

# Lagniappe

Fall 2012

Junior League of New Orleans

**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS  
FOR A  
FESTIVE  
FALL**  
P.48



COLUMBIA RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT



**LIVING  
WELL:  
FINANCE**  
101

**WELCOME  
PROVISIONALS**

**SHOPPING AND  
FUNDRAISING:  
A FABULOUS  
COMBINATION!**  
P.38

**SAY "YES!"  
TO THE DRESS  
AT BRIDAL  
BOUTIQUE**  
P.31

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Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

## On the Cover

Celeste Eustis and Sherri Zeller O'Bell join JLNO President Brandy Baechel Whisnant at Columbia Parc, the site of the Bayou District Foundation

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## Publisher



New Orleans Publishing Group LLC  
 3445 N. Causeway Blvd.  
 Suite 901  
 Metairie, LA 70002  
 504-834-9292



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# Letter

from the President



Photo by: Neil Hurd

WELCOME TO THE FALL LAGNIAPPE, an issue that will provide you with a glimpse of what lies ahead in this, the 88th year of the Junior League of New Orleans.

Inside you will meet the 2012-13 Board, a bright and talented group of women who have pledged to do their best to lead, train and empower the women around them. While these women — and their loving families — are dedicating countless hours to the League, they could not do what they do, nor could the League make such a positive impact on our community, without the support of our 650 Actives, a record-breaking class of 196 Provisionals, and our 1,100 loyal and supportive Sustainers.

JLNO will support 17 community projects this year, which include Bayou District, the Community Assistance Fund, the Samuel J. Green Edible Schoolyard, Emerge, Freret Neighborhood Outreach, Get on Board, Judgement Call, Kids in the Kitchen, Lafayette Charter School Support, Lemonade Day, Power Ties, Rebuilding Together, Safe Sitter, Senior League, the Second Harvest Fresh Produce Program, Strength of Relationship and Upward Bound.

I hope you will join me in supporting the fundraisers that make these projects possible. It's not too early to start your shopping list for Buy Save & Serve (November 2-11) or to nominate a kitchen for our Kitchen Tour (April 20). Explore Fleur de League Online Marketplace's online boutiques, and, if you are like me, you will want to start training now for the 5K Etouffee (May 11).

In the meantime, don't forget to pick up extra copies of our award-winning cookbooks or consider making a gift to the Endowment in celebration of friends or loved ones throughout the year. Oh, and along the way, don't forget to jet down Freret to stop by the Bloomin' Deals Thrift Shop or have a peek at our brand new Bridal Boutique as our volunteers and staff work diligently to raise funds to support our projects and Retire the Debt on Freret so we can give even more back to our community in the future!

*Brandy Baechle Whisnant*  
2012-13 President



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# Letter

from the Editor



**ASK ME JULY 19** (the day I'm writing this) about my favorite time of year, and I would tell you that, without a doubt, fall is my favorite. I'm excited to get to know a group of League Members through a new Placement, spend entire weekends watching football and trade my iced coffee for a café au lait. Catch me again right after Mardi Gras, and I'll probably tell you spring is absolutely my favorite, because I can't wait to swap sweaters for seersucker, drink my first Abita Strawberry of the season on my porch and enjoy a girls' day out at Kitchen Tour.

My point is that no matter the season, there is always something wonderful to look forward to in New Orleans and in the League, and many times, something wonderful is happening in New Orleans because of the League!

The ladies leading the way to the positive changes in our community — the 2012-13 Board of Directors — are profiled in this issue. I hope that reading about our remarkable leaders inspires you to make the most of this League year. This issue will also introduce you to two JLNO community projects, Judgment Call and Bayou District Foundation, and we look forward to sharing with you what our members will accomplish with these programs throughout the coming year.

Members of JLNO not only shine through our League projects, but they are also savvy businesswomen. Lady Margaret Thatcher once said, "What is success? I think it is a mixture of having a flair for the thing that you are doing; knowing that it is not enough, that you have got to have hard work and a certain sense of purpose." The League Members in the Community we feature in this issue are certainly what the Iron Lady had in mind, as each of these Members recognized their talents and devoted the work necessary to accomplish their goals. Our Living Well feature provides tips on how you can get started on the path to financial security. Finally, a discussion about success would be meaningless if we failed to mention the incomparable Yvonne Lafleur, whose generous donation of bridal gowns to Bloomin' Deals will help us to Retire the Debt on Freret, and provide members of our community with the dresses of their dreams.

This issue of *Lagniappe* would not be possible without the hard work of our talented staff of writers and photographers, as well as the incredible patience of Assistant Editor Jessica Chin, Photography Editor Kelly Walsh, and Assistant Photography Editor Allison Waldron. We would especially like to thank Neil Hurd for photographing the Board and their families, Jessica Bachmann for taking the cover photo, and Longue Vue Gardens for providing the beautiful backdrop for our Board photos.

Here's to a fantastic 2012-13!

*Sarah*

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# President Brandy Baechle Whisnant

By Amanda Goldman

*Brandy Baechle Whisnant has big plans as the newest President of the League. Brandy sees a turning point on the horizon for our great city and believes that the League will play a big role in making this happen.*

*Brandy was raised in Baton Rouge and attended Louisiana State University, where she was the president of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. She and her husband, Tom, have three daughters: Mary Parker, 9, Addison, 4, and Ella Grace, 2. In addition to her young family, Brandy and Tom own Wellington and Company Fine Jewelry in the French Quarter.*

*"We have our hands full," Brandy chuckles.*

*Brandy joined the League in 1997, and this is her third year on the Board. Brandy previously served as Community Council Director and President-Elect.*

**Where do you envision the League in the next 10 years?**

I expect the League to continue to broaden its reach in the next decade. The League's membership is growing, we're reaching out to like-minded organizations, and the word is getting out about all the good things that we do. I think we'll be able to make even more of an impact in the community as we look to the future.

**What do you feel is the most important role that the League plays to the City of New Orleans?**

I think the most important thing we do is



Photo by: Neil Hurd

touch the lives of those around us. We're providing role models and enrichment programs for kids, feeding the hungry, touching the lives of the elderly and myriad other things through our 17 community projects. In doing all of this, we're helping to rebuild a greater New Orleans.

**What is the most important thing that the League has taught you personally?**

It's really taught me that what I knew about our community's needs before joining the League, was only the tip of the iceberg.

When you volunteer at Lafayette School and talk to the school's principal, Mickey Landry, and hear about his school's successes despite the challenges his students face, it is inspiring. Or, you go to the Second

Harvest Food Bank and learn that the people who are hungry in our city aren't just the homeless, it's sobering.

I have found these experiences to be the most eye-opening things about being in the League. It's given me a greater appreciation for what I have. It's also given me a way to teach my kids about how important it is to make a difference.

**FAST FACTS**

- Jazzfest or Mardi Gras:** Mardi Gras
- Creole Creamery or Brocatos:** Creole Creamery
- Dat Dog or Lucky Dog:** Dat Dog
- The Zoo or the Aquarium:** Zoo
- Reality TV or Sitcoms:** Reality TV

# President-Elect Jeanne Harang Boughton

By Kimberly Allen

*For Jeanne Harang Boughton, Junior League is truly a family affair. Jeanne and her sister, Amy Harang, were born six years apart and missed out on attending high school or college together. When they both found themselves living in New Orleans, joining the Junior League was something they could do together.*

*Now, years later, both serve in leadership positions: Jeanne as President-Elect and Amy as Secretary to the Board.*

*Born and raised in Donaldsonville, Jeanne graduated from Louisiana State University and then spent a year traveling for her sorority, Tri Delta. She then spent time living in Boston and Oklahoma City before making her way back to Louisiana.*

*In addition to her Junior League duties, Jeanne juggles a demanding career in real estate, volunteering in the community and spending time with her family. Jeanne's husband, Sherman, supports her involvement in the League, and their 9-year-old son, Mann, and 7-year-old daughter, Elle, round out their family.*

*Despite her many responsibilities, Jeanne approaches life with a sense of humor and laughs when she points out their Uptown home stands out as being the only one with a trampoline in the front yard. They love living in New Orleans, but still occasionally escape back to Donaldsonville for a weekend in the country.*

**What has been your favorite Placement throughout the years?**

My favorite part of Membership Council was when I was Provisional Co-Chair with Mag Bickford. She was super organized. Junior League is full of dynamic women and you can learn something from each one.

**What advice would you give the new group of Provisionals?**

Introduce yourself to everyone you meet, whether Active or Provisional. Never assume anyone knows more than you do about the



Junior League; we all learn every day.

**What is your favorite League event?**

The December general membership “meeting.” So festive!

**What is your proudest League accomplishment?**

To see the current Thrift Shop Chairs create a “Bridal Boutique” out of an empty space in six weeks!

**What other community organizations are you involved in?**

Preservation Resource Center, Kids Zoo to Do and Trinity Episcopal School, where my children attend.

**What is the best business advice you have ever received?**

Necessity is the mother of invention and sometimes you have to re-invent how to

make it all work. But the best advice I ever received was from my dad who always said as long as you are working hard, success will follow.

**What are your goals for this year with the League?**

To continue to encourage other League members to pursue leadership roles within JLNO!

**FAST FACTS**

- Last book you read:** “Past Imperfect” by Julian Fellowes (creator of Downton Abbey)
- Favorite local restaurant:** Clancy’s
- Favorite local boutique:** Angelique when they are having a “sale.”
- Register or sorting at Bloomin’ Deals:** Sorting
- Facebook or twitter:** Facebook
- Jazz Fest or Mardi Gras:** Jazz Fest
- Snowballs or frozen yogurt:** Frozen yogurt

# Secretary Amy Harang

By Melissa Frederick

*Though Amy Harang grew up on a sugarcane farm in Donaldsonville, La., her love for New Orleans began at an early age.*

*Her family often traveled the 80 miles east to shop, dine, people-watch and parade-watch in the city. From someone whose first words as a child were “Who Dat,” you would expect nothing less. Amy is a New Orleans woman through and through.*

*She received a B.A. in mass communications from Louisiana State University. She later earned a Masters of Business Administration from Tulane’s A.B. Freeman School of Business. Amy is the legal recruiting and marketing director for Liskow & Lewis.*

*When she’s not working, Amy can usually be found running in Audubon Park. While she also enjoys biking and swimming and occasionally participates in triathlons, what Amy enjoys most is running. Amy has coupled her running passion with her love of travel and has completed nine marathons.*

*In addition to JLNO, Amy has also volunteered with the Preservation Resource Center’s Julia Jump and Holiday Home Tour events, Children’s Hospital’s Sugarplum Ball, Girls on the Run and Kappa Delta Alumnae Association.*

## What is your history with the Junior League of New Orleans?

In 2002, I joined the League with my sister as something she and I could do together. We didn’t experience high school or college together, and we found ourselves in the same city for the first time in a long time together. Ironically, she and I are now serving on the Board together, which we understand might be the first time in JLNO history that siblings are on the same Board.

## What placements have you enjoyed most in JLNO?

I’ve enjoyed many aspects of the League through my placements starting with Holiday Marketplace, Training and Education, Community Shift, Powerties, Nominating and most recently co-chaired Provisionals. Provisionals was a two-year commitment and it was probably the most rewarding for me.

In order to introduce JLNO and all that it does and stands for to new members means one becomes knowledgeable about every aspect of JLNO. I thought I knew a great deal about the League having worked



across various Councils, but I quickly learned there was so much more. And it was through the eyes and enthusiasm of Provisionals that I gained such an incredible reverence for all that JLNO has done and will continue to do for our community.

## What are your goals as Secretary of the League this year?

With an ever-growing membership, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure we adhere to our rules and bylaws while ensuring congruency with our members’ changing needs and lifestyles to be an efficient and productive organization.

I look forward to continuing the transparency of the Standards Committee. I believe the more transparent the workings of the committee are, the better educated members are about membership expectations, obligations and classification options. We pride ourselves on the respect given to members for their time spent volunteering, and it is my message that fulfilling membership expectations is the best way to respect others’ time, efforts and contributions to the League, ultimately maximizing our community impact.

## What skills have you learned from JLNO?

Most recently, Robert’s Rules of Order.

## What are you most excited about this year?

I am most excited about the opportunity to further engage in the business, operating and governing sides of the League. I look forward to a broader view of how each cog in the League wheel relates to and affects the other and seeing how, ultimately, our community collectively benefits. And of course I’m excited to learn from and work alongside such a talented group of women.

## Favorite JLNO memory?

I once helped a young man at Bloomin’ Deals shop for a suit for an interview. Not only was it his first real interview, but it was also the first suit he could call his own. I often smile at the recollection of his smile that day and like to think he might now have the job of his dreams.

## FAST FACTS

**CC’s or PJ’s:** CC’s

**Zoo or Aquarium:** Zoo (unless my niece and nephew outvote me)

**Favorite Mardi Gras Parade:** Does my favorite thing about Mardi Gras Count? King Cake!

**Favorite Place to Grab a Cocktail:** One favorite is impossible!

**City Park or Audubon Park:** Audubon

**Uptown or Downtown:** I enjoy the best of both worlds living Uptown and working Downtown.

# Treasurer Elizabeth "Beth" Monett LeBlanc

By Sarah Roy

*Board Treasurer Elizabeth Monette LeBlanc is excited to lend her financial expertise to the League. Beth, who was born in New Orleans and raised in Gonzales, La., moved back to New Orleans to attend Tulane University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. She also earned a master of finance degree from the University of New Orleans.*

*For the past 16 years, Beth has worked at Whitney Bank as a commercial lender. Beth and her husband, Michael, live in Metairie with their children, Mary Margaret, 8, and Trey, 5, who both attend St. Catherine of Siena School. The LeBlanc family loves summer, and you can find them swimming or enjoying time outdoors most weekends.*

## What are your goals as League Treasurer?

My goal is to continue to operate the League in a fiscally responsible manner. I think the financial stability of the League is the responsibility of all members, and the best way to have all members participate is through transparency. The finances of the Junior League are an open book.

## What advice do you have for this year's Provisional class?

I think it's best to start working on your Provisional requirements immediately so you can enjoy the experience of being in the League instead of cramming everything into the last few chaotic months. I would also recommend they be open to new and different experiences that are outside of their area of expertise.

## What has been your favorite Junior League Placement?

Well, I didn't take my own advice to try new things, and the only Placements I have ever had are on the Finance Council. I have obviously enjoyed it, but I have often wondered if I have short-changed myself. The League is definitely a place to try out new things and explore outside of our comfort zones. The good



Photo by: Neil Hurd

news is that I have one Active year left after serving as Treasurer, and I have already begun kicking around non-Finance placements for myself.

## Why did you join JLNO?

I initially joined the League upon the recommendation of a coworker. She thought that it would be a great way for me to meet people and make business connections in New Orleans.

## How do you involve your family with the League?

We try to attend all of the family events, such as the Easter egg hunt and Christmas party, that our schedules allow.

## What other community organizations are you involved with?

Given that I am a JLNO board member, have a full-time job, two small children and a husband, my plate is currently full. I think the Junior League has definitely given me the confidence to sit on any board at any organization in the future. Once my League service is complete, I plan to spend more of my volunteer time at St. Catherine where my children attend school.

## What skills have you learned through your involvement with the League?

I cannot even begin to enumerate all I have learned through the Junior League, particularly through my service on the Board. I think I have always been competent, but now I am more confident in my abilities. It really is a lesson to sit at a table with 11 other women and learn to appreciate their perspectives, which at times are so very different from my own. It has been enlightening and educational.

### FAST FACTS

**CC's or PJ's:** Neither as I don't drink coffee. (I can hear people gasping now!)

**Zoo or Aquarium:** Zoo

**Favorite Mardi Gras parade:** Muses. It's become much more fun to watch now that I know so many JLNO riders.

**My favorite place to grab a cocktail:** Anywhere with friends. I have been really enjoying Front Porch Fridays.

**City Park or Audubon Park:** City Park. My kids love the Carousel Gardens

**Uptown or Downtown:** Downtown — I work in the CBD and love the French Quarter (I have been accused of being a closeted Uptowner, as my family owns a home there and I lived in the University area for almost 10 years.)

# Assistant Treasurer Allison Lane Plaisance

By Allison Cannizaro

*Allison Lane Plaisance is the epitome of a modern woman — balancing career, family and multiple philanthropic obligations.*

*After graduating from Loyola University New Orleans in 2000 with degrees in accounting and international business, Allison began working for Ernst & Young LLP. Currently, Allison is a Manager in Ernst & Young LLP's Risk Advisory practice, specializing in the delivery of Fraud Investigations and Dispute Services.*

*Allison became involved in the Junior League in 2006 as a way to reconnect with the community upon returning to New Orleans after a stint in Texas. She hit the ground running, serving as Treasurer for the Thrift Shop, Community Council, Business and Communications Council, and Ways and Means before being asked to serve as the Assistant Treasurer to the Board.*

### Why is Treasury important to you?

I am a CPA in my “normal” life so it comes naturally. I think it’s important that this organization has sound financial policies in order to ensure its mission and provide a legacy to the City and the League for years to come.

### What League Programs make you the most excited?

Kitchen Tour is definitely one of my favorite fundraisers. My mom, who lives out of state, always makes a special trip in to see all the fabulous homes and I enjoy sharing that with her every year. I have also loved my experiences with Rebuilding Together. It’s wonderful to help people in the community rebuild not just their homes, but their lives as well.

### How do you feel about the League’s work in the community?

I think the League’s work in the community serves so many purposes and is defined in so



Photo by: Neil Hurd

many ways. We help our members gain valuable work experience, serve the community and educate so many people. It’s amazing all that we can accomplish together.

### In what other community organizations are you involved?

I am currently serving as the President-Elect of the Loyola University Alumni Association, board member of Loyola’s College of Business Alumni Board and Immediate Past President of the Women’s Energy Network.

In addition, I serve as a member of the auction committee for the CHAIRish the Children fundraiser supporting the Louisiana Children’s Museum, Isidore Newman School’s New Parent Network and the Gala Committee for the Boys Hope Girls Hope Gala.

### What advice do you have for Provisionals?

Learn as much as you can about what the

League does, both internally and for the community, meet as many people as you can and introduce yourself to the League leaders.

### What do you like to do for fun?

While I don’t have a lot of free time, I try to spend as much time as possible with my kids, Hannah, 6, and Genevieve, 4, and husband, Michael, and I enjoy exercising and travel.

### FAST FACTS

- Magazine Street or Bourbon Street: Magazine Street
- Snow or beach: Beach
- Favorite Mardi Gras parade: Tucks
- King Cake or Doberge Cake: King Cake
- City Park or Audubon Park: Audubon Park
- Gumbo or Jambalaya: Gumbo
- Favorite Snowball flavor: Lemon
- Favorite New Orleans festival: Jazz Fest

# Business Communications Council Director Maria Pardo Huete

By Enjoli Nelson



Photo by: Neil Hurd

*Maria Pardo Huete has been involved with the Junior League for six years and shows no signs of stopping. She joined the League because of Hurricane Katrina and the feeling that one could not sit idly while the city she loved was suffering.*

*She fondly remembers her tremendously exciting Provisional year, which was the year after the storm, and the lasting impression left from the enormous rebuilding effort organized by our League wherein hundreds of Leagues from throughout the world descended on the city to help with rebuilding. It was an exciting moment for her to realize what being a League member and a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International meant in terms of accomplishing a goal.*

*A New Orleans native, Maria attended Loyola University New Orleans where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science. She has a great support team, which includes her husband of 15 years, David, and their five children — David Jr., Betsy, and triplets, Annalisa, Anthony and August. Maria's past Placements in the League have included Cookbook, Property Management and Thrift Shop. Maria believes that through volunteering you*

*become a positive force in the community, your family and yourself.*

**What skills have you learned from the League?**

Asset Management, strategic planning, event planning, insurance issues, retail sales and marketing, editing and publishing, etc. I learn something new every day.

**What do you look forward to this year in your role as Business & Communications Council Director?**

Working with a group of dynamic and driven women. It is exciting to work to inspire people to do their best and to have a good time while doing it. I am proud of the women on my Council and I can't wait to see what they accomplish this year.

**What is your favorite League event?**

My favorite League event is a toss-up between Rebuilding Together and Bag Day/Stock Swap. I love Rebuilding Together because it is a chance to get your hands dirty and work alongside your fellow League members to accomplish something so personal to someone, such as getting them back

into their home. As a former Thrift Shop Chair, Bag Day/Stock Swap is exciting because I get to live vicariously through all of the excited shoppers who show up to clean out the store. I love seeing that line of people outside the store.

**What is your favorite League fundraiser?**

(Need anyone ask) My heart is at Thrift Shop (Bloomin' Deals)!

**In addition to sharing your time with the League where else can we find you?**

Serving as Co-Chair of "CHAIRish the Children" with Gina McMahon for the Louisiana Children's Museum and as a board member of the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center and Family Service of Greater New Orleans.

**FAST FACTS**

- Bananas Foster or Bread Pudding:** Bread Pudding
- iPad or Kindle Fire:** Neither, I like my books
- Saints or Hornets:** Saints all the way!
- Favorite getaway:** Puerto Rico

# Community Council Director Kathleen Vogt Robert

By Rachel Stephens

*I sat down with Kathleen Robert at PJ's Coffee on one of her typically task-filled weekday afternoons. It is immediately evident that the 2010 St. Elizabeth's Guild Activist of the Year is as warm as she is ambitious. She knows how to make things happen and is very driven to help the city of New Orleans.*

*The Crescent City native and former nationally ranked collegiate fencer fills her calendar with volunteerism, while raising two daughters, Molly, 11, and Lizzie, 8, with her husband, Kearny Robert.*

## What is your educational background?

After I graduated from high school (at Country Day), I attended the University of Notre Dame and got a B.A. in philosophy and a minor in public policy/public service. Then I went to Charity School of Nursing and while I worked, I pursued a degree in the executive Master's of Health Administration program at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

## What is your occupation?

Currently, I'm a mom, so I'm lucky enough to stay home with the kids. But, before I was a mom, I was in hospital administration as a director of case management, social services and quality assurance, both in a long-term acute care setting and a mental health inpatient/outpatient setting.

I like to keep my calendar full. I sit on several boards and in fact, I just became certified in Emergenetics, so I can now do profile advising on behavioral and thinking preferences and consult with groups, such as administration teams, nonprofits or contract with people on an individual basis.

## Talk about your history with the Junior League.

I joined the league in 2000. My first placement was "The View," doing mostly administrative tasks for *Tout de Suite*, after which I decided I wanted to get my hands dirty, so to speak. I wanted to get involved. And I remember at the end of that year, I agreed to chair Staffing and thought, "this is so much



fun." Since then, I've chaired something every year, and I've chaired three startup projects.

## You are the Community Council Director. What does this role entail? What are your goals for this year?

I have the awesome responsibility of overseeing the 17 community projects to which the League is committed. Community Council is the only council that is encouraged to spend its entire budget. So it is my job to make sure our money is spent wisely and judiciously, so we have the greatest impact in the community.

Having the largest Council gives me a wonderful present in that I get to influence future leaders. These are people who 10 years from now are going to be on the Board, and this is a foundation for them to keep things consistent, positive, thorough, and all that wonderful stuff you wish for the League.

## How do you think JLNO has adjusted to remain relevant in New Orleans in 2012?

The Junior League has focus areas that we look at and we try to make sure all of our projects first meet our Mission and what we stand for as an organization. The relevancy would be in asking if we are targeting a population that needs us. This depends on how the face of the

city changes and finding how we fit into that while remaining true to our mission.

## In what areas do you find that the league is most effective?

I think the League is effective in finding where there is a need, creating the opportunity to reach out to those who are working towards a resolution by their partnerships and community relationships, and then implementing steps toward the resolution. As a whole, we are problem solvers.

### FAST FACTS

**Favorite New Orleans restaurant:** I love Le Meritage, Restaurant August and also Stella. There are just too many.

**Favorite hobby:** Honestly, this (the League) is what makes me happy and gets me excited. I love volunteering. It's sounds so dorky, but this is really what I enjoy doing.

**Favorite vacation spot:** Ah, yes! Florence, Italy! Oh, and Napa, I love Napa.

**Last book:** It's an old one, but I just got around to it — *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls.

**Last movie:** Brave, with my girls. Both characters realize tradition and change have value and come to a happy agreement

**How do you beat the heat in New Orleans:** (smiling) I like to sit inside in the air conditioning and drink an ice tea with lots of lemon, ice and sugar.

# Membership Council Director Brandy Lane Gilly

By Kelly Walsh

*Brandy Lane Gilly grew up in the New Orleans area and became a League member six years ago. When she's not busy with the League, Brandy spends time with her husband of nine years, Andrew, whom she met while both were students at Louisiana State University. They currently share an Uptown home with an adorable, 4-year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Ruby.*

*Brandy is serving the 2012-13 Board as the Membership Council Director, which is her first JLNO Board Placement.*

### When and why did you join JLNO?

My sister, now a Sustainer with JLNO, asked me to join the League in 2006 after I moved back to New Orleans from Baton Rouge after Hurricane Katrina. I wanted to help rebuild my hometown and meet new people.

### What have been your past Placements?

I have been a Membership girl my entire League career. Before becoming Membership Council Director, I was a Provisional Advisor, Events Chair, Provisional Vice-Chair and Chair, as well as Esprit Chair.

### What has been your favorite Placement in JLNO?

I loved chairing Esprit with my good friend, Katie Hardin. We had a great time at our Front Porch Fridays and planning other fun League events.

### Why were you interested in Membership?

I became a Provisional Advisor after my Provisional year because I enjoyed it so much. Once I got on Membership Council, I learned about the other committees and wanted to become more involved.



Photo by: Neil Hurd

### What are your plans to keep membership strong?

I am hoping to make everyone's experience a great one; from our largest Provisional class to Transfers, Actives and Sustainers. If we keep our members happy, we can continue to do great work in the community.

### What is your favorite League memory?

I can't think of a specific one. The best thing has been bonding with great friends, reconnecting with old ones and making new ones. Although, I guess winning the Lee Michaels raffle at Cosmos on Canal was pretty amazing!

### What is your favorite League event?

I really have enjoyed the Cocktails and Cuisine parties. A couple of years ago, we had a Girls Night Out to the event, and last year the party was a blast. The band was fun and the food was delicious! It was one of my most fun JLNO nights.

### Do you have any advice for this year's Provisionals?

My advice to the Provisionals is to ask questions, go to the Esprit events and work a variety of Community and Fundraiser shifts. Get involved because you will meet some really great women!

### FAST FACTS

**Galatoire's or Antoine's:** Galatoire's for lunch and Antoine's for dinner.

**Kindle or real book:** Real book. I haven't made the Kindle jump yet.

**French Quarter or Uptown:** Uptown  
**Favorite Mardi Gras Parade:** Muses to ride, Krewe d'Etat to watch

**City Park or Audubon:** Audubon

**Favorite brand of King Cake:** Old school McKenzie's

**Jazz Fest or French Quarter Fest:** Jazz Fest

**Saints or Hornets:** The Saints, but I am real excited about the Hornets next year!

# Planning and Development Council Director Gina Panzica McMahon

By Allison Waldron

*Gina, who is originally from Houston, Texas, has enjoyed her eight years in the Junior League of New Orleans, particularly the training she has received and the friends she has made. She feels confident that training she received in prior Placements, including Plate Project, Donor Relation, and Strength of Relationship Project, will help her in her new role as Planning and Development Council Director.*

*Gina met her husband, Kevin, while they were attending Texas A&M University. She also attended law school at South Texas College of Law. Kevin and Gina have been married for 13 years and have two children, Drake, 6, and Charlotte, 3.*

### What are your goals for this year as planning and Development Council Director?

My top four: utilize the JLNO website features to create a sustainable online communication platform, which encourages intra- and inter-council collaboration; make recommendations for 2010 Strategic Plan modifications through analysis of JLNO's Mission, vision and focus areas; improve JLNO's success rate in winning grants by increasing both the size of our grant writing team and the number of grants for which we apply; and enhance community project selection and evaluation criteria to assure we maximize community impact and volunteer experience.

### Which of your past Placements will help you as planning and development council director?

Hands-on placements, such as Plate Project



Photo by: Neil Hurd

and Strength of Relationship, provided me with an understanding of how our projects impact individual volunteers and the community we serve. More administrative placements such as Donor Relations and Project Development provided insight into the big picture — the impact and potential of JLNO programming and processes.

### What was your favorite placement and why?

One of my favorite placements was The Strength of Relationship project. I learned quickly the joys and pains of rolling out a new project its first year. I developed a great appreciation of Active members' abilities to bring their creativity and perseverance to the table in order to make a difference in the lives of at-risk teenage girls in our city.

### What are you most excited about this year?

I am most excited about collaborating with the new Board as well as the Planning and Development Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs — the possibilities for positive JLNO growth are endless!

### Do you have any advice for this year's Provisionals?

Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty. Work hard and have fun!

### FAST FACTS

- Jazz Fest or Voodoo Music Fest: Jazz Fest
- Barq's Root Beer or Abita Root Beer: Diet Coke
- Favorite Snow-Ball Flavor: Wedding cake
- Team Edward or Team Jacob: Team Edward

# Ways and Means Council Director Amber Mays Beezley

By Melissa Frederick

*Amber Mays Beezley began her Junior League journey in 2005 as a Katrina Provisional. She's chaired everything, from Project Development to Upward Bound to Kitchen Tour, but she's not stopping there. This year Amber will serve as the Ways and Means Council Director for the Junior League of New Orleans.*

*"I am so proud and honored to serve as a Board Member, especially with this group of ladies," Amber says. "I know this is going to be an exciting year."*

*Amber moved to New Orleans 10 years ago after growing up in the small coastal town of Crystal River, Fla., and attending the University of Florida as an undergraduate. While attending Tulane University's School of Architecture she met her husband, Josh, a fellow Floridian. The couple and their 3-year-old son, Harper, live together in the 100-year-old home they are renovating Uptown. They enjoy walking around Audubon Park, taking the streetcar to the Quarter and sharing beignets at Cafe du Monde.*

*Amber's love for her family, her city and her Junior League became evident the moment we sat down together at the coffee shop on Carrollton near her home.*

### What is your favorite JLNO memory?

My favorite League memory would have to be the KaBoom! playground build. It had poured down rain the night before, leaving the ground wet and muddy. We were freezing cold and dirty, but we were all in it together. It was such a great bonding experience.

### What has been your favorite Placement?

Upward Bound was such an amazing Placement, but I would have to say Kitchen

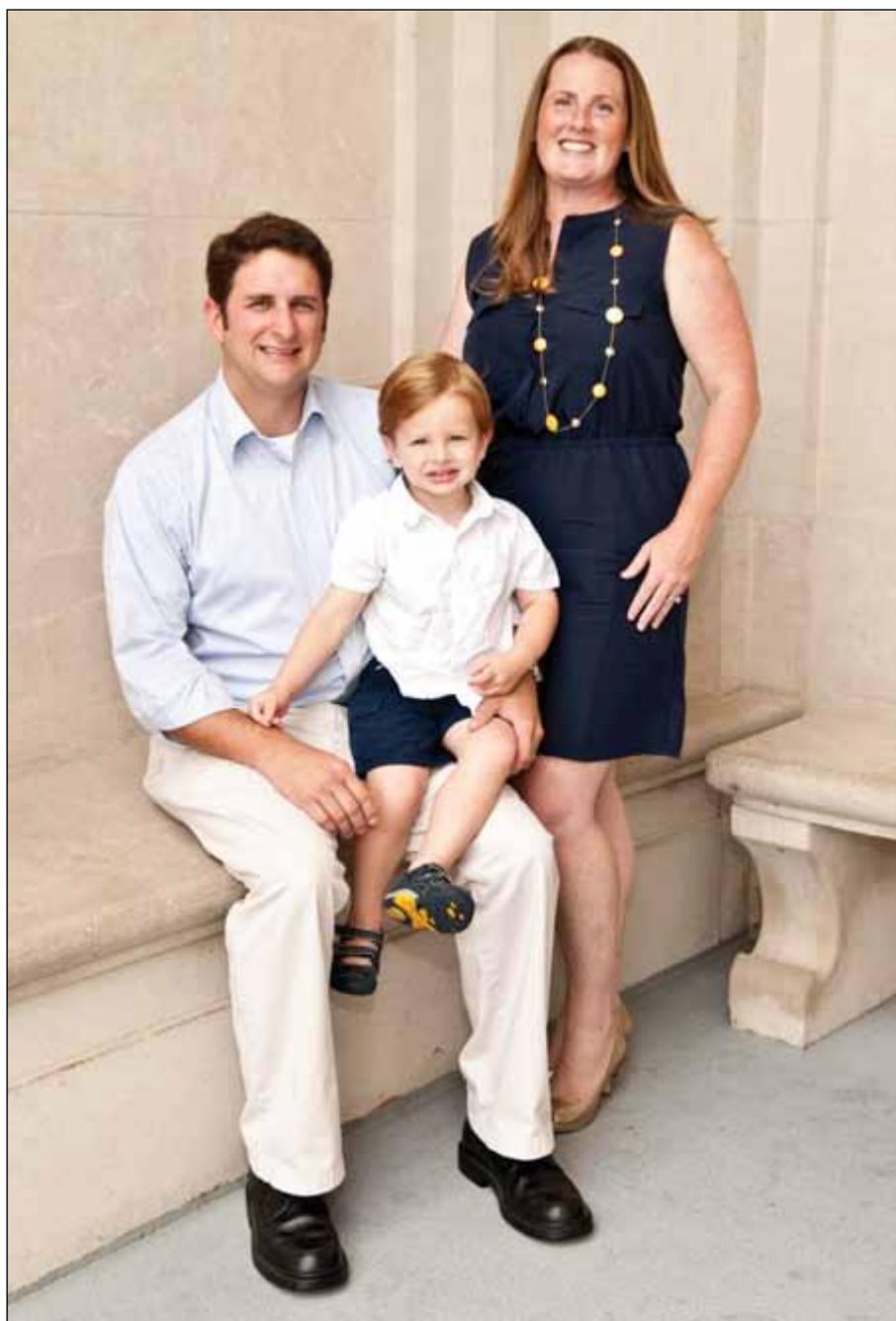


Photo by: Neil Hurd

Tour was my favorite. I had the opportunity to meet so many League members as well as community members who all support the League's efforts. Being involved in all aspects of the Kitchen Tour was such a great learning experience.

### What are you most looking forward to in JLNO this year?

I am most excited to develop one of our newest fundraisers, "Touch a Truck." This event will be an excellent opportunity for kids who live in the city to be exposed to large trucks, farm equipment and helicopters. It's been done in other Leagues around the country and will be a great community event for families in our city.

### What are your goals as the new Ways and Means Council Director?

My top two areas of focus are community involvement in our fundraisers and fundraiser evaluation. It's important to assess the fundraisers to be sure they're meeting their potential.

### FAST FACTS

- Zoo or Aquarium:** Cool Zoo
- Favorite Mardi Gras Parade:** Rex
- Jazz Fest or French Quarter Fest:** Jazz Fest
- Gumbo or Jambalaya:** Jambalaya
- Favorite Snowball:** Cream Soda from Plum Street
- Team Edward or Team Jacob:** Team Edward

# Nominating Chair Wendy Corona Joseph

By Jessica Chin

Wendy Joseph joined JLNO twelve years ago looking to meet new people and to become a dedicated volunteer. Heeding the advice she passes on to this year's group of Provisionals, she became involved with various aspects of the League by serving on several different committees. During the course of her membership, Wendy has been Chair of League Placements SOFAB, Freret Neighborhood Outreach and Plate Project.

A New Orleanian, Wendy attended Louise S. McGehee School before attending the University of Alabama, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. Wendy and her husband, David, have two children. Their son Tucker is a second grader at Isidore Newman School and their daughter Kendall is a first grader at Louise S. McGehee School, following in her mother's footsteps.

As a devoted wife and mother, Wendy wears a lot of hats. Along with her League obligations, family and other volunteer commitments, Wendy works as an interior designer. She is looking forward to another wonderful League year!

## What are you looking forward to most in this League year?

I am looking forward to meeting new people! So many hard working and dedicated people are associated with the League. It's always fun to meet others who share the same commitment I do.

## Why is the position of Nominating Chair so important to you?

Because it is so important for the League. We have a lot of wonderful members with so many strengths! I have the privilege of assisting our members find leadership opportunities within the League.

## Why did you join the League?

I joined the League to meet new people and to learn more about the League's volunteer aspect.

## What has been your favorite Junior League Placement?

My favorite Placements have been serving on



Photo by: Neil Hunt

the Nominating Committee and the Freret Neighborhood Outreach Committee.

## How do you involve your family with the League?

My family attends a lot of community events, such as the Freret Halloween Party and Freret Fest. Also, my children love going to Headquarters and the Thrift Shop!

## What advice do you have for this year's Provisional class?

Get involved! If you see anything that interests you, try it out!

## What skills have you learned through your involvement with the League?

I have learned many valuable skills from my involvement with the League, but I would say the two most important skills I have learned are my organizational and

people skills.

## What other community, church, philanthropic organizations are you involved with?

Outside of the League, I am very involved with my children's schools. I have had the pleasure to serve as the 2010 Co-Chair for the Preservation Resource Center's Julia Jump, as well as serving on many local fundraiser committees.

### FAST FACTS

CC's or PJ's: PJ's  
 Aquarium or Zoo: Zoo  
 Bourbon Street or Magazine Street: Magazine Street  
 Hansen's or Plum Street: Hansen's  
 City Park or Audubon Park: Audubon Park  
 Saints or Hornets: Saints  
 Jazz Fest or Mardi Gras: Mardi Gras

# Sustaining Advisor Leah Nunn Engelhardt

By Rachel Stephens

*Leah Nunn Engelhardt, former Junior League President and busy mother of three, clearly cherishes the opportunities the League provides both to the community and its members.*

### What is your occupation?

I am a mother, wife and lawyer. I work for Preis & Roy PLC, a regional Gulf South firm specializing in commercial and insurance coverage litigation.

### What is your educational background?

I grew up in Auburn, Ala., and received a business degree from Auburn University and then a juris doctor degree from the Paul M. Hebert School of Law at LSU.

### Can you tell us about your family?

I have been married to Miller Engelhardt for 18 years and we have three amazing children: Wilson, 9, and twins, Elizabeth and McCall, 7. Lulu, the 12-year-old dog, rounds out the team.

### Can you tell me about your history with the Junior League?

I was a Provisional in 1998-99. I have had Placements on almost all Councils; everything from Membership to Community.

One of my most significant Placements was during 2005-06 year. After evacuating to Alabama for Katrina, I remember sitting there with three children under the age of two, and it hit me that I was the Insurance Administrator for that League year. I ultimately got the pleasure of managing the insurance claims for the Junior League's three properties, all of which flooded. It was challenging, but I am so proud of what we were able to do in the rebuilding of all three of our properties.

Another really enjoyable Placement was when I chaired Teen Court. I served as Secretary to the Board in 2006-07, and in 2007, I had the pleasure and honor of being elected President-Elect. I served as President in 2008-09 before becoming a Sustainer.



Photo by: Neil Hurd

### You are Sustaining Advisor; what do you see as your role in the League?

Simply to act as an adviser. Sustaining Advisors are typically a past President who serves to bring historical background of the League and past experience to be able to offer advice on League matters where it is needed. It can be both an active and a passive role. The Board is made up of voting members who are actively engaged, and my role is to be an adviser where needed and where asked. I'm enjoying watching the commitment and care that the current Board is giving to our organization.

### How do you think JLNO has adjusted to remain relevant in New Orleans in 2012?

I think it always goes back to the Mission, and it's amazing that the Mission was just as relevant in 1924 as it is today. The League has always considered, analyzed, reviewed and reconsidered what our members are interested in, what they are like and, post-Katrina, what our community is like.

Our membership is different than it was in 1924, the majority of our women are in the work force, and the League is careful to consider what opportunities it can bring to the table to meet the needs of

its members, given their demographics and availability, as well as the community.

### In what areas do you find that the League is most effective?

I always think we serve our community, but I also think the League trains women and develops the potential of women better than any organization I have ever seen. This is so evident when women who go on to become successful in other pursuits and areas of their lives and always give credit back to their volunteer service and experience in the League.

### FAST FACTS

**Favorite New Orleans restaurant:** It depends — Galatoire's to Origami sushi and everything in between. I'm a foodie.

**Favorite hobby:** I love cooking and antiquing. Those are the two things I always find time for.

**Favorite community project:** Anything the Junior League does.

**Favorite vacation spot:** Santa Fe, N.M. I love the vibe, the art and the food. I also love my farm in Alabama and any beautiful beach.

**Typical Saturday morning:** Pot of dark coffee, The Times-Picayune cover to cover, and pancakes and bacon every Saturday with my husband and kids.

**How do you beat the heat in New Orleans:** Hansen's Snow-Bliz Snowballs — Satsuma or the George flavors. I'm addicted.

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JLNO Provisionals enjoy their tour of JLNO projects throughout New Orleans.

Photo by: Sanja Haynie

# The League Welcomes its Largest Provisional Class

By Amanda Goldman

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE of New Orleans welcomed its largest class of Provisionals to date with 196 women for the 2012-13 League Year. The Provisionals participated in a bus tour to welcome them to the League, which Provisional Co-Chairs Jennifer Jeansonne and Lauren Giovingo-Wiley believe impact the Provisionals by providing a better glimpse into the League's community projects.

"It gives them a hands-on experience, and it's a lot more interesting than sitting in Headquarters and having someone show them what is on Digital Cheetah," says Jennifer.

Lauren agrees. "It introduces them to Thrift Shop in a group setting so it's a little less intimidating than them walking in, cold turkey, having to work the register and trying to introduce themselves. Now they get to see the faces of the people they'll be working with, so it's a benefit."

The bus tour began at Samuel Green Charter School, which is

home to the Edible Schoolyard, a favorite community project among League members. Board members and Placement chairs gave the Provisionals a glimpse into the work the League does and the difference it makes in the community.

Kelly Reagan Miranda, Volunteer and Community Partnerships Coordinator, gushed about the League's work with the Edible Schoolyard.

"The Junior League has a special place with Edible Schoolyard and Green Charter School in revitalizing the area post-Katrina, and is getting a great hold in the Freret community," Kelly says. "What makes Junior League so special is that they are the only funders who match donations with volunteer time. The volunteer support helps start and sustain events."

continued on page 22

Photo by: Sanja Haynie



**JLNO Provisionals enjoy the Edible Schoolyard.**

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The Provisional program will mirror last year's program with a few changes.

"The League has worked to refine it to give Provisionals a glimpse of a little bit of each part of the Junior League," Jennifer says.

The Provisional Project will refocus Provisionals' efforts inside the League with more internal events. Jennifer's and Lauren's number one goal is a high retention rate.

"We're trying to make this a very personal experience for them and really use our Provisional Advisors to give them a good welcome to the League," Jennifer says.

The Co-Chairs hope the Provisionals will have more opportunities to get to know other League members by giving them a comprehensive look into the League, and providing more training and education through their Provisional newsletter, which will spotlight committees, shifts and important people.

"Another new thing about this year's Provisional class is that we are doing some special interest groups that they will be able to join, such as a book club, running group, and a festival group," Lauren says.

The League has responded to the large Provisional class by providing more Provisional Advisors and by adding more Provisional Projects to enable smaller group projects.

"As the class has grown, they've encouraged smaller groups to have more Provisional Projects to give the Provisionals the full experience of what the League teaches you," Jennifer says.

"Their Provisional Project will open up other volunteer opportunities because

they'll be touching other community partners or potential community partners, as well as the ones we already work on within the League," Lauren says.

The 2012-13 Provisional Class is full of women looking forward to meeting new people and making a difference in the community. Provisional Member Katherine Hannan is interested in the philanthropic work that the League does.

"I'm looking forward to learning more about all the different programs and community activities that Junior League is involved with, figuring out my place and where I fit in, and meeting new people," Katherine says.

Provisional Members Ashley Aarons,

Photo by Rhonda Stephens



**Provisional Co-Chairs Jennifer Jeansonne and Lauren Giovingo-Wiley welcome the Provisionals at the JLNO Bus Tour.**

Julie Barnhill, Jackie Spence and Jenna Graham recently moved to New Orleans and are eager to meet new people and learn more about their new home.

"I thought this would be a good way to meet like-minded individuals, to volunteer, and do things for the community, but through a trusted source where I knew I was actually making a difference," Ashley says.

"I saw joining the League as a social opportunity to meet some strong young women and get involved in the community," Julie says. "I'm looking forward to fostering new relationships, volunteer opportunities, and the philanthropy that Junior League has to offer." ■

Photo by: Sanja Haynie



**New Provisionals board the bus for their tour of JLNO projects around the city.**

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# Well

## Financial Planning: Basic Tips from the Experts

Photo Provided by: Rachel Stephens



League Member Blair Hodgson, investment adviser for Ferro Financial LLC.

FINANCIAL PLANNING and fiscal responsibility can be stress-inducing topics, but they should be priorities for everyone, especially women. Whether you are single, married, working or staying at home, maintaining a level of knowledge and control over your finances and those of your household is important and can be empowering.

Don't know where to begin? Financial experts often recommend taking the following steps toward getting a handle on your financial affairs.

### **Spend less than you make**

Most people do not have a handle on how much they spend on a monthly basis.

"The key to having success in any financial plan is knowing what you spend and spending less than you're bringing in," says Junior League of New Orleans member Blair Hodgson, investment adviser for Ferro Financial LLC.

It sounds simple enough, but Hodgson recommends using Quicken software, or even the free online program, [www.mint.com](http://www.mint.com), to track expenses and get a firm handle on exactly where your money is going.

### **Focus on saving**

Your financial situation will dictate how much you should save, but everyone can save something. People are often more focused on spending than on saving, but by saving first, you will know what you have left to spend. All financial experts recommend maintaining an emergency fund.

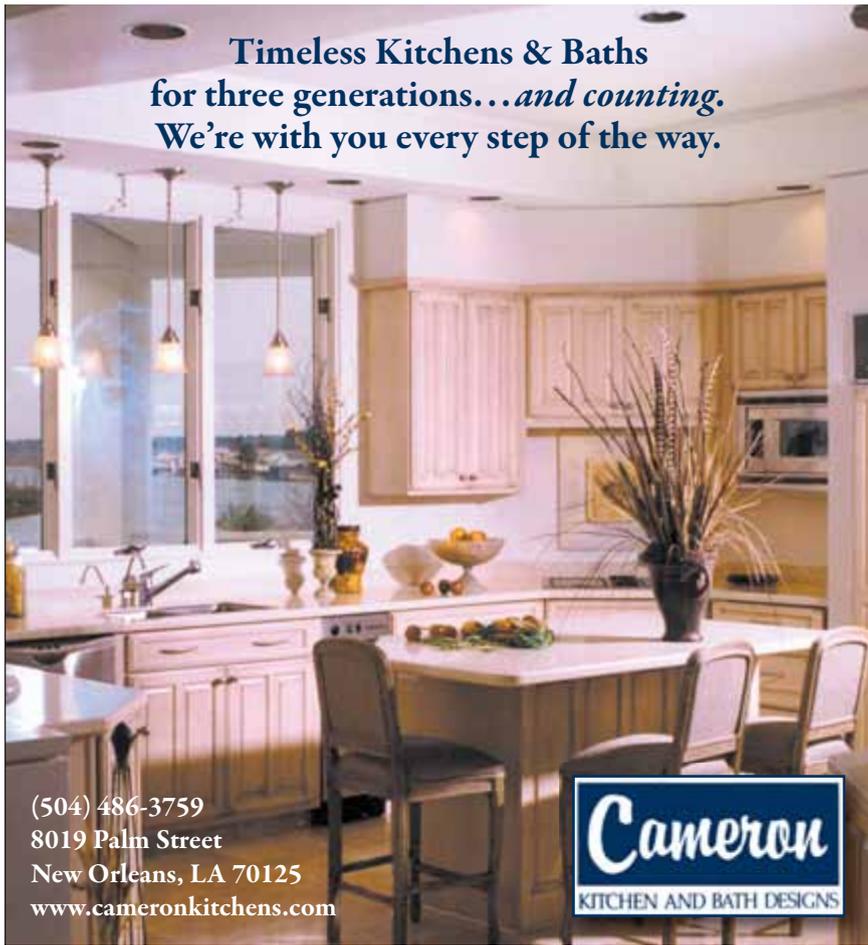
Marietta, Ga., estate planning attorney Sarah White recommends that you "start investing now, and you will be shocked at how quickly interest on your investments will compound, versus if you start saving later in life."

### **Make your credit score a priority**

Making responsible financial decisions will allow you greater freedom. Steve Hemperley, Southeast Louisiana Market President and manager of Louisiana Commercial Banking for Capital One Bank (the largest bank in

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**Living  
Well:**

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the New Orleans area and a preferred partner of the Junior League), offers the following sound financial advice: "People often don't understand that their financial health is almost as important as their physical health. People don't have the awareness to say: 'I have to be financially healthy to meet my goals in life.'"

Hemperley says knowing your credit score, paying your bills on time all the time and never missing a payment will help you meet your long-term goals. Not doing so will hamper them.

**Be involved**

If you have a spouse, both parties should be involved in the financial plan. Take an active role with your spouse in managing your household's money. Although this task has traditionally fallen on the husband, active participation or awareness is important for both parties. Know where your money is and where it needs to go each month in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

**Plan for the future**

Estate planning can protect you in case of unexpected tragedy.

"Virtually everyone needs a will," White says. "If you have minor children or any assets, you need a will. You should also have a power of attorney and healthcare documents, which tell your wishes in the event that you're living but suddenly unable to make decisions for yourself."

White says there are many ways to find an estate planning attorney. Start by asking family and friends for recommendations or by visiting the Louisiana State Bar Association website at [www.lsb.org](http://www.lsb.org). There are also many do-it-yourself websites that can provide low-cost legal documents; however, you may wish to pay



**Steve Hemperley, Southeast Louisiana Market President and manager of Louisiana Commercial Banking for Capital One, advises that financial health should be taken as seriously as physical health.**

to have them reviewed by an attorney to be sure they are effective.

**Save for retirement**

American women have an average life expectancy of more than five years longer than men. Most women will live longer in retirement than men. Many women also stay home with small children, or work part-time, which can lead to decreased earning later in their careers.

“As a woman you have to plan that you might live into your nineties and beyond,” Hodgson says. “If you are saving for retirement, you might have potentially thirty years in retirement that you have to plan for.”

As with anything, starting small and accomplishing simple goals will lead to greater effectiveness in the long term. Checking your credit score today is a good place to start. ■



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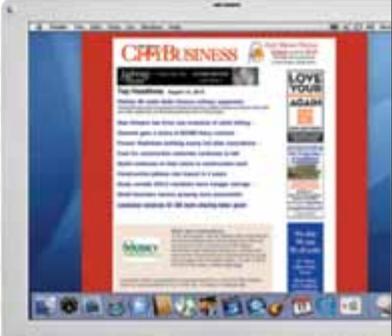
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# League Members in the Community:

## Betsie Gambel, Jessica Bachmann and Katherine Olivard

By: Kimberly Allen

WHEN *TIME* MAGAZINE reports on the increase in entrepreneurs and startup companies in the New Orleans region, it comes as no surprise to Sustainer **Betsie Gambel**. As the owner of Gambel Communications, Betsie is on the forefront of the growing entrepreneurship movement in the area.

After working in a large public relations agency for years, Betsie says the support of the people around her pushed her into opening her own public relations shop in 2009. She started on her own working out of her home and now has eight employees. A former *Lagniappe* editor and President of the League, Betsie had many people in her network pushing her to take a risk.

"I never doubted success, but I was hesitant to do it," she says. "I had to believe in myself."

Like other women pioneers, Betsie never thought of herself as an entrepreneur, but she threw herself into her work. She says her experience with the League served as a mini-MBA, helping her hone her leadership skills.

"The League took me to a new level," Betsie says.

Through the League, she explored opportunities in freelance writing and nonprofit consulting, all while expanding her professional network. For a League member thinking of branching out on her own, Betsie suggests seeking feedback from mentors and other entrepreneurs, and to never underestimate the importance of researching your industry.

The concept of a 9-to-5 job goes out the window when you start your own company. For Betsie, that may mean starting her day with a client on the set of an early morning television show, doing meetings throughout the day and ending in the evening with networking events.

League member **Jessica Bachmann** knows all too well the role hard work plays in starting a business. She began Jessica Bachmann Photography as a part-time business in 2004, while she took photography classes and worked for three other photography studios. She took her business full time in 2007.

Jessica believes the best perk of being your own boss is setting the schedule.

"I have never been the 9-to-5 type, so I found that I am more productive when I can work different hours each day depending on my work load and client needs," says Jessica.

Setting out on your own does bring its own set of challenges. For Jessica, the biggest test is holding herself accountable for everything that happens with her business.

"I have to motivate myself to do the work, be creative, generate business and keep clients happy with great customer service, as well as keeping the accounting and business side of things in order," Jessica says. "It can be challenging to be in charge of the tasks of being the photographer, business owner, marketing/advertising specialist and accountant. Owning my own business often requires working 24/7 during the busy season, and it is therefore my responsibility to make sure everything is getting done."

While starting your own company may sound overwhelming, the women we spoke with all agree on the importance of learning as much as possible about your industry.

Jessica reads trade magazines and attends continuing education seminars in order to



Sustainer Betsie Gambel



Active Jessica Bachmann



Provisional Katherine Olivard

## ENTREPRENEURIAL NOTES

From the Idea Village, a nonprofit organization with a mission to identify, support, and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans:

- Entrepreneurship spiked in the New Orleans area post-Katrina, surpassing the national rate of individuals starting businesses after having lagged the nation for nearly 10 years.
- From 2007 to 2009, an average of 450 out of every 100,000 adults started businesses annually in the New Orleans metro area, up sharply from 2003 to 2005 when 218 out of every 100,000 adults started businesses on average each year.
- The post-Katrina rate also exceeded the national rate of 320 out of 100,000 adults starting businesses each year on average from 2007 to 2009.

For more information, visit [www.ideavillage.org](http://www.ideavillage.org).

learn the latest techniques, equipment and software for her photography business. She believes research is the most important thing you can do when starting out in order to get to know your target market, and whether you have the skills and knowledge to make it work.

“You have to be a self starter because the success of your business is determined by a combination of artistic talent, hard work, and pure motivation to succeed,” says Jessica.

Staying motivated is nothing new to Provisional **Katherine Olivard**, who started The Scarlet Letter, an online gift boutique, in 2011. The shop features products ranging from personalized shrimp aprons to monogrammed cupcake wrappers.

Like the other entrepreneurs we interviewed, Katherine stays busy every day with her business in addition to working an additional full-time job.

“I am currently the only employee, so I receive orders, fulfill orders, ship orders, maintain the website, and stay current on all the best products out there for The Scarlet Letter customer,” Katherine says. “I made it a goal to own my own business by the age of 30, and I am two years ahead of my goal which makes the long days worth it.”

With a focus on so many products that women like, Katherine thinks being a female entrepreneur is an advantage because she thinks like her customers. She recommends that League members thinking of starting their own company formulate a business plan and never stop learning.

“Never stop reinventing yourself and your business,” says Katherine. “Listen to your customer.” ■



Country Day graduates of the Class of 2012 have been accepted to these outstanding colleges and universities:

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<b>American University</b>	<b>Guilford College</b>	University of Richmond	<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b>
Auburn University	Hendrix College	<b>Roanoke College</b>	Whittier College
Austin College	High Point University	Saint Mary's College of California	Wofford College
<b>Barnard College</b>	Howard University	Salem College	<b>Worcester Polytechnic Institute</b>
Bates College	Indiana University	Samford University	
Baylor University	<b>Johns Hopkins University</b>	University of San Diego	
Bentley University	<b>Kent State University</b>	<b>Sewanee: The University of the South</b>	<i>*ATTENDING</i>
<b>Bowdoin College</b>	King's College London	<b>University of South Carolina</b>	
Carnegie Mellon University	<b>Louisiana State University</b>	University of Southern California	
Case Western Reserve University	University of Louisiana	<b>Southern Methodist University</b>	
Centre College	Loyola University, New Orleans	<b>University of Southern Mississippi</b>	
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Clemson University	Marymount Manhattan College	Syracuse University	
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University of Colorado at Boulder	University of Michigan	<b>The University of Texas, Austin</b>	
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Davidson College	Mississippi College	Transylvania University	
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Emory University	<b>University of New Orleans</b>	<b>Tulane University</b>	
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising	<b>New York University</b>	Ursinus College	
Fordham University	Oxford College of Emory University	<b>US Air Force</b>	
<b>Franklin and Marshall College</b>	University of the Pacific	Vanderbilt University	
Furman University	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	Vassar College	
	Pepperdine University	Villanova University	
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Country Day accepts qualified candidates without regard to race, color, disability, gender, religious preference, national or ethnic origin.



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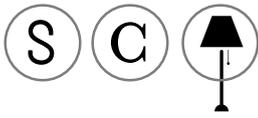
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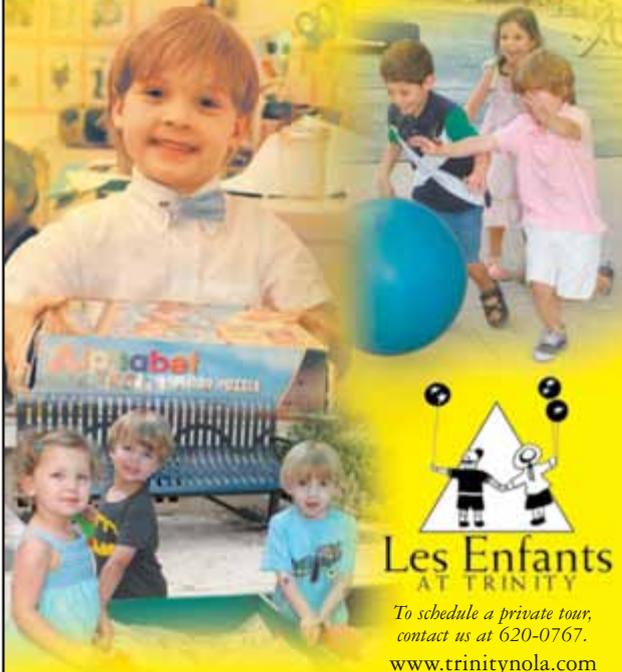
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# Here Come The Brides

## The Bridal Boutique at Bloomin' Deals is Open for Business!

By: Allison Cannizaro

NEW ORLEANS brides now have a new place to shop for wedding dresses — The Bridal Boutique at Bloomin' Deals. This amazing expansion of the Thrift Shop into the world of weddings is the direct result of a partnership between Yvonne La Fleur and the Junior League of New Orleans.

After hearing about the League's efforts to Retire the Debt on Freret and having a strong belief that owning your building is important for any business, Ms. La Fleur offered her services and merchandise to get the Bridal Boutique up and running. Not only has Ms. La Fleur donated dozens of new bridal gowns, but she has also helped train staff and volunteers on how to counsel brides in preparing for their special day.

The Thrift Shop committee worked hard to transform the Thrift Shop Annex into a true bridal boutique, complete with dressing rooms. On June 30, 2012, The Bridal Boutique at Bloomin' Deals officially opened for business.

"There was a lot of excitement for the boutique to open — complete with a group standing outside waiting for the doors to open," says Christine Vinson, Thrift Shop Co-Chair. In an effort to make it an experience to remember for brides-to-be, volunteers and staff dressed for the occasion and served refreshments to the bridal parties.

The Bridal Boutique had its first sale within hours of opening. The Thrift Shop staff played an important part in the word-of-mouth advertising by directing Thrift Shop customers to the Boutique.

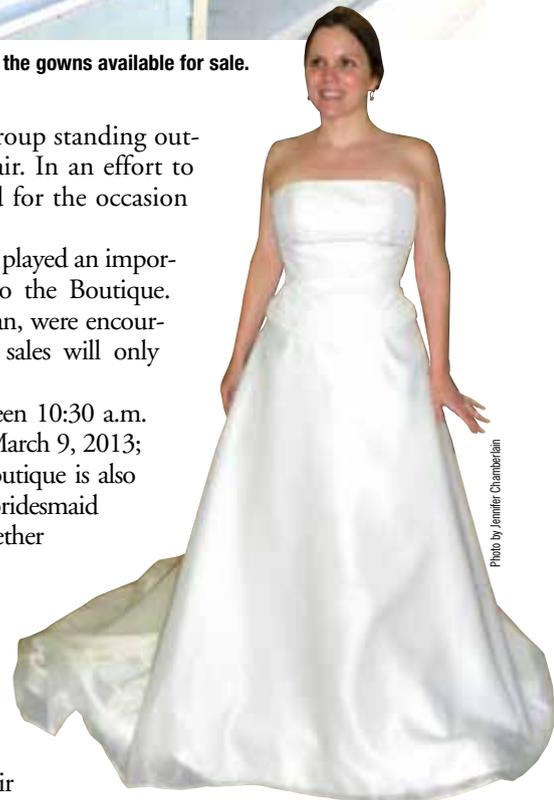
Christine and her Co-Chair Ashley Brennan, were encouraged by the turnout and predicted that sales will only increase with additional advertising.

The Bridal Boutique will be open between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Nov. 10, 2012; Jan. 12, 2013; March 9, 2013; April 6, 2013; and May 11, 2013. The Boutique is also accepting donations of wedding gowns and bridesmaid dresses. Members are encouraged to get together with fellow bridesmaids and donate so that the Boutique has the ability to offer an entire bridal party's worth of dresses!

The success of the Bridal Boutique would not be possible without the help of Yvonne LaFleur, donations from members, and all of the Thrift Shop committee and staff. We are confident all of their hard work will be rewarded when the JLNO Retires the Debt on Freret! 



The storefront showcases some of the gowns available for sale.



A happy customer trying on a dress donated by Yvonne LaFleur.



There are tons of dresses for customers to come and view.

# What are your favorite money saving tips?

Compiled by: Jessica Chin



“I get books and DVDs from the library rather than paying full price at a retailer. It’s free, and I don’t have books taking up space on my shelves.”  
— **Ann Dwyer**



“Shop at Restaurant Depot! Everything there is so much less expensive than the supermarket. I bought half and half today for \$1.75! Freshwater mozzarella \$3.87!”  
— **Diane Buckley**



“I love Cool Brew coffee concentrate. They have a bunch of flavors so I can have my beloved flavored iced coffee without having to waste time or money at a coffee shop. I always have a bottle in the fridge at work!”  
— **Elizabeth Schafer**



“Around January I was feeling very cold at night and noticed that I was cranking the heat higher and higher each month. It seemed like a waste of energy and money to be heating the whole house, so I bought an electric blanket. Not only am I toasty, but I can keep the household thermostat at a reasonable level.”  
— **Natalie Kaharick**



“Buying gas at a discount at Sam’s Club.”  
— **Katherine Hattier**



“If you unplug small appliances and lamps when you are not using them, it saves money on your energy bill!”  
— **Meredith Durham**



“Buy Cool Brew instead of Starbucks!”  
— **Jessica Ibert**



“I shop at Dress Barn for career dresses from Calvin Klein, Anne Klein and Donna Morgan! It’s the best kept secret because the dresses range from \$39-\$69, and they are current fashions!”  
— **Alexis Ruffino**



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## 2012 - 2013 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE



### PRE-K

September 28	9 a.m.
October 5, 12, 19	9 a.m.
November 2, 16, 30	9 a.m.
December 7	9 a.m.

### LOWER SCHOOL

October 24	6:15 p.m.
January 15	9 a.m.

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Judgment Call is made possible by a generous donation from New Orleans attorney Randall Smith, who asked the League to begin a youth legal education program.

Photo by Kellen Finn

## The League's Newest Projects Offer Kids a Chance through Bayou District Foundation and Judgment Call

By Amanda Goldman

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE of New Orleans is excited to introduce two projects for the 2012-13 League year: Bayou District Foundation and Judgment Call.

The Bayou District Foundation (BDF) has invited JLNO to participate in its innovative community redevelopment model to enable children and families to escape the cycle of poverty, build a thriving community and to live productive, healthy and fulfilling lives.

BDF has partnered with Kingsley House to create Educare of New Orleans, an early childhood learning center. Educare of New Orleans targets the pivotal years in a child's life, from birth to age five. The goal of this innovative early childhood program is to significantly narrow and prevent the achievement gap from taking root in early years.

"Educare Centers in the United States have earned a reputation for excellent early childhood learning and for promoting school readiness with proven success," says Co-Chair Sherri O'Bell.

This center will be located at the Columbia Park mixed-income housing development and will serve 150 low-income children, ages six weeks to five years old. BDF is available as a Placement and a Community Shift.

"As the inaugural year for Educare of New Orleans and for JLNO's partnership with Bayou District, we hope to solidify a strong bond between our organizations and the children we will serve," Sherri says.

As the League introduces Bayou District Foundation as a new project, they are excited to continue Judgment Call, now in its second year. As part of Judgment Call, the League is also partnering with the International School of Louisiana to imple-



ment Street Law Community Works, which is an after-school program for fifth and sixth graders that promotes good citizenship and community service.

The Street Law, Inc. curriculum will introduce students to the justice system through its key players — judges, lawyers, mediators and law enforcement officials — who will provide critical positive interaction with the justice system. Through this positive interaction, students will become familiar with the juvenile justice system and learn about their rights and responsibilities. The goal is to teach these students to use good judgment and communication skills. The students will also design and implement a community project to effect positive change in their communities.

The League encourages members with backgrounds in law enforcement or the judicial system to volunteer by participating in these sessions.

"We look forward to building upon our first year implementing the program and to improve our delivery and service to the community," says Co-Chair Holly Paczak. "We have a great curriculum and lessons to deliver to the students, and we hope to improve upon the sessions and impact more kids each and every year." **L**

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# 5K by Amy Farnsworth Etouffee

THE 2012 5K Etouffée was another booming success for the Junior League of New Orleans this year. Held once again at Audubon Park, the race took place Sunday, May 6. Kathleen Ramsey and Virginia Barba were the 2012 Co-Chairs, and Liz Bush was Vice-Chair. Although 2011 was the first year for 5K Etouffee, race participation grew 22 percent in one year: last year there were 458 entrants, and this year the number increased to 560 participants.

Runners, walkers, and crawlers of all ages came out to support the Junior League and raise awareness about family health. The participants were even awarded a light, late spring shower just as they were finishing the race to help cool them off in time for the awards ceremony. Iberiabank once again sponsored the race.

This year's event consisted of a ½ mile race starting at 8 a.m., a 5K race at 8:15 and a baby crawl at 9 a.m. The male overall winner of the 5K was Micah Tirop, 29, with a time of 15:33, and the female overall winner was Mary Ann Raffell, 29, in 19:29. The male overall youth win-



Runners and walkers assemble at the start of the 5K Etouffée race.



5K Etouffée...and they're off!

Photo by: Sarah Roy

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ner was Matthew Feehan, 15, in 19:29. The female overall youth winner was Destiny Timberlake, 11, in 28:08.

Male overall master was Drake Bourgeois, 41, in 18:37, and the female overall master was Angela King, 45, in 22:39. Male overall grandmaster was Kenny Mire, 63, in 19:59. Female overall grandmaster was Lillian Brown, 52, in 26:05. Male overall senior was J. Roger Brown, 64, in 21:12. Female overall senior was Marcia Finkelstein, 61, in 33:37. The 1/2 mile awards went to male overall winner, Matthew Feehan, 15, in 2:46 and female overall winner Zoe Ohmes, 10, in 3:30.

Winners were treated to prizes generously donated by Varsity Sports, Dick's Sporting Goods, Plum Street Snowballs and NOLA Baby, and included shoes, sunglasses, running gear, gift certificates and special baby prizes.

After the races, runners beat the heat with Cool Brew iced coffee, and refueled with snacks provided by Cabot Cheese, Hubig's Pies and Elmer's Chee Wees. Families enjoyed a round of mini-golf, which was provided by Partee Rentals, an obstacle course, face painting and a duck mascot from Second Harvest Food Bank. IberiaBank also sponsored the race.

Next year's event is shaping



Nicole Keller, Mindi Kooke, Andrew Goutierez

up to be another huge success with 100 percent of all proceeds raised supporting community outreach projects at JLNO. The Chairs for 2013 are Liz Bush and Michelle Cox, and Vice-Chair is Katie Eddins. The event will once again be held at Audubon Park on May 11, 2013, and is open to all ages. Check [www.jlno.org](http://www.jlno.org) and the *Lagniappe* calendar for updates. Families are encouraged to come out and enjoy the day together while demonstrating to their kids that exercise and fun go hand in hand! 

Photo by: Sarah Roy



Eric Mihindou, Cody Conarro.

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# Shopping & Fundraising... A Fabulous Combination!

By Enjoli Nelson

SO YOU LIKE TO SHOP? We can make sure your shopping does double duty: enjoy your new finds, and support the Junior League's community projects in the process. Celebrating its sixth year, *Buy, Save, and Serve* (previously known as the Shopping Card) will provide shoppers exclusive access to a 20 percent discount at a tantalizing lineup of the finest local retailers and restaurants.

All shoppers will receive a retail shopping guide that includes the retailer name and location when they purchase the card. The event will be held during the week of Friday, Nov. 2 through Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. All of the proceeds generated from this annual event will help underwrite the Junior League's community projects in the Greater New Orleans community.

Committee co-chairs Adrienne Ehrensing and Mary Dawn Pugh, and Kick-off Chair Sarah Martzolf along with the *Buy, Save and Serve* committee are proud to announce that the card will be available for \$35 again this year.

In addition, the *Buy, Save and Serve* committee is planning a fabulous kickoff party to be held Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012, at Lakeside Shopping Center. The committee is working hard to finalize a list of participating merchants and restaurants.

Please visit [www.jlno.org](http://www.jlno.org) for an updated list of participating retailers and restaurants and for additional details about the kick-off event.



Photo by: Jessica Chin

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By Michelle Fridman

## APPLE COFFEE CAKE

Nothing says fall has arrived like apples, pecans and the Saints! Now that the weather is starting to cool down, take the opportunity to drink your coffee hot instead of iced, and pair it with this delicious Apple Coffee Cake from the League's *Jambalaya* cookbook. With an abundance of apple varieties soon to show up at your favorite market, be sure to pick one well suited to baking, like Granny Smith, Fuji or Braeburn. Because it is filled with fruit, you will be able to convince yourself that a second serving of this moist and delicious apple coffee cake is healthy!

Photo by: Michelle Fridman



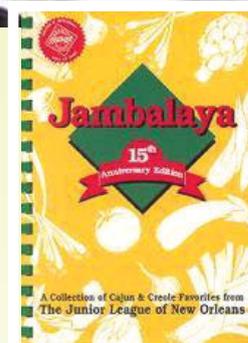
### INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups peeled and diced apples
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs, separated
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped pecans

### Directions

Combine apple and sugar in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, beat egg whites until stiff. In a third bowl, beat egg yolks until light colored. Gradually beat oil into yolk. Mix yolk mixture into white. Add egg mixture to apple mixture and mix well. In another bowl, sift together flour and next 3 ingredients. Blend dry ingredients and pecans into apple mixture. Pour into a greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Yields 10 to 12 servings.

*This recipe is found on Page 201 of JLNO's Jambalaya cookbook. All four cookbooks are available for purchase at JLNO Headquarters, Bloomin' Deals and online at [www.jlno.org](http://www.jlno.org).*



# League Faces



Photo by: Jessica Chin

**2011-12 JLNO President Dee McCloskey passes the gavel to 2012-13 JLNO President Brandy Whisnant at the May General Membership Meeting held at the Uptowner on May 22, 2012.**

Photo by: Kellen Pirri



**Whitney Jordan, Tonja Alexander, Elizabeth RePass and Brittany Mulla at the New Provisional Welcome Party held at the Bayou District Foundation Club House on May 22, 2012.**



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Photo by: Kellen Pirri

Provisional Chairs Jennifer Jeansonne and Lauren Giovingo-Wiley at the New Provisional Welcome Party.



Provisional Committee Vice Chairs Katy Flower and Dana Parks at the New Provisional Welcome Party.



Photo by: Kellen Pirri

Photo by: Kellen Pirri



Megan Clark, Jessica Shahien, Barkley Rafferty, and Kathryn Isenmann at the New Provisional Welcome Party.

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# League Faces

Amy Farnsworth, Co-Chair Kathleen Ramsey, committee member Chrissy Wilson, Jessie Haynes, Mary Lorenz, Co-Chair Virginia Barba, Ways and Means Director Lori Page and Megan Micale serve refreshments to 5K Etouffee participants and guests.



Photos by: Sarah Roy

Photo by: Sarah Roy



Runners and Walkers at the 5K Etouffee at Audubon Park on May 6, 2012.



Photo by: Shayna Connell

Esprit Chairs Ellie Dupuy and Lauren Hebert at JLNO's first Front Porch Friday on June 22, 2012, at Oak.

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Members Jamie Toso Miner, Sarah-Elizabeth Gundlach and Courtney Lane enjoy the beautiful weather at Front Porch Friday on June 22 at Oak.

Members Kathryn Choate, Leslie Lagrange, Courtney Nalty and Dottee Gwin enjoy cocktails and conversation at Front Porch Friday.



Laura Smith, Sarah Wilson and Lagnippe Editor Sarah Roy enjoy drinks at Front Porch Friday at Oak.



Photo by: Shayna Connell

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# League Faces

Photo by: Kelly Walsh



Carroll Bernard, Leslie Lott, Mary Cappie Tavary, Lauren Crosby and Jennifer Devlin lead Safe Sitter training on June 23, 2012.

Photo by: Kelly Walsh



Carroll Bernard demonstrating CPR on a child mannequin at Safe Sitter on June 23, 2012.



Mary Cappie Tavary teaching kids during a Safe Sitter class on June 23, 2012.

Photo by: Kellen Pirri



Sustainers Ann Swayze, Marcie DuQuesnay, and Mary Peller catch up at the Sustainer Sailing into Summer Party on May 24, 2012, at the home of Susan Price.

Photo by: Kelly Walsh

Sustainers Mary Ross Berridge, Eugene Faust and Belinda Janeski have a blast at the Sailing into Summer Sustainer Party.

Photo by: Kellen Pirri



Photo by: Kellen Pirri

Photo by: Kellen Pirri



Past President and new Sustainer Blanche "Dee" McCloskey, 2012 Sustainer of the Year, Margaret Wall and Sustainer Sally Cockerham enjoy the Sustainer Tea on May 8, 2012.



Sustainers Mikell Johnson and Duane Page reminisce together at the Sustainer Tea held May 8, 2012, at the home of Sally Cockerham.



Maggie Greenbaum, Jamie Toso Miner, Sarah-Elizabeth Gundlach and Karen Hughes



Elizabeth Janke, Ashley Gomilla, Taylor Schmidt and Ellie Dupuy on July 20, 2012, at Front Porch Friday at The Bulldog Mid-City.



Provisionals, Karen Hughes and Brandy Digney



Front row, from left, Katherine Olivard, Lauren Eagan, Mary Arruebarrena, Raquelle Badeaux-Phillips, Jessica Bosworth, Autumn Town, Avery Strada, Emily Schmidt and Ann Conger; and, back row, from left, Tracy Dupuy, Teresa Barnes, Jenna Mitchell, Colleen Bonvillian, Lea Witkowski, Ebony Williams, Tonja Alexander, Lindsey Troha and Caitlin Williams.



# Provisional Bus Tour



Front row, from left, Marie Rougelot, Sarah Chase, Christine Walsh, Megan McKown, Kristen Rolf, Aubry Miller, Michelle Bergeron, Valerie Bernard, Juliet Laughlin, Laura Stepneski, Martha Claire Breland and Katy Mallios; middle row, from left, Lauren Haws, Ashley Roth, Michelle Soliman, Kimi Forcum, Sophie Lo, Christine Goletz, Melissa Aymani, Julie Terrell Radford, Katie LaCour, Taylor Morgan and Jessica Inman; and, back row, from left, Lucy Wardlaw, Emily Marcotte, Monica Candal, Frannie Montegut, Racquelle Badeaux-Phillips, Flozelle Roberts and Elizabeth Brugge Neilson.

Front row, from left, Eleni Arambadjis, Askala Harris, Kelly Rauser, Erica Cameese, Nicole Cook, Melanie Wallo, Ashley Orr, Cassidy Maumus, Diane Buckley, Barbie Pace and Carla Brown Pichon; and back row, from left, Melanie Diket, Jessica Derenbecker, Carrie Thomas, Melanie Cossich, Rana Francois, Rachel Batenga, Kara Istre, Katherine Fanquier, Brooke Grant and Marleigh Young.

# Your guide to JLNO Events, Community Shifts, Fundraiser Shifts and New Orleans fun!

Compiled by Jessica Chin

## SEPTEMBER

**Provisional Social at Fat Harry's**  
Sept. 18, 5 p.m.

**Meeting Boutique followed by  
General Membership Meeting**  
Sept. 18, 7 p.m.

**Front Porch Friday — 1805 State St.**  
Sept. 21

## OCTOBER

**Rebuilding Together**  
Oct. 5, 6, 12,13

**Bag Day at Bloomin' Deals**  
Oct. 6

**Child Friendly General Membership Meeting**  
Oct. 16, 9 a.m.

**Meeting Boutique followed by General  
Membership Meeting**  
Oct. 16, 7 p.m.

**Front Porch Friday — TBA (please check  
JLNO.org for more information)**  
Oct. 26

**Halloween**  
Oct. 31



## NOVEMBER

**Get on Board Graduation - HQ**  
Nov. 1

**Buy, Save, and Serve Kickoff Party**  
Nov. 3

**Bridal Boutique at Bloomin' Deals Annex**  
Nov. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Small Group Meeting**  
Nov. 13, locations and times TBA

**Front Porch Friday**  
Nov. 16 — TBA (please check JLNO.org  
for more information)

**Thanksgiving**  
Nov. 22  
Headquarters and Thrift Shop closed

## DECEMBER

**Provisional Holiday Party**  
Dec. 6 - 6:30-8:30 pm

**Front Porch Friday**  
Dec. 7 — TBA (please check JLNO.org  
for more information)

**JLNO Family Holiday Party at Headquarters**  
Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-noon

**Holiday Meeting General Membership  
Meeting with Boutique**  
Dec. 11, TBA (please check JLNO.org  
for more information)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.JLNO.ORG](http://WWW.JLNO.ORG)**



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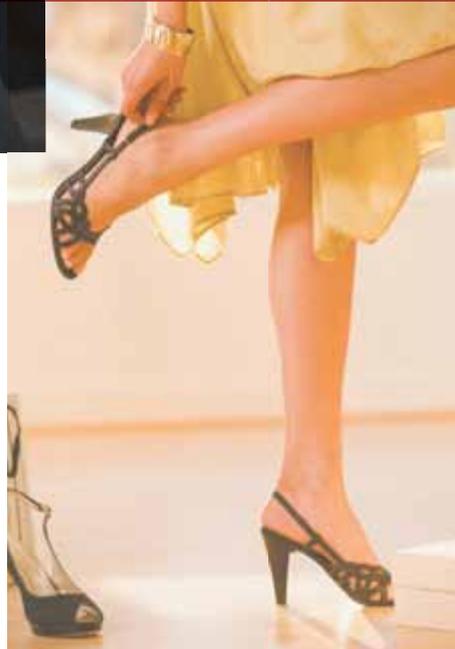
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