sleep

continued on page 24



continued from page 23

throughout the day. Children can experience wildlife first hand and adults can enjoy visiting the center over and over. Some animals can even be fed by visitors — a great photo opportunity and a memory that will never be forgotten!

Vermillionville

• Lafayette, LA, vermillionville.org

• Vermillionville is laid out with 18 historic structures complete with costumed interpreters who demonstrate Cajun crafts. Vermillionville authentically shows what life was like for Cajun/Creole people between 1765 and1890. From collecting and drying Spanish moss to fixing favorite dishes to fetes, Vermillionville offers the young and old a chance to see what life was like for early Louisianans.

Atchafalaya Tours

• theatchafalyaexperience.org

• The Atchafalaya Basin is one of Louisiana's bestknown swamps, and the largest swamp in the United States. Boat trips are the best way to see birds, reptiles and various other flora and fauna native to Louisiana. Keep an eye out for gators!

Avery Island, LA

• 800-634-9599, www.Tabasco.com

• Avery Island offers families a chance to see how Tabasco Sauce is created, from the planting of pepper plants to bottling and labeling. Take a tour of the Tabasco Plant and the Tabasco Country Store – and don't forget to sample some of the sauces! Avery Island also has a 200-acre "Bird City," home to nesting egrets and snowy egrets.

Mississippi Gulf Coast

• gulfcoast.org

• The Mississippi Gulf Coast is sometimes like a second home to Louisianans. Not only does the

coast offer great beaches, it also offers activity centers, water parks, horseback riding and tour trains through historic districts. Guests can also take a short ferry to the barrier islands. Try something historic and see Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island; it was built after the War of 1812 and was important to the defense of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

Dauphin Island, AL

• townofdauphineisland.org

• Dauphin Island is just past Mobile and offers a great place for family fun. The Island offers 164 acres with miles of nature trails. It also has the Estuarium at Dauphin Island Sea Lab which features exhibits that take you on a journey of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River Delta and its wildlife. Visit Shell Mound Park and see prehistoric Indian Grounds with interpreters who show what life was like for Indians. The island also features the Audubon Bird Sanctuary and Fort Gains, which was completed during the Civil War and used during the Spanish American War.

STAY-CATIONS

Stay-cations are increasing in popularity and allow families and singles to enjoy staying at home during their time off. It is a wonderful way to save money while having fun as well.

• Many hotels offer discounts to locals July-September and staying downtown is a great way to see the city from a tourist's perspective.

• Tour New Orleans through a variety of ways:

 Visit the five buildings that make up the Louisiana State Museum — the Cabildo (used as the seat of provincial government during the Spanish occupation), the 1850 House, the Presbytere (the Armory during the War of 1812), Madame John's Legacy House, and the Old U.S. Mint. Visitors can see New Orleans history unfold in the museums held within the buildings.

 Jean Lafitte Tours are 90-minute tours led by Rangers. The tours focus on the history and architecture during Jean Lafitte's era, during the Photo by Jessica Cook 18th and 19th centuries.

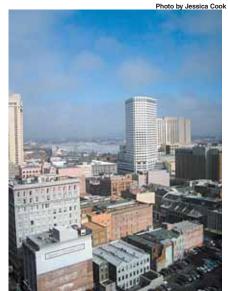
• The Grey Line French Quarter Walking Tour visits key French Quarter locations like Jackson Square, St. Louis Cathedral, the Old Ursuline Convent, Pharmacy Museum, the Washington Artillery Park and the U.S. Mint.

• The Steamboat Natchez is one of the only running steam powered boats in the United States. The Natchez cruises to Chalmette and back (7.5 miles). Riders can choose between dinner cruises, lunch cruises or cruises without food. All places of interest are pointed out by the captain.

 Save Our Cemetery Tours support the SOC initiatives of saving the historic cemeteries. These tours unveil the mysteries of Lafayette Cemetery



Have a date night with your honey or have a girl's night out and watch some spectacular local actors perform on stage.



Be a tourist in your own city of New Orleans. This city has so much going on, especially in the summer!

No. 1, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 and others.

• The Garden District Walking Tour shows the elegance and lavish past of the Garden District built in the 1800s.

• For the not-so-faint-of-heart there are Haunted History Tours, which offer a way to explore the darker past of New Orleans.

 New Orleans Ghost Tours explore the ghostly past of the French Quarter.

• Haunted Garden District Tours explore the darker side of the Antebellum section of New Orleans.

• Mule drawn carriages are a fun way to see the French Quarter in a unique way. Carriages can fit four to nine people and the drivers point out areas of interest. Carriages pick up on Decatur at Jackson Square.

• Visit the New Orleans Museum of Art on Wednesdays when everyone gets free admission. Check out the permanent collection as well as the visiting collections. NOMA offers *Where Y'Art* a series that occurs every Friday that features music, children's activities, walkthroughs, theater and food. NOMA also offers children's summer art camps starting June 13. Finally, NOMA has family art Fridays, held every Friday 5-8 p.m.

• City Park is a great place for singles and families

to get out without going too far away from home. Rent canoes and paddleboats on Saturdays and Sundays and starting May 31, City Park Summer Camp gives campers all day activities which include rides, fishing, horseback riding, fitness, swimming, canoeing, and arts and crafts.

• Riding the streetcar line is something many locals may not have done in quite a while. A ride is \$1.25 and will take you from S. Carrollton to Canal Street and \$0.25 will transfer you to the Canal Street line, which can go to either the Cemeteries at Metairie Road or to City Park. Riding on the streetcar is fun, low cost and is a great break from the summer heat.

• The Audubon Institute offers a wide variety of experiences for children and adults alike. The Audubon Zoo is a local favorite and is great for groups as well as singles with friends. Animals from all over the world live in the zoo and give everyone the opportunity to see them up close. Audubon Aquarium breaks the heat and is great for hot summer day fun. Fish, birds, reptiles and invertebrates are shown in natural habitats that give an up-close view. Audubon's Insectarium is a fairly new venue which shows insects from all around. The Insectarium also has an exhibit in which everything is enlarged to show how insects see the world. Check them out at www.auduboninstitute.org.

VOLUNTEERING AT HOME

Family members of all ages can volunteer and help New Orleans and its residents. Volunteering is a great way for families to spend time together while giving back and teaching philanthropy.

• LA-SPCA: The SPCA rescues animals and allows people the chance to adopt them. The SPCA needs volunteers to do a wide variety of chores from dog walking and playtime to clerical work to veterinary medicine. Check out la-spca.org

• New Orleans Mission Garden: Volunteers are needed daily and weekly to help with upkeep of a large herb and vegetable garden. The herbs and vegetables are used in the three daily meals that the Mission serves to the homeless.

• City Park: City Park is still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and help is needed to keep the park functioning and to open up other parts of the park. Volunteers can paint, collect limbs and leaves, mow, and pick up trash. Volunteering at City Park is great for groups and children of all ages.

 Children's Hospital: Volunteers (aged 14 and up) can work in the gift shop, entertain patients and help with administrative work. Since the hospital gives some patients free care, they are in great need of volunteers.

• Senior Citizens: Senior Care facilities are great places for children and adults to spend some time. Some senior citizens just need a smiling face and conversation while others need more hands-on care. Volunteers can also plan programs for the residents like board games, movie viewings, talent shows and art projects. Families can volunteer to clean/fix houses for shut-ins or senior citizens. Dads can help fix leaking sinks, broken windows and yard work. Families can help clean floors, dust, do dishes, clean bathrooms and plant gardens.

 Second Harvest Food Bank: Second Harvest Food Bank needs volunteers to help sort, package and load food items. Family members of all ages can help families in need of food by donating their time.

• Take in a foreign student: Opening your home to a foreign student can open family members' eyes to other cultures. Schools, churches and other organizations offer opportunities to welcome a student into your home. The Ulster Project offers Irish teens the opportunity to visit the United States in the hopes of world peace, Academy of the Sacred Heart allows students



Volunteer your time this summer at the Edible Schoolyard at Green Charter School. (L-R) Elizabeth Hefler, Regan Norton, and Meg Baldwin.

from other cities and countries to go to a network school. Visit ulsterproject.org and exchanges.state.gov/hosting/index.html

• Donating things other than time: Another great way to give back to the community is by donating things other than time. Children can hold a lemonade stand or a car wash and then donate the profits to a local charity. Families can get together and go through closets, boxes of toys, and bookshelves and donate gently used items to a local charity store (Bloomin' Deals!). Hotel shampoos, conditioners and lotions can be donated to homeless shelters. Neighborhoods can get together for a block party and invite underprivileged families for an afternoon of fun. Old towels, pet toys and pet food can be donated to animal shelter.

During the summer it is great to spend time with friends and family, but it does not have to be a time to spend a lot of money. Just by taking a moment to do something good for someone less fortunate may be great for families who need a little time without video games and television. Some families may want to spend an afternoon learning the history of New Orleans. Others may want to take a short drive to a nearby locale. Whatever you decide to do during the summer, be sure it is fun and safe!

What are you most looking forward to in the next League year?

I can't believe I'm already thinking about the Spring 2012 Kitchen Tour. I'm looking forward to using all the knowledge I've acquired this year to sustain and build on this great event. Maybe one day I'll have a kitchen as fabulous as those we featured this April — a girl should always dream big! Melissa Beaugh





I am looking forward to the fabulously energized 169 upcoming first year Actives who will be rolling off their Provisional year. It is always exciting for them to choose their first Placement and see where and how they bring new talents to our committees. Our members are the greatest source of fresh ideas that keep the League motivated and current! Ariane Brennan

After taking a sabbatical year from the League (getting used to being a mommy to twins), it will be nice to get back into the swing of the JL scene and reconnect with those I haven't seen in a year! Ashley Gillen



The thing I'm most looking forward to is the opportunity to learn from the collaboration of this great group of 500-plus active women. Each year that I spend in the Junior League I learn new skills and things about myself that make me a better person and volunteer. Lorie DeMarcay

This past year as Assistant Treasurer has been a wonderful training opportunity to learn the financial details of how our League operates. In this upcoming year, I hope I can use this knowledge to continue our fiscal stability, to find ways to increase our revenue, and to help minimize costs in order to maximize our impact on the community. *Connie Shannon*



I am especially looking forward to enhancing the role of the Junior League as advocates for healthy families. Tiana R. Christopher





I'm really excited about working with the 11 amazing women who will be sitting on the Board with me. I'm most looking forward to the adventures and challenges of the upcoming year and hoping that they prepare me for my next assignment as League Treasurer. Beth LeBlanc



Community Assistance Fund offers a little help for a big difference

By Samantha L. Daniels

 $\top W | C \in A \ Y \in A \mathbb{R}$, in the spring and fall, the Junior League of New Orleans awards Community Assistance Fund grants to nonprofit agencies in the New Orleans area who aim to address our community's greatest needs. Typically the money is given to meet a specific need, which allows our members to see how the fund is directly making an impact on the lives of community members.

The fall 2010 recipients:

- Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Funds were given for two teen intervention programs.
- Girls First: Given to support monthly programs in the effort to improve the body image and self-esteem of girls.
- Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center: For the purchase of riding helmets.
- Hands on New Orleans: Funds went to help recruit volunteers who train local community members to manage projects.
- House of Ruth: Funding provided for training for 30 individuals and/or families in job readiness, life skills, financial literacy, inter-agency referral and learning center usage.
- Operation REACH, Inc.: Monies helped this national nonprofit in supporting their Gulfsouth Youth Biodiesel Project.
- TKOP: To purchase the curriculum for the Circle of Courage Mentoring Program.
- Warren Easton Charter High School: Funds went to purchase of books for the school library.

Mary Beth Green and Ali Ward headed the 2010-2011 CAF committee. Co-chair Green says, "The thing I enjoy most about Community Assistance Fund is the passion the committee members bring to our meetings after having visited with the applicants. There are many, many excellent nonprofits in our community and it is such an interesting learning experience to be present when our committee gathers in a room and shares what they have learned



Young participants enjoy hands-on learning through Operation REACH, Inc. and their Gulf South Youth Biodiesel Project.

from meeting with these community leaders."

Operation REACH's Chief Development Officer Hamilton Simons-Jones says that his organization has been aware of the Junior League's work in the community for some time.

"The CAF process was very simple and straightforward," says Simons-Jones. "We appreciate that it seeks out good projects and makes investments in them without overburdening the groups with paperwork or reports."

If you know of a nonprofit that is a good candidate for a CAF grant, information to apply is available at the JLNO website: http://www.jlno.org/caf. Green says a workshop for nonprofits interested in applying for the Fall 2011 grant cycle is tentatively scheduled for late summer.

An Ongoing Success Story: JLNO's *Get On Board!* Program

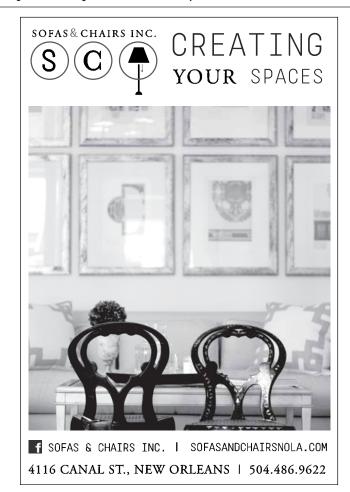
By Margaret Kemp

SINCE ITS LAUNCH in the fall of 2008, the Junior League of New Orleans' *Get On Board!* program has successfully prepared 214 graduates for active roles on nearly 60 diverse nonprofit boards in the greater New Orleans area. In response to our community's need for energetic, talented and qualified nonprofit board leadership, *Get On Board!* was established "to strengthen individual nonprofit organizations and the nonprofit community as a whole" says Becky Bourg, training chair for *Get On Board!*.





Trainee leads his class in a mock committee meeting of a fictitious non-profit organization during a Get on Board! workshop.



66 JLNO's Get On Board program is that first step to finding an outlet for the many New Orleanians who want to be a part of making it OUR New Orleans."

Modeled after *Boardswork*, a former JLNO program taken over by the Center of Nonprofit Resources and discontinued after Katrina, *Get On Board!* is a six week nonprofit board training program that "grows its graduate's competencies and confidence while strengthening the leadership skills necessary to bolster nonprofit boards" says Bourg.

She goes on to explain that "*Get On Board!* workshops explore topics including board roles and responsibilities, financial policies and fiduciary duties, legal considerations, strategic planning processes and effective leadership development. Upon completion of the *Get On Board!* program, graduates can choose to be matched by the JLNO to sit on a local nonprofit board of directors."

The *Get On Board!* program traditionally has a fall and a spring session but as the program entered its third year this past fall, expansions and enhancements were added to the program. The program now includes a second day-long condensed fall Saturday session to accommodate participants who have scheduling conflicts with the six week long Wednesday night meeting session. Also there are more corporate sponsored scholarship funds available for participants who wish to apply for the program.

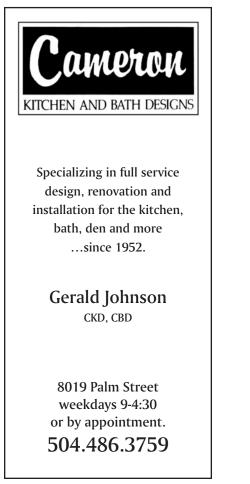
Additionally, the *Get On Board!* program is offering advanced topic seminars to graduates and local nonprofit partners so they can continue to expand their knowledge on nonprofit board best practices.

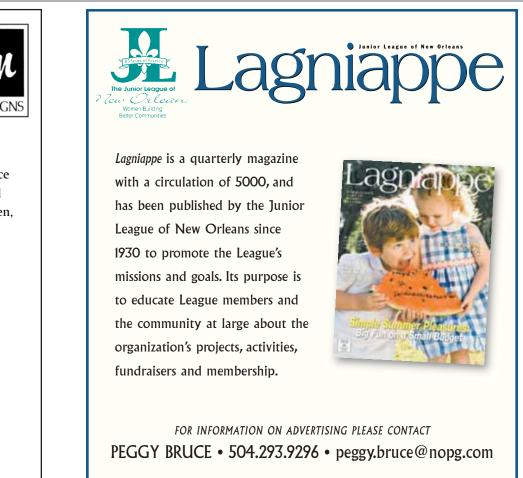
One such seminar held this past May titled "Effective Event Planning: Sharing Tips, Experiences and Perspectives", was largely planned by Bessie Goggins, a graduate of the *Get On Board!* program.

Another graduate, Miles Thomas also participated in the seminar by sharing his experiences in event planning for his board position at the Kingsley House. Thomas, a self described "new New Orleanian" moved to New Orleans after Katrina with his wife in order to help rebuild the city. Being a community activist in his hometown of Greer, South Carolina, he wanted to find a way to get involved in nonprofit work in his new city, but wasn't having much luck.

Because he saw an advertisement for the *Get On Board*! program, Thomas found his way of getting involved in a worthy community project that eventually led to his current board position at Kingsley House.

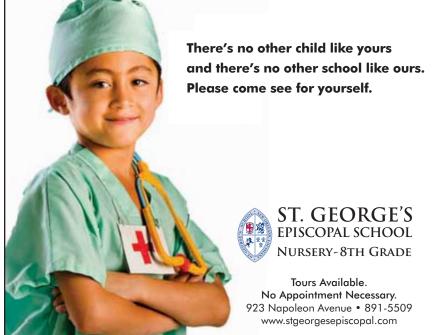
Crediting the *Get On Board!* program for his board placement, Thomas states, "Considering how impressed I have been with the impact Kingsley House has on the community and has had on my life, I couldn't be a bigger fan of the *Get On Board!* program. I meet people all the time who want to get involved but just don't know how to take the first step. JLNO's *Get On Board!* program is that first step to finding an outlet for the many New Orleanians who want to be a part of making it OUR New Orleans."•







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www.jlno.org





Cherie and Ryan Moore with Emmeline, Alexander and





Photo by Mary Paterson



Esprit Committee Member Megan Patron with sons Alex and Quinn at the Junior League Easter Egg Hunt in April.

Malise and Clay Kearney with daughters Lauren and Lanier at the JLNO Easter Egg Hunt at Poydras Home.



Photo by Jessica Cook

Jennifer Vulevich-Meade, Melissa Beaugh, Erin Kolb and Jordana Civetti put new donations on hangers during the Thrift Shop Sip & Sort.

Amy Drew puts out new donations during the Thrift Shop Sip & Sort.

hoto by Jessica Cook







JLNO Board Secretary, Christine Zazulak and Thrift Shop Committee Vice-Chair Maria Huete sort through new donations during the Thrift Shop Sip and Sort.

Kate and Addison Laragy, daughters of JLNO member Kristen Laragy, enjoy the crafts at Freret Fest.

Photo by Ann Thompson



Little Leaguer Ellie Arch, daughter of Witney Arch, showing off the balloon she received at Freret Fest.

Emily Michael gives blood at the Blood Drive held at Headquarters while daughter Avery Michael and her friend, Lillie Tobin, look on.



Jennifer Couvillon, Sustainer Tea hostess Susan Johnson and Jeanne Boughton.







Skye Fantaci and Mandi Frischhertz enjoy the festivities at the Kitchen Tour Kick Off Party at Latrobe's on Royal.





Brandy Whisnant, Emily Trainque and Brandy Cunningham at the March Meeting Boutique.



Photo by Barrie Hidalgo

Katie Brandner peruses merchandise at the Spring TrainingPalooza and Meeting Boutique with help from Shauna Johnson of Cajun Kids Clothing.

Photo by Caitlin Brewster



Betty Rabe of Charmed Boutique at the March General Meeting and Meeting Boutique.

Kitchen Tour Chairs Amy Rosato, Merisa Pasternak and Kristen Ponthier at the Kick Off Party held at Latrobe's.

Photo by Elizabeth Hayes



League Faces

Photo by Elizabeth Hayes



Lauren Hebert, Mackenzie Kidd and Meghan Magruder at the Provisonal event at Fat Harry's.

Whitney Hymel catches up with Shelley Huff at the Provisional event at Fat Harry's.





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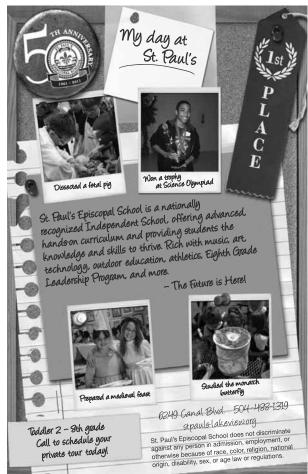


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Provisionals Stephanie Rogers and Casey Perez at Fat Harry's.





Cookbook Selection

By Margaret Kemp

The Plantation Cookbook Chicken Regina

This decadent creamy chicken casserole, taken from page 162 of *The Plantation Cookbook*, is a fantastic way to use those homegrown summer tomatoes. Combined with a layer of artichoke hearts and flavor-ful cooked chicken it is topped with a creamy white wine sauce and tomatoes. Steamed asparagus topped with hollandaise sauce from page 195 and a spinach salad from page 191 of *The Plantation Cookbook* make excellent sides for a Chicken Regina dinner party. Bon appetit!





CHICKEN REGINA

Ingredients:

8 chicken breasts
Salt
White pepper
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 onion, quartered
1 cup dry white wine
6 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons flour
1 cup whipping cream
1 cup light cream
8 artichoke bottoms cooked and sliced
2 egg yolks, beaten
8 thick slices of tomato
1/4 cup parsley

Directions:

Simmer chicken breasts in water to cover adding salt, pepper, lemon juice and onion. When fork tender, approximately 30 minutes, move to platter, reserving broth. Combine 2 cups of broth with wine and, over medium flame, reduce to 2 cups and set aside. Prepare a sauce by melting 3 tablespoons butter and slowly add flour, blending well, but not browning. Add the 2 cups of wine-broth mixture and cook over low heat for 10 minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in 1/2 cup whipping cream, correct seasoning if necessary and set cream sauce aside. Skin and debone chicken, place in a saucepan, and add light cream. Cook over low heat until the cream is reduced by about 1/3 and then add 1 cup of cream sauce. Line the bottom of an ovenproof serving dish with artichoke bottoms, and cover with chicken and sauce. To the remaining cup of sauce, add the beaten egg yolks, stirring constantly over low heat and permit to thicken. Remove from heat and fold in 1/2 cup whipped cream. Pour this over the chicken and top with tomato slices, which have been sprinkled with salt and pepper and broiled in 3 tablespoons butter. Brown casserole quickly in broiler, garnish with parsley and serve immediately.

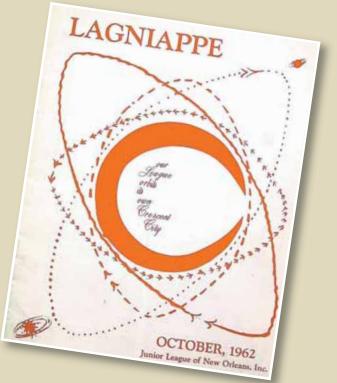
Photos by Margaret Kemp

Les Bons Vieuf Semps

Compiled by Danielle Suttor

The League Goes Galactic

This summer brings an end to the 30-year career of NASA's space shuttle program with a planned June launch to the International Space Station. During 1962, however, the final frontier was creating a different kind of buzz. February 1962 saw astronaut John Glenn as the first American to orbit the Earth. In September 1962, President Kennedy gave his famous "We choose the moon" speech at the site of the future Johnson Space Center in Houston. The JLNO Lagniappe issue of October 1962 conveys the enthusiasm for the "space race" during this period in both pictures and words.





President Virginia Walker gets interplanetary with her Letter from the President concerning JLNO projects. "Although some of our 'shots' didn't get off the 'pad,' and a few fizzled out along the way, we now have a course which promises a smooth and successful 'flight.'"



The Executive Committee is poised and outfitted to visit the moon with helmets, hose and heels.

Even a welcome announcement of new transfers gets into the spirit. "New transfers have arrived to assist, in launching our League's space age program. Since last spring, our three-stage rocket has added to its membership in the provisional, acting and sustaining groups."

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