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On the Cover
Colleen Timmons, Upward Bound Chair, and Brandy Whisnant, President, with the Proclamation presented to JLNO by the New Orleans City Council.

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THE SUMMER 2013 issue of Lagniappe is testament to the fact that Junior League of New Orleans volunteers move at a fast pace and are certainly not taking things sitting down. Within the pages of this issue you will find a beautiful illustration of the footprints and impact that our members are making in our city each and every day. This League year, our Active and Provisional League volunteers committed nearly 50,000 volunteer hours to support our 17 community projects and 7 successful fundraisers that raised funds to support these projects.*

Our volunteers certainly couldn't have such impact in the community without the support and encouragement of those around them. This encouragement comes from other volunteers, spouses, children, extended family and friends who understand when we spend hours away from home to support a project. As you will see within this issue, sometimes this support means helping your wife put a fundraiser together or having your child participate in a League project.

As you peruse this issue you may be relaxing in the sand or simply taking a break and enjoying your summer. If you aren't, I hope that you will use at least a portion of your summer to recharge and be inspired by the League's mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our community so that you too can leave your footprints in the sand.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of this amazing organization in 2012-13 and I look forward to seeing all of the wonderful things that our Board of Directors, Joint Council leaders and members are able to accomplish in 2013-14. I wish you and yours all the best in the coming year.

Respectfully (and smiling in retirement!)

Brandy Baechle Whisnant

*It should be noted that this number doesn't include the countless hours of volunteer service that our Sustaining members are putting into the community each and every year.
Visit our website for the latest on the Junior League’s Projects!

See what’s new at Bloomin’Deals!

Get the scoop on Thrift Shop specials and events at jlno.org/thriftshop

Freret Street is thriving again!

Check out our neighborhood projects at jlno.org/projects.

Missed an issue of Lagniappe?

Find past issues in our archives at jlno.org/lagniappe.
IT WAS NEARLY ONE YEAR AGO that I sat at my computer to type my first Letter from the Editor. I wrote that no matter the season—crawfish, snowball, café au lait, or Abita Strawberry—something wonderful was happening in New Orleans because of the Junior League. This issue of Lagniappe explores the League’s accomplishments of the past year. I am grateful to be a small part of our movement.

We have much to celebrate as this League year draws to a close. Thanks to your efforts, the opportunity to attend college is now a reality for our 2013 Upward Bound graduates. Our Spring fundraisers, Kitchen Tour, Cocktails and Cuisine, and 5K Etouffee, are joined by Touch a Truck, which drew more than 1,500 attendees in its first year!

This issue of Lagniappe also looks forward, because the best is yet to come. League members will be able to increase their effectiveness as advocates for childhood wellbeing during the 2013-14 League Year through the new focus of the Legislative Affairs committee. New features in Lagniappe are also in store for 2013-14. We are excited to bring you the first of these features, “Where Ya Been?” in this issue.

As volunteer leaders, we recognize that we can’t do all that we do without a little help. Our volunteer efforts are truly a family affair. Countless League husbands and children contribute to JLNO in their own ways, by donating blood, hauling donations to Bloomin’ Deals, or setting up Lemonade Stands. We introduce you to a few members of our League Family who have answered the call of duty in our annual Men of the League Feature, and recognize up-and-coming volunteers, our Little League MVPs.

I can’t sign off without thanking the people who help make Lagniappe a first rate magazine. We are fortunate to work with a volunteer staff of talented writers and photographers. Thank you to the League’s leadership, particularly Brandy Whisnant and Maria Huete, for their patience, guidance and good humor through each issue. Last, but not least, this year would have been impossible without the hard work of Assistant Editor Jessica Chin, Photography Editor Kelly Walsh, and Assistant Photography Editor Allison Waldron.

Sarah
Congratulations to the Class of 2013. Graduates were accepted to...

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RECENT STUDIES INDICATE that patients are experiencing shorter hospital stays with fewer readmissions. They have higher overall satisfaction rates and in some instances, the hospitals that care for them are becoming more efficient and cost effective. So, what's behind all the positive change? One factor in many of these hospitals is the rise of a new approach to inpatient care built around a new specialty. The doctors who practice this specialty are called hospitalists and the practice itself is called hospital medicine. In fact, since the Society of Hospital Medicine was founded in 1997, over 34,000 hospitalists have begun practicing in over 3,300 large hospitals and half of all community hospitals in the country. However, despite the widespread employment and success of hospitalist programs, they've somehow remained the best kept secret in the industry.

What is a hospitalist?
Hospitalists are physicians who specialize in hospital medicine. That is to say, their expertise is in caring for acutely ill, hospitalized patients. According to the Society of Hospital Medicine, “Hospitalists are focused around a site of care (the hospital) rather than an organ (like cardiology), a disease (like oncology) or a patient’s age (like pediatrics). However, unlike medical specialists in the emergency department or critical care units, hospitalists help manage patients through the continuum of hospital care, often seeing patients in the emergency room, following them into the critical care unit and organizing post-acute care.”

Hematologist Oncologist, Leslie Meng, M.D. with East Jefferson General Hospital (EJGH) was initially nervous about the move toward hospital medicine. She says, “We are very protective of our patients because we form strong, long term bonds with them, but I’m really impressed with the quality of care my patients receive from the hospitalists at EJGH. Hospitalists are able to help us [specialists] with overall, general medical management. Cancer patients are often in and out of the hospital and it’s not always because of cancer-related issues. They have other medical problems like high-blood pressure or diabetes in addition to cancer. Our hospitalists’ expertise run the gamut, so they can focus on overall health while I focus on tumor treatment. The more eyes on our patients, the better.”

Becoming a hospitalist’s patient
Typically, a primary care physician will refer his or her patient to a hospitalist for the duration of the patient’s hospital stay and then resume treatment after discharge. Hospitalists consult with the primary care physicians, surgeons or other medical specialists and submit a full report on the patient at the time of discharge, always maintaining open lines of communication. They also...
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The Junior League of New Orleans was honored at NOMA's Art in Bloom with the exhibit, “The Giving Tree,” celebrating 89 years of charitable giving to the community.

GIVING BACK

By Gina McMahon

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE of New Orleans' mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers is carried out each day through the efforts of dedicated women, whose focus is on giving their time back to the community and has been for the past 89 years. Beyond the 1,000,000 hours of service contributed to the greater New Orleans community in the past 5 years by League volunteers, there is also a critical financial component that drives the organization and enables the League to support community projects, provide grants to local nonprofits and manage volunteers. This financial piece is made possible as a result of charitable giving by sustaining, active and provisional members through payment of dues and donations as well as through the support of individual donors and corporate sponsors.

To this end, there are a variety of charitable giving methods available that provide tax benefits and give the donor the personal satisfaction of assisting nonprofit organizations such as the Junior League. Gifts may be made from discretionary income or as part of a donor's estate plan. One estate planning tool is planned giving, which is a major gift, made in life or at death, as part of a donor's overall financial plan.

Planned giving is a unique philanthropic tool enabling a donor to promote the Junior League's contributions to New Orleans while also fulfilling the donor's individual financial objectives. Alice B. Parkerson, Vice President of Development for the Greater New Orleans Foundation, explained that planned giving “provides someone who is passionate about an organization and wants to leave a legacy with an opportunity to participate in a nonprofit organization's future success.” She noted that planned giving is particularly advantageous for those who are not financially secure today but want to leave something to an organization, such as the Junior League, that is close to their heart.

There are three basic types of planned gifts: donations of appreciated assets, donations of gifts that return income or other financial benefit to the donor in return for the contribution, or donations payable upon the donor's death. The end goal of each is to maximize the gift to the charity of a donor's choice while also minimizing the impact on the donor's estate.

Through the combined generosity of League members past, present and future as well as individual donors and corporate sponsors, the Junior League of New Orleans is empowered to continue its legacy of giving back to the greater New Orleans community as a strong nonprofit organization for another 89 years. If you are interested in learning more about planned giving options with the League, please contact the Planning and Development Council Director at (504) 891-5845.

The Junior League of New Orleans was honored at NOMA's Art in Bloom with the exhibit, “The Giving Tree,” celebrating 89 years of charitable giving to the community.
MARY PARKER WHISNANT often comes by Headquarters with her mother, Brandy Whisnant, after school or days off and always asks what she can do to help the staff. She loves to dive right into whatever she can help with and finish a job.

Mary Parker not only shows dedication to the Junior League but our New Orleans community at large. She has participated the last few years in Lemonade Day, Esprit Family Night bowling, 5K Etouffee, Christmas and Easter parties. She also donates clothes and enjoys shopping at Bloomin’ Deals. "If I have to pick one favorite, it would be Lemonade Day, but I really like all of them," said Abbey of her League activities.

With the help of three of her friends, Abbey raised over $150 at Louisiana Lemonade Day. They will be buying books and dress-up clothes for patients at Children’s Hospital. Abbey likes volunteering because it makes her feel like she is helping people in need. "I like volunteering my time and raising money to give to people who don’t have many things. It is a lot of fun, and it makes me feel happy and filled with gratitude!"

*By Emma McCreight*
Touch a Truck

By: Melissa Manning Frederick

TOUCH A TRUCK. JLNO’s newest fundraiser, was a huge success in its first year. Held on March 2, 2013 at Hawthorne Global Aviation Services at the Lakefront Airport, Touch a Truck raised over $8,100 for the Junior League of New Orleans’ community programs. The unique, hands-on event provided children and families with an opportunity to see, touch and explore more than a dozen emergency response vehicles, construction trucks, tractors, and even a helicopter.

The inaugural Touch a Truck brought over 1,700 attendees out to the Hawthorne Lakefront Hangar. The large number of participants was quite a surprise to Touch a Truck co-chair Amy Robertson. “We extensively researched similar fundraisers at other Junior Leagues across the country and expected only a few hundred people would attend. We went into Touch a Truck knowing it was a brand new fundraiser for the League and initially viewed this year as one of planning and development, but the event exceeded all of our expectations,” stated Amy. “Thanks to the support of Jay Taffet and the Hawthorne Global Aviation Services, we had a perfect, unique venue for the event to really take off and grow.”

General Manager of Hawthorne Global Aviation Services, Jay Taffet, couldn’t be happier with the success of Touch a Truck. “We were honored to host the Junior League of New Orleans inaugural Touch a Truck event at our terminal at Lakefront Airport. The community participation in terms of vehicle and equipment contributions for the interactive displays was incredible and the attendance throughout the day certainly exceeded all of our expectations,” said Jay. “The view from the air and on the ground was tremendous and there wasn’t a dull moment on our ramp as children and parents moved around the displays and enjoyed the food vendors — it was truly a successful event for the community, the participants and the airport, and we hope to be able to offer our facility for this event and others in the future.”
Also featured at this year’s Touch a Truck were several food trucks including Dat Dog, Fat Falafel, Creole Creamery, and Plum Street Snowballs.

Touch a Truck co-chairs Meredith Duke and Amy Robertson would like to thank all JLNO ladies who volunteered their time, especially Ways and Means Council Director Amber Beezly and committee members Elizabeth Hayes, Jennifer Devlin, Heather Reznik, Neely Griffith, Elise Guidry, Colleen Loerzel, Kristen Nelson, Allison Puneky, and Cynthia Sterbcow.


As JLNO’s largest fundraiser geared toward children and families, the Touch a Truck committee looks forward to growing this event even more next year.

D A N I E L  D U K E and John Robertson, husbands of Touch a Truck co-chairs, Meredith Duke and Amy Robertson, went above and beyond the call of duty in helping to make the inaugural Touch a Truck a phenomenal success. Both were great in helping to prepare for Touch a Truck. Daniel and John helped with setting up tables, picking up ice chests, directing traffic and parking, and gate security. Daniel even made a coffee run for much needed hot cups of coffee on a very chilly and windy morning. They also helped with breakdown of the event, including returning tables, ice chests, and all heavy items to JLNO headquarters.

Daniel and John were also helpful during the planning stages of Touch a Truck. John was very helpful in last-minute grocery runs for food and beverages for committee meetings, while Daniel babysat his three-year-old, Hayden, to allow Meredith to attend and host planning meetings, which began during the summer of 2012. In addition to all of his help with Touch a Truck, John helped Amy complete her Community Shift requirement by donating blood at East Jefferson General Hospital.

“Both of our husbands are such amazing men!” says Amy. “They demonstrated such patience and willingness to help us throughout the League year. They are truly our men of the year!”

Daniel and John were nominated by Brandy Whisnant.
Community Impact
2012-2013

By Rachel Stephens

As the 2012-2013 Junior League year comes to a close, Lagniappe celebrates a few of the League's many community accomplishments from the past twelve months. The League's reach expands into the community as the League continues to grow each year. From health and nutrition to educational development and personal growth, our programs helped impact community members from all demographics. Community Council Director, Kathleen Robert certainly had her hands full as she helped oversee each of the many community programs. As Kathleen stated, "We had seventeen projects which is historic, we’ve never had this many projects before. We also have a lot of new projects: Lemonade Day is brand new, Bayou District is brand new and we’ve introduced a new project at Second Harvest.”

One of the focus areas of JLNO is children’s wellbeing and education, and several of our community programs specifically target this goal. Second Harvest, Kids in the Kitchen, and Edible Schoolyard all worked to promote and provide healthy food options for children. JLNO’s partnership with the Second Harvest fresh produce program continues to be a highlight of the League’s community outreach. Junior League Second Harvest Chair Katherine Miller notes that, “In any given week, our volunteer hours assist Second Harvest with the distribution of 42,000 pounds of food.” Katherine is proud of the time and impact of her 21-member committee, which logged 630 volunteer hours this year. League members also worked an additional 835 hours at the Second Harvest warehouse helping sort and pack food for distribution to food banks across the region. This commitment to food distribution only enhances the incredible impact that Second Harvest is able to have on the fight against hunger.

The Junior League’s Kids in the Kitchen program partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank to work with Kids’ Café, a program which provides meals and nutritional training to at-risk children in the area five days per week. As Taylor Bartley, volunteer coordinator at Second Harvest explained, “Kids’ Café provides 1,000 meals per day during the school year and even more in the summer.” In cooperation with this, the Junior League Kids in the Kitchen program taught basic nutrition and healthy lifestyles to children ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade. As Kids in the Kitchen Chair Lenora Costa describes, “We had a wonderful year working with students from the Dryades YMCA after-school program.” The program taught varied lessons from learning how to read a nutrition label to trying new foods and dental hygiene. For their last lesson of the year, Lenora helped plan an "around the world" food trip complete with a passport in which the students reviewed the new foods that they tasted.

Edible Schoolyard NOLA also continues to "grow" in New Orleans thanks in part to the volunteer hours logged by League members. ESYNOLA’s mission is to improve the long-term well-being of students, families, and school communities through comprehensive food education that integrates hands-on organic gardening and seasonal cooking into the school curriculum, culture, and cafeteria programs. One of the program’s big successes this year was the building of a brand new (soon to be one-acre) edible gar-
den at Arthur Ashe Charter School in Gentilly. According to Kelly Miranda, Volunteer and Community Partnerships Coordinator for The Edible Schoolyard NOLA, “The Junior League played a huge role in Ashe’s new garden development through volunteering at monthly Open Garden Days that consisted of truly hardcore tasks such as laying down sod, digging out a pond, planting trees, and building compost piles.”

The League also continues to make an impact on adolescents through its work with Upward Bound. In 2013, the Upward Bound Program at Xavier University assisted seventy-five low-income high school students who were potential first generation college graduates with college preparation. In addition to making college visits around the country, Upward Bound provides its students with academic instruction, individual and small-group tutorials, counseling, college-admission activities, and social and cultural experiences. Valerie Hicks, director of the Upward Bound program at Xavier University commends the League’s work with her program saying that, “The Junior League has helped us more than any other community partner. They gave of their time and talents by assisting teachers on Saturdays, making presentations, purchasing ACT Prep materials, purchasing supplies for the Summer Program, locating speakers, providing scholarships, and attending all celebrations.” Last year fourteen Upward Bound seniors graduated high school and went on to college. Additionally, the New Orleans City Council presented the League with a Proclamation at the Upward Bound graduation ceremony on May 8, 2013, recognizing JLNO for its dedication to the pursuit of higher education.

Although individual Junior League members don’t often see the expansive impact of our programs in New Orleans, collectively these community programs have improved the lives of countless citizens this year. Well done, ladies!
JLNO joined its sister leagues in Baton Rouge at the Capitol and the Governor’s Mansion on April 29, 2013 for League Day. This event is held every year at the beginning of the legislative session in the Capitol. Leagues around the state come together with legislators to mix, mingle and discuss their projects. The Baton Rouge Junior League spearheads the effort due to its proximity, and collaborates with Leagues in New Orleans, Covington, Monroe, Shreveport and Lafayette.

In years’ past League Day has had a more formal setting with the various Leagues offering presentations about their community projects. This year was a more informal cocktail reception for League members and legislators. After a brief meeting in the Capitol where some members were recognized for their work in the House of Representatives, the event continued at the Governor’s Mansion, where each League set up storyboards at the entrance. Melissa Stelly, Community Affairs Chair, and her co-chair, Kristen Koppel, chose to highlight Thrift Shop and Get on Board as its signature projects, which are unique to JLNO.

“This year’s League Day was very different from years’ past where there was a very structured speaking format,” said Melissa. “This year just highlighted projects for people to come and look at them at their leisure. The concentration was on mingling with other League mem-

Members mixed and mingled with legislators at League Day

By: Amanda Goldman

JLNO members attending League Day met with Rep. Neil Abramson

Photo submitted by Melissa Stelly
bers throughout the state and legislators.”

“We had a very good turnout this year,” said Melissa. Most of the Board attended, along with the JLNO President, President-Elect and President-Elect-Elect. There were about 20 JLNO members who attended, and approximately 75 members from other Leagues. New Orleans legislators included Senator Conrad Appel, Representative Neil Abramson and Representative Robert Billiot.

Community Affairs has been renamed Legislative Affairs for the 2013-14 League Year in order to more accurately reflect the committee’s purpose. “The purpose of this committee is to promote legislative advocacy and to educate other members on legislation, advocacy, and how it pertains to legislation,” said Melissa.

Melissa enjoys her Placement because it plays to her political background, and she encourages members who are interested in politics to look at Legislative Affairs as their Placement. Melissa worked as a five-parish community liaison for Senator David Vitter for two years. “When Senator Vitter could not attend events in those parishes, I usually went in his place and also set up town hall meetings in those parishes,” said Melissa. She also worked as a liaison for multiple federal departments. “This is a good Placement for members who are interested in politics and who want to meet politicians. I will be returning as chair next year and part of what I really want to do is bring it back to its political roots,” said Melissa.

As chair next year, Melissa plans to use Legislative Affairs and League Day to develop relationships with state legislators to get members more involved with the political process. “Once our legislators and members get more engaged, it keeps voters from being apathetic to the process. I think a lot of people stand on the sidelines because they don’t understand,” Melissa said.

One way to educate members on the political process is to keep them tapped into bill tracking. The Baton Rouge Junior League has a link on its website for the legislature’s website for bill tracking, and Melissa would also like to educate JLNO members about different types of bills. “For example, right now the New Orleans League is a partner in the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Initiative, which deals with the Act 3 Legislation, which is K3 Early Childhood, so we’re involved in tracking that with different nonprofits in the city. That’s going through the legislature right now and we receive updates from time to time,” said Melissa. Such a link would enable members to keep better track of the Act 3 Legislation.

Melissa looks forward to adding to Legislative Affairs next year by drawing on her experience from working for Senator Vitter. “I would like to have a Junior League Town Hall Meeting, where we could have local legislators come and speak to our members and educate them on what they do, what their initiatives are, what their priorities are and how we can help each other,” said Melissa. By getting members more involved in the political process, Melissa believes that we can enhance our efforts in the League’s mission promoting healthy children and families.
THIS SUMMER we would like to introduce you to our 2013 Men of the League. We think our guys are pretty special! From family support and donation duty to housekeeping, 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!

MEDLOCK HARBISON
My League experience would be quite different if it weren’t for my husband, Medlock. Med, who is also an attorney, helps with errands and chores around the house while I’m working my Thrift Shop shifts or assisting with photo shoots for the magazine. He knows how important my involvement with the League is to me, so he does everything he can to make my life a little easier. In fact, homemade kebabs were on the grill, and a cold beer was waiting for me when I got home late after helping shoot this cover! Med is also a great “assistant” editor, sounding board, cat-dad to our fur-baby, Hermione, and my biggest cheerleader. I couldn’t have given my best to Lagniappe over the past three years without his constant love and support.

DAVID HUETE
David is an award-winning civil engineer with Shell. In just one example of his dedication to the League, he offered his artistic input for JLNO’s Art in Bloom exhibit. When asked for his advice on a support mechanism for the exhibit, he sketched a wood frame and agreed to construct it that weekend! Considering Maria’s never-ending job as Business and Communications Council Director, David’s help at home with their middle school-age triplets would be reason enough to honor him. But time and again he weighs in with insight and his classic solution-oriented logical suggestions. Whether lending tools, time, or talent, he joins his wife in giving his heart to the League.

Oh, and he handled it really well when we ruined his favorite saw for a League project!
KEITH HUXEN

JLNO husbands have to tolerate their wives’ absences on many nights and weekends during the League year, and my husband Keith is a total gem! In addition to maintaining order in our chaotic and, at times, hectic sort of life, Keith has also been a supporting enthusiast with my efforts with more community involvement and volunteerism. Keith has done his part to keep me as involved as possible in JLNO activities. From being my biggest support and walking partner at a 5K Etouffee, to giving me his constant ear as I ponder another kitchen remodel after touring one of the fabulous kitchens on tour, to delivering heavy donations to Bloomin’ Deals, to coming home from a busy day of work earlier than usual so he can take my night shift walking our furry son Sazerac while I sort groceries and pack boxes at Second Harvest Food Bank, to being a cautious guinea pig when I, his undomesticated wife, attempt to cook recipes from our league cookbooks for various meetings, Keith has earned my appreciation and respect for continuing my League responsibilities. His compassion for my community activism and his ability to keep perspective when some things seem overwhelming reminds me of what an amazing partner I have in this life! It also doesn’t hurt that he never puts a credit limit to my shopping card adventures every November!

Nominated by Mary Huxen.

MATT MILLER

My husband Matt has been a vital part of my membership to the JLNO from my very first day. He encouraged me to become a member of the JLNO, to put myself out there, be part of the community and make a difference. I am so grateful to him for changing my life for the better through his persistence that I join such a prestigious organization that is so vital in community service.

From my provisional to my active status, he has held my hand and walked me through it every step of the way! Before there was such a thing as the “mighty men” he has always considered himself an “honorary” member. This is evidenced by his many contributions to the JLNO that have gone above and beyond a supportive husband’s role. Matt is already a patent attorney that works over 60 hours a week and is a father of three, soon-to-be, four young children. Yet, that has not stopped him from his continued assistance. I knew I married a great man when the day after bag day, whilst the rest of the thrift shop committee and I were restocking Bloomin’ Deals, he brought everyone refreshments and pizza. As I previously mentioned, before there were “mighty men,” Matt went to several sustainer homes to pick up items that were too heavy for his wife to load in and out, and brought them to the thrift shop on my behalf. Everyone adored Matt during my two years as a thrift shop committee member!

With our growing family, my husband is also someone obviously loves children. He has two of his own recipes in the Junior League children’s cookbook, “Crescent City Moons, Dishes and Spoons.” He also baked one of the other recipes (not his own) featured in the same cookbook so that it could be photographed for the cookbook. In addition, Matt has posed as Santa Claus at the annual Junior League of New Orleans Family Christmas party. Our own children did not even notice it was their father when they sat down on his lap to pose for the photographs! We cherish that portrait and cannot wait to enjoy a chuckle with them one day about it! So many of you may have a photo of my husband in your home; whether you know it or not.

Most recently in the past league year, I was on the Buy, Save & Serve (BSS) card committee. This is where Matt made his largest, and most generous contribution to the JLNO to date. Our entire family sacrificed a lot so that he could help attempt to make the BSS card the best it has ever been yet. In addition to his 60+ hour work week, he spent every moment of his free time working on a BSS card app for the iPhone. The app is the first ever of its kind for the JLNO and the Apple Corporation. Matt was very passionate about bringing this JLNO fundraiser into the 21st-century and it was a great success. There are many wonderful features to the app, but I will just mention one. Everyone who currently has the BSS app downloaded to his or her iPhone will get a friendly reminder this Fall that it is time of year again to purchase their BSS card!

I have the utmost appreciation for everything my husband Matt Miller has done to support my membership to the Junior League of New Orleans and the Junior League of New Orleans itself. He is truly a selfless human being who always puts others first. I will always be indebted to him for improving our family by bringing the JLNO into our entire family’s life.

Thank You,
Ryan “Tricia” Miller

Nominated by Mary Huxen.
SPRING IN NEW ORLEANS can be a truly magical time and Junior League kicked off the season with another successful Kitchen Tour!

The celebration started with the Cocktails and Cuisine Party on April 18 at the beautiful New Orleans Board of Trade. The party featured New Orleans’ delicacies by Pigeon Catering including miniature muffalettas and praline brie bites with signature cocktails by Old New Orleans Rum and WOW Café and Wingery. Live music by Groovy 7 kept guests on the dance floor, and WDSU news anchor Scott Walker oversaw the live bidding of auction items like vacation escapes to Florida and North Carolina and the chance to ride with a local krewe in a Mardi Gras parade.

The event also featured a silent auction and an exclusive raffle of three carat diamond hoop earrings donated by Wellington & Company Fine Jewelry, a League Preferred Partner.

The party was organized by Heather Johnson, Alex Kless, Amber Bezzley and the entire Cocktails and Cuisine Committee. The event served as both a fundraiser for the League and a way to thank Preferred Partners and homeowners who opened their homes for the Kitchen Tour just two days later.

This year’s Kitchen Tour featured some of the city’s most design-inspiring kitchens in the Uptown and Garden District neighborhoods. Each home was picked for its originality and attention to detail.

For the 800 guests who toured the homes, the experience was a chance to gain inspiration for their own home projects whether it be renovating, building or simply sprucing up their homes.
A team of almost thirty League members organized the tour led by Chair Caroline Kearney and Margaret Roux, Teas Bossetta, Christy Dirks, and Amber Beezley.

The money generated from both the Kitchen Tour and Cocktails and Cuisine Party fund the League’s volunteer supported community projects, such as Lafayette Academy Charter School, Samuel J. Green Charter School’s Edible Schoolyard, Freret Neighborhood Outreach, Power Ties, Preservation Resource Center’s Rebuilding Together, Kids in the Kitchen, Strength of Relationship, Second Harvest’s Fresh Produce Program, and Safe Sitter. The generosity of both sponsors and attendees make it possible for JLNO to continue to invest in community projects in the focus areas of Rebuilding New Orleans, Children’s Well-being & Education, and Healthy Families.

Congratulations to both committees for organizing such fantastic events!

The Cocktails and Cuisine committee members included: Elizabeth Hill, Caroline Avegno, Colonna Wolfe, Julie Kenter, Vanessa Martin, Nicole Armbruster, Alicia Joint, Emily LaRene Roberts, Kate Bruce, Heather Johnsin, Meredith Beers, Jenny Thomas, Jennifer Mackey, Jennifer Macias, Christy Commiskey, Rebecca Clary, and Courtney Garrett gather outside of The Kitchen Tour Kick-Off Party at The New Orleans Board of Trade on April 18, 2013.
IF THERE IS ONE WORD to describe JLNO member, Christine Vinson, it would be “traveler.” Whether throughout the Gulf South overseeing her family business, Vinson Guard Services, or internationally for meetings of the various global security organizations to which she belongs, she is always on the go. But Christine readily admits that, of all the places she has travelled, New Orleans is the best. This, perhaps, is one of the reasons the New Orleans native is committed to being active in the community.

In addition to JLNO, Christine’s community work includes a position on the Board of Directors of Crimestoppers GNO, an organization in which she has been involved since shortly after Hurricane Katrina. Crimestoppers GNO is a non-profit organization whose primary goal is to provide citizens with a way to assist law enforcement and to improve community safety. It runs several programs to help reduce crime throughout the New Orleans metropolitan area; and, of those programs, Vinson believes the most important are those that help prevent youth crime.

“I think Crimestoppers’ youth prevention programs are so important because this an opportunity to give kids that come from, not only troubled homes and backgrounds, but all walks of life, hope. It gives kids a way to step out of a cycle and be a silent hero. It gives them an opportunity to see that they do have choices.” Christine notes that many times kids don’t know where to turn to so they follow siblings or friends down the wrong path. “The youth prevention programs let kids know that there is a place they can turn to and there is other support and positive role models out there for them.”

One particular youth crime prevention program run by Crimestoppers GNO is the Teen Ambassadors Against Crime or TAAC. TAAC is a leadership program that provides students with opportunities to interact with law enforcement and other community partners to become better educated and empowered to serve as crime prevention role models in their schools and communities. The teen ambassadors also have the
opportunity for internships, scholarships, and other prizes.

The role of women in the community is also important to Christine. In December 2013, she was invited to speak at the Central Association of Private Security Industry’s Seventh Security Leadership Summit in India. There she gave a presentation on the future role of women in making the world safe.

At the conference, Christine stressed certain core values – community, leadership, collaboration, education, children’s wellbeing, and respect – that she felt were necessary to making the world safe for future generations. As examples of successful programs she highlighted both Crimestoppers GNO and JLNO programs, including Crimestoppers’ TAAC Safe School Program and JLNO’s Judgment Call and Upward Bound.

It’s not all work and no play for Christine. When she isn’t busy jet-setting the globe or volunteering, you can find her playing kickball, training for triathlons with a local women’s group, Steel MagNOLAs, or simply puttering around one of the many festivals going on in the city.
The 5K Etouffee Committee hosted another successful run in Audubon Park on Saturday, May 12, 2013.

Amy Harang collects samples and information from East Jefferson General Hospital at the March 19, 2013 General Meetings.
The Cancer Center at Children’s Hospital

When Quentin Murray was diagnosed with leukemia six years ago, doctors at Children’s Hospital cured him using stem cells from his newborn sister, Jory. Today, Quentin is a happy and benevolent boy who recognizes the gift of life he received from his sister, as well as from the Cancer Center at Children’s Hospital.

The Commission on Cancer recently recognized Children’s Hospital as one of the premier pediatric cancer programs in the country by granting re-accreditation with commendation. Children’s Hospital provides world-class pediatric cancer care, right here in New Orleans. Closer to home, closer to family.

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During February, the Sustainers Lunch Bunch celebrated a festive Mardi Gras lunch in the Proteus Room at Antoine's Restaurant. Sustainers attending the lunch included Libby Smith, Ginger Dupont, Airey Ellis, Ann Milliner, Melissa Barker, Duane Page, Mary Ellis Hasselline, Celia Davis, Janet Angelico, Winx McCarthy, Rita Ward, Martha Flanders and Majorie Beer.

Gina McMahon, Amy Harang, Maria Huete, and Brandy Whisnant pose with WDSU's Scott Walker, the auctioneer at the Cocktails and Cuisine party, April 18, 2013.

Active Allison Waldron taking interest in Cutco's demonstration at the March 19 Meeting Boutique.

League Faces
League Member Qi Wiggins showed guests around the beautiful kitchen at 1134 Eighth Street during Kitchen Tour on Saturday, April 20th.

Cocktails and Cuisine featured live music by Groovy 7 Band at The New Orleans Board of Trade.

Kitchen Tour Committee Member Kelly Kittok with homeowner Michael Murphy, who was available to answer questions at this year’s 2013 Kitchen Tour.

Put your company in front of the readers of Lagniappe, with an ad in our quarterly magazine. Lagniappe has been published by the Junior League of New Orleans since 1930 to promote the League’s missions and goals. Its purpose is to educate our members and the community at large about the organization’s projects, activities, fundraisers and membership.

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The Esprit Committee hosts a Beer and Cheese Class at Stein’s Deli on April 24, 2013.

League member Ann Dwyer provides information to visitors about the beautiful kitchen at 1230 Calhoun Street.

Actives, Jane Dufour and Erika Mullenback, enjoy the Beer and Cheese Class at Stein’s Deli on April 24, 2013.

Photo by Jennifer Chamberlain

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League Member Erin Piper and Kitchen Tour Committee Member Elena Korbut-Smith welcome guests to 2912 Prytania Street.

Jenny Comarda, Mariel Ponseti, Margaret Tuflow and Katie Klenn enjoying the JLNO Crawfish Boil on April 6, 2013.

Kitchen Tour Committee Member Meg Baldwin at 1134 Eighth Street for this year’s Kitchen Tour.
What’s your favorite New Orleans Festival?

Complied by: Stacy Steil

“There is nothing like walking around the French Quarter all day long listening to all of the live music from local musicians at French Quarter Fest.”

Constance Whittaker (Provisional)

“That is one of the most difficult questions for me since they’re all my favorites and I live by festivals, but one of my top 5 would be Running with the Bulls, San Fermin Festival. Last year we got a group together on Friday night to eat tapas, drink sangria, and celebrate the Spanish culture. Then we had the same group meet up on Saturday. There’s nothing like drinking sangria at 8am and being chased by a roller derby girl with horns and a bat. Óle!”

Amy Landry (Active)

“French Quarter Fest”

Susan Crosby (Sustainer)

“It’s a tie: Bayou Boogaloo because the bicycle pub crawl is New Orleans’ greatest event and Jazz Fest because I love my godfather’s crawfish bread.”

Renee Laborde Webb (Active)

“Gretna Fest! Excellent music and food and small crowds!”

Rachel Stephens (Active)
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SPINACH SALAD

My family and I just returned from a six day vacation. Needless to say, while away, we didn’t always make the healthiest choices for meals. After we returned home, my husband and I were looking for something quick, tasty, light, and filling to eat for dinner. After thumbing through a few cookbooks, I came across JLNO’s The Plantation Cookbook and found the perfect recipe to satisfy our cravings. The recipe for Spinach Salad (located on page 191) is so easy to make and delicious! The flavorful homemade dressing took no time to whip together. The best part was that I had nearly everything on hand to make the salad and the dressing. To complement the salad, I paired it with a crisp Pinot Grigio. This spinach salad was the perfect transition into post-vacation life.

INGREDIENTS

Dressing:
1 cup oil (not olive)
5 tablespoons red wine vinegar
4 tablespoons sour cream
1 ½ teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon dry mustard
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons chopped parsley
2 cloves garlic, crushed

Salad:
2 10-ounce packages fresh spinach, washed and dried
4 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
8 strips bacon, crisply fried and crumbled

Mix dressing at least 6 hours before using. Toss spinach with desired amount of dressing before serving. Top with eggs and bacon.
Where Ya Been with Your Lagniappe?

Lagniappe Magazine wants to know... Where Ya Been?

SNAP A PHOTO using your digital camera of you reading your Lagniappe on the beach, at the Great Wall of China, or eating a snowball in the park, write a caption letting us know where you are, provide a travel tip, if applicable, and email it to editor@jlno.org. You could be featured in a future issue of Lagniappe!

Mr. Bingle reads Lagniappe with his helpers, Rachel Stephens, Satcey Stiel, and Kim Allen, to find out who’s been naughty or nice. Junior League ladies have been very, very good this year!

The Fall 2012 issue of Lagniappe proved to be a great distraction from labor pains for Lagniappe Assistant Editor, Jessica Chin. Megan Rachel was born on September 21, 2012.
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